



KNOXVILLE REGIONAL

Draft Minutes

9:00 A.M. | Telemeeting via Zoom

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on February 24, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. by telecommuting via Zoom. Vice-Chair Terry Frank presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined that there was a quorum.

- *Amber Scott
 - *Megan Brooks
 - *Terry Frank
 - *Glenn Jacobs
 - *Mark Watson
 - *Jeff Harris
 - *Harold Cannon
 - *Troy Ebbert
 - *Fred Metz
 - *Larsen Jay
 - *Gwen McKenzie
 - *Isaac Thorne
 - *Don Walker
 - *Ron Williams
 - *Ed Shouse
 - *Jeff Ownby
 - **Sean Santalla
 - ***Kayla Ferguson
 - TPO Staff
 - Partner Agency Staff
 - Members of the Public
 - *voting members
 - **non-voting member
 - ***interested parties
- City of Lenoir City, *for Mayor Tony Aikens*
 - City of Alcoa, *for Mayor Clint Abbott*
 - Mayor, Anderson County
 - Mayor, Knox County
 - City of Oak Ridge, *for Mayor Warren Gooch*
 - Mayor, City of Loudon
 - City of Knoxville, *for Mayor Indya Kincannon*
 - State of Tennessee, *for Governor Bill Lee*
 - City of Maryville, *for Mayor Andy White*
 - Knox County Commission
 - Vice Mayor, City of Knoxville
 - Knoxville Area Transit, Public Transportation
 - Blount County, *for Mayor Ed Mitchell*
 - Vice Mayor, Town of Farragut
 - County Trustee
 - City of Sevier County, *for Mayor Larry Waters*
 - Federal Highway Administration
 - KCI Consultants

1 Call to Order

- a. Determination of a Quorum. Roll call was taken.
- b. ***With no objection Vice Chair Mayor Frank moved by acclimation that the Executive Board indicates that conducting this meeting by electronic means is necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare of Tennesseans in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.***
- c. Amendments to the Agenda. There were no amendments.

2 Motion to Approve December 16, 2020 TPO Executive Board Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of the December 16, 2020 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

A Motion was made by Mayor Williams and seconded by Mayor Jeff Harris to approve the December 16, 2020 TPO Executive Board Minutes. A roll-call vote was taken. The Motion carried unanimously 14-0.

3 Section 5307/5339 FY21-Program of Projects (POP)

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 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 and 5339 funding. The POP public hearing is advertised to be part of the Executive Board meeting. The public will be allowed to provide comments on the POP. Staff will update the Executive Board on the FY21 – FTA apportionments 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.

Discussion: Doug Burton explained that FTA requires a public hearing on the Program of Projects (POP) and shared the list of projects for each agency to be funded with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 and 5339 funding. The presentations are available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

A Motion was made by Harold Cannon and seconded by Megan Brooks to approve the Section 5307/5339 FY21-Program of Projects. A roll-call vote was taken. The Motion carried unanimously 13-0-1 (Mark Watson Abstained).

4 Election of a Chair and Vice Chair for a Term of Two Years

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. Current Vice Chair Mayor Terry Frank, Anderson County, has offered to serve as Chair. Mayor Jeff Harris, City of Loudon, has offered to serve as Vice Chair.

Discussion: Jeff Welch shared the list of former TPO Executive Board Chair and Vice Chairs from 2001 to present and opened the floor for nominations.

A Motion was made by Larsen Jay and seconded by Amber Scott to nominate Mayor Glenn Jacobs to serve as Vice-Chair for the TPO Executive Board.

Based on feedback from the Executive Board, Mayor Terry Frank suggested that the Board hear this item at the end of the Agenda to allow nominee Mayor Glenn Jacobs to join the meeting and resume discussion accordingly.

A Motion was made by Larsen Jay to withdraw his motion nominating Mayor Glenn Jacobs to serve as Vice-Chair for the TPO Executive Board to discuss at a later time in the meeting. The withdrawal was seconded by Amber Scott.

5 Motion to Adopt Performance Measure Targets

Item Summary: Federal regulations require states and MPOs to establish performance targets for three major areas of the transportation system including: (1) safety, (2) pavement/bridge condition and (3) traffic congestion/environment. Safety performance targets are required to be set on an annual basis while the other performance targets covered an initial 4-year period that can be adjusted at the mid-point. Once TDOT establishes targets the MPO has 180 days to either: agree to support the state target or establish specific numeric targets for our region. Staff will provide an overview of TDOT's new annual safety target and adjustments to the other targets. Staff recommends supporting the state targets for this cycle.

Discussion: Mike Conger shared that Safety performance targets are required to be set on an annual basis while the other performance targets covered an initial 4-year period that can be adjusted at the mid-point. Mr. Conger provided an overview of TDOT's new annual safety target and adjustments to the other targets. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

A Motion was made by Mark Watson and seconded by Mayor Ron Williams to propose a Resolution recognizing the years of service that Melissa Roberson with Knoxville Area Transit and Terry Bobrowski with East Tennessee Development District have provided to this region. A roll-call vote was taken. The Motion carried unanimously 16-0.

