

Attachment #1

**TPO Technical Committee
March 10, 2009
9 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on March 10 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.

*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Monica Austin Carroll	Anderson County for Kathryn Baldwin
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway Area TPO
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville/Knox County MPC
*Chris Hamby	City of Alcoa
*Gary Holiway	East Tennessee Human Resource Agency for Gordon Acuff
*Steve King	City of Knoxville Engineering
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Jennifer Lehto	East Tennessee Development District for Terry Bobrowski
*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
*Bruce Wuethrich	Knox County Engineering
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Nathan Benditz	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Jason Brady	Gresham Smith & Partners
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Karen Estes	Knox County Community Action Committee Transit
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Cindy Pionke	Knox County
Jerry Richardson	Citizen
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Robert Shaw	Citizens Against Beltway Orange Location
Amanda Snowden	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Elizabeth Wright	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*voting members

Determination of Quorum

1. Approval of February 10 and 18, 2009, Minutes

Presenter: John Lamb, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of February 10 and 18, 2009, TPO Technical Committee minutes.

Background: Attachment #1a, February 10, 2009, Minutes

Attachment #1b, February 18, 2009, Minutes

A motion was made by Bruce Wuethrich and seconded by Blake Sartin to approve the February 10 and February 18 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Accept Four New Members to the Bicycle Advisory Committee

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Some inactive members have dropped off the committee and the openings were advertised to the public. These four people have applied and have already volunteered for Bicycle Program events and programs.

Background: The TPO Technical Committee must approve members of the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Attachment #2 – BAC applications

A motion was made by Bruce Wuethrich and seconded by Mark Donaldson to approve Jonathan McLain, Linda Gray, Jesse O’Hatnick and Brian Watson as new members to the Bicycle Advisory Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Presentation of the Bicycle Plan Update

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The 2002 Bicycle Plan called for regular updates. Much progress has been made in implementing the 2002 plan. This update process began in 2007, but due to staff leave, was not completed until recently. The current draft is the result of review by the Bicycle Advisory Committee in Spring 2008, and public review in January and February 2009. This update is intended to be more concise and easier to read than the previous plan.

Background: Attachment #3 – Draft 2009 Bicycle Plan (shortened version)

Kelley Segars stated she would like to have feedback to help make the Bicycle Plan better. This is just a draft and is part of the Long Range Transportation Plan.

4. Economic Stimulus Discretionary Grant Program

Presenter: TPO Staff

a. Item Summary: The TPO Executive Board has asked the Technical Committee to identify any transportation projects that would meet the criteria for special economic stimulus funding.

b. Background: Attachment #4 – Summary of Discretionary Grant Criteria

Jeff Welch stated that at the last Executive Board meeting, Mayor Ragsdale suggested that the TPO look into the discretionary grant program for possible projects that may be competitive to be submitted to this program. Angie Midgett stated that these are supposed to be very large regional projects like interstate projects. Jeff stated that the TPO has been charged to look at the projects. Russ Newman stated the new bridge over Ft. Loudon Lake may be a project that would be eligible.

5. Identification of Project(s) for Economic Stimulus Funding

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The Executive Board amended the TIP to add \$5,455,370 of Economic Stimulus funds for two projects. There remains approximately \$7,223,051 of economic stimulus funds that needs to be programmed.

Background: Attachment #5a – List of remaining projects that may be eligible for economic stimulus funding. Attachment #5b – Letter from U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure requesting information.

The Executive Board approved Lovell Road under Pellissippi Parkway and adding additional funds to the Campbell Station Road project. The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) is looking at the additional projects we want to fund through the Economic Stimulus. TDOT will begin to initiate contracts as soon as possible. We have to decide how to distribute \$7,223,051. Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) would receive \$5.8 million in Economic Stimulus funds from the Federal Transit Administration to spend on the Transit Center, transit operations/maintenance, preventive maintenance for transit vehicles and twenty new buses. We have to amend the TIP to add these funds for KAT. Melissa Roberson distributed a memo listing these projects and stated these have been on previous lists. They would like approval before the end of the month.

A motion was made by Barbara Monty and seconded by Blake Sartin to recommend to the Executive Board approval to add the above-mentioned projects to the TIP. The motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Welch stated that additional information concerning the economic stimulus has been distributed. There was a change in the Community Action Committee amounts. Projects S8 and S9 were dropped and replaced as Project S10. Project S19 for Blount County changed to \$610,000 and Project S20 resurfacing projects include the top two ranked projects. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act scenario sheet was revised and distributed this morning. Angie Midgett stated that TDOT wants everyone to spend their funds. Be sure to pick a project that can be approved so the money can stay in Tennessee. Jeff stated the contractual process should get started. The goal is to have these projects ready to be let by November 30, 2009, so they can be obligated. Staff wants to go through each jurisdiction's projects before we vote. Jeff asked each member about the status of their projects. Jeff indicated that we should recommend to the Executive Board to amend the TIP to add these projects to the list and submit them to TDOT to begin review. Jeff read the list with the revisions. The revisions are: remove S8 (CAC – funds to purchase hybrid sedans); S9 (CAC – funds to purchase minivans); replace with S10 (CAC – funds to purchase ITS software); remove S14 (City of Knoxville Engineering – replace sidewalk and landscape along Market Street).

A motion was made by Bruce Wuethrich and seconded by Chris Hamby to approve Projects S1, S2, S3, S4 S5 S10, S15, S19 and S20 and removal of Projects S8, S9 and S14 and add Project S10. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion of Surface Transportation Program (STP) Fund Balance

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The Knoxville TPO is carrying a fund balance of \$27,409,141. This represents almost 4 years of STP allocation. In the attached letter and a conference call with TDOT on Feb. 13, 2009, TDOT is asking for a plan of action on how we will spend down this balance. There is no immediate threat of losing any of these federal funds.

Background: Attachment #6 - Status of STP Projects

Jeff discussed these projects and asked the members to see if each project is ready. Staff will work with members and asked that they look at each project. We have to submit these projects to TDOT after the Executive Board's April meeting and tell how we want to spend down the STP funds.

7. Unified Planning Work Program

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff has submitted a draft 2010 UPWP to TDOT. If there are any planning studies that your jurisdiction is interested in please let us know as soon as possible. There will be additional time to add to the UPWP over the next couple of months.

Jeff Welch stated that staff has developed a draft and will submit it to TDOT today. The staff will e-mail the Work Program to Technical Committee members to look at draft. The Executive Board will approve it this summer. The Federal Highway Administration will also review the draft. Jeff encouraged the committee members to let the staff know if there are any TPR studies they want to add next year.

8. Long Range Mobility Plan Update

Presenter: TPO Staff

a. Item Summary: TDOT is presently reviewing the Draft 2009-2034 Regional Mobility Plan. Public meetings are scheduled between March 23 and April 2. The Draft is available on the TPO's website and through a document-sharing site. **Attachment #7: Public meeting dates and locations.**

b. Background: The Plan is updated every four years and is scheduled for approval by the Technical Committee on May 12 and adoption by the Board on May 27.

Katie Habgood stated that 800 postcards have been sent out to inform the public about the next round of public meetings. The draft plan is available for review online.

9. Other Business

- **Technical Committee Meeting, April 14 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**
- **Executive Board Meeting, April 22 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**

Jeff Welch indicated that the Executive Board may have to have a special called meeting before April 22 to vote on the stimulus projects.

Kelley Segars introduced Elizabeth Wright, who is the new Smart Trips Coordinator.

John Lamb stated that he would like to have a discussion next month about the permitting process for greenways to pass on to TDOT.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.