

TPO Technical Committee Minutes  
May 13, 2014  
9:00 a.m.  
Small Assembly Room  
City/County Building  
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on May 13, 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
*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Don Brown	ETDD, <i>for Terry Bobrowski</i>
*Houston Daugherty	Anderson County
*Mark Donaldson	Metropolitan Planning Commission
*Karen Estes	CAC
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville
*Chris Hamby	City of Alcoa, <i>for Andrew Sonner</i>
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Stephanie Myers	City of Loudon and Loudon County, <i>for Pat Phillips</i>
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*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
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	

**1. Approval of April 8, 2014 Minutes**

**Item Summary:** Approval of April 8, 2014 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

**A Motion was made by Jim Hagerman and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to approve the April 8, 2014 Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Recommend Approval of an Amendment to the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Air Quality Conformity Report for the TIP Amendment**

**Item Summary:** The following Amendment to the TIP was requested by TDOT. Staff recommends approval.

**Discussion:** Mike Conger reviewed the proposed Amendment and noted it was requested by TDOT and involves project number 2014-018, I-640 / Broadway interchange modifications. He noted TDOT would like to add funds for Right-of-Way for FY 2014 (\$11 million dollars) as well as construction funds for FY 2015 (\$6.7 million dollars), both from the NHPP funding source. He noted that because this was an air quality non-exempt project, staff had to do an air quality conformity determination for it, which consists of a Short Conformity Report as the project is already included in the Long Range Mobility Plan and the current 2014-2017 TIP. Mr. Conger noted the Report documents that the project is in fact included in the current (above noted ) plans and accounted for in the previous regional emissions analysis, and therefore conformity has been demonstrated.

He also noted staff has reviewed the Short Conformity Report with our Air Quality Interagency Consultation Partners who have given tentative approval for it to move forward. He further noted the Report was now in a 14 day Public Comment period which ends May 23, 2014.

**A Motion was made by Darryl Smith and seconded by Jack Qualls to recommend approval to Amend the 2014 - 2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Air Quality Conformity Report for the TIP Amendment. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**3. Recommend Approval of a Functional Classification Change for Queener Road, in Loudon County, from Rural Minor Collector to Urban Minor Collector**

**Item Summary:** A request has been made by the City of Loudon, Loudon County to formally change the State Functional Classification of Queener Road between SR 72 and River Road (0.66 miles) from a Rural Minor Collector to an Urban Minor Collector. This roadway is now included in the Knoxville Adjusted Urbanized Area and therefore eligible for the change to urban status. The Urban Minor Collector status is necessary to obtain eligibility for federal Urban Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding that is already programmed in the FY 14-17 TIP for a proposed Queener Road improvement project.

**Discussion:** Mike Conger gave an overview of the proposed change. He noted staff was still working to review the functional classification of all of the roads in our updated planning area. Mr. Conger stated staff wanted to act on this particular functional classification update in advance of the entire system due to the fact that the roadway can only get the urban STP funds that are already programmed for it in the FY 2014-2017 TIP if the proposed change is made from rural minor collector to urban minor collector.

**A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to recommend approval of a change in the Functional Classification for Queener Road from Rural Minor Collector to Urban Minor Collector. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**4. Recommend Approval of Next Regional Greenway Study**

**Item Summary:** The Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council (GSMRGC) has requested that the next regional greenway study to undertake is to examine connections between existing greenways in West Knox County and West Knoxville to existing and planned greenways in Oak Ridge. The Council will provide the local match to the TPO's planning funds for a total study cost of \$50,000. The TPO will extend its contract with Equinox Environmental for planning services.

**Discussion:** Ellen Zavisca noted that this study continues the Council initiative to encourage and facilitate regional greenway planning linking up different jurisdictions/existing greenways. The first study undertaken, Maryville to Townsend, is complete. She reviewed a map that showed the existing greenways to be connected: the Ten Mile Creek greenway segment, the Pellissippi Parkway greenway segment and the existing and planned greenway segments in Oak Ridge. There is a preliminary advisory committee formed for this study consisting of representatives from the Cities of Knoxville and Oak Ridge, Knox and Anderson Counties, TDOT and the TTCDA. Staff's intent is to have the study completed by the end of this calendar year following public meetings this summer along with conversations with local business parks, developers and communities. It was further clarified that the GSMRGC will provide the local, 20 % match or \$10,000 with the remaining funds coming from the TPO.

