

TPO Technical Committee Minutes
March 8, 2016
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City County Building
400 Main Street
Knoxville, TN

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met March 8, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville, TN. Chair Kathryn Baldwin 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>
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Pat Phillips	City of Loudon and Loudon County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County
*Jack Qualls	TDOT, Region 1
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	

1. Motion to Approve February 9, 2016 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of February 9, 2016 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by Cindy Pionke and seconded by John Lamb to approve the February 9, 2016 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Presentation on the Following Report: Assessing the Vulnerability of Tennessee Transportation Assets to Extreme Weather

Item Summary: Alan Jones will present a study done by TDOT with consultants on severe weather and the vulnerability and resiliency of our transportation system Tennessee. The report was completed in May 2015.

Discussion: Alan Jones, TDOT, noted they have learned a tremendous amount as a result of what was an ambitious project, a statewide vulnerability assessment of transportation assets to identify critical assets vulnerable to extreme weather, further noting that vulnerability can be in the form of damage or disruption. Stakeholder involvement included TDOT and TEWTAP (Tennessee Extreme Weather and Transportation Adaptation Partnership) as well as regional focus groups that involved the public. He then reviewed the study in some detail. Mr. Jones noted the study demonstrated that major risks vary a great deal across the state and further, that flooding and high winds are the most significant risks to the transportation assets in Tennessee. He then noted the study served as an important screening tool to identify transportation assets that warrant a more detailed study. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here:

[http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/mar16/TDOT Extreme Weather Assessment.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/mar16/TDOT%20Extreme%20Weather%20Assessment.pdf)

3. Update on Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Programs at TDOT

Item Summary: TDOT staff will provide the latest information on the various CMAQ programs.

Discussion: Alan Jones, TDOT, noted that there will be a new general call for proposals in April that will apply to all of the CMAQ eligible counties. Once announced interested jurisdictions will have 60 days to respond to TDOT with completed proposals. Going forward, there will be an additional project selection category involving the quality of the project's emissions analysis. Information on how to apply including project selection criteria will be available on TDOT's website. He briefly touched on the types of projects that would be eligible for CMAQ funding also noting that CMAQ guidance is available on the FHWA website. He touched on the importance of monitoring PM2.5 levels noting that Congress [in MAP-21] set aside a significant amount of funding nationally for PM2.5 projects. With the new FAST Act he noted it appears there will be another 5 years of funding for general CMAQ projects with additional funding for PM2.5 projects. Mr. Jones noted TDOT is currently assessing the 29 applications submitted with the most recent round of grant opportunities targeting diesel reduction projects and anticipates announcing the awarding of those funds by early summer.

4. Presentation on the Results of a Survey Conducted by the University Tennessee Related to our Region's Transportation System

Item Summary: The TPO contracted with the University of Tennessee's College of Social Work Center for Applied Research and Evaluation to conduct a survey to measure current attitudes, spending priorities, and preferences for funding future transportation projects. The survey was conducted between December, 2015 and January, 2016 with residents in Anderson, Blount, Knox, Loudon, Roane and Sevier counties.

Discussion: Linda Daugherty, University of Tennessee-Knoxville presented the results of the survey. She briefly described how the survey was designed and implemented. She noted the survey assessed how the current transportation system is meeting the public's needs with regards to 6 topics: roadways, traffic signals, sidewalks, bike lanes, greenways and public transportation. The survey also covered how respondents would rank future spending on 6 types of transportation projects: maintain and fix existing roads, improve traffic flow, widen roads, build sidewalks, greenways and bike lanes, expand the geographic area currently served by transit and increase local transit service where it already exists. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here:

http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/mar16/UT_Community_Survey.pdf

5. Motion to Recommend Approval of Proposed Selection Criteria by Geographic Scale and Weights.

Item Summary: Staff will provide a summary of the input that we have received on the proposed project selection criteria from various sources. Recommendation for weighting of these factors will also be presented. Staff recommends approval of Option #1.

Discussion: Kelley Segars noted that both MAP-21 and the new FAST Act give us planning factors that need to be addressed in our planning process, further noting a new (FAST) planning factor is Travel and Tourism [which has been included under Economic Vitality]. She then reviewed how each factor is reflected in both our regional goals (mostly drawn from the PlanET process) and our Mobility Plan 2040 goals. She then touched on how each project would be measured via the proposed Draft Project Selection Criteria and Draft Performance Measures. Ms. Segars clarified that there is not yet official guidance on what is expected regarding Performance Measures. Amy Brooks noted that in the development of the Draft Project Selection Criteria [Attachment #2B], staff received input from the following sources: the University of Tennessee's survey presented above, the Technical Committee and Executive Board, the Mobility Advisory Committee and a public online survey from which staff have received over 400 responses. Mike Conger described the method he used to develop the scoring criteria for ranking projects against the 9 proposed Project Selection Criteria, looking at projects from 2 geographic scales, "Within Community" and "Community to Region". It was noted

the project scoring system was basically similar to what was used in the last Mobility Plan Update [2013], there being only a few minor differences based on the new legislation.

A Motion was made by Jack Qualls and seconded by Pat Phillips to recommend approval of the Proposed Selection Criteria and Option 1 for both “Within Community” and “Community to Region” (Attachment #2B), as recommended by staff. The Motion carried unanimously.

6. Other Business

- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- East Tennessee Quality Growth is hosting a conference “Plain Talk 2016 Connecting Competitive Communities” which will be held on April 28, 2016 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Hilton Hotel - Airport, Alcoa, TN. For more information contact Julie Graham at julie.graham@etqualitygrowth.org or visit their website at <http://etqualitygrowth.org/newsite/plaintalk2016conference/>
- Federal Grant Opportunities
 - U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx has announced \$500 million will be made available for transportation projects across the country under an eighth round of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program. The 2016 TIGER grant program will focus on capital projects that generate economic development and improve access to reliable, safe and affordable transportation for communities, both urban and rural. Instructions on how to apply can be found here: <https://www.transportation.gov/tiger/apply>.
 - The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced that it is now soliciting applications for the Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grant program. The FASTLANE program is a new program in the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act to fund critical freight and highway projects across the country. The FAST Act authorizes \$800 million in funding for the FASTLANE program for fiscal year 2016, with 25 percent reserved for rural projects, and 10 percent for smaller projects. Instructions on how to apply can be found here: <https://www.transportation.gov/fastlanegrants/how-apply>.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Don Brown and seconded by Cindy Pionke to adjourn the meeting. The Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.