

TPO Technical Committee Minutes
September 13, 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 September 13, 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>
*Beth Collins	City of Lenoir City
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway MPO
*Deanna Flinchum	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Gerald Green	Metropolitan Planning Commission
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville
*Jerome Joiner	TDOT Region 1
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County
*Jack Qualls	City of Loudon and Loudon County
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit
*Blake Sartin	Metropolitan Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
**Scott Allen	Federal Highway Administration, Tennessee Division
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	
**non-voting member	

Brian Boone noted the City of Maryville has hired 2 new planners and introduced them, Chad Davis and Michelle Portier.

1. Motion to Approve August 9, 2016 Minutes

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

A Motion was made by Cindy Pionke and seconded by Gerald Green to approve the August 9, 2016 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Recommend Approval of an Amendment to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program.

Item Summary: Staff recommends approval.

Discussion: Elizabeth Watkins reviewed the proposed amendment to remove a portion of Fleenor Road from Mapletree Drive to Hobbs Road in Farragut as it is classified as an urban local road and therefore not eligible for federal funds. There are no other changes to the project.

A Motion was made by Darryl Smith and seconded by Gerald Green to recommend approval of an Amendment to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion to Recommend Approval of Changes in Functional Classification for Roadway Corridors in the City of Maryville.

Item Summary: A request has been made by the City of Maryville to change the State/Federal Functional Classification of a roadway corridor (Wesley Lane, Amerine Road, Janet Lane) from a Local designation to a Minor Collector designation. This corridor connects two Principal Arterial routes and is included on the draft Mobility Plan 2040 project list for improvements, but needs to have its functional classification upgraded in order to be eligible for federal funds. As part of this action a nearby parallel route (Genesis Street/Merritt Rd) will be downgraded from Minor Collector to Local classification. Staff recommends approval.

Discussion: Mike Conger reviewed the proposed changes noting the main reason for the changes is the increasing residential and retail development in the area, projected to increase the utilization of this corridor potentially up to 5000 vehicles per day (from a current count of 1350 ADT). He also noted that there is a project currently on the draft project list in the Mobility Plan update to improve Amerine Road and in order for it to be eligible for federal funds it needed to be increased in classification from local to at least a collector designation. Downgrading of the parallel Genesis Street/Merritt Road maintains the current amount of collector road mileage in the county. Mr. Conger touched on the process going forward to finalize the proposed functional classification change. Brian Boone noted this effort is an attempt to be proactive as opposed to reactive on a corridor they predict will have a substantial amount of growth, further expressing appreciation for all of the work the TPO staff undertake in managing the Mobility Plan and the Transportation Improvement Plan on an ongoing basis.

A Motion was made by Gerald Green and seconded by John Lamb to recommend approval of changes in Functional Classification for roadway corridors in the City of Maryville. The Motion carried unanimously.

4. Overview of Public Comments Received to Date on Draft List of Transportation Projects Mobility Plan 2040: Connecting People and Places

Item Summary: Over 120 comments were submitted during the public comment period on the draft mobility plan project list via the TPO's online mapping application. Staff will provide an overview of comments received and discuss next steps for community engagement. All comments submitted can be viewed on the mapping site: **Link:** <http://maps.knoxmpc.org/feedback/mobility>

Discussion: Amy Brooks noted the comment period on the draft project list closed earlier this month further noting that the majority of the comments came from the Blount County area with the most commented project being the Pellissippi Parkway. She touched on the general themes of the comments, highlighted the TPO's project mapping application noting any comments on each project can be found there, and closed with a review of the next steps. Ms. Brooks encouraged Committee members to invite TPO staff to their Board and Commission meetings to discuss the Mobility Plan update as well as to discuss any other transportation related issues. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here: [http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/sep16/Mobility Projects Public Comments.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/sep16/Mobility%20Projects%20Public%20Comments.pdf)

5. Guidance on Road Diets and Local Examples

Item Summary: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has released a short video touting the positive impact of road diets. After screening the video, we'll get an update from City of Knoxville about two ongoing road diet projects.

