

**TPO Executive Board Minutes**  
**January 25, 2017**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**Small Assembly Room**  
**City County Building**  
**Knoxville, TN**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on January 25, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville, TN. Mayor Madeline Rogero chaired the meeting and called it to order. It was determined there was a quorum. Mayor Rogero asked that Board members introduce themselves.

*Dawn Distler	Public Transportation
*Jeff Headrick	Blount County, <i>for Mayor Ed Mitchell</i>
*Jerome Joiner	State of Tennessee, <i>for Governor Bill Haslam</i>
*Ralph McGill	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Jeremy Pearson	City of Alcoa, <i>for Mayor Don Mull</i>
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Mayor Tim Burchett</i>
*Jack Qualls	City of Loudon, <i>for Mayor Jim Greenway</i>
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Finbarr Saunders	Councilman, City of Knoxville
*Amber Scott	City of Lenoir City, <i>for Mayor Tony Aikens</i>
*Ed Shouse	Knox County Trustee representing East TN Development District
*Eddie Simpson	Loudon County, <i>for Mayor Buddy Bradshaw</i>
*James Temple	Sevier County, <i>for Mayor Larry Waters</i>
*Mark Watson	City of Oak Ridge, <i>for Mayor Warren Gooch</i>
*Dave Wright	Commissioner, Knox County
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
<b>*voting members</b>	

**Determination of a Quorum**

**1. Motion to Approve November 16, 2016 TPO Executive Board Minutes**

**Item Summary:** Approval of November 16, 2016 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

**A Motion was made by Mark Watson and seconded by Finbarr Saunders to approve the November 16, 2016 TPO Executive Board Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Election of Officers**

**Item Summary:** The Bylaws state that the Executive Board shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from its membership. Such election shall be by a majority vote of that membership. Election of officers shall take place on the first meeting of the calendar year and term of office shall be for two years. An officer is eligible to serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms. The TPO Director shall serve as permanent Secretary to the Executive Board.

**A Motion was made by Jack Qualls and seconded by Cindy Pionke to nominate Mayor Tom Taylor, City of Maryville, as the TPO Executive Board Chair.**

**Commissioner Wright moved that the Motion cease and Mayor Taylor be elected Chair by acclamation. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Saunders. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**A Motion was made by Jack Qualls and seconded by Mark Watson to nominate Mayor Terry Frank, Anderson County, as the TPO Executive Board Vice Chair.**

**Commissioner Wright moved that the Motion cease and Mayor Frank be elected Vice Chair by acclamation. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Saunders. The Motion carried unanimously.**

- 3. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Amend the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program**  
**Item Summary:** The following amendments are to amend the recently awarded FY 2017 CMAQ projects into the FY 2017-2020 TIP.  
**Technical Committee recommends approval.**

**Discussion:** Elizabeth Watkins noted our FY 2017-2020 TIP was approved by the Federal Highway Administration on January 6<sup>th</sup>. She then reviewed the 6 amendments/projects which total \$10.6 million in federal CMAQ funds. There was one project in Farragut to upgrade their closed loop signal system to a centrally controlled signal system for FY 2017 and 2018. Three were projects in Anderson County: Replacement of two gasoline-powered transportation trucks and four gasoline-powered EMS trucks with Chevrolet trucks converted to propane autogas, both for FY 2017, and replacement of thirteen gasoline-powered maintenance (highway operations) trucks with Ford vehicles converted to propane autogas, also for FY 2017. A fifth project is in the City of Knoxville from FY 2017 to FY 2019 to deploy the region's first bus rapid transit (BRT) project along the Broadway corridor consisting of six BRT stops. The 6<sup>th</sup> project is for the TPO and funds Smart Trips-Ridesharing Program from FY 2018 to FY 2020.

**A Motion was made by Cindy Pionke and seconded by Jack Qualls to approve a Resolution to amend the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program. The Motion carried unanimously.**

- 4. Motion to Approve the Ranking of Proposed TDOT Highway Projects**  
**Item Summary:** TDOT has asked the TPO to rank a proposed list of transportation improvement projects in the 3 Year Capital Program for FY2018-FY2020.  
**Technical Committee recommends approval.**

**Discussion:** Elizabeth Watkins noted the list reflects TDOT's priorities which is sent to each region annually to review and rank locally as well. Once approved, staff will send the list back to TDOT to incorporate into their statewide ranking algorithm. She noted all of the projects on the current list were on it the last 2 years with the only difference this year being that two projects were removed because they have moved into the construction phase (a project involving Western Avenue in Knox County and one involving SR73 and SR2 in Lenoir City). Based on feedback from member jurisdictions, the list reflects the same rankings as last year with the two above-referenced projects removed and the others bumped up accordingly. She then noted the attached Memo from Jeff Welch to the Executive Board was to raise awareness with TDOT that there are other needs/projects we would like them to consider that are not on their list for Proposed Knoxville MPO Projects. The Memo listing those projects has been sent to TDOT the last two years and will be forwarded this year again as well. Ms. Watkins noted several projects on this list are

included on a list of projects that are part of Governor Haslam's IMPROVE Act. Jeff Welch requested that member jurisdictions share the list of projects not on TDOT's list (Memo) with their legislators to further increase awareness of our region's needs at the legislative level.

