

Attachment #1

**TPO Technical Committee
January 12, 2010
9 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on January 12 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
*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Rich DesGrosielliers	Lakeway Area TPO
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville/Knox County MPC
*Chris Jenkins	for Darryl Smith, Town of Farragut
*Brent Johnson	City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Jennifer Lehto	East Tennessee Development District
*Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Russ Newman	Loudon County
*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
John Benditz	Kimley-Horn & Associates
Nathan Benditz	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Brian Berry	Metropolitan Planning Commission Staff
Becky Bottoms	Cannon & Cannon
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Karen Estes	Community Action Committee Transit
John Hunter	City of Knoxville
Cindy Pionke	Knox County Engineering
Warren Secrest	Community Action Committee
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Anne Wallace	City of Knoxville
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

***voting members**

Determination of Quorum

1. Approval of November 10, 2009, Minutes

Presenter: John Lamb, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of November 10, 2009, TPO Technical Committee minutes.

Attachment #1 – November 10, 2009, minutes.

A motion was made by Bruce Wuethrich and seconded by Blake Sartin to approve the November 10, 2009, minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Election of Officers

Presenter: Technical Committee Chair

Item Summary: The Bylaws of the Technical Committee require an annual election of officers: Chair and Vice Chair. The terms of office are for one year and an officer is eligible to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. The bylaws require an election to be held at the first meeting of the year.

Background: Chair John Lamb and Vice Chair Bruce Wuethrich have served one one-year term.

Jeff Welch stated that the Technical Committee Bylaws require that the committee have an election every year.

A motion was made by Bruce Wuethrich and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to nominate John Lamb for an additional year. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Barbara Monty to nominate Bruce Wuethrich for Vice Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Appointment of a new member to the Bicycle Advisory Committee

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: A member has resigned and a new member has been found. The TPO Technical Committee must approve members of the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Attachment #2 – BAC application

Kelley Segars stated that a member has resigned and a new member has been found. Anne Victoria has applied to be a new member of the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

A motion was made by Bruce Wuethrich and seconded by Andrew Sonner to approve Anne Victoria as a new member of the Bicycle Advisory Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of Amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) due to the loss of funding

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: As a result of the federal rescission of federal funds, the TPO must amend the TIP in order to have financially constrained document. Other house keeping amendments are also presented including review of Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) projects. **Attachment #3a** - STP TIP Amendment Memo – **Attachment #3b** - TDOT CMAQ Project Submittal Guidance, **Attachment #3c** - CMAQ TIP Amendment Memo, **Attachment #3d** - CMAQ Project List

Jeff Welch stated that as a result of the rescission of federal funds, the TIP must be amended, which will result in the loss of STP and CMAQ funding and planning dollars. The net result is that the TIP will not be financially constrained. The rescission resulted in a loss of \$8.3 million of STP project funding and an anticipated \$3.5 million less of STP funding in FY2010. Staff reviewed projects in the current TIP and have recommended moving several projects construction phase beyond the current TIP horizon year of 2011. These projects are not moving as quickly as they were anticipated to. This would result in savings of \$12,540,160. The following projects being moved outside the TIP are Concord Road, Harrison Road and Washington Pike. The Lovell Road project was reduced in scope. The two projects being dropped from the TIP are the Farragut Park-n-ride lot and build a right turn lane on Central Avenue. A new TIP will be developed in the next 6 months for 2011-2016.

Jeff also recommended that TIP Project #2008-109 Montvale Road (SR-336) be dropped from the TIP to eliminate a duplicate project.

A motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Bruce Wuethrich to recommend to the Executive Board approval of a resolution amending the TIP to include all the attached amendments. The motion carried unanimously.

Jeff stated that CMAQ funds were also rescinded, and there will not be any suballocation from the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) in FY 2010. A Technical Committee workshop was held and a priority list created. The list on Attachment #3d has to be sent to TDOT today. TDOT will review the projects submitted statewide and make a decision by early February. In order to expedite the TIP process and in anticipation that some or all of our CMAQ projects would be funded staff recommends that a motion should be made to recommend to the Executive Board to add these projects to the TIP. Projects that will not be funded by TDOT will be dropped from the TIP at a later time. We will be having a called Executive Board meeting as soon as one can be set up.

A motion was made by Bruce Wuethrich and seconded by Russ Newman to recommend to the Executive Board approval of a resolution to add twelve CMAQ projects to the TIP. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Update on the Job Access Reverse Commute and New Freedoms Programs

Presenter: TPO Staff

Background: Attachment #4 - Both projects are a continuation of funding support by the TPO for Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC) Transit's Job Access & Reverse Commute (JARC) and Knoxville-Knox County CAC Office On Aging's New Freedom programs.

Doug Burton of the TPO staff presented the following information. The TPO is the designated recipient of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) JARC and New Freedom funds. JARC funds are to be used to help people get to work or job training. New Freedom funds are to be used to help those persons who are disabled gain access to transportation services. This is the second round of funding the TPO is distributing. The TPO was required to prepare a Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan (HSTC Plan). Through public input, the plan lists priority projects that should be funded with JARC and New Freedom funding. The plan also outlines the project application and selection process. The Executive Board adopted the HSTC Plan and charged a subcommittee (the Human Service Transportation Coordination Committee (HSTCC)), primarily made up of agencies represented on the TPO Technical Committee, to evaluate the project submissions and select projects to be funded.

