

**TPO Executive Board Minutes**  
**July 26, 2017**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**Small Assembly Room**  
**City County Building**  
**Knoxville, TN**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on July 26, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building in Knoxville, TN. Mayor Tom Taylor chaired the meeting and called it to order. It was determined there was a quorum.

*Terry Frank	Mayor, Anderson County
*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
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Jack Qualls	City of Loudon, <i>for Mayor Jim Greenway</i>
*Melissa Roberson	Public Transportation, <i>for Dawn Distler</i>
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Ed Shouse	Knox County Trustee representing East TN Development District
*Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
*Mark Watson	City of Oak Ridge, <i>for Mayor Warren Gooch</i>
*Stacy Whaley	Sevier County, <i>for Mayor Larry Waters</i>
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	

**\*voting members**

**1. Motion to Approve April 26, 2017 TPO Executive Board Minutes**

**Item Summary:** Approval of the April 26, 2017 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

**A Motion was made by Mayor Mull and seconded by Mayor Frank to approve the April 26, 2017 TPO Executive Board Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. PUBLIC HEARING on the Federal Transit Administration Program of Projects**

**Item Summary:** As a requirement of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) a Public Hearing will be held during the Executive Board meeting to allow for public input regarding the proposed transit Program of Projects (POP). The POP is a specific list of projects to be funded by each agency. After all comments have been received, the Public Hearing will be officially closed.

Each fiscal year the urban area receives from the FTA an allocation of Section 5307 – Urban Area and Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant funds. The City of Knoxville is the Designated Recipient of these funds. The Executive Board at its April 26, 2017 meeting approved a distribution formula based on percentages for how the FTA funds would be distributed to KAT, Knox CAC Transit, and ETHRA. At the April Board meeting, Congress had not passed the complete FY 2017 federal transportation budget.

Therefore, the final dollar amounts allocated to each agency was unknown. On May 5, 2017 the President signed an omnibus spending package that completed the appropriations process for FY 2017. The TPO then had to wait for the FTA to publish Knoxville appropriation in the Federal Register.

**Discussion:** Jeff Welch reviewed the final dollar amounts allocated for FTA Section 5307 – Urban Area and Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant funds noting that although we had anticipated approximately a \$300K reduction of Section 5307 funds based on the amount received in 2016, we only had a reduction of approximately \$100K. Subsequently, we were able to increase allocations to Knox County CAC Transit, ETHRA and KAT based on the formula approved by the Executive Board. He then noted we did, however, receive a slight reduction in Section 5339 grant funds, all of which go to KAT, again based on the adopted formula.

Mayor Taylor opened the Public Hearing. There was no one from the public present to comment. Staff have not received any comments from the public to date. Mayor Taylor closed the Public Hearing.

**3. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Adopt the Draft FY 2018-2019 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP)**

**Item Summary:** TDOT, FHWA and FTA have approved the Work Program for consistencies with state and federal regulations. The Draft FY 2018-2019 Transportation Planning Work Program can be found here: <https://knoxtrans.org/news/2017/133/Draft-FY-2018-2019-TPWP.pdf>

**Technical Committee recommends approval.**

**Discussion:** Jeff Welch reviewed the Work Program which outlines the proposed activities that will be undertaken by the TPO and our local, state and federal planning partners over the next 2 years, from October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2019. This 2 - year program is updated annually. There was no discussion.

**A Motion was made by Jack Qualls and seconded by Mayor Rogero to approve a Resolution to adopt the FY 2018-2019 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP). The Motion carried unanimously.**

**4. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Amend the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

**Item Summary:** Proposed TIP amendments include adding Duck Pond Walking and Bike Path Phase 2 to the TIP and adding funding to Chapman Hwy (SR-71) Improvements.

