

**TPO Technical Committee Minutes  
January 13, 2015  
9:00 a.m.  
Small Assembly Room  
City/County Building  
Knoxville, TN**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on January 13, 2015, at 9:00 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
*Houston Daugherty	Anderson County
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway MPO
*Karen Estes	Knox County CAC
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville, Engineering
*Mike Patterson	ETHRA, <i>for Gary Holiway</i>
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County
*Pat Phillips	City of Loudon and Loudon County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, Dept. of Engineering and Public Works
*Jack Qualls	TDOT, Region 1 Community Planning
*Melissa Roberson	KAT
*Blake Sartin	Knoxville Metropolitan Airport Authority
*Darry Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
<b>*voting members</b>	

**1. Approval of November 12, 2014 Minutes**

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

**A Motion was made by Pat Phillips and seconded by Jim Hagerman to approve the November 12, 2014 Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.**

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

**Item Summary:** Staff recommends approval.

**Discussion:** Bryan Berry briefly reviewed the proposed Amendments. The first is for a project TDOT has requested be added to our current TIP. It pertains to the TDOT Freeway Service Patrol Program and totals approximately \$945,000 in CMAQ funding spread across FY 2015-2017. Mr. Berry noted this project was for the acquisition of 3 HELP trucks, 3 operators and route expansion. The second is for an existing TIP project and is for Lenoir City CBD Pedestrian Improvements. He noted here we are removing FY 2014 TAP funds (to be placed back into the amount of remaining TAP funds) and adding L-STP funds for preliminary engineering and design for FY 2015 and for construction in 2016. This amendment also increases the total project cost from \$200,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00. There is no change in the actual project description.

**A Motion was made by Darryl Smith and seconded by Pat Phillips to recommend approval of Amendments to the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Motion carried unanimously.**

### **3. Recommend Approval of the Ranking of Proposed TDOT Highway Projects**

**Item Summary:** TDOT has asked the TPO to rank a proposed list of transportation improvement projects in the attached project list (Attachment #3A). Staff recommends the ranking of projects as shown on Attachment #3A.

**Discussion:** Mike Conger noted that in past 3-4 years TDOT has sent us a list of projects under consideration for placement in the next 3 year capital Program of Projects (that they develop and submit to the state legislature) for us to rank in priority. These projects were sent to the Technical Committee voting members to rank. This year is slightly different as we started with a list of 10 projects, several of which were smaller phases of larger overall corridors which staff chose to group together into one project as individually they do not have the same utility. He then reviewed the proposed list of rankings, which includes how the projects were ranked last year where applicable. He noted the project description has changed slightly for a couple of phases of the relocated Alcoa Highway project and reviewed them. There was consensus to vote separately on the TDOT FY 2016-2018 3 - Year Program Candidate Project List for Priority Ranking and the Major Project Needs on State Routes not included in the FY 2016-2018 3 - Year Program Candidate Project List.

**A Motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Pat Phillips to endorse the TDOT FY 2016-2018 3 - Year Program Candidate Project List for Priority Ranking [as shown on Attachment 3A]. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**Continued Discussion:** Mr. Conger noted that the Major Project Needs on State Routes not included in the FY 2016-2018 3 - Year Program Candidate Project List is a list of projects to be sent to TDOT for their consideration. In years past there have been at least 3 projects that have been added to the ranked list sent to us by TDOT. This year, he noted, additional projects have been developed and prioritized for TDOT's consideration. Most projects have been under development for 10 plus years. The list of projects contains projects that for the most part are already included in our Long Range Mobility Plan or have some type of preliminary planning study completed for them. Committee members were asked to pick the top 3 projects that they feel are the highest priority in the region. Two of the top 3 projects had been sent onto TDOT in previous years. Those are the Chapman Highway project and the Kingston Pike/Northshore Drive project. The third top ranked project which has not been included in the previous Mobility Plan nor had any preliminary TDOT planning studies done is the US 129 Bypass spanning both Alcoa and Maryville. Mr. Conger also noted that another factor here is that TDOT is currently in the process of updating their Long Range Plan which will be project specific over the next 10 years.

