

TPO Executive Board Minutes
May 22, 2019
9:00 a.m.
Main Assembly Room
City County Building
Knoxville, TN

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on May 22, 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>
*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 March 27, 2019 TPO Executive Board Minutes

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

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

2. Motion to Approve an Amendment to the FY 2019 Transportation Planning Work Program to Fund a Planning Study for the City of Oak Ridge.

Item Summary: The City of Oak Ridge has requested planning funds to prepare Center City Circulation Study and Towne Center Plan. The City has requested \$48,000 and will match with \$12,000 local funds.

Technical Committee recommends approval.

Discussion: Jeff Welch gave a brief overview of the request before the Committee which totals \$60,000. Mr. Welch noted that in addition to the funds, Wayne Blasius, Community Development Director, has been working with corporate partners in Oak Ridge to raise an additional \$30,000 to fund an Economic Market Analysis to ensure that land use and transportation planning is done in an empirically based manner.

A Motion was made by Melissa Roberson and seconded by Mayor Madeline Rogero to approve an Amendment to the FY 2019 Transportation Planning Work Program to Fund a Planning Study for the City of Oak Ridge. The Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Watson, Oak Ridge City Manager, stated that the City is undergoing major renovation in the downtown city center. Last month the Executive Board approved \$2.9 million dollars for signalization improvements on the Capital Program. This is right between Capital Improvement Programs that's been made through the TPO. So as the City of Oak Ridge adds concentration of new apartments, stores, and shopping, we want to make sure that balances out correctly in the Planning Study.

3. Motion to Approve the FTA Section 5307/5339- FY- Program of Projects.

Item Summary: FTA requires a public hearing on the Program of Projects (POP). The POP is a list of projects, for each agency, to be funded with the Section 5307 and 5339 funding. The POP public hearing will be at the May 22, 2019 Executive Board meeting. Staff will update the Technical Committee on the FY19 – FTA Appropriations and the local distribution of funds. Because the TIP already has both the Section 5307 and 5339 funding pages approved, the additional funds and projects will be added through internal adjustments. Staff recommends approval of the FY19 – POP.

Discussion: Doug Burton gave an overview of the proposed Program of Projects. These proposed allocations are based on formulae developed by the City of Knoxville, the designated recipient for the funds, with support from the TPO and in concert with Knoxville Area Transit, East Tennessee Human Resource Agency and Knox County CAC Transit. He noted we have received the FY 2019 allocations and touched briefly the amounts proposed to be distributed. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

A Motion was made by Mayor Madeline Rogero and seconded by Vice-Mayor Finbarr Saunders to approve the FTA Section 5307/5339- FY- Program of Projects. The Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Rogero took a moment to thank TPO Staff for streamlining this project, along with CAC and ETHRA on how well they worked with the City of Knoxville and KAT. Mayor Rogero also expressed gratitude to all parties involved throughout the process and their patience in coming up with a fair percentage of proposed amounts to distribute.

4. Approval of a 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 will be distributed at the meeting.

Discussion: Jeff Welch briefly reviewed the Memorandum of Agreement between 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. The Agreement was in the Executive Board Packet at the March Meeting to review and discuss before approval.

A Motion was made by Mayor Madeline Rogero and seconded by Commissioner Hugh Nystrom to approve a 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. The Motion carried unanimously.

5. Preliminary Lists of FY 2020-2023 TIP Projects

Item Summary: A call for projects funded with TPO allocated funds to be programmed in next TIP, covering fiscal years 2020 - 2023 was open from January 22, 2019 through March, 1 2019. Project requests for L-STBG and L-STBG-TA funds exceeded projected revenues. Staff will present the preliminary project list which will maintain required fiscal constraint for the DRAFT FY 2020-2023 TIP. Projects funded with state directed federal funds are also listed as requested for the same time period.