**Technical Committee recommends approval.**

**Discussion:** Elizabeth Watkins reviewed the proposed amendments, one adding the Duck Pond Walking and Bike Path Phase 2 project for construction and renovation of a multiuse path in the City of Alcoa, connecting it to other phases of the project and the school. As a bike/ped project, this project is exempt from air quality conformity. The second project adds additional funds to an existing TDOT project involving improvements to Chapman Highway (SR-71) in Sevier County, primarily reflective of higher than anticipated estimates. This project is also not subject to air quality conformity as it is located in Sevier County.

**A Motion was made by Mayor Rogero and seconded by Mayor Mull to approve a Resolution to amend the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Motion carried unanimously.**

**5. Presentation on L-STBG Obligations and FY2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program Status Update**

**Item Summary:** Staff will report on FY2017Q3 Local-Surface Transportation Block Grant obligations and general status update of projects in the FY2017-2020 TIP.

**Discussion:** Elizabeth Watkins reviewed the report noting their purpose is to share obligations progress on our regional projects with members of the Technical Committee and Executive Board as well as to measure efficacy of programming policies. She began by touching on the FY 2017 L-STBG forecast, noting the majority of our balance is funds rolled over from previous fiscal years and highlighting multiple reasons timely obligation of federal funds benefits our region. Ms. Watkins then touched on the progress of obligating FY 2017 TAP funds and closed with a brief review of FY2017Q3 adjustments. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/jul17/FY2017Q3-TIP Tracking.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/jul17/FY2017Q3-TIP%20Tracking.pdf)

**6. Other Business**

- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the **Main Assembly** room of the City County Building. *Please note room change.*
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, August 23, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the **Main Assembly** room of the City County Building. *Please note room change.*
- The Knoxville Smart Trips Program was awarded the 2017 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award for Pursuit of Excellence by Governor Haslam on June 16 in Nashville. The award recognizes past winners who continue to demonstrate a high regard for environmental stewardship practices and is the most prestigious environmental award given in Tennessee. Jeff Welch recognized Ally Ketron, Christi Wampler and Kelley Segars for their work with Smart Trips. Ms. Ketron gave a brief overview of the program and how it has grown since its inception in 2003. She closed touching on other Knoxville area award winners this year, Keep Knoxville Beautiful for Environmental Education and Outreach and Suttree Landing Park for Land Use. The presentation is available online and can be found here: <http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/jul17/TNGovEnviroAwards-2017.pdf>
- KAT has been awarded the 2017 Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award for Small Transit Systems, a national distinction given out by the American Public Transportation Association to recognize public transit systems that have made significant improvements in recent years. Jeff Welch recognized Dawn Distler, Melissa Roberson and the City of Knoxville in receiving this award. The application for the award, which outlines the tremendous work done at KAT, is available on KAT's newly designed website, [www.katbus.com](http://www.katbus.com).

- Save the Date: TDOT and ORNL are co-sponsoring an Autonomous Vehicle Symposium (TNSMART) on September 21, 2017 to be held at the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy. More information will be shared as it becomes available. Jeff Welch noted that autonomous vehicle technology is advancing and our region's urbanized areas need to be prepared for both the pros and cons of this new technology. Mr. Welch shared a video entitled *Driverless Cars and City Building* which can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1B9z8ituS8&feature=youtu.be>
- Mark Watson recognized Katherine Baldwin for her many years of service and contributions to the City of Oak Ridge as she is retiring and moving onto other ventures. She was also recognized for her many years of representing the City of Oak Ridge on the TPO Technical Committee, ending her tenure there as its Chair.
- Ed Shouse shared how interesting and informative the recent Speaker Series that took place over the last year was. Jeff Welch noted that TPO staff Ellen Zavisca worked in cooperation with the Knox County Health Department under a grant from the Tennessee Department of Health to promote healthy communities and walkability. This partnership will continue for the next 2 years with additional symposiums and Speaker Series.
- Mayor Rogero invited Board members to the official ribbon cutting for the completion of the Cumberland Avenue project which will take place on August 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. Governor Haslam will be attending. An email invitation with additional details will be forthcoming.

## **7. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **8. Adjournment**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.