

TPO Technical Committee Minutes  
December 10, 2013  
9:00 a.m.  
Small Assembly Room  
City/County Building  
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on December 10, 2013 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville. Chair Cindy Pionke presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined that there was a quorum. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves.

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| *Kathryn Baldwin      | City of Oak Ridge                             |
| *Terry Bobrowski      | ETDD  |
| *Brian Boone          | City of Maryville                             |
| *Rich DesGroseilliers | LAMTPO  |
| *Karen Estes          | CAC   |
| *Jim Hagerman         | City of Knoxville                             |
| *John Lamb            | Blount County                                 |
| *Ted Newsom           | Knoxville Commuter Pool                       |
| *Mike Patterson       | ETHRA, <i>for Gary Holiway</i>                |
| *Jeff Ownby           | Sevier County                                 |
| *Cindy Pionke         | Knox County, <i>for Dwight Van de Vate</i>    |
| *Jack Qualls          | Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) |
| *Melissa Roberson     | Knoxville Area Transit (KAT)                  |
| *Darryl Smith         | Town of Farragut                              |
| *Andrew Sonner        | City of Alcoa                                 |
| TPO Staff             |   |
| Partner Agency Staff  |   |
| Members of the Public |   |
| *voting members       |   |

**1. Approval of November 12, 2013 Minutes**

**Item Summary:** Approval of November 12, 2013, TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

**A Motion was made by Jim Hagerman and seconded by Darryl Smith to approve the November 12, 2013 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Recommend Approval of Amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program - Proposed Distribution of FTA Section 5307 Urban Area Funds and FTA Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Funds**

**Item Summary:** On behalf of the City of Knoxville, the TPO facilitated a competitive process for the FTA Section 5307 Urban Area funds and Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities funds for FY 2013 and FY 2014. After discussions with the City of Knoxville and FTA officials, it was determined that due to a lack of any allocation of FY 2014 Section 5307 or 5339 funds to the urban area it was not reasonable to program any FY 2014 funds at this time. Therefore only FY 2013 funds will be programmed with this Amendment.

Earlier this year the TPO programmed part of FY 2013 Section 5307 funds to KAT and ETHRA. There remains \$2,653,603.00 of Section 5307 funds to be programmed. The TPO also had a competitive process for the distribution of Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities program funds. There was \$585,386.00 of FY 2013 funds available. Staff recommends approval.

**Discussion:** Doug Burton briefly reviewed the events leading up to these Amendments notably an expansion of our Urbanized Area in addition to the passing of MAP-21, both affecting regional transit funding. Mr. Burton noted that although we are already into the federal FY 2014 (10-1-2013 to 9-30-2014), Congress is only passing funding incrementally and subsequently, FTA does not yet have enough of the FY 2014 funds to apply to requests for FY 2014. Mr. Burton further noted that although we have a solid idea of what the final funding amount will be, the City has decided to wait until we have the actual number before any funds are awarded. Mr. Burton then reviewed the proposed distribution of the Section 5339 funds requested for FY 2013. He noted that only KAT and ETHRA requested Section 5339 funds for FY 2013. He stated that at this time, staff is not requesting the Section 5339 funds be part of the proposed TIP Amendments as both KAT and ETHRA have indicated it would be better for them to wait until we have the FY 2014 funds available. Mr. Burton then reviewed the proposed distribution of the Section 5307 funds requested for FY 2013. He noted that the amounts reflected in Table Two (Attachment #2) reflect the second half of the available Section 5307 funds for FY 2013 as KAT has already programmed the first half of the available funds. Mr. Burton stated that per FTA requirements, the TPO will hold a Public Hearing at the Executive Board meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>. This notice was published in multiple newspapers and also on the TPO website ([www.knoxtrans.org](http://www.knoxtrans.org)). Mr. Burton then stated that today, staff is asking the Technical Committee to endorse the proposed distributions as outlined in Attachment #2 for Section 5339 and Section 5307 funds for FY 2013. He reiterated the TIP Amendment staff is seeking a recommendation for approval to the Executive Board will only reflect Section 5307 funds. He then briefly reviewed the proposed TIP Amendments.

**A Motion was made by Ted Newsom and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to endorse the Proposed Distributions for FTA Section 5339 and Section 5307 funds for FY 2013 as outlined in Attachment #2. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**A Motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Darryl Smith to Recommend Approval of Amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program - Proposed Distribution of FTA Section 5307 Urban Area Funds. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**3. Recommend Endorsement of Two Multimodal Projects to be Submitted to TDOT for Consideration of State Funding**

**Item Summary:** TDOT has created a funding program to support multimodal projects throughout the state. The Knoxville TPO has been requested to submit two projects to TDOT for consideration of funding. The submittal deadline to TDOT is Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The TPO received five grant applications from the membership. Staff and members of the TPO Bicycle Advisory Committee have reviewed the applications and ranked them based on the criteria established by TDOT. The Executive Board will consider the Technical Committee recommendation on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Discussion:** Ellen Zavisca noted funding for these projects will be 95% state and 5% local. She noted that based on TDOT's criteria, the top two projects were ones submitted by the City of Knoxville. She noted those two projects were awarded a large amount of points based on their connections to existing transit services. The projects are Kingston Pike and Papermill and Clinton Highway at Merchants Drive. Ms. Zavisca noted staff would be willing to assist any member jurisdiction in trying to find funding for their projects using other funding sources.