During the first round of funding, CAC asked for all of the JARC and New Freedom funding available. The HSTCC decided to give CAC half of the funding, then, evaluate the programs' success before awarding the remaining funds. The HSTCC decided, in the spirit of the federal regulations, to go ahead and re-advertise the remaining funding availability. This allows the decision making to be done in an open and transparent process. The HSTCC did receive an additional request for funding from the Senior Citizens Home Assistance Service, Inc (SCHAS). But, after evaluating both the SCHAS and the CAC projects, the HSTCC decided to stay with the original commitment to fund CAC. CAC's projects are making a meaningful impact on our area's citizens. And, CAC's projects are in keeping with the priority projects outlined in the HSTC Plan. Therefore, CAC was awarded \$253,869 (federal) of FTA JARC funding and \$251,106 (federal) of FTA New Freedom funding. These funds are being designated for operating projects that require a dollar-to-dollar match. The Tennessee Department of Transportation Office of Multimodal Transportation Resources has agreed to provide half of the local match which is \$126,935 for the JARC project and \$125,553 for the New Freedom project. CAC will provide the remaining local match which is \$129,934 for the JARC project and \$125,553 for the New Freedom project. As outlined in the HSTC Plan the TPO will retain 10% of the grant funding for administration. Awarding these grants will use up all the funding for JARC and New Freedom under SAFETEA-LU. With Congress passing continuing resolutions and not passing a new transportation bill there should be another year's worth of funding available at a future date. It is not known at this time whether the programs will be continued under the next transportation bill.

CAC's JARC project uses demand response vans to carry people to work or job related training or activities. CAC's New Freedom project has four parts. First, a volunteer escort service that utilizes CAC hybrid-electric vehicles or minivans to take disabled passengers on trips. The volunteer stays with the passenger through the entire trip. Second, a mobility navigator service that assist clients with information on how to access various transportation services. This project also includes travel training assistance. Third, funding for social or recreational trips contracted through Knox County CAC Transit. Fourth, administrative funding for a program that will improve taxicab services in our area. The program helps make local taxicab services safer and more senior or disability friendly.

Because the HSTCC decided to continue funding an existing CAC projects no motion was necessary as these projects had been previously endorsed and are already programmed in the Transportation Improvement Program.

However, if there were any concerns by the Technical Committee they could be discussed at this time. There were no concerns by the Technical Committee. The Executive Board will be updated on the project selection process at their next meeting.

6. Report on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Projects

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The TPO received approximately \$13 million of ARRA funds this past spring. Staff will provide an update on the status of the projects approved by the TPO. The planning studies are in jeopardy of not being approved by the FHWA. Alternatives to these projects need to be recommended. **Attachment #5** - ARRA Project status report

Jeff Welch stated that on March 1 ARRA funds will expire. Projects have to be obligated prior to this date. He read some of the projects that were approved by the Executive Board on October 28, 2009. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) said planning studies are eligible but must lead to construction within a 2-year time period. The total of \$795,000 of planning study dollars may need to be reprogrammed. The TPO could allow TDOT to take over any extra funds, and TDOT would obligate the money to shovel ready projects in our area. Angie Midgett stated she wants the Technical Committee to identify projects first. Jeff stated that two additional projects could be the \$200,000 that Alcoa needs for a signal timing study and Lenoir City resurfacing for \$200,000. These would have to be an amendment to the TIP. The money could be obligated by March 2010. TDOT recommended that the Executive Board approve a conditional resolution that if the money is not obligated by January 29, the Board would authorize TDOT to spend the unobligated balance. Angie stated that the funds will go to another state if not obligated to TN projects.

The Technical Committee directed the staff to identify additional projects within our ARRA or CMAQ programs that could receive additional funds. Andrew Sonner stated that he could use an additional \$80,000 for Alcoa's resurfacing project.

A motion was made by Bruce Wuethrich and seconded by Andrew Sonner to recommend to the Executive Board approval of authorizing TDOT to use any of our unobligated ARRA funds for TDOT shovel ready projects in our area. The motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Welch stated that the House of Representatives passed an ARRA 2 bill, and the Senate will vote on it the end of February. The current discussion of the ARRA program is there may be the same amount of money going to DOTs and MPO's. Fifty percent of those funds would have to be obligated in 90 days. ARRA funds could be used for ROW or design work if construction funding would follow in two years. . Jeff encouraged the members to look at their work programs. Jeff needs members' help in identifying projects to obligate \$10-12 million.

7. Update on the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Budget

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: A revised federal funding allocation for planning dollars for FY 2010 has been provided by TDOT to the TPO. The new allocation is \$116,299 less than what we estimated the funding would have been in July of 2009. Staff will prepare a new budget and work program over the next month to reflect this reduction in federal funding. **Attachment #6a** - Letter and funding table from TDOT. **Attachment #6b** - Current FY2010 UPWP Budget Table.

8. Other Business

Mike Conger distributed an overview of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed revisions to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ground-level ozone. If the range is 0.060-0.070 the whole southeast could be nonattainment. This overview also included a proposed acceleration implementation timeline. Ozone had a good year last year, and our area was in attainment. A letter will be sent to Barry Stephens, head of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), requesting TDEC submit to EPA documentation on the past three years of data showing that we have met ozone standards. Mike is having a letter signed today by Mayor Allen Wilson from the East Tennessee South Rural Planning Organization and Mayor Don Mull from the Knoxville TPO to go to TDEC.

- **There will be a special called Executive Board meeting to fiscally constrain the TIP and review ARRA projects**
- **Technical Committee Meeting, February 9 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building**
- **Executive Board Meeting, February 24 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building**

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.