

TPO Executive Board Minutes
November 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 November 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.

*Terry Frank	Mayor, Anderson County
*Andrew Sonner	Interim Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Hugh Nystrom	Chair, Knox County Commission
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County, <i>for Mayor Larry Waters</i>
*Melissa Roberson	Public Transportation
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Finbarr Saunders	Vice Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Michelle Christianson	State of Tennessee, <i>for Governor Bill Haslam</i>
*Amber Scott	City of Lenoir City, <i>for Mayor Tony Aikens</i>
*Ed Shouse	Knox County Trustee representing East TN Development District
*Wayne Blasius	City of Oak Ridge, <i>for Mayor Warren Gooch</i>
*Ron Williams	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Billy Pickel	Loudon County, <i>for Mayor Buddy Bradshaw</i>
*Jack Qualls	City of Loudon, <i>for Mayor Jim Greenway</i>
*Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	
** non-voting member	

1. Motion to Approve October 24, 2018 TPO Executive Board Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of the October 24, 2018 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

A Motion was made by Hugh Nystrom and seconded by Mayor Ron Williams to approve the October 24, 2018 TPO Executive Board Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Approve Prioritization of TDOT Projects for Consideration in the 2020-2022 TDOT 3 - Year Program

Item Summary: TDOT has provided the TPO with the list of candidate projects for the next 3-Year Program for ranking which is used as one of the inputs for TDOT's project selection process. The TPO staff has compiled the rankings that were submitted by Technical Committee voting members and these will be presented for a final recommendation to the Executive Board so that the rankings can be submitted to TDOT by their deadline of 12/21/18.

Technical Committee recommends approval.

Discussion: Mike Conger briefly discussed the Prioritization of TDOT Projects for Consideration in the 2020-2022 TDOT 3-Year Program. Mr. Conger provided a chart to Committee Members listing Candidate Projects, project needs on state routes, and the compiled rankings that were submitted by

Technical Committee members. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/nov18/presentations/2 TDOT 3-Year Program Project Visuals.pdf](https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/nov18/presentations/2%20TDOT%203-Year%20Program%20Project%20Visuals.pdf)

A Motion was made by Wayne Blasius and seconded by Jack Qualls to approve Prioritization of TDOT Projects for Consideration in the 2020-2022 TDOT 3 - Year Program.

3. Overview of Annual Listing of Federally Obligated Projects for FY2018

Item Summary: Each year the TPO is required to make available to the public a listing of all transportation related projects in which federal funds were obligated in the past fiscal year.

Discussion: Craig Luebke reviewed the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects for FY2018. The presentation covered the history of obligation projects, the past fiscal year obligations by programming authority, and obligations by funding source/project type. The TPO is particularly interested in the performance of regionally managed federal funds. Each year the Knoxville Region is allocated TAP and L-STP funds to fund projects that best fit the Region's priorities and goals. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

[https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/nov18/presentations/FY2018 Annual listing of obligated projects + Allocations.pdf](https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/nov18/presentations/FY2018%20Annual%20listing%20of%20obligated%20projects%20+%20Allocations.pdf)

4. Presentation on Regional Bike/Pedestrian Crash Reports

Item Summary: Staff will share an updated summary of regional crash data, including reports from jurisdictions outside Knox County, including Anderson, Blount & Loudon counties, and the cities of Alcoa, Lenoir City, Loudon, Maryville, Oak Ridge and Sevierville. Hard copies of reports will be available at the meeting, and on the TPO website shortly afterward.

Discussion: Ellen Zavisca shared a presentation on pedestrian/bike crash data from six different local jurisdictions. New reports are available for Alcoa, Maryville, Blount County, Oak Ridge, Anderson County, and Clinton. Ms. Zavisca further explained crash factors, fatality and serious injury rates, and how arterials are the primary locations for bike/pedestrian crashes. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/nov18/presentations/ped_bike crashes for Exec Bd Nov 2018_compressed.pdf](https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/nov18/presentations/ped_bike_crashes_for_Exec_Bd_Nov_2018_compressed.pdf)

Jack Qualls inquired about the overall statistic of bike/pedestrian crashes versus all other vehicle crashes. Mrs. Zavisca answered by saying that bike/pedestrian crashes usually only account for under a ¼ of all crashes and that number may be even smaller outside of Knoxville.

