

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

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on September 9, 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
*Don Brown	ETDD, <i>for Terry Bobrowski</i>
*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Beth Collins	City of Lenoir City
*Houston Daugherty	Anderson County
*Mark Donaldson	Metropolitan Planning Commission
*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>
*Pat Phillips	City of Loudon and Loudon County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Dwight Van de Vate</i>
*Jack Qualls	Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), Region 1
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit (KAT)
*Blake Sartin	Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
**Scott Allen	Federal Highway Administration
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
* voting members	
** non-voting member	

1. Approval of August 12, 2014 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of August 12, 2014 Minutes TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Blake Sartin to approve the August 12, 2014 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Recommend Approval of Amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program

Item Summary: The following proposed Amendments to the TIP are listed below.

Staff recommends approval.

Discussion: Jeff Welch briefly reviewed the proposed Amendments which reflect Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grants recently awarded to our region by TDOT. He noted the state awarded a total of approximately \$28 million for these projects statewide. Mr. Welch noted most transit projects awarded were in middle and western Tennessee and that there was a total of 9 signaling projects awarded, mostly here in east Tennessee. Locally, projects awarded were: under Transportation Demand Management was continued funding for Smart Trips Ridesharing (TPO), under Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects was continued funding for the Bike Parking Program, under Cleaner Vehicle Management was Reducing Emissions with UPS and Autogas (partnering with UTK), DHL - Driving Autogas Use for a Cleaner Metro Knoxville (also partnering with UTK) and Improved Air Quality Through Replacement of Diesel Vehicles with CNG Vehicles (Sevier County Utility District), under ITS/Traffic Flow Improvements/Signals were the Sevier County Corridor Traffic Flow Improvement Project, the Knox County Traffic Signal Coordination and Advanced Traffic Management System Phase 1 projects, the Oak Ridge Signal Timing Optimization Program, the Town of Farragut Traffic Signal Improvement Project and the Lenoir City Intelligent Transportation System: Signal System Design, and lastly under Cleaner Transit Buses was the Gatlinburg CNG Powered Trolley.

A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Darryl Smith to recommend approval of the Amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Transit Representation on the TPO Executive Board

Item Summary: MAP-21 requires that representation by provider(s) of public transportation be on the Policy Board of MPO's that have a population of greater than 200,000. There is a compliance date of October 1, 2014. Staff will review options for consideration.

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted staff have reviewed the federal guidance for this mandate as well as researched what other MPO's were doing and touched on how several Tennessee MPO's had responded to the mandate. He covered 4 potential options for our MPO to meet the mandate for consideration by the Committee (Attachment #3B). It was clarified that other MPO's typically had voting representation from local development districts on their boards as well as membership similar to our City Council/Vice Mayor and County Commission. Melissa Roberson clarified that the KTA or Knoxville Transportation Authority is a City of Knoxville Board consisting of 9 volunteer members appointed by the Mayor. Their primary charge is routes, fares and schedules throughout the City. A significant discussion ensued with regards to maintaining a presence on the Board by the East Tennessee Development District with there being general consensus that their seat is to be maintained, which is the preference of ETDD per Terry Bobrowski. There was a brief discussion surrounding the need for a Regional Transit Authority (RTA), the function of an RTA and whether or not representation from an RTA would meet the mandate. Mr. Welch noted further exploration of a RTA for our region was included in our 2014-2015 Work Program Update slated to begin this fall. Discussion moved to a consensus that voting seats be added to the Board and potential options were discussed regarding a presence by ETHRA, KTA and CAC. The Committee agreed to drop Option B as written and change it to: *Add two new members to the TPO Board. One member would represent ETHRA. The other member would be filled with a representative from the Knoxville Transportation Authority or Knox County CAC Transit [and would rotate annually].* Mr. Welch noted staff will forward the revised Options (Attachment #3B) to Committee members for consideration to be brought back before the committee at the October 14 meeting.

4. Presentation on INVEST (Infrastructure Voluntary Evaluation Sustainability Tool)

Item Summary: Scott Allen, Planning and Air Quality Specialist with the Federal Highway Administration, Tennessee Division will give a Power Point presentation of an overview of this new web based tool developed by FHWA.

Discussion: Scott Allen noted INVEST (Infrastructure Voluntary Evaluation Sustainability Tool) is a free self-evaluation tool for assessing sustainability over the life cycle of a transportation project or program, from planning through design and construction to operation and maintenance, basically cradle to grave.

He noted this tool can be used for any size or type of project or program. The goals of INVEST include encouraging implementation of sustainable practices, assisting agencies in assessing their level of sustainability implementation and identify areas for improvement, to provide a framework for communicating with stakeholders and decision makers and to establish a method for identifying sustainable best practices in highway systems, projects and programs. He noted INVEST is a cyclical process, you evaluate, score, improve and start over. Mr. Allen highlighted that this tool has the potential to make project applications more lucrative for discretionary funding programs by strengthening sustainability aspects. The complete presentation as well as the link to the tool can be found here:
http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/sep14/invest_presentation_sep2014.pdf

5. Other Business

- TDOT's Long Range Transportation Plan Focus Group Sessions. **Attachment #4**
Jack Qualls noted a working session group meeting is scheduled for this Friday from noon to 2:00 p.m. at TDOT's Region1 office in Knoxville for input in this second round of public involvement for TDOT's update of its 25 Year Long Range Mobility Plan and encouraged Committee members to attend. Further details are noted on the Attachment.
- Committee Chair Pionke asked for input on TDOT's new Accelerated Delivery Pilot Program recently presented in a webinar. Several Committee members offered comments and it was generally agreed that the premise and intent is good however the risk to local government or to a consultant is very high for the potential to save perhaps 4 to 6 months. It was also noted that there was a very narrow range of projects that were eligible. Jack Qualls thanked members for their feedback and noted the webinar was well attended.
- Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, September 24th at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building
- Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, October 14, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

6. 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.

7. Adjournment

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.