Kathryn Baldwin expanded on handouts she had distributed earlier with respect to the Major Project Needs on State Routes list. Referencing 2 projects identified as MAP ID 08 and 05, Ms. Baldwin proposed combining them into one project, creating a new alignment or newly constructed roadway that would bypass the Solway area (in North Knox County). She described in some detail the significant congestion and subsequent safety issues in the area including the interchange modification needed at SR 162 and Oak Ridge Highway. She further stated that simply doing access control or adding lanes would not be adequate enough to address the significance of these issues and felt a new alignment would be the best way to correct them, adding that this would be addressing a short, less than 1 mile segment of roadway.

**A Motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin to combine Projects MAP ID 08 and 05 [as identified on the Major Project Needs on State Routes not included in the FY 2016-2018 3 - Year Program Candidate Project List] into a more comprehensive addressing of traffic issues and a new alignment.**

There was significant discussion surrounding whether or not combining the 2 projects would make the scope of work so large as to potentially stop and/or impede forward progress. Ms. Baldwin noted she was seeking a fresh look at these two projects and further noted splitting them may ultimately be the best way to go. There was discussion surrounding previous corridor studies/needs assessments done in this area. Mr. Conger noted that TDOT has effectively shelved these preliminary planning studies until they relieve the current backlog of projects, many of which are being addressed with short term improvements. Jack Qualls noted this section of road is on TDOT's radar specifically for short term improvements.

**Kathryn Baldwin moved to Amend her Motion on the floor such that she now moved to change the wording on "Type of Work" for Project Map ID 08: SR 162/SR 62 (Pellissippi Parkway/Oak Ridge Highway) from I-40 to SR 170 (Edgemoor Rd.) [as identified on the Major Project Needs on State Routes not included in the FY 2016-2018 3 - Year Program Candidate Project List] to read "Access Control, Auxiliary Lanes, Possible Widening or New Alignment". The Amended Motion was seconded by Pat Phillips. The Amended Motion carried unanimously.**

**A Motion was made by Jack Qualls and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to recommend approval as currently ranked and for ultimate forwarding to TDOT the Amended Major Project Needs on State Routes not included in the FY 2016-2018 3 - Year Program Candidate Project List. The Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **4. Election of Officers**

**Item Summary:** The Bylaws state that the Technical Committee shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from its membership. Such election shall be by a majority vote of that membership. Election of officers shall take place on the first meeting of the calendar year and term of office shall be for one year.

An officer is eligible to serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms. The TPO Director shall serve as permanent Secretary to the Technical Committee.

**Discussion:** Jeff Welch reviewed election process and parameters and noted the current sitting officers have not served 2 full terms and are therefore eligible to serve an additional term.

**A Motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded Pat Phillips to nominate Cindy Pionke as Chair. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**A Motion was made by Pat Phillips and seconded by Jeff Ownby to nominate Kathryn Baldwin as Vice-Chair. The Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **5. Call For Transit Projects**

**Item Summary:** The TPO began holding a Call For Transit Projects on Tuesday, January 6, 2015. There are three different FTA funding sources available for distribution. Section 5307 Urban Area funds, Section 5339 Bus & Bus Facilities funds and Section 5310-Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities funds. Applications are due on Friday, January 30, 2015. Applications and other pertinent information can be found on the TPO website at [www.knoxtrans.org](http://www.knoxtrans.org).

**Discussion:** Doug Burton reviewed the 3 funding sources available for projects. He noted that only fairly sophisticated transportation programs and that are or are eligible to become a Direct Recipient with the Federal Transit Administration. Therefore in our region we are looking at CAC, ETHRA and KAT. He noted we do not yet have a final dollar amount that will be available. Mr. Burton also noted that once the TPO approves projects there is still a tedious process to go through with FTA. He further noted that capital expenditures still require a 20% local match and TDOT is still saying they will provide half of that local match or 10% (for capital expenditures only). Mr. Burton noted TDOT is not promising any match for operating expenditures at this time.

