

**TPO Executive Board Minutes**  
**March 22, 2017**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**Small Assembly Room**  
**City/County Building**  
**Knoxville, TN**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on March 22, 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.

*Dawn Distler	Public Transportation
*Terry Frank	Mayor, Anderson County
*Jerome Joiner	State of Tennessee, <i>for Governor Bill Haslam</i>
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County, <i>for Mayor Larry Waters</i>
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*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
*Ed Shouse	Knox County Trustee representing East TN Development District
*Eddie Simpson	Loudon County, <i>for Mayor Buddy Bradshaw</i>
*Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
*Mark Watson	City of Oak Ridge, <i>for Mayor Warren Gooch</i>
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
<b>*voting members</b>	

**1. Motion to Approve February 22, 2017 TPO Executive Board Minutes**

**Item Summary:** Approval of the February 22, 2017 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

**A Motion was made by Mayor Rogero and seconded by Councilman Saunders to approve the February 22, 2017 TPO Executive Board Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Presentation on Governor Haslam's IMPROVE Act: Improving Manufacturing, Public Roads and Opportunities for a Vibrant Economy.**

**Item Summary:** Deputy Commissioner Omishakin will speak on the IMPROVE Act, which is the first piece of Gov. Haslam's Next Tennessee legislative plan aimed at building and sustaining economic growth and the state's competitiveness for the next generation of Tennesseans. In addition to proposed tax cuts, the IMPROVE Act increases the road user fee by 7 cents for a gallon of gas and 12 cents for a gallon of diesel and increases car registration fees by \$5 for the average passenger vehicle. It places an annual road user fee on electric vehicles and increases charges on vehicles using alternative fuels. The proposal allows municipalities, only if approved by local voters through referendum, to impose a surcharge or fee that would be solely dedicated to public transit projects. For more information on the IMPROVE Act visit:

<https://tn.gov/nexttennessee/topic/nt-the-improve-press-release>

**Discussion:** TDOT Deputy Commissioner Toks Omishakin noted the Act passed a major hurdle yesterday passing in the House Committee. He noted the funding is twofold - state and federal. He then noted that historically federal funding has been inconsistent at best, with over 30 plus continuous resolutions passed for transportation funding between 2005 and 2012, and not something to be depended on nor planned for. He noted that based on the 2015 Tennessee Comptroller's Report, the fixed per gallon fuel tax revenues [unchanged in 30 years] are no longer growing with the economy and population. He then described how the IMPROVE Act proposes to address this funding deficit and develop sustainable transportation funding going forward. The Act also identifies 962 projects statewide that are targeted to be completed, under construction or under contract by 2030. Dept. Commissioner Omishakin touched on several local projects included on the list, also touching on new and expanded programs that are part of the IMPROVE Act and closed his presentation reviewing the proposed changes to the Act which would represent a 17% decrease in what was originally proposed. An active question and answer period followed. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here:

<http://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/apr17/Improve-Act-Presentation.pdf>

### 3. Presentation on the Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Policies

**Item Summary:** The largest MPOs in Tennessee (Nashville, Memphis, and Chattanooga) all utilize policies or business rules to manage the TIP. The Technical Committee discussed the draft policies and possible application to projects funded with TPO managed federal grant funds during a February 14<sup>th</sup> workshop and the March 14<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee meeting. The draft policies are outlined in Attachment #2. The purpose of the policies is to promote transparent and efficient administration of the TIP as well as to support timely project delivery.

**Discussion:** Elizabeth Watkins updated Board members on the status of 3 proposed policies addressing delayed projects, cost overruns and new projects, focus areas identified in the February 14<sup>th</sup> workshop. These policies are not a significant departure in current business practice but formalize existing practice. Going forward, project sponsor jurisdictions will be asked to provide quarterly project updates to staff which will be shared with the Technical Committee and Executive Board. Discussion ensued on being able to proactively prepare for cost overruns. Ms. Watkins noted staff hope to bring the draft policies before the Board for approval next month with the amended FY 2017-2020 TIP. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here:

<http://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/apr17/TIP-Policies-Presentation.pdf>

### 4. Presentation on Summary of TIP Adjustments

**Item Summary:** Since the Federal Highway Administration approved the FY 2017- FY 2020 TIP on January 6, there have been ten projects that have been administratively adjusted. Staff will review these adjustments and answer any questions.

**Discussion:** Elizabeth Watkins reviewed the 10 administrative adjustments, minor changes not requiring Board approval, since the TIP was approved by FHWA. There was no discussion.

### 5. Legislative Update

**Item Summary:** Staff will provide a brief update of Tennessee Legislative bills that have been introduced to address transportation funding and planning in general.

**Discussion:** Jeff Welch gave a brief overview of other proposed legislation that could impact transportation funding as well as zoning and other planning activities. Mayor Rogero encouraged Board members to review the many current bills that have the potential to impact out local economy.

**6. Other Business**

- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- TDOT Letter of Response - Knoxville TPO Project ranking for TDOT's 3-Year Program FY 2018-2020.
- Healthy Happy Smart Film Festival. March 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Retrofitting Suburbia for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges - Learn about redesigning our communities into more walkable and more engaging places. Ellen Dunham-Jones, AIA. April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Lilita Burbano from the Knox County Health Department gave a brief overview of the upcoming event with 4 different sessions designed for elected officials and business leaders, planners, practitioners and designers as well as UTK and the public.

**7. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**8. Adjournment**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.