



Minutes

9:00 AM | 400 Main St SW
Knoxville, TN 37902

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on April 26, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City-County Building. Chair Terry Frank presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined that there was a quorum.

1. Call to Order

- A. Determination of a Quorum
- B. Introductions
- C. Introduction of Zoom Participants
- D. Amendments to the Agenda
- E. **List of Commonly Used Acronyms**

***Terry Frank**

Mayor, Anderson County

*** Andrew Roberto**

Vice Mayor City of Knoxville

***Jeff Harris**

Mayor, City of Loudon

***Briane Boone**

City of Alcoa, for Mayor Andy White

***Larry Gann**

City of Clinton, for Mayor Scott Burton

***Matt Meservy**

TDOT, Long Range Planning Director, for Governor Bill Lee

***Glenn Jacobs**

Mayor, Knox County

***Sean Gleason**

City of Oak Ridge, for Mayor Warren Gooch

***Isaac Thorne**

KAT, Director of Transit (Public Transit Representative)

***Megan Brooks**

City of Alcoa, for Mayor Tanya Martin

***James Temple**

Sevier County, for Mayor Larry Waters

***Justin Biggs**

ETDD

*** Courtney Durrett**

Knox County Commission

****Sean Santalla**

FHWA

****Zachary Coleman**

FHWA

*****Senator Becky**

Massey
US Senate

TPO Staff

Partner Agency Staff

Members of the Public

*voting members

**non-voting member

***interested parties

2. Minutes

Approved 13-0-0

A Motion was made by Trustee Justin Biggs and seconded by Mayor Jeff Harris to approve the February 23, 2023 TPO Executive Board Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously 13-0.



3. Public Hearing: FY 2023 Program of Projects*

As a requirement of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), a Public Hearing will be held during the Executive Board meeting to allow for public input regarding the proposed transit Program of Projects (POP). The POP is a specific list of projects to be funded by each agency. Each fiscal year, the urban area receives from the FTA an allocation of Section 5307 u2013 Urban Area, Section 5339 u2013 Bus and Bus Facilities, and Section 5310 u2013 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities grant funds. The City of Knoxville is the Designated Recipient of the 5307 and 5339 funds. The TPO is the Designated Recipient of the Section 5310 funds. The Executive Board in 2017 approved a distribution formula for how the Section 5307 funds would be allocated to KAT, Knox County CAC Transit, and ETHRA. The Executive Board should consider any-and-all public input before final action on the POP.

Discussion

Doug Burton, TPO staff, reviewed the current Program of Projects (POP). No public comments have been received nor was anyone signed up to speak at the meeting. Doug noted that when the Executive Board approved the FY 2023 POP (and if there were no changes) it would be considered final.

Approved 13-0-0

Motion was made by Trustee Justin Biggs and seconded by Mayor Glenn Jacobs to approve the FY 2023 Federal Transit Administration - Urban Area Program of Projects. The Motion carried unanimously 13-0.

4. FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program*

TDOT and locally requested amendments for two (2) air quality non-exempt

Discussion

Craig Luebke, TPO staff, reviewed the locally requested amendments for two (2) air quality non-exempt projects

Approved 13-0-0

A Motion was made by Mr. James Temple and seconded by Mayor Glenn Jacobs to recommend approval of a Resolution Adopting two (2) Amendments to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the associated Air Quality Conformity Report and Certifying that the Metropolitan Planning Process is being Followed to the Executive Board. The Motion carried unanimously 13-0.

5. Edgemoor Road Presentation*

Mr. Watson will make a presentation on the traffic challenges of Edgemoor Road in Oak Ridge. Mr. Watson will discuss the growing activity in this area, particularly with expanded missions of the Department of Energy, but also new businesses in the region and expected in the future. Drone video footage, at various times of day, will show road congestion. The overview will bring to life one of the major work centers of the region and the continuing need for upgrade of the roadway systems now delayed until 2035.

Discussion

Mark Watson, City Manager, City of Oak Ridge highlighted the growing traffic challenges faced on Edgemoor Road in Oak Ridge.

