

TPO Technical Committee
9 a.m., October 10, 2006
City/County Building
Small Assembly Room
Knoxville, TN

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on October 10 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville. Scott Poland, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order. A quorum was determined.

*Kathryn Baldwin	Anderson County
*Drew Barrie Daruka	Tennessee Dept. of Transportation - Office of Public Transportation
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway Area Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville/Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission
*Curtis Henry	Sevier County
*Steve King	City of Knoxville Engineering
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Jennifer Lehto	East Tennessee Development District for Terry Bobrowski
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Jeremy Pearson	City of Alcoa for Chris Hamby
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County Engineering for Bruce Wuethrich
*Scott Poland	City of Maryville
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Melissa Trevathan	Knoxville Area Transit
*Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Arran Addington	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Monica Austin	City of Oak Ridge
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Bill Cole	City of Knoxville Engineering
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
John Fairstein	Citizens Against the Beltway Orange Location
Kelsey Finch	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Fred Frank	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Lynne Liddington	Knox County Air Quality Management
Charles McKinney	Urban Transportation Issues Committee
James Norris	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Bob Shaw	Citizens Against the Beltway Orange Location
Shannon Tolliver	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*voting members

1. Determination of Quorum

A quorum was declared by Chairman Scott Poland. Arran Addington, TDOT representative of local programs was introduced.

2. Approval of July 18, 2006 Minutes

Presenter: Scott Poland, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of July 18, 2006 TPO Technical Committee minutes.

Background: Attachment #1 – July Minutes.

A motion was made by Darryl Smith and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to approve the July 18 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of September 12, 2006 Minutes

Presenter: Scott Poland, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of September 12, 2006 TPO Technical Committee minutes.

Background: Attachment #2 – September Minutes.

A motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Jeremy Pearson to make a correction to the minutes under No. 9 Public Comment in the sentence where Kathryn made a motion concerning an overlay district which would prohibit billboards. The words “right-of-way” should be changed to “corridor.” The motion carried unanimously as amended.

4. Recommendation to Approve Amendments to the FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Presenter: TPO Staff

a. Item Summary: Washington Pk/Millertown Pk/Murphy Rd Area: Planning analysis, environmental assessment and preliminary engineering.

Background: In the year 2000 preliminary engineering funds were obligated but were not spent. The City of Knoxville is requesting that these funds be reprogrammed and spent on a planning study/environmental assessment and preliminary engineering for a broader study area to include Washington Pk/Millertown Pk and Murphy Rd Corridors. **Attachment #3a.**

Jeff Welch stated that in 2000, preliminary engineering funds were obligated but were not spent. The City of Knoxville is requesting that these funds be reprogrammed and spent on a planning study/environmental assessment and preliminary engineering.

Cindy said to change the contact person from Sam Parnell to Steve King on the TIP form.

A motion was made by Steve King and seconded by Cindy Pionke to approve the TIP amendment for Washington Pk/Millertown Pk and Murphy Rd corridors. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Item Summary: Kingston Pk/Northshore Dr Planning Study. **Background:** This project was previously in the 2002-2004 TIP for preliminary engineering. The funds were obligated, but work on preliminary engineering did not occur. The City of Knoxville has requested that the project be placed back in the TIP as a preliminary engineering/feasibility study and that the project scope be expanded to cover a broader area. **Attachment #3b.**

Jeff stated that this needs to be added back to the TIP because the preliminary engineering did not occur. Staff recommends approval.

Cindy said to change the contact person from Sam Parnell to Steve King on the TIP form.

Scott Poland asked if this is going to include traffic signals. Steve King stated that a traffic impact study was done, and there are no construction dollars available. The city is looking at the whole transportation system in that area.

A motion was made by Steve King and seconded by Cindy Pionke to approve an amendment to the TIP for the Kingston Pk/Northshore Dr Planning Study. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Transportation Planning Reports (TPR)

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Transportation Planning Reports (TPRs) replace TDOT's Advanced Planning Reports (APR). The TPR will help streamline the planning and National Environmental Protection Agency's process by also addressing a project's purpose and need and, further, by exploring multiple ways to solve the transportation problem.

Background: Attachment #4a – TPR Frequently Asked Questions. Attachment #4b – TPR Summary.

Jeff stated that this is on the agenda for information only. TDOT does not have APRs anymore and now has TPRs. Attachment 4a is a sheet of Frequently Asked Questions concerning APRs and TPRs that is included in the packet to help the committee become familiar with the new system. An example of a TPR done by TDOT is available on a compact disc for technical committee members upon request. TDOT is looking at multiple ways to solve transportation problems. They are taking a broad look at sensitive environmental areas. Now the public will be involved where they did not used to be. Angie Midgett stated that no jurisdiction should ask for a TPR study for a potential project that has an out year of 10 years or more. TDOT is not requiring that a TPR be done for a project before it is placed into the TIP. Each MPO has the discretion to require a TPR be done for a project and become part of the criteria for project selection into a TIP.