Discussion: Craig Luebke summarized the outcome of the call for projects which resulted in 22 new project applications and 37 existing rollover applications for the 2020-2023 TIP. He touched on the L-STBG AND L-STBG-TA funds projected for FY 2020-2023. He noted the Draft TIP will be submitted to TDOT for review in June 2019, come before the TPO Technical Committee and Executive Board later in the summer for further review and discussion and come back before both bodies in October 2019 for final approval. He asked member jurisdictions to review the attached preliminary list of projects and the projected funding recommendations and provide feedback to staff. Mr. Luebke summarized the lists highlighting projects that were either fully or partially otherwise funded or where an adjustment was made to the original project application. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

Commissioner Hugh Nystrom wanted to thank and recognize Commissioner Justin Biggs who was present at the meeting. Commissioner Nystrom stated that he has spoken about the Knox County Report of Survey in great detail at the recent County Commission meeting. One area that was discussed and so many have seen, is the adoption of traffic studies, regional studies, and corridor studies. Commissioner Nystrom stated that so often as elected officials, they find themselves and members of the public interchanging these words without knowing exactly what they mean and the work that takes place behind them. The County has expressed interest in finding a way to focus on specific areas of concern in the community. There is a lot of public interest in South Knoxville, the Northshore Corridor and Hardin Valley area. The data is telling in these locations, and the Commission would like to take a greater look into how County funds can contribute to the research of these specific areas.

Discussion ensued amongst Commissioners on the variety of areas in the surrounding Knoxville area that is in of Corridor Studies to further address safety needs.

Commissioner Justin Biggs, wanted to commend the TPO Executive Board for their time and effort. Commissioner Biggs began by stating that in the past eight months, he's received over 300 combined phone calls, e-mails and messages through social media platforms urging him to take a stronger look into the South Knox County area. Commission Bigg pointed out that there has not been a corridor study in this area. However, based on the number of fatalities, traffic and accidents in this part of the County, the data strongly suggests that this particular area of Knox County needs to be addressed. Specific roads in the County that the Community requests to be looked at are Henry and Chapel, Cumberland Heights, Tipton Station, Maryville Pike, Martinsville Pike, Pickens Gap, Highland View and Sevierville Pike. Specific concerns are guardrail issues, the need for road widening and addition of shoulders, and little to no greenway space or sidewalks for walkability. Commissioner Biggs suggests that South Knox County

be a high priority for the TPO Executive Board. Even though the growth in South Knox County is no comparison to that in Hardin Valley, Commissioner Biggs feels that addressing the issues in South Knox County would help Knox County as a whole.

6. TDOT 3-Year Program of Projects

Item Summary: Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and TDOT Commissioner Clay Bright released the state's annual 3-year transportation program on April 18th. The TPO staff has summarized the highway projects with phases of work included for funding in the proposed program within our Region in a tabular and map format and will provide a brief overview for the Committee's information.

Discussion: Mike Conger touched briefly on each of the projects included on the list for FY 2020-2022 for our planning area noting only the first year of funding is guaranteed. He noted this list is reflective of the project ranking that we do here locally every year typically in the late fall. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

7. Potential Federal Rescission Impact on Current Local STBG Projects

Item Summary: A federal rescission of \$7.8 Billion dollars of states abilities to spend money is planned for mid-2020. TDOT has been planning for this for several months to try to minimize the impact on funds and projects in Tennessee. TPO STBG balances will not be directly impacted, though local government's ability to move projects to the next phase of implementation may be delayed between now and September 30, 2019.

Discussion: Jeff Welch briefly discussed the potential Federal Rescission Impact on current Local STBG Projects for the remainder of the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. TDOT has been working over the last several years to target spending in fund codes subject to the rescission in an effort to minimize the overall impact of the rescission on Tennessee. Knoxville TPO received a letter from Paul Degges, TDOT's Deputy Commissioner and Chief Engineer, regarding the potential rescission which was also provided in the packet. Mr. Welch requested that the Executive Board circulate this information to local partners to ensure that their funds are spend in a timely manner before the deadline.

8. Other Business

- Active Knox is hosting a public discussion on May 23, 2019 focused on "Building Safer Streets – Together."
- TDOT's accepting Notice of Intent to apply for the 2019 Multimodal Access Grant from April 30, 2019 through June 28, 2019.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.

9. 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.

10. Adjournment @ 10:03 A.M.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.