

TPO Executive Board Minutes
March 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 March 27, 2019 at 9:00 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.

*Michelle Christian	State of Tennessee, for <i>Governor Bill Haslam</i>
*Jeff Harris	Mayor, City of Loudon
*Glenn Jacobs	Mayor, Knox County
*Hugh Nystrom	Chair, Knox County Commission
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County, for <i>Mayor Larry Waters</i>
*Harold Pitner	Tennessee County Highway Officials Association
*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>
*Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
*Don Walker	Blount County, for <i>Mayor Ed Mitchell</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 February 27, 2019 TPO Executive Board Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of the February 27, 2019 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

Commissioner Hugh Nystrom requested to amend the minutes. Commissioner Nystrom would like the minutes to reflect his discussion at the last meeting of Knox County Commission passing a unanimous Resolution calling for a traffic study of the Northshore Corridor.

A Motion was made by Mayor Rogero and seconded by Commissioner Nystrom to approve the amended February 27, 2019 TPO Executive Board Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Approve the Awarding of FTA Section 5310 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant Funds

Item Summary: The TPO is the designated recipient of the FTA Section 5310 funds. Section 5310 funds can be used for both operating and capital funding. Often non-profits utilized this funding to buy vans to provide transportation for their clients. The TPO held an open and publicly advertised Call-for-Projects process. A sub-committee of the Technical Committee reviewed the applications and developed a slate of draft projects for funding consideration. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [LINK](#)

Technical Committee recommends approval.

Discussion: Doug Burton gave a brief history of the program. He described the Call-For-Projects process for this most recent round of funding. He then highlighted what the Technical Committee is recommending to the Board for approval. Mr. Burton noted that this is the first round of projects for which TDOT will not be matching operating programs and sub-recipients will now be responsible for a 50% match. Capital projects continue to be matched at 80-10-10% at this juncture. Mr. Burton also touched on the process and timeline for dispersing of funds once they are awarded by the Executive Board. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

<https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/2019/mar19/presentations/2.pdf>

Mayor Madeline Rogero recognized the TPO Staff on their presentation of this Agenda Item and commended them on the time and work put into this process because these are very important projects. Mayor Rogero truly appreciates TPO staff and these organizations for helping the people in need and enhancing the programs in all of our localities.

A Motion was made by Mayor Madeline Rogero and seconded by Vice-Mayor Finbarr Saunders to approve the Awarding of FTA Section 5310 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant Funds. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Overview of project applications received for the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program

Item Summary: An overview of project roll-overs and new project applications received for the next TIP period will be provided by staff.

Discussion: Craig Luebke gave an overview of the Call-For-Projects for the 2020-2023 TIP which resulted in 22 new project applications and 40 existing rollover project applications being submitted. He reviewed the anticipated L-STBG and L-STBG-TA funding noting these amounts are potentially subject to change. He referenced 2 handouts that list all of the projects submitted. Mr. Luebke closed with a review of the timeline for approval of the final TIP targeted for fall of 2019. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

<https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/2019/mar19/presentations/3.pdf>

4. Review of a draft Memorandum of Agreement among the Tennessee Department of Transportation, the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization, Knoxville Area Transit, Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee and East Tennessee Human Resources Agency.

Item Summary: Federal regulations requires the TPO, TDOT and public transit operators within each metropolitan planning area to enter into a written agreement to clearly identify the responsibilities of the parties in carrying out the metropolitan planning process. A draft of the Memorandum of Agreement was distributed at the meeting.

Discussion: Jeff Welch touched briefly on the draft Memorandum which staff will bring back before the Board next month when they will be asking member jurisdictions for their endorsement of the MOU to the Executive Board.

5. CMAQ Program Overview and ADA Compliance Project Impacts

Item Summary: TDOT will provide a brief overview of the CMAQ Program, as well as review ADA requirements as they relate to transportation improvement projects, budgets and local match funds.

Discussion: Larry McGoogin, TDOT Acting Long Range Planning Director, was present and briefly provided clarification on the CMAQ Program. CMAQ is housed in the TDOT Long Range Planning Division and the department's responsibilities include the managing of funds and awarding projects. Recently, Federal interpretation of Proposed Right-of-Way Guidelines (PROWAG) essentially changed some of the rules making it more clear what type of projects will require ADA improvements. In October 2012, the Federal Government made CMAQ Projects similar to that of STBG Projects where only certain portions of CMAQ projects are 100% funded but for the most part is an 80/20 split, or if there is work done on the interstate it would be 90/10 split.

Mark Watson, Oak Ridge City Manager, stated that TPO has been under considerable scrutiny for the spending of money quicker, better, and faster. Mr. Watson questioned if the business process has been reviewed to see if CMAQ's could be implemented quicker. Mr. Watson inquired as to whether or not things that can be done either locally or by TDOT, to investigate the creation of an inventory or stock pile of traffic signal poles to help get things up and running more quickly.

6. Other Business

- No Technical Committee or Executive Board Meetings in April
- I-75 Corridor Public Meeting (Sponsored by TDOT) on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at the East Tennessee History Center, 601 South Gay Street.
- East Tennessee Mayors Caucus, Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 11:30 AM at Denso Manufacturing, Maryville, TN.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.

7. Public Comment

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

My name is Wendy Corcoran, my husband DJ and I are here to speak on behalf of our son Pierce. Pierce was killed just thirteen weeks ago on Chapman Highway. He and his girlfriend Jade were traveling Southbound just North of Stone Road. He was hit head on by a pick-up truck that crossed the double-yellow line causing his car to spin out of control and be hit by oncoming traffic. Pierce's death is not the first death on Chapman Highway nor will it be the last. It's on a road that is known to many as dangerous. We will be asking Knox County Commission and TDOT to not only address the safety issues on Chapman Highway but to revisit the 2003 proposed James White Parkway extension and the need for an alternate route. We will forever wonder whether the 76 lives lost since 2005 could have been prevented had there been an alternate route. The man who killed our son gave an Oak Ridge address and likely would have never been traveling Chapman Highway. We cannot bring Pierce back but we will seek action so that other families will be spared the tremendous grief our family endures every day. Thank you for your time.

8. Adjournment @ 9:51 A.M.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.