

Attachment #1

**TPO Technical Committee
August 11, 2009
9 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on August 11 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville. John Lamb, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order.

*Kathryn Baldwin	Anderson County
*Terry Bobrowski	East Tennessee Development District
*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville/Knox County MPC
*Leslie Johnson	Lenoir City
*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
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit
*Blake Sartin	Metro Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
*Bruce Wuethrich	Knox County Engineering
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Nathan Benditz	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Bryan Berry	Metropolitan Planning Commission
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
David Craig	Ross/Fowler
Karen Estes	Knox County Community Action Committee Transit
Gene Fitzhugh	University of Tennessee
Terry Gilhula	Metropolitan Planning Commission
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Becky Headrick	Cannon & Cannon, Inc.
Kim Henry	The Development Corporation of Knox County
Joe Hultquist	East Tennessee Quality Growth
Cindy Pionke	Knox County Engineering
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Bob Whetsel	City of Knoxville
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*voting members

Determination of Quorum

1. Approval of July 14, 2009, Minutes

Presenter: John Lamb, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of July 14, 2009, TPO Technical Committee minutes.

Attachment #1 – July 14, 2009, minutes.

A motion was made by Bruce Wuethrich and seconded by Blake Sartin to approve the July 14 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Recommend Approval of Amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary:

a. Amend TIP Project #2008-055 (Old Stage Road/Watt Road Extension) to add \$320,000 L-STP/\$80,000 local in FY2010 funding for ROW and to increase the FY2011 Construction funding from \$1,809,000 to \$2,720,000 STP/\$680,000 local. The total project cost is now \$3,825,000. **Attachment #2a.**

b. Add TIP Project #2008-140 (Kingston Pike Greenway in Farragut) allowing construction of a greenway along Kingston Pike from Old Stage Road to Virtue Road, approximately 2,050 linear feet along the frontage of Willow Creek Golf Course. PE (\$80,000 L-STP/\$20,000 local) and ROW (\$240,000 L-STP/\$60,000 local) will be funded in FY2010, and Construction will be funded in FY2011 (\$480,000 L-STP/\$120,000 local). Total project cost is \$1,000,000. **Attachment #2b. Attachment #2b.1 – letter from Town of Farragut.**

c. Add TIP Project #2008-141 (Bridge Bond Bucket). This is a new state funding source for bridge replacement, Rehabilitation, systematic repair and preservation projects in the TPO urbanized area. There is \$100,000 funding for each FY2009, FY2010 and FY2011. This amendment is at TDOT's request. **Attachment #2c.**

d. Add TIP Project #2008-142 (I-40 Auxiliary lane). This new project includes Interstate Maintenance funding for PE-N in FY2010 (\$90,000 Federal/\$10,000 state) and Interstate Maintenance funding for PE-D in FY2010 (\$90,000 Federal/\$10,000 state). The total project cost is \$1,800,000. This amendment is at TDOT's request. **Attachment #2d.**

e. Add TIP Project #2008-143 (I-140 weigh station ramp extension). This new project includes Interstate Maintenance funding for PE-N in FY2010 (\$90,000 Federal/\$10,000 state) and Interstate Maintenance funding for PE-D in FY2010 (\$90,000 Federal/\$10,000 state). The total project cost is \$1,300,000. This amendment is at TDOT's request. **Attachment #2e.**

f. Add TIP Project #2008-144 (SR62 widening). This new project widens SR62 to five lanes from w of Schaad Rd to w of I-75/I-640, for a length of 3.9 miles. This includes state funding for Construction in FY2010 (\$18,400,000 state). The total project cost is \$22,500,000. This amendment is at TDOT's request. **Attachment #2f.**

g. Drop TIP Project #2008-032 (Millertown Pike). This amendment is at the City of Knoxville's request. **Attachment #2g.**

h. Drop TIP Project #2008-033 (Millertown Pike). This amendment is at the City of Knoxville's request. **Attachment #2h.**

i. Drop TIP Project #2008-052 (Washington Pike). This amendment is at the City of Knoxville's request. **Attachment #2i.**

j. Amend TIP Project #2008-053 (Washington Pike) to change project termini to "N of I-640 to Murphy Road." Also amend STP funding in FY2009 to \$750,000 for PE and in FY2011 to \$2,596,000 for ROW. This amendment is at the City of Knoxville's request. **Attachment #2j.**

A motion was made by Andrew Sonner and seconded by Bruce Wuethrich to recommend the TIP amendments for approval to the Executive Board. The motion carried unanimously.