Jeff asked about horizon years requirements. Angie will check on the wording, and it may need to be changed. Jeff added that TPO does TPRs only on nonstate routes. Angie stated that STP funds can be used to fund TPRs. She will get an update on the funds that were requested last year. She added that if the jurisdictions do prepare their own TPR, please contact Steve Allen of TDOT first to be sure the process is followed out correctly.

Bob Shaw of 6705 Cate Road stated that this sounds like a positive change except that he does not see anything in the TPR about public input. He thinks it is very important that the public be included at the beginning of the process. Regarding cost, a long time horizon is important. Bob asked the Technical Committee members to comment on what their intentions are regarding planning reports? Darryl Smith stated that Farragut has a consultant working on one right now, and they will work with TDOT and local officials. Farragut will be handling it themselves unless it includes a state route. Steve King stated that TDOT is encouraging the City of Knoxville to handle local projects that do not involve state routes. He stated that most of the city projects are not new corridor studies. The city does not prepare an EIS on most of its projects since most projects have minor impacts and asked that the committee not make something more difficult than it needs to be. Cindy Pionke stated that Knox County will rely on TDOT until they are more comfortable with it. Mark Donaldson stated that it will vary on a case to case basis, and we should receive STP funds for construction and not planning. Katie Habgood, of the TPO staff, distributed CDs to the members who requested them.

6. Update on Air Quality Issues

Presenter: Lynne Liddington, Knox County Air Quality Management

Item Summary: The results of the 2006 ozone season and new PM2.5 standards will be discussed.

Background: Preliminary data from the 2006 ozone season will be presented for the nonattainment area. The new PM2.5 standard will become official in about 90 days. State recommendation of nonattainment areas will occur by November 2007, and EPA will make designation of non-attaining counties in November 2009.

Jeff Welch introduced Lynne Liddington, Knox County Air Quality Management, to provide an update on air quality issues for the Knoxville Region. Lynne stated that the ozone season ends October 31. She has talked to Barry Stephens at the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation about redesignation to attainment for ozone based on the preliminary 2006 monitoring data. Even if our area is redesignated attainment, she thinks we will possibly go back to nonattainment next year because we are only showing attainment by a very slim margin and a bad summer in 2007 could put us back over the standard. She noted that several measures have been taken to improve air quality including major TVA reductions, construction burning prohibition, truck stop electrification, speed limit reductions, traffic flow improvements, Smart Trips and increased bus ridership. She also noted that if redesignation is pursued then a Contingency Plan would have to be developed for measures that could be

implemented if the monitoring data does not continue to meet attainment standards. Some of the contingency measure possibilities being proposed by Knox County are seasonal open burning bans, additional traffic flow improvements, school bus retrofits/biodiesel and anti-idling legislation.

Jeff asked who prepares the contingency plan. Lynne stated that she does it with an agreement from the county and it will have to be approved by the State Air Pollution Control Board and EPA. She stated that the State has preliminarily agreed that it will not require a vehicle emission inspection program in Knox County, although she has not yet received anything in writing to that effect.

Kathryn Baldwin asked about relaying information to the outlying counties. Lynne stated that she is only responsible for Knox County and the Regional Clean Air Coalition meets monthly and includes representative from eleven counties that are responsible for relaying information back to their county mayor. Kathryn asked about open burning. Lynne said Knox County has an open burning ban for construction debris but said that each county is responsible for administering their own regulations. Melissa Trevathan asked about the redesignation to attainment and how this would affect CMAQ funds. Jeff Welch stated that maintenance areas will still receive funds, and we will not lose the funds.

7. Other Business

**Executive Board Meeting, October 25 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
Technical Committee Meeting, November 14, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**

Jeff Welch stated that the legislative luncheon was started to communicate with the legislators what TPO's needs are. We might bring in a consultant to speak at the luncheon about transportation and land use linkages. Scott Poland stated that Maryville finds it worthwhile and has been disappointed in the attendance of the legislators. Jeff stated that attendance in the past has been hampered by caucus meetings that conflict with the luncheon. Mark Donaldson announced that the Friends of Quality Growth will hold meetings on the 28th and 29th of March and while the legislators are here for this, they could come to the luncheon. Cindy Pionke stated that the luncheon is held to ask legislators to budget funds for TPO projects. Kathryn Baldwin stated that two years ago the TPO had John Fregonese as the guest presenter, who educated the whole group on transportation planning issues. Jeff stated that staff will discuss this issue further, and he will put it on the Executive Board agenda.

TDOT will announce the Scenic Byway grants today and the TPO/MPC will receive a grant for \$100,000. Katie developed an application for a grant from TDOT for Highway 321 study.

Kelley Segars of the TPO staff announced that the sixth annual neighborhood bike ride was held last Saturday, October 7 with 250 people participating.

Cindy Pionke announced that October is Disability Awareness Month. UT along with Stephanie Brewer of the City of Knoxville is sponsoring a student design competition on October 23-27 at the University Center.

8. Public Comment

There was no other public comment.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.