## **Presentation on TPO Traffic Camera**

**Item Summary:** The TPO conducts bicycle and pedestrian counts twice a year at several intersections. In order to increase the efficiency of these counts, the agency recently purchased a video camera and DVR system that can be placed at intersections, allowing counts to be conducted while viewing the video footage on a computer screen at any time. Staff will demonstrate the system, which can be used throughout the TPO planning area, for any kind of counts, including turning movements and vehicles.

**Discussion:** Kelly Segars noted that Committee members were welcome to borrow the system stressing there are many varied uses for the footage staff records, which can be shared with members as well. She also noted the camera can be placed at locations that perhaps would not be well suited for a person to stand for several hours. She clarified that the TPO counts do not differentiate between recreation and commuter traffic. The cost of the entire system is approximately \$1500.00.

## **6. Other Business**

- The Blount County SMiles Program (Senior SMiles: Neighbors Driving Neighbors) volunteer team has been awarded \$4000.00 from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) and the Aging Network Volunteer Resource Center. This stemmed from a national competition that recognizes and supports the work that trained volunteer teams are doing in their communities and their efforts to support older adults with transportation and other needs.
- Knox County CAC Transit and the University of Tennessee Industrial and Systems Engineering Department received Round 3 funding from the U.S. Administration for Community Living - a program administered by the Community Transportation Association of America in partnership with N4A, Easter Seals, and Westat, under the banner *Transportation Planning for All*. CAC & UT have developed a tablet-based application that facilitates communication between riders and drivers of public transportation. The Round 3 funding will allow for extensive field testing and refinement of the application's functionality. Karen Estes noted this application will enable persons with disabilities to communicate with vehicle operators. Through this extensive testing individuals who ride frequently will be given tablets so they can use the application themselves. CAC's Outreach Coordinator and UT students will ride with them initially to be available for assistance. Round 4 funding will allow them to bring the application to surrounding communities. She noted that they are also including persons who are non-English speaking in the testing.
- The City of Knoxville and the TPO have each been awarded a free technical assistance workshop, 2 of 14 awarded for 2015 by Smart Growth America, a national nonprofit that advocates for better cities, towns, and neighborhoods. Through the program, the City and the TPO will receive hands-on assistance from national experts on how to cultivate investments that will spur quality growth and transit-oriented development. The TPO will be sharing any information learned.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Jeff Welch noted that for March we will be recommending that the Executive Board meeting immediately follow the Technical Committee meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>. He noted there are issues with some road construction projects as well as amendments that need to be made to the Mobility Plan (LRMP) in conjunction with an updated air quality conformity determination that is currently being done. It will also allow the City of Knoxville to move forward with new bids for the Cumberland Avenue Project saving them as much as 45 days as well as being able to do the majority of the work during the summer months.
- Mike Conger noted that staff met with each jurisdiction to review the LRMP project list. The Plan was adopted about 18 months ago and there needs to be some updates as noted above. He referenced a handout that breaks up the Draft Project List by jurisdiction, which strictly denotes the roadway projects, and highlighted the proposed changes.

He clarified they are only focusing on projects that are non-exempt with respect to air quality conformity. He asked members to review the list for their jurisdiction and contact staff within the next week with any changes. Then referencing the larger handout that reflects an update to our functional classification system which staff also met with jurisdictions to develop. Due to the new urban area expansion in addition to changes at the federal level with how they modified some of the functional classification procedures staff are trying to do a comprehensive update of our planning area. He noted that these classifications affect federal funding eligibility. He asked members to review the list for accuracy in their jurisdiction within the next week and get back to staff if necessary.

- Jack Qualls noted that TDOT's Long Range Plan Division has launched their second round of Book a Planner. Please contact him if you want to book the presentation.

#### **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 Pat Phillips and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to adjourn. The Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.**