

TPO Technical Committee Minutes
February 11, 2014
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on February 11, 2014, 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
*Beth Collins	Lenoir City
*Rich DesGroseilliers	LAMTPO
*Mark Donaldson	Metropolitan Planning Commission
*Karen Estes	CAC
*Brooke Keyes	Sevier County, <i>for Jeff Ownby</i>
*Steve King	City of Knoxville, <i>for Jim Hagerman</i>
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Mike Patterson	ETHRA, <i>for Gary Holiway</i>
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Dwight Van de Vate</i>
*Jack Qualls	Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit (KAT)
*Blake Sartin	Metro Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
**Scott Allen	FHWA
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	
** non-voting member	

1. Approval of December 10, 2013 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of the December 10, 2013 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Darryl Smith to approve the December 10, 2013 Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Election of Officers

Item Summary: The Bylaws state that the Technical Committee shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected from the membership of the Technical Committee by a majority vote. Election of officers shall take place during the first meeting of the calendar year. The term of office shall be for one year. Any officer is eligible to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. The TPO Director will serve as permanent Secretary.

A Motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Darryl Smith to nominate Cindy Pionke for a second term as Chair of the Technical Committee. The Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion was made by Darryl Smith and seconded by Andrew Sonner to nominate Kathryn Baldwin for a second term as Vice Chair of the Technical Committee. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Recommend Approval of Amendments to the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Item Summary: The following Amendments to the TIP were requested by our state and local governments. Staff recommends approval.

Discussion: Bryan Berry reviewed the 3 proposed Amendments. He noted the first Amendment was for the Pistol Creek Greenway – Phase IV and the second for Pellissippi Place Greenway – Phase I. Both are existing projects in the TIP and at the request of the City of Alcoa the description, length and termini are being switched out between these 2 projects. These 2 Amendments do not involve any monetary changes. The third Amendment is to add a project to the TIP, the Lenoir City Central Business District Pedestrian Improvements project. Mr. Berry noted this project was in the 2011-2014 TIP but funds for it were not obligated as expected in 2013. This project would involve adding \$200,000 of Transportation Alternative Program funds (\$160,000 federal and \$40,000 local) to the TIP for streetscape improvements along 2 sections of Hwy. 11/SR 2 (Broadway).

A Motion was made by Blake Sartin and seconded by Beth Collins to approve the Amendments to the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Motion carried unanimously.

4. Bike-Ped Crash Study

Item Summary: Dr. Chris Cherry recently completed a study for TDOT on the frequency and severity of bicycle- and pedestrian-related crashes in Tennessee, with the goal of determining where safety funding should best be spent to prevent these types of crashes.

Discussion: Ellen Zavisca introduced Dr. Chris Cherry, Associate Professor with the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at UT. Dr. Cherry noted this was part of an initiative with TDOT which looked at ways to prioritize bike-ped safety improvements and a policy to guide investments in those improvements. He noted that upon review, there were no other states that had any kind of robust methodology used to make these investments. Dr. Cherry noted the multiple data sources used in the development of this report and then reviewed the report in some detail. He noted they wanted to be able to predict what roadways had the right “recipe” for bike-ped crashes (unsafe roads), and identify their potential for danger for local officials who can then investigate further. He closed with noting that overall, roadways with 6 or more lanes, high speed limits (40 to 55 mph) and with CBD, commercial, fringe or industrial land use present the most risk for pedestrians. This report has been forwarded to TDOT. The full presentation can be viewed at http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/feb14/pedbike_safety_pres.pdf.

5. Knox County School Sidewalk Study

Presenter: Cindy Pionke, Knox County Engineering & Public Works

Item Summary: The Walk-to-School Prioritization Analysis was conducted by RPM Transportation Consultants, LLC for Knox County’s Department of Engineering and Public Works. GIS-based trip modeling procedures developed by the consultant along with KGIS data were used to develop walk trip estimates of the number and most likely locations of walk to school trips for each school in Knox County. These estimates will be used to aid in the determination of sidewalk construction priorities.

Discussion: Jeff Hammond from RPM Transportation Consultants presented their study on Knox County School sidewalks. This study was designed to assist the County with prioritizing where to spend dollars on school related sidewalk projects. He noted this work builds on studies done previously for Chattanooga and Nashville. He also noted the seemingly simplistic methodology is based on extensive research.

Mr. Hammond stated that although safety, weather and topography are big factors in the decision to walk it is distance that is the key, as well as most easily quantifiable factor. Mr. Hammond then reviewed the study (encompassing 59,000 students attending 80 different schools) in some detail which reflected the predicted number of walk to school trips for each student, broken down by school. Mr. Hammond noted these numbers were based on assumptions that may not be present such as perfect infrastructure. Cindy Pionke noted her department is hoping to use this data by initially looking at the top 5 schools with the highest walk activity and perform a more in-depth study on how to improve their current walkability. It was clarified that the report will be shared with the school system and other departments. The full presentation can be viewed at http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/feb14/walk2school_pres.pdf

6. Other Business

- Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, February 26, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, March 11, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- 2014 TPO Technical Committee contact list. Please notify Dori Caron of any corrections.
2014 TPO Executive Board contact list.
- Jeff Welch spoke briefly concerning issues related to our current federal funding situation noting specifically that MAP 21 is set to expire at the end of September.

7. 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.

8. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Mark Donaldson to adjourn the meeting. The Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

CMAQ Workshop

After the Technical Committee meeting TPO staff will be available to discuss the TDOT CMAQ application process, timeline and project ideas for our area. The Workshop began following adjournment of the Technical Committee meeting.