

TPO Executive Board Minutes
February 27, 2019
9:00 a.m.
Main Assembly Room
City County Building
Knoxville, TN

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on February 27, 2019 at 9:03 a.m. in the Main 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.

*Troy Ebbert	State of Tennessee, for <i>Governor Bill Haslam</i>
*Terry Frank	Mayor, Anderson County
*Jane Jolley	Knox County for <i>Mayor Glenn Jacobs</i>
*Hugh Nystrom	Chair, Knox County Commission
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County, for <i>Mayor Larry Waters</i>
*Billy Pickel	Loudon County
*Jack Qualls	City of Loudon & Loudon County
*Melissa Roberson	Public Transportation
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Finbarr Saunders	Vice Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Amber Scott	City of Lenoir City, for <i>Mayor Tony Aikens</i>
*Ed Shouse	Knox County Trustee representing East TN Development District
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa, for <i>Mayor Clint Abbott</i>
*Mark Watson	City of Oak Ridge, for <i>Mayor Warren Gooch</i>
*Ron Williams	Mayor, Town of Farragut
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	
** non-voting member	

1. Motion to Approve November 28, 2018 TPO Executive Board Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of the November 28, 2018 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

A Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Saunders and seconded by Commissioner Hugh Nystrom to approve the November 28, 2018 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 current officers are eligible to serve another two-year term. The TPO Director shall serve as permanent Secretary to the Executive Board.
Attachment #2 – TPO Executive Board Chairs and Vice-Chairs from 1993 to Present

A Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Saunders and seconded by Andrew Sonner to elect Tom Taylor as Chair and Terry Frank as Vice-Chair. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Adopt the 2015-2017 Safety Performance Measure Targets

Item Summary: Federal regulations require states and MPOs to establish performance targets for five separate safety factors on annual basis. TDOT established its 2nd annual statewide safety targets for the 5-year period of 2015-2019 effective on 8/31/18 and now the TPO has 180 days (until 2/27/19) to either: agree to support the state target or establish specific numeric targets for a safety performance measure specific to our region. Staff recommends supporting the state targets for this cycle.

Technical Committee recommends approval.

Attachment #3A - TDOT Safety Performance Measures Summary Sheet

Attachment #3B – Resolution with Attachment

Discussion: Mike Conger presented TDOT’s established Safety Targets Round 1 and 2. There are five different factors that are taken into consideration when establishing Safety Targets: number of fatalities, fatality rate, number of serious injuries, serious injury rate, and number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. All ten other MPO’s in Tennessee have chosen to adopt the TDOT State Targets again for this year. Staff recommends supporting the state targets for this cycle. The presentation is available on-line and can be found here:

A Motion was made by Jack Qualls and seconded by Andrew Sonner to approve a Resolution to Adopt the 2015-2017 Safety Performance Measure Targets. The Motion carried unanimously.

4. Presentation on Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Projects, Administrative Adjustments Summary, FAST Act Rescission and FY 2020-2021 TIP development schedule

Item Summary: Staff will present a status update on local projects in the current TIP and provide a summary of processed administrative TIP adjustments. The FAST Act funding rescission and the development schedule for the FY 2020 – 2023 TIP will also be discussed.

Attachment #4A – TIP Local Projects Status Update

Attachment #4B – TIP Adjustments Summary

Discussion: Craig Luebke gave a general update on the current TIP status of projects, adjustments that have happened over the last fiscal year, pending Federal Rescission, and the new TIP that is being developed. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

Mark Watson, Oak Ridge City Manager, provided input on the topic. Mr. Watson explained that projects are expected to be designed before the land to build them on is under ownership. The process seems to be backwards and he feels that more money can be spent without limiting ourselves to an early design.

5. Presentation on Regional Bike/Pedestrian Crash Reports

Item Summary: Staff will share additional ped/bike crash data, including a regional summary and reports from Loudon County, Lenoir City, & Sevierville. Hard copies of reports will be available at the meeting.

Discussion: Ellen Zavisca presented the Committee with Regional Bike/Pedestrian Crash Reports from Loudon County, Lenoir City, and Sevierville. Mrs. Zavisca briefly summed up the current round of reports that go through March 2018. Overall, traffic fatalities are down and pedestrian fatalities are up. Mrs. Zavisca further explained where Knoxville’s Bike/Pedestrian Crash numbers rank compared to other places of similar size around the nation. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

Trey Ebbert, State of Tennessee, for Governor Bill Haslam, raised a question for TPO Staff. During the presentation, Ellen showed the Board data of comparable Cities and the increasing rate of Pedestrian injuries and fatalities. Mr. Ebbert inquired if there is any data on the variety of new transportation

methods such as Scooters and their direct result in the data presented. Being familiar with downtown Nashville, Mr. Ebbert see the use of Scooters frequently, and unfortunately most riders are not seen wearing safety gear and are known to travel at high speeds. Mr. Ebbert asked if the increase in Pedestrian injuries and fatalities are directly related to the use of scooters, or if there is a way of collecting that data. Ellen responded that staff has not researched scooter crashes since they are not prevalent in this area yet.

Mayor Rogero informed the Board about City Council's recent approval to start a rental scooter pilot program with two companies at last night's meeting. Mayor Rogero requested a meeting between TPO Staff and Knoxville Police Department in the near future to discuss the need for specific Police Report coding in correlation to Scooter accidents.

Mayor Tom Taylor questioned whether or not new roadways with separate bike facilities have fewer crashes and if there is any data showing a decrease in pedestrian crashes with separate road and bike trails.

6. Request for Planning Studies in Upcoming FY2020-21 Transportation Planning Work Program

Item Summary: The transportation planning work program allocates federal transportation planning dollars to studies and planning activities carried by the TPO and its partners. Members are encouraged to submit project ideas prior to Friday, March 8, 2019.

Discussion: Jeff Welch briefly summarized the Transportation Planning Work Program and how it helps address the needs of the Metropolitan area. The funding is through TDOT in which Knoxville Transportation Planning Organization has a contract with, and attached to that contract is a Planning Work Program that outlines our staff activity and the activities of our partners at State and local level. There is an opportunity each year to identify planning studies that local communities may want to initiate.

Mark Watson, Oak Ridge City Manager, stated that a major decision was made by TVA on closing the Bull Run Powerplant over the next five years. Future reuse of the facility will affect Edgemoor Road, commuter traffic into ORNL, and additional infrastructure needs. Mr. Watson believes that a plan review of the connector road all the way to I-75 is in order. Also, Phase 1 of Edgemoor Road is moving forward.

7. Other Business

- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.

Commissioner Hugh Nystrom, informed the Board that the Knox County Commission voted to begin the process to update the Knox County Growth Plan that had not been updated in over twenty years.

Troy Ebbert, informed the Board that TDOT is in the process of doing multi-interstate studies. TDOT will be studying I-40/81 and I-75 as part of Region 1. Also, a Public Meeting will be held in Knoxville in May and Mr. Ebbert will pass that information along as time gets closer to the event.

8. Public Comment

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

9. Adjournment @ 10:07 A.M.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.