5. Presentation on Creating Truly Safer Streets

Item Summary: Active Knox Speaker is Seth LaJeunesse, Assistant Director of the National Center for Safe Routes to School and a Research Associate with the University of North Carolina (UNC) Highway Safety Research Center. Seth's presentation topic is "Creating Truly Safer Streets."

Discussion: Seth LaJeunesse discussed the safe systems approach to traffic safety and how road design can help us move toward eliminating traffic deaths. The ultimate goal is to live in a place where there are no serious collisions or injuries on road ways. There are two main causes that result in injury on roadways: the speed of traffic and the amount of traffic. It's important to start the conversation somewhere and prepare for the future in a more walkable city.

6. Presentation on Landscape Proposal Alcoa Highway - Phase 1

Item Summary: The Alcoa Highway Beautification Council is spearheading effort to enhance landscaping as part of the improvements to Alcoa Highway. The Council will present their concepts, partnerships and funding issues.

Discussion: Gene Burr, Alcoa Highway Beautification Council, gave a brief introduction on the Landscape Proposal on Alcoa Highway, Phase I. The Lakemore Hill and Martha Washington Heights Neighborhood Associations have been involved with TDOT in the problem of reconciling the speed and volume of Alcoa Highway traffic, with unsafe, at-grade intersections and lack of access control since the 1980's. Average daily traffic flow on Alcoa Highway began with 35,000 in the 80's, to 58,000 today and is expected to increase to 82,000 by 2040. There is very much a need for six lanes along this highway.

Kathy Proctor, President of the Homeowners Association presented the Landscape Proposal on Alcoa Highway. Phase I is approximately 1.4 miles and runs from Woodson Drive to Sevier Heights Church on Maloney Road. The goal of this project is to add more greenspace along Alcoa Highway, provide more pedestrian access, and add service roads and roundabouts to help smooth congested travel. The proposed Alcoa Highway Landscape Plan will consist of manicured landscape, ornamental grasses, boulders and wildflowers around roundabouts and new bridges. Some immediate goals of the group are to get TPO endorsement for the landscaping of Alcoa Hwy, increase public awareness, funding for implementation, and identification of grants & in-kind donations. The presentation is available online and can be found here: <https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/nov18/presentations/AlcoaPresentation.pdf>

Wayne Blasius, former Director for the Design Center, Congratulated Mrs. Proctor and Gene on their work on this project. Mr. Blasius inquired about the volunteers who donated their time alongside the Design Center. Mrs. Proctor answered by stating that Carol R. Johnson Associates, Inc. and Hodge Engineering, Inc. assisted throughout the process. Hodge Engineering, Inc. did the overview of the lighting design.

Commissioner Hugh Nystrom, inquired about the greenway connecting Knox County to Blount County. Mr. Nystrom asked how the bike trails will be constructed specifically along Alcoa Highway. Mr. Burr answered by saying that some of the trails will go off-grid and through neighborhoods, but there will always be a barrier from traffic, either by a guardrail or a retaining wall.

Jack Qualls praised Mrs. Proctor and Mr. Burr on their work and expressed excitement about the project. Mr. Qualls suggested that they look into placing public art inside the roundabouts. He also asked Mrs. Proctor if annual maintenance and the cost of upkeep have been discussed? Mrs. Proctor answered by saying that in discussions with TDOT, they already have it in their budget to assist with mowing four times a year. The goal of this project is to reduce the amount of area to be mowed by adding areas that need to be maintained in a different way than mowing. This project sets a precedent for the rest of the highway, and how it's maintained. The long list of groups that have agreed to partake in this project will all be assisting in a variety of ways whether it be sweat-equity, long-term maintenance, or in-kind donations.

A Motion was made by Wayne Blasius and seconded by Vice-Mayor Finbarr Saunders to endorse this project conceptually and encourage other communities and TDOT to similarly enhance the landscape along Alcoa Highway as it is redeveloped.

7. Other Business

- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.

8. Public Comment

Members of the public may address the Executive Board with a five-minute time limitation for each person.

9. Adjournment @ 10:10 A.M.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.