3. ARRA Funding Balance

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: There remains \$364,951 of ARRA funds to be programmed. Staff has attached a recommendation for allocating this remaining balance. **Attachment #3a – Staff proposal for ARRA funds. Attachment #3b - Staff memo regarding ITS Architecture and Arterial Management System study.**

Jeff Welch stated that a revised Attachment 3A was distributed. Staff wrote a memo explaining the purpose of including a refined analysis of an arterial traffic management system (Attachment #3b memo) to complement the

basic Regional ITS architecture. At the July meeting the Technical Committee asked staff to consider CMAQ projects for ARRA funding eligibility. Jeff Welch said that TPO staff recommended Option A, which included funding ITS Regional Architecture Update/Arterial Analysis and Regional and Urban Corridor Analysis. Four additional projects from the CMAQ submittal list were identified: the Alcoa/Maryville signal upgrade program, purchase of CAC propane vehicles, Lenoir City signal timing plan for Highway 11, and purchase of a KAT bus. Kathryn Baldwin supports the funding of the ITS Regional Architecture and Regional and Urban Corridor Analysis for ARRA funding as these projects are regional in scope and this is a rare opportunity to fund these projects with 100% federal money.

A motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Blake Sartin to recommend approval to the Executive Board to allocate the remaining ARRA fund balance for Option A. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Recommendation of projects to be funded with Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff has evaluated and ranked the applications that were received for possible CMAQ funding. Staff estimates the CMAQ funds available are in the range of \$2.5 million to \$2.8. A more accurate number will be provided at the meeting. **Attachment #4 – CMAQ DRAFT funding recommendation.**

Jeff Welch stated that the TPOs may fund any CMAQ project at 100% with the state's discretion. The current amount available is \$2.5 million; this includes the 2009 allocation and monies in the cost overrun and contingency buckets. If we allocate the full amount, local governments will have to cover cost overruns on their own. Mike Conger stated that we used the travel demand model to estimate the emissions reductions for the sidewalk projects. John Lamb suggested this be discussed for a vote at the September meeting.

A motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Terry Bobrowski to defer the vote until the September meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Recommend Submittal of a Proposal to TDOT for a Regional/Urban Transit Corridor Study

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff has prepared a brief proposal to be submitted to TDOT for funding. In part this proposal seeks to capitalize on the Regional Transportation Alternatives Plan conducted in 2002 and most recently the Transit Development Plan conducted for KAT that identified several corridors for intensive transit opportunities. This study proposes to quickly narrow the corridors/areas to three for detailed analysis. **Attachment #5.**

Jeff Welch stated that staff will go to TDOT for additional funding. We will revisit the studies and narrow it down to three corridors. We are asking the Technical Committee to endorse this study.

A motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Blake Sartin to recommend submittal of a proposal to TDOT for a Regional/Urban Transit Corridor Study. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Functional Classification System Update

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The TPO staff reviewed the listing of proposed roadway functional classification changes with TDOT, and the finalized list will need to be recommended for approval by the Executive Board. **Attachment #6 – Draft Resolution Adopting List of Roadway Functional Classification Changes in Knoxville Urban Area.**

Mike Conger stated that we received updated functional system mileages for the urbanized area and that we are within our limits with the proposed additions. TDOT has looked at the proposed list and accepted the changes with a few exceptions for roadways that were too narrow and also they stated that no changes to the functional system would be allowed in the rural areas. Mike stated that his recommendation for projects in the rural area was to wait

until after the 2010 census when we will get new urban boundaries and at that time we would be allowed to make adjustments to the urban boundary. This listing of requested changes has to be approved by the Executive Board by resolution.

John Lamb stated that Blount County was in the process of updating its Major Road Plan and he wanted to review the state functional classification changes with respect to changes that may be made to the Major Road Plan for consistency purposes. Mike stated that the TPO staff was working towards an August Executive Board adoption, but that it could be postponed if necessary.

It was agreed to put this item off until further review of the listing could be made by the jurisdictions. No vote was taken.

7. Bicycle Plan Update

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The Bicycle Plan was adopted as part of the 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan. An update on implementation progress will be given, and a bike liaison from each jurisdiction will be requested.

Kelley Segars stated that the Bicycle Committee has five subcommittees. One of the committees is working on Performance Measures so that implementation of the Bicycle Plan can be tracked. She handed out copies of the draft performance measures and asked for input. The Bicycle Advisory Committee wants the Bicycle Plan adopted by each jurisdiction and would like for each jurisdiction to appoint a liaison for bicycle issues.

