

TPO Technical Committee Minutes
May 12, 2015
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, TN

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on May 12, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville, TN. 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
*Jeff Branham	City of Knoxville, <i>for Jim Hagerman</i>
*Don Brown	ETDD, <i>for Terry Bobrowski</i>
*Beth Collins	City of Lenoir City
*Houston Daugherty	Anderson County
*Deanna Flinchum	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County
*Pat Phillips	City of Loudon and Loudon County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County
*Jack Qualls	TDOT, Region 1
*Melissa Roberson	KAT
*Blake Sartin	Metropolitan Airport Authority
*Warren Secrest	Knox County CAC Transit, <i>for Karen Estes</i>
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
*Jeff Welch	MPC
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	

1. Approval of April 14, 2015 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of April 14, 2015 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by Jack Qualls and seconded by Pat Phillips to approve the April 14, 2015 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

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

Item Summary: Each fiscal year the urban area receives from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) an allocation of Section 5307 – Urban Area and Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities funds. These funds are primarily for use in providing public transit services. The City of Knoxville is the Designated Recipient of these funds. The City of Knoxville has an application process for agencies interested in receiving these funds.

The funding opportunity was publicly advertised throughout the urban area. City of Knoxville Mayor Rogero and the TPO staff reviewed the applications. The City of Knoxville has the responsibility of making the final recommendation for funding distribution (Attachment #2A). There is an FTA requirement that a public hearing be held on the Program of Projects (POP). The POP is a specific list of projects to be funded by each agency (Attachment #2B). The public hearing will be held in conjunction with the May 27th Executive Board. Staff will discuss the funding, the selection process, the draft POP, and the associated draft TIP sheets. In addition to the transit TIP amendments, there are two TIP amendments for sidewalk projects. Staff recommends approval.

Discussion: Doug Burton gave an overview of the events leading up to the present system of allocating these funds. He then reviewed the estimated dollar amount staff expects our area to receive for FY 2015 for FTA Sections 5307 and 5339 along with the carryover funds from FY 2014 for each funding source. He then reviewed the proposed amounts to be awarded by the City of Knoxville to ETHRA, Knox County CAC Transit and KAT for both Sections 5307 and 5339, noting the local matches required. He then noted that Tables 2 and 4, which show the proposed dollar amounts to be awarded for Sections 5307 and 5339 respectively, are broken up into separate 8/12th and 4/12th amounts. This reflects the fact that Congress has only released an 8/12th amount due to MAP-21 being set to expire at the end of this month. He briefly reviewed each proposed project for the 3 receiving agencies. Mr. Burton noted staff is seeking a recommendation for approval today for the full proposed dollar amount as Congress should resolve this issue prior to the May 27th Executive Board meeting.

Bryan Berry briefly reviewed the 2 proposed sidewalk amendments reflecting the removal of the Fort Sanders Sidewalks project from the TIP (the City will use local funds to complete it) and reallocating the CMAQ funds originally obligated to that project to the East Knoxville Sidewalk Improvements project.

A Motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Pat Phillips to Recommend Approval of the Amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Call-for-Projects for the TPO's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding

Item Summary: The funding is for local governments to construct pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and for Safe Routes to School infrastructure and programs. TAP funding requires a 20% local match.

Discussion: Ellen Zavisca noted we have received money back from the first full 2 years of funding that needs to be re-allocated, and along with additional money coming from Congress the final dollar amount will be \$1.5 to \$2 million. She also noted the application (Attachment #3) will soon be available on the TPO website and includes the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Alternatives Guidance as well as the criteria that will be used to grade each application, which will be done in conjunction with TDOT. She briefly touched on certain things TDOT will be looking for when reviewing each application. It was further clarified that these funds (the estimated dollar amount) are for projects in our region, not statewide. The deadline for submitting the applications is July 6, 2015.

4. Presentation on the DRAFT FY 2016-2017 Transportation Planning Work Program

Item Summary: Staff has prepared a draft transportation planning work program for the next two fiscal years which was submitted to TDOT earlier this year. This draft reflects staff's responses to TDOT's comments which they have since approved. TDOT will now forward it on to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for their review.

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted this document, updated annually, outlines a 2 year transportation planning work program for the TPO and its state, federal and local partners. He noted TDOT has reviewed the program to ensure it is in compliance with state and federal regulations and that it is appropriate for submission to FHWA and FTA. Mr. Welch noted there is still an opportunity to add projects and/or studies and asked Committee members to review these for their jurisdictions and to submit comments to staff within the next 30 days. He also noted a large portion of the work done by the TPO and its partners is ongoing in order to meet state and federal commitments.

5. Long Range Mobility Plan 2040 – Preliminary Review of Demographic Projections

Item Summary: One of the initial steps in developing the 2017 update of the Long Range Mobility Plan is to develop future year projections of population and employment for each county in the TPO Planning Area. Various sources of projections will be presented by TPO staff for initial review and comment by the Technical Committee. A final set of projections will eventually be developed for official endorsement by the Executive Board at a future meeting to be determined.

Discussion: Mike Conger touched on the purpose of the update, the study area itself, population growth from an historical perspective and gave a brief overview of 4 potential sources staff can utilize for these projections out to our horizon year of 2040. He then reviewed the demographics projections from each source for the 6 county TPO planning area (parts of Anderson, Blount, Loudon, Roane and Sevier Counties as well as all of Knox County). Mr. Conger then gave a brief overview of the 6 county age cohorts and concluded highlighting the pros and cons of each projection source. He invited Committee members to offer their opinion on which source they prefer staff use for the Plan update noting staff would ideally like to finalize the projections no later than August. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here:

http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/may15/demographic_projections.pdf

6. Other Business

- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building. As required by FTA a public hearing will be held during the meeting on the transit Program of Projects in conjunction with the approval of the TIP amendments Agenda Item.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

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