Link: <http://tinyurl.com/FHWAvideo>

Discussion: Anne Wallace, City of Knoxville Office of Development gave an overview of 2 of the 5 road diet projects being undertaken by the City of Knoxville, Cumberland Avenue and North Central Street, reviewing the history, phases and timelines for each project. Ms. Wallace also highlighted the websites for each project and encouraged Committee members to visit them for more information. There was then discussion surrounding the overall impact of corridor road capacity subsequent to completion of a road diet project. Ms. Wallace noted that throughout these projects the City has strived to foster good communication with the communities involved and that overall, the projects have been fairly well received. Jerome Joiner noted he attended a very useful workshop on road diets, hosted by Jessica Rich who is a safety engineer with the Federal Highway Administration and encouraged Committee members to look into attending one of these workshops. Ms. Wallace noted there will be a mobile workshop on the Cumberland Avenue corridor as part of the upcoming TSITE/TAPA conference next week. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here:

[http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/sep16/Road Diets in Knoxville.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/sep16/Road%20Diets%20in%20Knoxville.pdf)

6. Results of ADA Survey of TPO Technical Committee Member Jurisdictions

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of the ADA Survey of TPO Jurisdictions and a follow up to what is expected through the transportation planning process.

Discussion: Elizabeth Watkins noted our region is doing very well on compliance with the ADA transition planning process in the areas of hiring an ADA coordinator and having Public Notice. She noted we should be focusing on are establishing a grievance procedure, developing design standards and finalizing the actual transition plan. She encouraged Committee members to post their progress in coming into compliance with these steps on their websites so it is easily located for interested parties. She also noted that there is an upcoming training in November which will focus on PROWAG and ADA transition planning. The training is being sponsored by the Tennessee Transportation Assistance Program and will take place in Oak Ridge (see attached flyer in Other Business). The complete presentation is available online and can be found here:

[http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/sep16/ADA Compliance Tracking.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/sep16/ADA%20Compliance%20Tracking.pdf)

7. Road Maintenance and ADA

Item Summary: Following up on previous conversations about moving toward ADA compliance, TDOT staff will share information about how they incorporate ADA upgrades into routine maintenance projects such as resurfacing.

Discussion: Randy Busler, TDOT noted that in 2007 TDOT was allowed to begin to use FHWA safety funds to supplement their resurfacing projects however that was conditioned on their bringing all of their urban routes that had sidewalks into ADA compliance. Referencing a checklist shared at the meeting and noting that it has been approved by FHWA, he stated it takes you through all of the necessary steps to implement safety improvements on a route. Mr. Busler also highlighted another form shared at the meeting, specific to their TDOT region that their evaluators use to log each intersection and possible curb ramp on any given stretch of roadway.

It was noted that in a recent ADA workshop TDOT's ADA coordinator impressed upon local governments that regardless of whether or not they are using state funds for resurfacing, they are obligated to address these projects as does TDOT looking at sidewalks, ramps and intersections where the sidewalk meets the roadway for any resurfacing project.

Mr. Busler reiterated that use of federal funds ties you to federal expectations for any project. He invited Committee members to contact him with any questions at randy.busler@tn.gov or at 423-282-0651. Eric Wilson, also with TDOT noted he could also be contacted at eric.wilson@tn.gov and added that if you have a corner handicapped ramp TDOT is favoring 2 perpendicular ramps meaning if you have a 4 legged intersection you will have 8 ramps. Scott Allen also shared that FHWA is collaborating with TDOT to develop recommendations by the end of 2016, for MPO's to achieve full ADA and Section 504, the Rehabilitation Act compliance within the next 3 ½ to 4 years. This will include a timeframe that has achievable milestones and targets. Melissa Roberson noted KAT has been in compliance with the transit portion of the ADA requirements since the early 2000's. Mr. Allen noted he was also available for questions at scott.allen@tn.gov. It was clarified that any sub-recipient of federal funds need to be in compliance as well.

8. Other Business

- Executive Board meeting September 28, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- The 2016 joint TAPA/TSITE Fall Conference will take place at the Crowne Plaza in downtown Knoxville, TN on September 21 - 23, 2016. Full conference information including online registration can be found here: <http://conference.tnapa.org> or <http://conference.tnapa.org/register>
- A training on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self Evaluations/Transition Plans and Overview of Elements of Public Right-of-Way Accessibility will be held on November 16, 2016 at the UT Outreach Center, 1201 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Suite 100, Oak Ridge, TN. It is being sponsored by the Tennessee Transportation Assistance Program. Register here: <http://ttap.utk.edu/training/ttapclass.php?id=337>
- Jeff Welch noted that TDOT has announced a Safe Routes to School grant program with a workshop taking place on November 2nd. The workshop will take place at the TDOT Region 1 offices located at 7325 Region Lane, Knoxville, TN on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EST. Register by contacting Diana Benedict @ 615-741-9673 or at Diana.Benedict@tn.gov.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment

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