8. Results of Greenway Meeting with TDOT

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Local government and TPO staff met with TDOT on July 21 to discuss obstacles to planning, designing and constructing greenways.

Ellen Zavisca stated that the Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council has had discussions concerning roadblocks to getting greenway projects constructed with state and federal dollars. Following a request by the Technical Committee, local government representatives met in Nashville with TDOT representatives. The issues discussed included categorical exclusions for greenways, design requirements for greenways, and the rules concerning property and easement acquisition. Full meeting notes will be sent to Technical Committee members.

9. Bearden Greenway Research

Presenter: Gene Fitzhugh, Ph.D., University of Tennessee Department of Exercise, Sport and Leisure Studies

Item Summary: Dr. Fitzhugh is studying greenway usage in Knoxville and the impact of the Bearden Village Greenway on the surrounding neighborhood.

Ellen Zavisca introduced Gene Fitzhugh, Ph.D, from UT who presented on the usage and impact of greenways in Knoxville. He discussed the Bearden Village Greenway, which was built along Sutherland Avenue, and its impact on the surrounding neighborhood. His research found that the greenway led to an increase in physical activity and the perception of walkability, as compared with control neighborhoods. Trail counters are also set up along several greenways in Knoxville to count bicyclists and pedestrians. Gene's students will be doing trail intercept surveys to determine the length and purpose of greenway trips, among other data.

Bruce Wuethrich left the meeting at this time, and Cindy Pionke replaced him.

10. Other Business

John Lamb discussed Attachment 10A, which was distributed at the meeting. He is on the Board of Directors of East Tennessee Quality Growth (ETQG), as is Terry Bobrowski. Both Terry and John declared that there is no conflict of interest in them serving on the Board of ETQG and on the TPO Technical Committee. John stated that this organization grew indirectly out of the Nine Counties One Vision process by way of the Plain Talk on Quality

Growth conference that was held in 2007. ETQG proposes to TDOT and the Knoxville TPO to contract for development and dissemination/implementation of a toolbox that will make available to local governments tools that will allow them to implement quality growth principals in their communities.

Joe Hultquist, who is President of the ETQG, a nonprofit organization, stated that this proposal will go to the Executive Board meeting on August 26. The proposal outlines what ETQG wants to accomplish, including creation of a quality growth toolbox and another conference. We are asking that TDOT fund the major portion of these efforts.

John Lamb asked Jeff Welch what the Executive Board needs in order to take action. The Board will need a recommendation from the Technical Committee on this proposal. If the TPO Board approves the submittal of this proposal to TDOT and TDOT agrees to fund it then the TPO/MPC will enter into a contract with TDOT to manage this proposal. Angie stated that TDOT asked for a proposal, but it is not guaranteed that TDOT will fund it.

Kathryn Baldwin supports the need for this type of regional effort as it has been successful in middle Tennessee. She would like to coordinate the TAPA conference next year in Knoxville with the next Quality Growth conference.

A motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Mark Donaldson to recommend this proposal to the Executive Board for their approval. The motion carried with TDOT abstaining.

Attachment 10B was distributed concerning an interlocal agreement creating the Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council. Jeff Welch stated that the TPO is required to sign this agreement and pay dues to participate in the Council, and asked the Technical Committee to recommend it to the Executive Board.

A motion was made by Blake Sartin and seconded by Brian Boone to recommend to the Executive Board that the TPO sign the interlocal agreement to join the Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council. The motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Welch stated that he received a request from Norfolk Southern proposing development of the Crescent Corridor Intermodal Freight Project. The 2,500-mile Crescent Corridor Intermodal Network will provide Tennessee and the nation with the most direct intermodal rail route between the Mid-Atlantic and the Southeast. There would be rail improvements in east and west Tennessee, and the project is looking for funding. They are asking for endorsement to apply for a federal TIGER grant. There was no action taken..

An AASHTO memo was distributed. Jeff Welch stated that federal funds may be cut by \$8.7 billion as a result of a provision included in the last highway and transit authorizing act. Tennessee would lose \$190 million in the rescission. Safety and STP funds are the only funds that are safe. The TPO should submit a letter to our congressional delegation telling them how this rescission will impact our projects.

A motion was made by Cindy Pionke and seconded by Barbara Monty to recommend to the Executive Board that a letter be sent to our congressional delegation asking that the federal funds not be cut in a rescission. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Executive Board Meeting, August 26 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building**
- **Technical Committee Meeting, September 8 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building**

11. Public Comment

There was no other public comment.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.