**A Motion was made by Jim Hagerman and seconded by Jack Qualls to Recommend Endorsement of the Two Multimodal Projects Submitted by the City of Knoxville for Submission to TDOT for Consideration of State Funding. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**Further Discussion:** Terry Bobrowski noted that there were five projects submitted for consideration by the North RPO and three from the South RPO. He noted that the grant timeframe was short and hoped in the future it will be longer. Kathryn Baldwin expressed concern that jurisdictions that do not have transit could not be competitive.

#### 4. Overview of the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects for FY 2013

**Item Summary:** Each year the TPO is required to make available to the public a listing of all transportation related projects in which federal funds were obligated in the past fiscal year.

**Discussion:** Jeff Welch stated federal regulations require the TPO to make available the annual listing of projects in our urban area for which federal funds have been obligated in FY 2013. He noted that about half the dollars programmed were actually obligated, meaning they moved forward quickly enough through the process. Mr. Welch stressed the importance of moving projects through as quickly as possible to ensure funds are obligated.

#### 5. Update Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program

**Item Summary:** The TPO staff and the Technical Committee Chair met recently with TDOT staff to discuss the current status of the TDOT CMAQ process and emphasis areas for the next round of the competitive grant application process.

**Discussion:** Jeff Welch stated Linda Tidwell and Alan Jones, head of TDOT's CMAQ program met with staff and Cindy Pionke recently. Three major issues were discussed: CMAQ balance at the state level, length of time it takes to obligate funds and identifying PM 2.5 type projects to fund. Ms. Pionke also noted TDOT stated there was no guarantee of a specific amount of funding that would come to our area for CMAQ projects. She further noted it appears that TDOT is leaning more towards acting on (funding) transit/ITS applications. Ms. Pionke noted TDOT stated they were planning on issuing a Call-For-Proposals by the end of the year which would be due in March 2014, which she noted was not much time.

#### 6. Presentation on the Maryville-to-Townsend Greenway Plan

**Item Summary:** The final report for the Maryville-to-Townsend Greenway Plan has been completed and staff will provide an overview of the study. This study was jointly funded by the TPO and the Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council.

**Discussion:** Ellen Zavisca noted this was the first of three planned studies. It involved an advisory committee, which consisted of individuals from Alcoa, Blount County, Maryville, Townsend, Maryville-Alcoa-Blount County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Blount Partnership and TDOT, who worked with staff and the consultant team. Ms. Zavisca noted they were looking to build on existing plans and visions as it is part of the larger Knoxville-to-the-Smokies vision. She noted this study looked at the Maryville-to-Townsend portions. She then reviewed the study in some detail. The complete study is available on the website. Ms. Zavisca stated the cost estimate is approximately \$24 million dollars over a 10-year period. The consultants were also asked to estimate the positive economic impact of the project, which was estimated at \$65 million dollars over the same 10-year period, yielding \$2.66 dollars for every dollar spent. The complete presentation is available at the following link: [http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/minutes/tech/10dec13\\_att2.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/minutes/tech/10dec13_att2.pdf)

#### 7. Presentation on the Urban Area Highway Functional Classification Update Process

**Item Summary:** As a result of the urbanized area expansion from the 2010 census the TPO must update the federal functional classification of our urban highways. Staff will provide a brief overview of the issues and process for this update.

**Discussion:** Mike Conger gave a brief background on the urbanized area (UZA) expansion based on the US Census, which often yields jagged boundaries. TPO can adjust the UZA boundaries to remove those jagged edges as well as smooth out other areas where it makes sense. The TPO adjusted UZA was approved by the Board November 28, 2012 and the FHWA in March of this year. Mr. Conger stated staff is exploring further adjusting the boundaries. Mr. Conger then reviewed the proposed readjusted boundary. These changes would not affect the 2010 Metropolitan Planning Area. He noted staff will be meeting with individual jurisdictions as necessary to discuss the proposed changes in more detail. Mr. Conger noted we are required to maintain a functional classification system for our roadways, which is recommended to be evaluated every 10 years along with the decennial census.

He noted an important aspect of functional classification is that it is used to determine eligibility for federal-aid programs. He then reviewed the changes to the Functional Classification categories from the Highway Performance Monitoring System Reassessment and described in some detail the TPO Functional Classification Update process and timeline. The full presentation is available at the following link:

[http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/minutes/tech/10dec13\\_att1.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/minutes/tech/10dec13_att1.pdf)

## **8. Other Business**

Executive Board Meeting *Wednesday, December 18*, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, January 14, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

PlanET Update: For complete and up to date information please visit the PlanET website at:

<http://www.planeasttn.org>

Jeff Welch noted the 7th annual Tour de Lights is this Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM on Market Square. This year there will be a parade route enhancing safety for the approximately 1000 rider expected. Mr. Welch noted staff is looking at a workshop once the CMAQ applications come out late this month to discuss our individual and regional strengths and how we can be more competitive in the application process.

Jack Qualls noted TDOT is restructuring one of its Project Plans divisions and Steve Allen is now overseeing a new division called Strategic Transportation Investment Division.

## **9. Public comment**

Members of the public may address the Technical Committee with a five-minute time limitation for each person. There was no public comment.

## **10. Adjournment**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.