**A Motion was made by Jeremy Pearson and seconded by Finbarr Saunders to approve the Ranking of Proposed TDOT Highway Projects and attached Memo identifying additional transportation needs for our region. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**5. Overview of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Cost Overruns and Other Policy/Process Issues**

**Summary:** As we prepare a new TIP for adoption in the spring staff has been exploring various issues related to managing the TIP. Staff will present a brief overview of the issues that the TPO should address in the next few months.

**Discussion:** Elizabeth Watkins noted in preparing the FY 2017-2020 TIP staff took the opportunity to reflect on the overall process and explore how we can better administer the TIPs. Ms. Watkins shared that staff have reached out to other MPO's across the state to learn from their best practices. TIP administration goals include efficiently and transparently programming L-STBG funds, maximizing project execution and encouraging project obligations. She also noted that the opportunities and challenges discussed today would only involve projects funded with L-STBG funds. After reviewing projected L-STBG fund balances, she then presented and discussed multiple challenges including cost overruns, dormant projects, and administrative hurdles to managing the TIP and policy opportunities those challenges could present for enhanced management. She noted staff will be conducting a workshop immediately following the February 14, 2017 Technical Committee meeting to further discuss TIP management going forward. The presentation is available online and is located here: [http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/jan17/tip\\_policy.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/jan17/tip_policy.pdf)

**6. FY 2018/19 TPO Transportation Planning Work Program Requests**

**Item Summary:** The TPO is required to prepare a two year planning work program. A FY 2018-2019 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) will be prepared this spring. Staff is requesting identification of any planning studies/research that the TPO should undertake or financially support after October 2017. Topics should be submitted to staff by January 31, 2017. The current FY 2016-2017 TPWP is located here: <http://www.knoxtrans.org/plans/upwp/tpwp-2016-2017.pdf>

**Discussion:** Jeff Welch noted the Work Program identifies planning studies and research analysis that staff will engage in with our planning partners throughout our urbanized area. He noted a major study this year has been the update of our Long Range Mobility Plan and includes the above-referenced analysis of our overall TIP process. The Technical Committee has been asked to submit any studies/projects and/or requests for funding them to staff by the end of the month. A first Draft is due to TDOT in early March.

**7. Update and Overview of Governor Haslam's Transportation Infrastructure Plan**

**Item Summary:** Governor Haslam introduced a Transportation Infrastructure Plan on Wednesday, January 18, 2017. Updates and a summary will be provided.

**Discussion:** Jeff Welch noted Governor Haslam issued his transportation legislation, IMPROVE Act, early last week. He noted there are still many moving parts to it however, it basically increases the gas tax on vehicles by 7 cents a gallon and 12 cents a gallon on diesel. There will also be an increase in registration and other fees, all targeted to generate approximately \$228 million, some of which will be turned back to cities and counties. He noted Governor Haslam has identified a list of projects in this legislation and staff has broken these out reflective of our urbanized area as indicated in today's handouts which also summarize gas-

diesel revenues proposed for cities and counties in our planning area. These projects are expected to have at least some phase underway by the year 2030. Mr. Welch briefly reviewed the list of projects. Staff will share additional information as it becomes available. It was noted that there is additional information on the governor's website located here: <http://www.tn.gov/nexttennessee>. Jerome Joiner noted Commissioner Schroer will be scheduling visits to all MPO's statewide over the next few months.

## **8. Other Business**

- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- March 29-30, 2017 - Transportation Film Festival: Happy, Healthy and Smart short films with facilitated discussions. Jeff Welch noted staff have been working with the East Tennessee Community Design Center to develop a program of small short films that are transportation oriented from parking, congestion and air quality to autonomous vehicles and other potential innovative strategies. These films will include panel discussions to provide opportunity to engage in dialogue to discuss current and future opportunities and challenges. Event organizers will be reaching out to local experts to participate in/facilitate these discussions. There will be 3 opportunities to participate: A public gathering Wednesday evening March 29<sup>th</sup>, as well as a breakfast for elected officials Thursday morning, March 30<sup>th</sup>, both taking place at the East Tennessee Historical Society. The March 30<sup>th</sup> afternoon session will be opened up to professionals (engineers, landscape architects) to generate a similar dialogue which will be held at the Square Room. More information will be forwarded as it becomes available.

## **9. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **10. Adjournment**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.