

**TPO Technical Committee**  
**May 13, 2008**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**Small Assembly Room**  
**City/County Building**  
**Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on May 13 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
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville/Knox County MPC
*Curtis Henry	Sevier County
*Steve King	City of Knoxville Engineering
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee
*Russ Newman	Loudon County
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County Engineering for Bruce Wuethrich
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit
*Blake Sartin	Metro Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Brown	Transportation Planning Services
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Karen Estes	Knox County Community Action Committee
John Fairstein	Citizens Against Beltway Orange Location
Mark Geldmeier	City of Knoxville
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Warren Secrest	Knox County Community Action Committee
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
John Sexton	Knox County Engineering
Robert Shaw	Citizens Against Beltway Orange Location
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

\*voting members

### **Determination of Quorum**

#### **1. Approval of April 8, 2008, Minutes**

**Presenter:** Darryl Smith, Chair

**Item Summary:** Approval of April 8, 2008, TPO Technical Committee minutes.

**Background:** Attachment #1 – April 8, 2008, Minutes.

**A motion was made by Angie Midgett and seconded by Cindy Pionke to approve the April 8 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **2. Recommendation of Approval of Amendment to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

- a. Item Summary:** TDOT requests the TPO adds new TIP project 2008-124: Freeway Service Patrols bucket. These funds will go to the operation of the motorist assistance service. \$944,000 Federal STP/\$236,000 state STP for FY2008, \$1,038,400 Federal STP/\$259,600 state STP for FY2009, \$1,142,240 Federal STP/\$285,560 state STP for FY2010, \$1,256,464 Federal STP/\$314,116 state STP for FY2011. **Background: Attachment #2a.**
- b. Item Summary:** TDOT requests the TPO amends TIP project 2008-068 (Highway Safety Improvement Program) to add \$45,000 STP/\$5,000 local for FY 2008. **Background: Attachment #2b.**
- c. Item Summary:** Drop project TIP 2008-036: Oak Ridge Highway/Ball Road/Beaver Ridge Road traffic signal. **Background: Attachment #2c.**
- d. Item Summary:** Amend project TIP 2008-093: KAT - SmartFix 40 - Phase II Marketing. Marketing efforts include free fares, bus decals and advertising. These funds are flexed from FHWA to FTA. Amend FY2008 to \$232,400 Federal FTA/\$58,100 state. **Background: Attachment #2d.**
- e. Item Summary:** Drop project TIP 2008-089: KAT - SmartFix 40 -15-20 minute service on Magnolia Avenue, Kingston Pike and Broadway corridors. **Background: Attachment #2e.**
- f. Item Summary:** Drop project TIP 2008-090: KAT - SmartFix 40 - Guaranteed Ride Home, emergency rides for KAT commuters during the SmartFix 40 project. **Background: Attachment #2f.**
- g. Item Summary:** Drop project TIP 2008-091: KAT - SmartFix 40 - Capital Investments. This project was to include enhanced transit amenities at Park and Ride locations, neighborhood connector pick-ups and bus leases to accommodate the new service improvements. **Background: Attachment #2g.**
- h. Item Summary:** Drop project TIP 2008-092: KAT - SmartFix 40 - Express Service to the University of Tennessee and downtown from two outlying locations (Strawberry Plains and Halls) as an alternative for commuters coming downtown. **Background: Attachment #2h.**
- i. Item Summary:** Drop project TIP 2008-094: KAT - SmartFix 40 - neighborhood connectors. This project was to provide a shuttle linking the affected neighborhoods (Fourth and Gill, Emory Place and the Old City) with downtown. **Background: Attachment #2i.**
- j. Item Summary:** Drop project TIP 2008-095: KAT - SmartFix 40 - Smart Trips support. **Background: Attachment #2j.**
- k. Item Summary:** Drop project TIP 2008-096: KAT - SmartFix 40 - TPO evaluation. This project was to evaluate the SmartFix 40 Congestion Reduction programs. **Background: Attachment #2k.**
- l. Item Summary:** Drop project TIP 2008-097: KAT - SmartFix 40 - Vanpool program. This project was to reinstitute a vanpool program as an additional drive-alone alternative. **Background: Attachment #2l.**

Jeff Welch discussed each TIP amendment.

**A motion was made by Melissa Roberson and seconded by Blake Sartin to recommend approval of the TIP amendments to the Executive Board. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **3. 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. Staff is requesting one last time for any special planning studies or projects. Also, the recent federal rescission resulted in a \$79,000 cut in our planning funds for fiscal year 2009. **Background: Attachment #3.**

Jeff Welch stated that the Technical Committee will vote on the Work Program at the June meeting, and it will go to the Executive Board for approval in August. As a result of the federal rescission, we are forced to dip into our fund balance even more next year.

### **4. Results of Federal Certification Review**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) conducted a review of the TPO planning process in February. The results of the review came up with no corrective actions and three recommendations. **Background: Attachment #4.**

Jeff Welch stated that in February FHWA and FTA reviewed the TPO transportation process, conducted an audit and questioned the TPO staff. Public meetings were held during that time. No corrective actions were needed, and FHWA and FTA made three recommendations. Angie Midgett of TDOT congratulated Jeff and the TPO staff.

### **5. Projects submitted for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Funding**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** The TPO has not received notification of its FY 2008 CMAQ allocation. Therefore, we are not in a position to recommend any projects for funding at this time.

Jeff Welch stated that he has not received notification of the FY 2008 CMAQ allocation. The rescission affected this project, too. He may make a recommendation next month.

