

Attachment #1

**TPO Technical Committee
June 10, 2008
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on June 10 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville. Darryl Smith, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order.

*Kathryn Baldwin	Anderson County
*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway Area TPO
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville/Knox County MPC
*Chris Hamby	City of Alcoa
*Steve King	City of Knoxville Engineering
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Jennifer Lehto	East Tennessee Development District
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County Engineering for Bruce Wuethrich
*Blake Sartin	Metro Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Nathan Benditz	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Jason Brady	Gresham Smith & Partners
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
John Fairstein	Citizens Against Beltway Orange Location
Mark Geldmeier	City of Knoxville
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Brent Johnson	City of Knoxville Engineering
Janice Osborne	Knoxville Commuter Pool/Tennessee Vans
Jeremy Pearson	City of Alcoa
Tina Rolan	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Laura Stout	Metropolitan Planning Commission
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*voting members

Presenter: Darryl Smith, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of May 13, 2008, TPO Technical Committee minutes.

Background: Attachment #1 – May 13, 2008, Minutes.

A motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Chris Hamby to approve the May 13 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Recommend Approval of FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff has prepared a draft 2009 UPWP for the upcoming fiscal year beginning October 2008. The document has been reviewed at the last two Technical Committee meetings and was reviewed by the Board at their May meeting. Staff recommends approval.

Background: Attachment #2 - Work Program.

Jeff Welch stated that the Work Program was brought to the Technical Committee last month, and there have not been any changes. The staff recommends approval.

A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Brian Boone to recommend approval of the 2009 Unified Planning Work Program. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Update on the Regional Mobility Plan Public Meetings

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff has conducted nine public meetings in the past two weeks, and the preliminary results of the meeting input from participants will be presented.

Background: The next update of the region's long range mobility plan update is due in May of 2009.

Katie Habgood, TPO staff, stated there have been nine public meetings in five counties with over 100 people attending. The public has been asking for information on alternative modes of transportation like bicycling and transit. She quoted the results of a funding poll she took from the public and elected and planning bodies including the Executive Board and Technical Committee. Once the survey is finished, its results will be posted on the website.

John Fairstein, 11205 Sam Lee Road, stated that he attended one meeting and enjoyed it. He asked if all the data from the meetings will go to the website, and Katie stated that it will.

4. Update on Smart Trips Month

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff will report on the results of the very successful Smart Trips month that came to a close on May 30.

Background: Attachment #3.

Tina Rolen, TPO staff, stated that Smart Trips month ended on May 30 and was very successful. We promoted alternatives to driving such as carpooling, bicycling and riding the bus during Smart Trips Week. The membership is up 40 percent, which now includes 1,000 members. We are continually signing up new employers who are interested in offering carpool matching. There have been ads on TV, Comcast Cable and the News Sentinel. Some of the events included seeing how many people would fit in a Honda Fit. The winning number was 23 people. A bicycle won over a car in the pedal versus medal race. We issued "Undrivers Licenses" for participants to receive discounts from local merchants. There was also the Commuter Challenge. We have installed 400 bicycle racks. Businesses are asking what they can do to help employees get to work and how to set up carpools.

5. Special Joint House/Senate Committee Created by Tennessee Legislature to Study Transportation Funding

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The Tennessee Legislature has formed a special joint committee consisting of 17 members that will study the various sources of federal and state revenue used to fund Tennessee's transportation system and identify potential new sources of revenue for the future. Study is to be completed by February 15, 2009.

Background: Attachment #4.

Jeff Welch stated that a joint committee from the State House of Representatives and Senate will study the health of the states transportation financial health and explore new funding sources for transportation. The committee has not met yet, but results are due February 15, 2009.

6. Update on Urban Land Use Allocation Model (ULAM)

Presenter: TPO Staff and Mike Brown

Item Summary: A progress report will be made on the ULAM land use model development.

Background: The consultant preparing the ULAM model for the TPO will return and provide an update on the project's progress.

Mike Conger, TPO staff, introduced Mike Brown, the consultant, who gave a progress report on the ULAM model. The study will be completed in July, and Mr. Brown will be here in July to provide training to the staff. He will also meet in different jurisdictions with agencies and planners.

ULAM is being used to assist in the update of the Long Range Transportation Plan. Updated information on vacancy rates and assumptions about employment growth at existing facilities was incorporated into the model. Mike Brown noted that three land use alternatives will be developed and tested with the model – they are the historical trend, sustainable development and transportation corridor scenarios.

John Fairstein asked what happens if you exceed the capacity needed to support the population. Mr. Brown stated that some land could be rezoned or built at higher densities. Land use policies would need to be made. Jeff Welch stated there is an interest for a Regional Quality Growth Board. TPO is adding some of the staff to the board. John Lamb stated that the cost of fuel is going up, and vehicle miles traveled are going down. Mr. Brown stated that the trend is to move closer to town because of fuel. John stated there are houses that will still be in the suburbs. Mr. Brown added that we may have to add to density in those areas.

Mike Conger stated that ULAM provides data that feeds into the travel demand model. The model determines travel demand based on the locations of different activities in the region and their relationship to where people live.

Kathryn Baldwin stated that Anderson County is using UGB studies to get a positive outcome. She asked if the TPO coordinators could look at changes in the legislation to prohibit utilities from extending their service. Growth should happen in the urban growth area. John Fairstein asked if the private utilities should be included in the plan. Mr. Brown stated they will be included. Kathryn stated that it is hard to get data from private utilities.

7. Other Business

- **An Overview and Comparison of Tennessee Environmental Evaluation Report (TEER) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – Attachment #5a, 5b and 5c.**

Jeff Welch stated that this item was discussed at the Executive Board meeting on May 28. The NEPA process is used when federal funds are used, and the TEER process when non federal funds are used. The TPO forwarded a letter received from John Fairstein regarding the TEER/NEPA process. A response to the issues raised by John Fairstein's raised some issues in a letter and received a response from Doug Delaney, Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Environment and Planning for TDOT. Mr. Delaney would be glad to attend a TPO meeting in the future to discuss TDOT's environmental process with the members of the TPO. Mr. Fairstein stated that regarding the letter, it does not contain much factual information. We do not know how they are going to balance the cost to meet NEPA regulations. The EPA provides oversight of federal roads. TDOT oversees themselves for environmental policies. Jeff stated that the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is very involved in the environmental process for transportation projects with TDOT.

Jeff Welch received a letter from Don Ellis, Transportation Manager for TDOT, regarding an amendment to the TIP that should be included as a line item. Staff recommends this item be sent to the Executive Board for their approval to amend the TIP to construct a new overpass at Highway 321 and Highway 11 in Loudon County.

A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Chris Hamby to recommend to the Executive Board to amend the TIP to add construction of a new overpass at Highway 321 and Highway 11 in Loudon County. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Technical Committee Meeting, July 8, at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**
- **Executive Board Meeting, August 27, at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**

8. Public Comment

Jeff Welch stated that the TPO will be discussing tolling with TDOT at a public meeting in July.

Ellen Zavisca, TPO staff, stated that she has distributed profiles of local communities for the Safe Routes to School program. TDOT has awarded one set of grants and Knoxville and Maryville have gotten one each.

Jeff stated that several projects have been submitted to staff for CMAQ funding. TPO received an allocation notification that \$1.1 million is available to the TPO for the current fiscal year. Some of these projects may be able to apply for state administered PM2.5 grant funding.

Kathryn Baldwin announced that the quarterly meeting of the Knox Section of the Tennessee American Planners Association will be held at the UT Conference Center on July 9. There will be a presentation by Mike Conger and Mike Brown on the ULAM project.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.