

**TPO Technical Committee
July 10, 2007
City/County Building
Small Assembly Room
Knoxville, TN**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on July 10 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville. Darryl Smith, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order.

*Monica Austin	Anderson County
*Chris Hamby	City of Alcoa
*Buz Johnson	Knoxville/Knox County MPC
*Steve King	City of Knoxville Engineering
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Phil Layman	East Tennessee Development District
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County Engineering
*Scott Poland	City of Maryville
*Blake Sartin	Metro Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Melissa Trevathan	Knoxville Area Transit
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Arran Addington	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Karen Estes	Knox County Community Action Committee
Mark Geldmeier	City of Knoxville Engineering
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Andy Padgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation – Traffic Office
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Shannon Tolliver	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Nathan Vatter	Tennessee Department of Transportation – Traffic Office
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Kenny Wiggins	City of Alcoa
Jill Wolverton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*voting members

Determination of Quorum

A quorum was declared by Chair Darryl Smith.

1. Approval of June 12, 2007, Minutes

Presenter: Darryl Smith, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of June 12, 2007, TPO Technical Committee minutes.

Background: Attachment #1 – June 12, 2007, Minutes.

A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Cindy Pionke to approve the June 12 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Adoption of Amendments to the Bylaws of the Technical Committee

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Minor changes are proposed to reflect references to SAFETEA-LU and the new Rural Planning Organizations. **Attachment #2.**

Background: The current bylaws require that any changes be presented to the Technical Committee at least one month before a vote can be taken.

Jeff Welch stated that changes were made to the Bylaws according to SAFETEA-LU regulations. The changes are shown with strike through notations. The staff recommends approval.

A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Scott Poland to approve adoption of the amendments to the Technical Committee Bylaws. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Recommend Adoption of the 2008 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The TPO is required to prepare an annual work program outlining planning studies and tasks to be conducted by TPO participants. The major emphasis this year will be continued improvements to the travel demand model and the preparation of a transit development plan for KAT.

Attachment #3 - Work Program.

Background: TDOT and FHWA/FTA have all approved the UPWP.

Jeff Welch stated that the Work Program was presented to the Technical Committee in June, and TDOT and FHWA have reviewed and provided comments. All suggestions have been incorporated. The Executive Board will hear this in August. Jeff reviewed some of the programs that will be implemented.

A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Melissa Trevathan to recommend approval to the Executive Board to adopt the 2008 Unified Planning Work Program. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion of Conformity Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Attached is a slightly revised MOA between the TPO, TDOT and LAMTPO that specifies that the Knoxville TPO will be responsible for performing the regional conformity determinations on our Long Range Plans and TIPs. It is updated to reflect the PM2.5 nonattainment area designation and it also removes some of the dates that were included in the previous MOA that were specifically related to completing the first conformity determination during the previous go around. **Attachment #4 – MOA.**

Background: The original MOA was adopted by the Board in the fall of 2004.

Mike Conger of the TPO staff stated that minor updates are being made to the MOA, originally approved in the fall of 2004. The MOA was updated to state that our area is now in nonattainment of the PM2.5 air quality standard. The Lakeway MTPO is reviewing the document, and their Board will also need to adopt it. Angie Midgett stated that TDOT Environmental was also reviewing it and that it would have to go through their legal department prior to the commissioner signing it.

Jeff Welch asked Mike about the status of the ozone attainment redesignation request since we are on the subject of air quality. Mike stated that the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation submitted a redesignation request for attainment to EPA, but unfortunately our area has had enough bad air days already this summer that we are back out of attainment based on the preliminary data. Mike said that is his impression that EPA is going to wait to see how the rest of the summer goes before taking any action on the redesignation request. One thing that TDEC may petition for is to classify some of the bad air days as exceptional events that were mainly caused by the amount of smoke in the air from forest fires in the month of May. If EPA agrees then it is possible that the redesignation request could still be approved assuming we have good air quality the rest of the summer, however there is still a lot of summer left to go.

5. Review of Draft 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The 2008-2011 TIP documents how federal and state funds will be expended on highway and public transportation projects in the urban area. Also included are projects for the McGhee Tyson Airport. There are two public meetings scheduled for review of this document. **Attachment #5 – Draft TIP.**

Background: SAFETEA-LU requires a four-year TIP that is financially constrained. We have also included TDOT's proposed 2008-2011 list of projects for the regional area.

Shannon Tolliver of the TPO staff briefly reviewed the draft TIP. The document text has been updated to reflect SAFETEA-LU requirements and minor revisions were made to the cost overrun funding pool descriptions. TDOT is currently reviewing the plan and then the plan will be forwarded on to FHWA and FTA for their approval. The TPO scheduled public meetings for July 23 in Knox County and July 31 in Blount County. This committee will review the final draft at the August meeting. Jeff Welch asked that each member check to be sure that their projects are correct.

6. Review of Draft Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: In response to SAFETEA-LU planning regulations an MPO's long range transportation plan must be compliant to the planning regulations. Numerous changes were made to the plan to become in compliance. Some adjustments were made to the highway project schedule in recognition of higher construction costs and slower implementation. **Attachment #6 - Draft LRTP.**

Background: The last update to the LRTP was in March of 2006.

Jeff Welch stated this is a draft reflecting changes that will allow it to become compliant with SAFETEA-LU planning regulations. A list of the major changes that were made was distributed. As a result of our increasing costs, a number of projects will not be completed by 2009. The plan will be presented to TDOT and FHWA and will go before the Executive Board in August. Staff will complete a full LRTP Update in 2009.

Cindy Pionke of Knox County Engineering stated that on the project changes list for the Karns Connector, it should read Westcott Boulevard to Oak Ridge Highway instead of Westcott Boulevard to Emory Road.

7. Other Business

Technical Committee Meeting, August 14 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.

Executive Board Meeting, August 22 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building

Public meetings for the Public Participation Plan, 2008-2011 TIP and the Long Range Transportation Plan Update: Monday, July 23, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the West Knoxville Branch Library, 100 Golf Club Rd., Knoxville; Tuesday, July 31, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Blount County Public Library, 508 N. Cusick St., Maryville

Jeff Welch announced that Amy Brooks has joined the staff as a transportation planner. Nathan Benditz will be starting soon as a transportation engineer.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.