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## **TPO Technical Committee**

**May 12, 2009**

**9 a.m.**

**Small Assembly Room**

**City/County Building**

**Knoxville, Tennessee**

### **AGENDA**

#### **Determination of Quorum**

5 min.

#### **1. Approval of April 14, 2009, Minutes**

Action     Possible Action     Discussion     Information

**Presenter:** John Lamb, Chair

**Item Summary:** Approval of April 14, 2009, TPO Technical Committee minutes.

**Background:** **Attachment #1 - April 14, 2009, Minutes**

10 min.

#### **2. Motion to Recommend Approval of Resolutions Adopting the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan Update and Air Quality Conformity Analysis**

Action     Possible Action     Discussion     Information

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**a. Item Summary:** MPOs must update the guiding long range transportation plan every four years as directed by SAFETEA-LU. This full update has gone through extensive public involvement over the last year including three rounds of public workshops. TDOT has completed their review of the Draft 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan, and the plan is now undergoing FHWA review. Additionally, the Conformity Determination Report has been reviewed by the Interagency Consultation group. The Draft Plan is available on the TPO's website ([www.knoxtrans.org](http://www.knoxtrans.org)) and through a document-sharing site that can be accessed from the TPO website.

**b. Background:** The Plan is scheduled for adoption by the Board on May 27, 2009. The Draft Plan is open for public review and comment until then.

**Staff recommends that the LRTP update be recommended for approval to the Board subject to comments from FHWA and FTA.**

**Attachment #2a – Comments from TDOT and disposition of these comments.**

**Attachment #2b – Resolution adopting the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan.**

**Attachment #2c - Resolution finding the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan and 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program meet air quality conformity requirements.**

5 min.

**3. Recommend approval of an Amendment to the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program:** Add TIP Project #2008-134 (add off ramp from south bound I-140 to Northshore Town Center) at no public expense.

Action    Possible Action    Discussion    Information

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** TDOT and FHWA have approved the addition of a slip ramp requested by a private developer. The construction of this new off ramp will be at the developer's expense. FHWA is requiring that this project be in our TIP.

**Background:** **Attachment #3 - TIP Project #2008-134.**

5 min.

**4. Recommend approval of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the TPO, Knoxville Area Transit (KAT), and the Knoxville Transportation Authority (KTA)**

Action    Possible Action    Discussion    Information

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** Federal transportation regulations (23 CFR 450.314 (a)) require a MOA between the local MPO (TPO) and the urban area public transit operator (KAT). The MOA specifies cooperation procedures for carrying out planning and programming, including agreeing to work together to maintain a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process. The KTA, the policy board that oversees KAT is part of this agreement. The KTA will adopt the MOA at their Board meeting on May 28, 2009.

**Background:** **Attachment #4 – Memorandum of Agreement**

10 min.

**5. Discussion of a resolution requesting Tennessee's Federal Representatives to sponsor legislation to fund a comprehensive study of a proposed "Steel Interstate" rail system pilot project between Knoxville, TN, and Harrisburg, PA, as a part of a National Steel Interstate System that would bring fast rail freight and passenger service to the nation.**

Action    Possible Action    Discussion    Information

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** The five-state I-81/I-40 Corridor between Harrisburg, PA, and Knoxville, TN, is one of the densest truck freight highways in the nation.

A multi-state study is necessary in order to identify the feasibility of implementing high speed rail in this corridor for both freight and passenger trips.

**Background:** [Attachment #5a - Resolution](#) and [Attachment #5b - Background paper](#).

5 min.

## 6. Status of TPO funded ARRA projects

Action    Possible Action    Discussion    Information

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** Staff is requesting an update from jurisdictions on the status of their ARRA project(s). Also on behalf of MPOs throughout the state, TDOT is required to submit reports to the US House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure on the status of the ARRA funds allocated to the state and to MPOs.

**Background:** [Attachment #6 - ARRA Accountability Letter](#)

5 min.

## 7. Discussion of Surface Transportation Program (STP) Fund Balance

Action    Possible Action    Discussion    Information

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** The Knoxville TPO is carrying a fund balance of \$27,409,141. This represents almost 4 years of STP allocation. In the attached letter and a conference call with TDOT on Feb. 13, 2009, TDOT is asking for a plan of action on how we will spend down this balance. There is no immediate threat of losing any of these federal funds.

**Background:** Staff is requesting that this item be postponed until the June meeting.

10 min.

## 8. Challenges Implementing Greenway and Sidewalk Projects

Action    Possible Action    Discussion    Information

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** At the last Technical Committee meeting, we discussed the concerns of local governments, raised via the Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council, about the many hoops to be jumped through to construct greenway and sidewalks with federal funding. TPO and City of Alcoa staff has drafted a letter to TDOT and FHWA to start a dialogue on the issues.

5 min.

**9. Other Business**

- **Public Presentation of Complete Streets Study, 7 p.m. on May 26 at the Knox County Health Department Community Room, 140 Dameron Ave.**
- **Executive Board Meeting May 27 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.**
- **Transit Oriented Trip to Charlotte, NC, May 28-29 –**  
**Attachment #7 – Flyer**
- **Technical Committee Meeting, June 9 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building**

5 min.

**10. Public Comment**

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

**11. Adjournment**