**A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Jim Hagerman to approve a regional greenway study to examine connections between existing greenways in West Knox County and West Knoxville to existing and planned greenways in Oak Ridge. The Motion carried unanimously.**

## 5. PlanET Playbook

**Item Summary:** An overview of the PlanET Playbook and other products that resulted from the PlanET process will be provided by staff. A thumb drive will be distributed that will have all of the PlanET documents.

**Discussion:** Amy Brooks noted PlanET, kicking off in early 2011, was an opportunity to come together as a region and identify ways to tackle some of our shared challenges, with an overarching goal of putting us on a path to increasing the prosperity of our entire region. Communities were engaged around one central question: How do we accommodate 300,000 new residents and 240,000 new jobs by 2040 while remaining regionally competitive and keeping our quality of life? Ms. Brooks touched on the ways the project engaged the public, touching nearly 10,000 citizens in the 5 county PlanET region. The main ideas that came out of the project were building strong towns and growing quality places, improving our resident's health and natural environment, expanding housing and transportation options and providing a path to a quality job for everyone.

These ideas guided our goals, principles and objectives and ultimately our strategies for moving forward. The PlanET preferred growth concept provides a strategic focus for how the region is anticipated to grow over the next few decades, and maximizes housing and transportation choices while minimizing the impact on the existing communities and natural resources. The Playbook outlines strategies to lead us to this vision. Ms. Brooks noted that several ideas generated are already being implemented in our communities. She noted there are over 40 publications/documents/projects generated from the PlanET project and all are available on the website (<http://www.planeasttn.org/>). She highlighted ETcompetes! as a post PlanET tool to continue the PlanET initiative and find ways to continue to collaborate regionally. Jeff Welch noted staff intends to use the Playbook as a guide in updating the Long Range Mobility Plan in the next 24 to 36 months.

## 6. East Tennessee Index

**Presenter: TPO Staff**

**Item Summary:** Staff will demonstrate the newly launched [etindex.org](http://etindex.org) website which contains a variety of data pertaining to the economy and quality of life in the region. This PlanET product contains charts, tables and maps at regional, county and municipal scales.

**Discussion:** Tim Kuhn noted this tool could be one of the real legacies of PlanET. It brings together 87 indicators (pieces of data) of economy and quality of life in the region. He clarified that this is not original data and it was taken from multiple federal, state and university sites. These indicators note what life is like here in the region. He stated these indicators are designed to track changes and outcomes over time. He then noted staff will produce an annual report out of the Index for the region. He also noted that multiple project partners, including CGR out of Rochester, NY as well as local partners; United Way, Center for Business and Economic Research, Innovation Valley and Cornerstone, all who helped us frame and guide the site. Mr. Kuhn noted the Index reflects 8 counties: Anderson, Blount, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Monroe, Roane and Union. Mr. Kuhn then noted that the site offers some analysis to assist folks in interpreting the data and understanding the trends. He took the Committee members though the site in some detail. He invited member jurisdictions to send applicable links so they can be incorporated into the site. He noted that a full launch of the site is coming soon along with linking it to social media. It will be a free regional resource targeting a very broad audience. Additional funding to continue to expand the site may be sought in the future. Jeff Welch noted staff will be filling in the gaps for Sevier County. There was a brief discussion on the costs of maintaining/expanding the site.

## 7. Other Business

- ETcompetes! Speaker series event featuring Jason Schupbach from the National Endowment of the Arts speaking on Creative PlaceMaking. May 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Executive Board Meeting Wednesday May 28, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

- Full PlanET Board of Mayors Meeting Wednesday, May 28, immediately following the Executive Board meeting in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building (approximately 10:00 a.m.). Jeff Welch noted there will be a speaker, Mayor Graves from Gallatin, TN, formally of the Power of Ten group of mayors in middle Tennessee. Jeff Welch encouraged Committee members to invite all interested parties.
- Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, June 10, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- Friday, May 16th is Bike to Work day. There are 5 locations to park and ride into town. For details visit <http://www.knoxtrans.org/bikemonth/>
- Jeff Welch noted a four year MAP-21 re-authorization bill, funded through tax restructuring, has been released. Details can be found on the USDOT/FHWA website. A 6 year MAP-21 re-authorization bill has also just been released by the US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, which outlines the various policies they are looking at and proposes to leave everything at the same funding level, growing only at the rate of inflation.
- Mike Conger clarified that TDOT has engaged a consultant to review the air quality analysis portion of the CMAQ applications recently submitted.
- Jim Hagerman introduced Jeff Branham as the new Chief of the Traffic Department.

## 8. 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.

## 9. Adjournment

**A Motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Don Brown to adjourn. The Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.**