### **6. Regional Mobility Plan Update**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** Staff will present the Mobility Plan's Public Participation approach including dates for the first round of public workshops and a project timeline.

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

Katie Habgood, TPO staff, stated that the next update for the region's Mobility Plan is due April-May 2009. There are public workshops scheduled in May and June 5 in Knox County and four in the surrounding counties. Staff will give a short presentation and explain existing conditions. There will be discussions on how to address mobility and development issues. To date there have been over 400 responses to the online survey. Katie asked committee members to attend the meetings in their area, if possible.

Jeff Welch stated that if committee members think their county or planning commission would like this information presented to them, the staff is available to make a short presentation.

### **7. 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. Some preliminary results from the model will be presented for review and comment by the Technical Committee.

Mike Conger, TPO staff, stated that our consultant is here to give a progress report on ULAM. Mike thanked the people who have worked with him on this project and introduced Mike Brown. Mr. Brown presented an overview of the workshops that were held in the area to help guide this project. One emphasis area was on Sevier County, which has much different characteristics than other counties. It was decided to determine areas of rental cabins and hotels for inclusion in the ULAM model for Sevier County. He stated that he should have preliminary results completed soon for the historical trend scenario and that the Technical Committee members could discuss those results at his next visit, which is planned for the June Technical Committee meeting. Kathryn Baldwin asked if the areas could review the information prior to the meeting. Mr. Brown replied that the information could be sent electronically prior to the next meeting. He stated that the project is on schedule, and he is planning to provide training to the staff in July.

John Fairstein, 11205 Sam Lee Road, stated that anything we can do to control sprawl is good. He asked how this information will be presented to the nine counties. Jeff Welch stated that the TPO staff will build scenarios to present the Regional Mobility Plan at the public workshops.

## **8. Other Business**

- **Executive Board Meeting, May 28 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**
- **Technical Committee Meeting, June 10 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building**

Doug Burton, TPO staff, reported that the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom (NF) grant application and review process was complete. The TPO in coordination with the Knoxville Human Services Transportation Coordination Committee (HSTCC) held a call for projects to be funded with Knoxville's allocation of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) JARC and NF grant funds. The grants' availability was advertised in several newspapers, including the Knoxville News Sentinel and The Enlightener. The information was posted on the TPO website. Approximately 100 flyers were sent to non-profit organizations, social service agencies, and public and private transportation companies.

The TPO made all JARC and New Freedom funding available from FY 2006 through FY 2009. The HSTCC received two JARC and one New Freedom proposals. After reviewing the project proposals, the HSTCC is asking the TPO Technical Committee to recommend to the Executive Board to approve the following grants.

Knox County CAC Transit – A \$626,616 JARC grant to be matched for a total of \$1,253,232 of operating services to carry passengers to work or job related activities. This grant will provide service over two years. This project includes anticipated FY 2009 grant funds. The TPO will prepare a contract that will not allow Knox County CAC Transit to expend the FY 2009 funds until they receive a written notice to proceed from the TPO. The TPO will not prepare this letter until the FY 2009 funds have been officially approved by FTA.

Sertoma Center – A \$30,000 JARC capital grant to be matched for a total of \$37,500. The funding will be used to purchase two sedans to help carry their clients who are disabled to work.

Knoxville Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC) Office on Aging – A \$250,000 New Freedom grant to be matched for a total of \$386,720 to provide capital and operating services, to help those persons who are disabled, gain greater access to the transportation system. The project includes an innovative program where volunteers will be recruited to provide assisted transportation services for those individuals who require an escort to medical appointments and essential errands. Also, a mobility navigator will be employed to help individuals gain access to the appropriate transportation services. The mobility navigator will recruit and train volunteers to assist first time riders in learning the transportation system. Finally, the project includes expanded hours of service through an agreement with Knox County CAC Transit during evenings and weekends for non-essential trips, such as access to community events, plays, concerts, movies, and special events, like expos and public meetings.

In anticipation of the JARC and New Freedom grant program, placeholder sheets were put into the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). FTA has reviewed the TIP and requires only that the program of projects be approved by the TPO Executive Board. A summary table showing grant allocation and matching funds requested was distributed. At the time of the Technical Committee meeting the TPO had not received notice that TDOT was going to participate in the local match. Though, past history suggested that TDOT would provide local match to these projects.

**A motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Ted Newsom to recommend these projects to the Executive Board for approval. The motion was approved with Barbara Monty abstaining.**

Barbara Monty introduced Warren Secrest, Manager of National Center for Transportation grant. She thanked the committee for approving these projects. Barbara stated that Knox County CAC transit has had a major issue with TDOT relating to eligibility to receive funds from them. She wants a support letter from the Technical Committee recommending to the Executive Board that CAC transit is an important and vital part of transportation in the region, and there is a significant need. She would like the letter to state that TPO requests TDOT to consider CAC as eligible for matching funds. Barbara stated there has been a turnover in the multi model transportation staff within TDOT. She also stated that that CAC is not listed in TDOT's annual report because CAC does not receive operating funds.

**A motion was made by Cindy Pionke and seconded by Ted Newsom to draft a letter to TDOT to support CAC receiving funds. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **9. Public Comment**

John Fairstein stated there was no discussion about NEPA and TEER at last meeting and asked when it would be discussed. Jeff Welch stated that it will be included in the Executive Board May 28 agenda. Mr. Fairstein stated there no mention of sinkholes or karst topography in the Tennessee Environmental Manual Guide for the TEER process, and he would like to find out why it was left out of the manual.

Jeff stated that TDOT will be conducting workshops concerning tolling in the future.

#### **10. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.