

**TPO Executive Board Minutes**  
**March 28, 2018**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**Small Assembly Room**  
**City County Building**  
**Knoxville, TN**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on March 28, 2018 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
*Jeff Headrick	Blount County, <i>for Mayor Ed Mitchell</i>
*Jerome Joiner	State of Tennessee, <i>for Governor Bill Haslam</i>
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County, <i>for Mayor Larry Waters</i>
*Billy Pickel	Loudon County, <i>for Mayor Buddy Bradshaw</i>
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Mayor Tim Burchett</i>
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Finbarr Saunders	Vice Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Jack Qualls	City of Loudon, <i>for Mayor Jim Greenway</i>
*Amber Scott	City of Lenoir City, <i>for Mayor Tony Aikens</i>
*Ed Shouse	Knox County Trustee representing East TN Development District
*Randy Smith	Chair, Knox County Commission
*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	
*voting members	

**1. Motion to Approve December 20, 2017 TPO Executive Board Minutes**

**Item Summary:** Approval of the December 20, 2017 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

**A Motion was made by Mayor Rogero and seconded by Mark Watson to approve the December 20, 2017 TPO Executive Board Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Amend the FY2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

**Item Summary:** TIP amendments resulting from the Interim FY2017-2020 TIP STBG/TAP Call for Projects. All projects are exempt from air quality conformity.

**Technical Committee recommends approval.**

**Discussion:** Mike Conger reviewed the proposed TIP amendments noting they stem from the recent “mid-stream” Call-For-Projects soliciting low cost and more easily implemented projects. Member jurisdictions were also asked to bring forward any existing projects that required additional funds so that any amendments to the TIP for those projects could be done at the same time. In total, these initiatives resulted in 16 proposed amendments.

Eleven applications were received and they break down into four transit capital investments projects, two greenway projects, four intersection improvements projects and one lighting project. He noted there were 2 “first time” project awardees, the City of Oliver Springs in Anderson County and the City of Sevierville in Sevier County. Mr. Conger reviewed the STBG and TAP funding allocated subsequent to these amendments for FY2017 - 2020. He touched on each proposed project noting that there was also shifting of groupings (2) and projects (3) in order to remain in financial constraint, also serving to spend down our STBG balance and reduce the amount of TAP funds on the books as these funds expire after 4 years. He closed reviewing the process undertaken by staff in review of these applications and highlighted a summary of staff’s rankings of each project (Attachment #2Q), however, he noted that all projects have been recommended for approval as enough funds were available. The presentation is available online and can be found here:  
<https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/mar18/InterimTIPamendments.pdf>

**A Motion was made by Jack Qualls and seconded by Councilman Saunders to approve a Resolution to amend the FY2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Motion carried unanimously.**

Jeff Welch noted Elizabeth Watkins has accepted a job with the Federal Highway Administration in Nashville. He applauded her contributions to the TPO over the 2 years she was with the TPO. Her replacement, Craig Luebke, a seasoned planner out of Indiana, will begin April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **3. Growth in Northwest Knox County and TDOT Pellissippi Parkway (SR-162) Traffic and Safety Update**

**Item Summary:** Liz Albertson, will give an overview of the Northwest Knox County Sector development trends. Nathan Vatter will present an overview of transportation issues related to growth in development and resulting impact on the Pellissippi Parkway corridor from I-40 to Solway. Planning for short and long term improvements to the corridor to address safety and capacity issues will also be discussed.

**Discussion:** As a precursor to Nathan Vatter’s presentation, Liz Albertson, MPC Staff, gave an overview of the Northwest Knox County Sector trends (which includes Hardin Valley) including population growth, residential building activity, building permits (by type) over the last 10 years, employment centers and Pellissippi State Community College enrollment. This has been the fastest growing sector eight out the last eleven years and captures ¼ of countywide building activity annually. The presentation is available online and can be found here:  
<https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/mar18/HardinValleyGrowth.pdf>

Nathan Vatter, Region 1 Traffic Engineer, TDOT, gave an overview of the planning efforts for State Route 162. His presentation reviewed past feasibility and needs assessments studies, traffic volumes and projected growths, crash pattern history and Level of Service (LOS), proposed developments and impacts, and current and future TDOT projects. He briefly touched on several related Knox County projects in the area that will help reduce current issues especially with regards to access. Mr. Vatter closed touching on planning for interim projects and long term improvements. Jack Qualls noted he would like to recommend Action by the Board on this Item. He commended the MPC, TPO and TDOT for their involvement and commitment to these proactive actions.

Dawn Distler inquired if mass transit is considered as part of these initiatives in assisting with the reduction of traffic congestion. Mr. Vatter noted that transit was identified as part of the overall strategy during the needs assessment. Ms. Distler noted it would be beneficial to transit agencies in encouraging the use of transit if TDOT took the lead in including mass transit in their future planning and strategizing.

Jeff Welch shared that the TPO will be undertaking a study of the Hardin Valley Corridor and surrounding areas including the Pellissippi Parkway and Solway beginning in May of this year. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

[https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/mar18/SR\\_162\\_Planning.pdf](https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/mar18/SR_162_Planning.pdf)

**A Motion was made by Jack Qualls and seconded by Mark Watson that the TPO support the [safety and access improvements] efforts TDOT is looking at pursuing. The Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **4. Knox County School Pedestrian Safety Improvements**

**Item Summary:** Knox County has been investing in pedestrian safety improvements around several schools. Ms. Pionke will discuss how project locations and treatments were selected, and lessons learned from implementation.

**Discussion:** Cindy Pionke, Knox County Engineering & Public Works, gave an update on Knox County's pedestrian safety improvements implemented since their 2013-2014 study, a Walk-to-School prioritization analysis. The second phase of that study focused on schools in the unincorporated parts of Knox County, and out of those thirty five schools, this phase addressed the top fourteen. She discussed the projects at Cedar Bluff Elementary and Middle Schools (ultimately their largest focus area), Bluegrass Elementary and West Valley Middle Schools in detail. She closed touching on the cost of the improvements. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

<https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/mar18/KnoxCoSchoolPedSafetyImprove.pdf>

#### **5. Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Obligations**

**Item Summary:** Staff will review the unobligated apportionments of the STBG program made available to the Knoxville Regional TPO. Tennessee has the largest balance of MPO STBG balance in the United States. As of February 2018, Knoxville STBG balance was the lowest of the four large MPOs at \$48 million.

**Discussion:** Jeff Welch, following up on last month's workshop on our planning area's STBG fund balances, shared a letter received by the TPO Executive Board from TDOT Commissioner Schroer summarizing those balances. He noted all of the MPO's statewide received a similar letter. He then noted the TPO is moving forward with reducing our STBG fund balances referencing today's TIP amendments as an example of those efforts. Mr. Welch also noted staff will continue to update the Technical Committee and Executive Board on a regular basis and are working with TDOT in developing one regional report. He then noted last week Congress passed and President Trump signed the federal budget through the remainder of this fiscal year (through September 30) such that we and our regional partners can better predict their allocations.

#### **6. Other Business**

- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the **Main Assembly Room** of the City County Building. ***Please note the room change for this month.***
- Next Active Knox Speaker: Public event with Jana Lynott, senior strategic policy adviser for the Livable Communities Team in AARP's Public Policy Institute, on April 24 at Bridgewater Place. Doors open at 5:30 pm, program begins 6 pm. Ms. Lynott will give a brief presentation before the TPO Executive Board at their regular meeting on April 25 and also present at a lunch gathering with elected officials later that day. Ellen Zavisca shared flyers detailing these events.

**7. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**8. Adjournment**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.