

Attachment #1

**TPO Technical Committee
9 a.m., October 14, 2008
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on October 14 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building. John Lamb, Vice Chair, presided and called the meeting to order.

*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway Area TPO
*Mark Donaldson	Metropolitan Planning Commission
*Chris Hamby	City of Alcoa
*Steve King	City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee
*Russ Newman	Loudon County
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Greg Patterson	Sevier County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County Engineering for Bruce Wuethrich
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit
*Blake Sartin	Metro Knoxville Airport Authority
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Nathan Benditz	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Karen Estes	Knox County Community Action Committee Transit
Mark Geldmeier	City of Knoxville
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Ray Henson	Tennessee Department of Transportation
John Hunter	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Brent Johnson	City of Knoxville
Tina Rolon	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
John Sexton	Knox County
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*voting members

A quorum was determined.

1. Approval of September 9, 2008, Minutes

Presenter: John Lamb, Vice Chair

Item Summary: Approval of September 9, 2008, TPO Technical Committee minutes.

Background: Attachment #1 – September 9, 2008, Minutes.

A motion was made by Chris Hamby and seconded by Cindy Pionke to approve the September 9 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Review of Project Priority List for TDOT and State Legislators

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Annually the TPO sponsors a meeting with our State legislators and TDOT Administration to discuss our major transportation issues. Staff will plan for such an event if the TPO Technical Committee and Board feel that the event is beneficial.

Background: Attachment #2a and #2b reflect what was approved by the TPO last year and submitted to TDOT.

Jeff Welch stated that annually the TPO has a legislative luncheon to discuss transportation issues and priorities with area legislators. He discussed the proposed highway priority list and stated that it has not changed in two years. He asked that each committee member look at the projects listed to see if any projects can be eliminated.

Cindy Pionke stated that the Halls Connector is in the TPR stage and should be added. Melissa Roberson stated that the public transportation narrative needs to be reviewed and updated. Steve King requested that the Cumberland Avenue project be added to the list. John Lamb would like Morganton Road from Foothills Mall Drive to William Blount added to the list.

A motion was made by Chris Hamby and seconded by Cindy Pionke to recommend the Project Priority List with the addition of the Halls Connector, Cumberland Avenue Project and Morganton Road project to the TPO Board. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Complete Streets Update

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Study teams have been created to assist staff and consultants for the two corridors under study (Broadway in the Fountain City area of Knoxville and Washington Street/South Hall Rd. in Maryville/Alcoa).

Background: Funding for this project is from TDOT. One final product will be a design guidebook that other jurisdictions throughout the state can use.

Ellen Zavisca distributed flyers for public workshops that will be held regarding the Complete Streets Study. The corridors are Broadway through Fountain City and Washington Avenue in Maryville/Alcoa. A study team is working on each project. The meetings in Fountain City will be October 20 and 23 and in Maryville November 10 and 13. Melissa Roberson stated that accommodating buses be considered in the development of the complete streets guide.

Barbara Monty asked that the needs of the elderly also be considered. Steve King stated that he is concerned that study process may create an expectation, and the funding is not currently available to implement new projects. John Lamb asked if the Complete Streets study is looking at corridors off the main route. Jeff Welch stated they are not looking at parallel streets.

4. Status of KAT Transit Development Plan (TDP)

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: TPO staff is managing a consultant to prepare a 5- to 10-year transit development program. Staff will provide an update of the work to date.

Background: Funding support for this project is from TDOT, KAT and the TPO. This study will include an analysis of future transit development corridors.

Doug Burton stated that several grants have been combined together to do a transit development plan for KAT (operational analysis), a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) or transit corridor study, and a study of how trolley and bus routes should circulate around downtown and into the new Knoxville Station. The grants were combined to leverage a better consultant team. The Corradino Group was hired as consultants, and the team includes PB Americas, Connetics, Street Smarts, and Hall Communications

Over the summer the consultants have been doing a lot of background work. We were waiting for UT to be back in session for our surveys. In September we started three surveys, an on and off survey, a passenger profile or questionnaire survey and a transfer study.

The consultants met with the City of Knoxville administration and the Knoxville Transportation Authority. They have helped KAT staff with preparing recommendations on raising fares and how fares should be restructured to improve fares and passes for the passenger and meet the new fare boxes' increased capabilities.

KAT is now starting to kick-off the study publicly with a public meeting on Tuesday, October 28 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with a short presentation at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

The consultant and staff will also begin interviewing key stakeholders, agencies, or businesses that may have an opinion on how transit services can be improved. The KAT transfer station will open in 2010. Trolleys are 30 years old, and people want the trolley line extended.

5. Legislative Update

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on Federal and State legislation and issues related to the transportation sector.

Jeff Welch stated that the state legislature created a joint legislative committee to look at the financial health of the state DOT. Their first meeting is October 21. At the federal level there is a continuing resolution to fund all federal agencies through mid-March of 2009. Also at the federal level there is increased discussion of the role that the transportation planning process will have in reducing green house gas emissions.

6. Other Business

- **Executive Board Meeting, October 22 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**
- **Building.**
- **Technical Committee Meeting, November 18* (Change in date and location) at 9:00 a.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**

Ed Cole, TDOT Environmental Bureau Chief, is retiring but no firm date has been officially announced.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Update of Long Range Mobility Plan - Workshop

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: There have been two rounds of public meetings held as part of the Mobility Plan Update. In addition staff has been conducting research and analysis on a number of issues that we would like input from the Technical Committee.

3a. Summary of Public Input to Date - Attachment #3a

3b. Revenue and Expenditure Scenarios - Attachment #3b

3c. Street and Highway Network

Background: The Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan is scheduled to be adopted by the TPO Board in April 2009.

Jeff Welch stated that we need support from each committee member and the public. Every input is critical in this update.

Katie Habgood stated that a second round of successful public meetings was held with more to come, and she needs the committee's help to make priorities. She discussed the eleven strategies and asked for the Technical Committee's review of and responses to the public's suggested actions.

Jeff Welch stated that the transportation plan must be financially constrained. Attachment 3b shows the revenues versus expenditures for 5 years to 10 years and beyond with two options. We are looking at potential revenues.

Angie Midgett asked about the strategies and actions. She stated that the TPO cannot implement and control these. Katie Habgood added that these are suggestions we heard at the meetings. Angie stated that those suggestions should not put in the plan if it is not in your control. Jeff stated that we do not have control over some things, but we want to promote activities. Angie stated it would be better to use advocacy suggestions. Cindy Pionke stated that we advocated that the speed limit be changed and it was changed. Angie added that the LRMP needs to show the strategies the region will use to achieve the goals. Jeff stated that, as a general strategy, we are trying to manage the demand for transportation services.

Mike Conger stated that a listing of projects in the current LRTP was distributed at the last meeting. The main purpose is to review the list and identify the projects already completed and if there are other changes needed in the project scopes. The latest information will be plugged into the travel demand model, which will be used as a tool to see where our regional roadway deficiencies are. We will present the findings at the next meeting. The information may be used as a way of prioritizing projects since it is possible that some projects may have to be cut based on what we end up with in terms of available revenue versus project costs. Mike stated that he will contact anyone who has not provided information yet on their project lists.

Melissa Roberson stated that focusing on public education is an appropriate way to address a number of items and actions that can be achieved. Ted Newsom asked where the guiding principles come from. Katie stated that staff developed these after the first round of public meetings. Input from the public was considered, and common themes were identified. Those themes became the overarching principles. Ted asked if Katie wanted them to prioritize their ideas and she does.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.