6 Overview of an Adjustment to the FY20/21 TPO Work Program for an Extension of Corridor Study I-40, I-81.

Item Summary: Through the analysis conducted as part of TDOT's I-40/81 Multimodal Corridor Study, it has been determined that the Watt Road (Exit 369) and Campbell Station Road (Exit 373) interchanges along I-40 in Region 1 are deficient from an operational, capacity, and safety perspective. The proposed scope of work below is an extension of the ongoing efforts and work associated with the I-40/81 Corridor Study and will further evaluate the issues associated with these two interchanges. The analysis will produce a technical report for each interchange for Watt Road and Campbell Station Road. This task will be supported by 80% PL funding (\$190,400) /20% State (\$47,600) for a total budget of \$238,000. Schedule: January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021. This was previously presented to the Technical Committee as an amendment but it was identified that it can be added to the Work Program an administrative adjustment.

Discussion: Jeff Welch explained that the Technical Committee recently amended the FY20/21 Work Program to include an Extension of Corridor Study I-40/I-81. However, it was identified that it can be added to the Work Program as administrative adjustment. Mr. Welch briefly shared the supported funding and time frame in which the Corridor Study will take place. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

7 Overview of the Draft 2045 Mobility Plan, Accompanying Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Remaining Time Line

Item Summary: TPO Staff and KCI Consultants will provide a high-level overview of the Draft Mobility Plan and Air Quality Conformity Analysis. This will be followed by a review of the remaining plan development schedule and opportunity for Executive Board members to participate in a virtual public meeting on the plan.

Discussion: TPO Staff and Kayla Ferguson with KCI Consultants presented an overview of the Draft Mobility Plan and Air Quality Conformity Analysis. Staff shared the remaining plan development schedule and upcoming Public Engagement opportunities for Executive Board Members to participate in. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

8 **Staff Approach to the distribution of COVID-19 Supplemental Appropriations Act**

Item Summary: The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) appropriated an additional \$10,000,000,000 for Highway Infrastructure Programs (HIP) nationwide. Note that a preliminary estimate of \$10.5M in funding for the Knoxville TPO area provided in a TDOT letter dated Dec. 29, 2020 was incorrect. The actual distribution to the TPO area is \$4,592,425. These funds have a hard expiration date and must be obligated by September 30, 2024 or they will lapse. With the intent to put these funds to work as soon as possible, staff recommends applying this funding to eligible projects currently scheduled for obligation in FY 2021. Additional eligibility guidance will be forthcoming, but it is currently anticipated that any project phase may use these funds. This approach will provide relief to the L-STBG budget equal to the new funding distribution.

Discussion: Craig Luebke presented information on the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act 2021 (CRRSAA). Staff recommends applying this funding to eligible projects currently scheduled for obligation in FY2021. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

9 **Request for any Transportation Planning Study Needs for the Next Two-Year Fiscal Year Work Program**

Item Summary: The TPO staff is in the early stages of developing the two-year transportation planning work program for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022. Staff is requesting local partners to submit any requests for planning studies to us by March 15, 2021. The local match required is 15 percent of the total cost.

Discussion: Jeff Welch shared that TPO staff is in the early stages of developing a two-year transportation planning work program for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022. Mr. Welch invited Executive Board Members to submit Planning Study needs for the next two-year fiscal Work Program.

10 **Reports from our FHWA and TDOT Partners**

Item Summary: Reports from our FHWA and TDOT Partners.

Discussion: Sean Santalla, FHWA, shared Secretary Pete Buttigieg has been confirmed and is in place as the US DOT Secretary and Stephanie Pollack has been named Acting Deputy Administrator of FHWA. Mr. Santalla also shared that the US DOT issued a notice of funding opportunity for our FY2020/21 Inpro Program, the Instructure for Rebuilding America Program.

Matt Meservy, TDOT, provided an update on the Urban Transportation Planning Grant (UTPG).

At this time, Mayor Terry Frank resumed Agenda Item #4, the Election of a Chair and Vice Chair for a Term of Two Years.

A Motion was made by Larsen Jay and seconded by Harold Cannon to nominate Mayor Glenn Jacobs to serve as Vice-Chair for the TPO Executive Board.

Mayor Jeff Harris withdrew his name from consideration to serve as Vice-Chair.

A roll-call vote was taken. The Motion carried 13-0-2 (Mayor Glenn Jacobs and Troy Ebbert Abstained).

A Motion was made by Glenn Jacobs and seconded by Mark Watson to nominate Mayor Terry Frank to serve as Chair for the TPO Executive Board. A roll-call vote was taken. The Motion carried 13-0-2 (Mayor Terry Frank and Troy Ebbert Abstained).

11 Other Business

- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 9 a.m. This meeting will be held electronically. This meeting may be cancelled.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 9 a.m. This meeting will be held electronically. This meeting may be cancelled.

12 Public Comment

There was no public comment

13 Adjournment.

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:31 A.M.