6. Update: Safety Plan

Staff will provide an update on the progress toward creating a Roadway Safety Action Plan for the Knoxville region. Once complete, this plan will make our region and the local governments in it eligible to receive implementation grants through the Safe Streets and Roads for All program.

Discussion



Ellen Zavisca shared an update on the creation of a Roadway Safety Action Plan and its subsequent benefits.

7. Update: EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

The EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program will provide grants to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. Planning grants go to the 67 most populous Metropolitan Statistical Areas (Knoxville is No. 64) and each will receive \$1 million dollars. The funding is to support efforts by states, municipalities, air pollution control agencies, tribes, among other groups. Planning funds can be used to update existing climate, energy, or sustainability plans, or to develop new plans. There will be \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants at a later date. For more information go to: <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants>.

Discussion

Jeff Welch, TPO staff shared an update on the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program. As noted, the planning grant covers the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which is greater than the TPOu2019s planning area. The TPO has been working with the City of Knoxville who is looking to take the lead in developing the planning grant scope of work. The TPO and the City will reach out to the other jurisdictions in the MSA to see which would like to participate. Jeff went over the preliminary strategy that would allocate grant funding to computer modeling and inventorying, stakeholder engagement, equity/public engagement, partnering with UT Knoxville, and support (printing, hosting meetings, meeting support, etc.).

8. Update: Alcoa Highway (SR-115/US-129) from Woodson Drive to Cherokee Trail

The next phase of the major reconstruction of Alcoa Highway is scheduled to be bid for construction in the May 2023 letting. TDOT staff will provide an overview of the project.

Discussion

Dexter Justis, TDOT Region 1 staff, gave a brief overview of the entire Alcoa Highway project in both Knox and Blount counties, along with a detailed overview of the Alcoa Highway project from Woodson Drive to Cherokee Trail.

9. Report: FHWA and TDOT Partners

Updates from our FHWA and TDOT Partners

Discussion

Senator Massey noted that the \$3.3 billion Transportation Modernization Act has been signed by Governor Lee. She touched on the \$300 million portion of the funding that is dedicated to the State Aid Program, which provides an almost 15 times increase over the typical amount of around \$20 million and goes directly to the counties for their local transportation projects. She stated it will be transformational for our entire state.



Sean Santalla introduced Zachary Coleman, now with FHWA u2013 TN who reviewed current federal funding grant application opportunities: the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (CFI) which has 2 funding categories; Community Charging and Fueling Grants (Community Program) and the Alternative Fuel Corridor Grants (Corridor Program). The deadline for these applications is May 30, 2023. There is also funding available with The Safe Streets and Roads for All Program. The deadline for these applications is July 10, 2023. Additional funding is available from the Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program for construction and planning projects to reduce wildlife and vehicle collisions. Just released is funding for the PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program to help make surface transportation more resilient to natural hazards. This deadline is August 18, 2023. Webinars for each of these grant programs are forthcoming and they will share that information with staff to disseminate to member jurisdictions. Matt Meservy, TDOT, highlighted the bullet under Other Business with regards to the next round of Multimodal Access Grants. Troy Ebbert, TDOT Region 1, thanked the Board for supporting the projects presented earlier in the meeting. He noted that next month they will be working with regional staff to develop their 3-year plan. He noted district TDOT staff that were present at todayu2019s meeting.

10. Other Business

TPO staff are in the early stages of putting together the FY 2024 & FY 2025 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP). If the Executive Board members have suggestions for planning studies, please let us know.

TDOT is holding the next round of Multimodal Access Grants. Notice of intent to apply deadline is April 26-May 16. For more information go to: <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/multimodal-transportation-resources/bicycle-and-pedestrian-program/multimodal-access-grant.html>.

The FY 2023 Safe Streets and Roads for All - Notice of Funding Opportunity is now available. The deadline is July 10, 2023. For more information go to: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>.

TPO Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building

Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building

11. Public Comment

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

Discussion

There was no public comment.

12. Adjournment

Discussion

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

