



The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on December 10, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building in Knoxville, TN. Chair Jeff Ownby presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined that there was a quorum. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves.

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| *Wayne Blasius | City of Oak Ridge |
| *Sean Santalla | Federal Highway Administration |
| *Megan Brooks | City of Alcoa |
| *Jack Qualls | City of Loudon, Loudon County |
| *Brian Boone | City of Maryville |
| *Don Brown | ETDD, for Terry Bobrowski |
| *Jim Hagerman | City of Knoxville |
| *Chico Messer | Blount County |
| *Jeff Ownby | Sevier County |
| *Michelle Christian | TDOT Region 1 |
| *Larry Gann | City of Clinton |
| *Jim Snowden | Knox County Engineering |
| *Jacob Wright | Knoxville Area Transit |
| *Kathryn Baldwin | Anderson County |
| TPO Staff | |
| Partner Agency Staff | |
| Members of the Public | |
| *voting members | |
| *non-voting members | |

1 Call to Order

- a. Determination of a Quorum
- b. Introductions
- c. Amendments to the Agenda

2 Motion to Approve October 8, 2019 TPO Technical Committee Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of the October 8, 2019 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by Chico Messer and seconded by Brian Boone to approve the October 8, 2019 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

3 **Motion to Recommend Approval of Prioritization of TDOT Projects for Consideration in the 2021-2023 TDOT 3 - Year Program**

Item Summary: TDOT has provided the TPO with the list of candidate projects for the next 3-Year Program for ranking which is used as one of the inputs for TDOT’s project selection process. The TPO staff has compiled the rankings that were submitted by Technical Committee voting members and these will be presented for a final recommendation to the Executive Board. Additional project needs on State Routes will also be discussed for submittal to TDOT.

STAFF RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Discussion: Mike Conger briefly summarized the list of TDOT projects for consideration in the 2021-2023 TDOT 3-Year Program. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

Wayne Blasius, inquired about the bridge on Edgemoor Road and which phase it’s in.

Jeff Welch, TPO Director, explained that staff will be advocating for a majority of the work proposed along Edgemoor Road to be constructed in one Phase so that the intersection will be not affected at two separate times. Mr. Welch also stated that if there’s a way to modify the Improve Act on State Route 131, showing updates along Emory Road to Oak Ridge Highway and request that the project extends all the way out to Karns Valley Drive.

A Motion was made by Chico Messer and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to recommend approval of Prioritization of TDOT Projects for Consideration in the 2021-2023 TDOT 3- Year Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion: Mike Conger explained that TDOT has allowed staff to submit other project needs that we may have on the Other Project Needs List. The list consists of four projects, and all of them are within the Northwest Knox County area along I-40 and I-75. Mike briefly summarized the four projects on the list for review.

Jim Snowden, County Engineering stated that Knox County would like add the Watt Road Interchange for discussion. He explained that there is potential growth in that area, along with providing another entry into the Hardin Valley Community. Based on the Mobility Study, Knox

County would like to get a better North and South connectivity out of Hardin Valley. Mr. Snowden almost mentioned that in regards to the larger Pellissippi Project up for review, he would request that the Committee consider splitting the project into smaller segments to expedite those areas, particularly the Solway Community. Mr. Snowden went on to say that Solway is an area of extremely high volume and access control.

A Motion was made by Jim Snowden and seconded by Wayne Blasius to recommend approval of the Other Project Needs List, with the addition of a fifth project, the Watt Road Interchange, and splitting up Project #3, SR-162/SR-62 (Pellissippi Parkway/Oak Ridge Highway) into separate segments. The Motion carried unanimously.

4 Review of Annual Listing of Obligated Projects for FY2019

Item Summary: Each year the TPO is required to make available to the public a listing of all transportation related projects in which federal funds were obligated in the past fiscal year.

Discussion: Craig Luebke reviewed the FY2019 Annual Obligated Projects Report. Craig explained that rather than looking forward for projects that are coming down the pike, this is looking back at projects that had Federal Funding obligated to them for FY2019. In FY2019, we had \$228,000,000.00 in Federal Funds programed to 61 projects throughout the region. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

5 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Memorandum of Agreement

Item Summary: Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between TDOT and the Knoxville Regional TPO regarding the definition and need for amendments/administrative modifications to the STIP/TIP. The MOA establishes and defines one category of action as a "STIP/TIP Amendment" and a second as a "STIP/TIP Administrative Modification."

STAFF RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Discussion: Craig Luebke briefly reviewed the proposed modifications to the STIP/TIP. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Memorandum of Understanding defines one category of action as a "STIP/TIP Amendment" and a second as a "STIP/TIP Administrative Modification."

A Motion was made by Chico Messer and seconded by Brian Boone to recommend approval of the STIP/TIP Amendment/Administrative Modification MOA. The Motion carried unanimously.

6 Americans With Disabilities Act Transition Plan Status

Item Summary: FHWA is responsible to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in the public right-of-way and on projects using federal surface transportation funds. In accordance with this requirement, TDOT in coordination with the FHWA is tasked with ensuring that sub-recipients have completed their ADA Transition Plans. The deadline for the submission of completed ADA Transition Plans and Self-Evaluation Forms is December 31, 2019. Staff has compiled a summary of the ADA Transition Plan Status for affected local public agencies in the TPO Planning Area.

Discussion: Craig Luebke reminded the Committee about the Americans With Disabilities Act Transition Plan Status. Staff has been reaching out to local agencies to gather the status on behalf of Federal Highway. Staff has been asking for clarification where each of our local agencies stand with regard to completion of Transition Plans. TDOT has requested either a self-certification form or a self-evaluation and status update. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

Don Brown, ETDD, asked what happens to an agency that does not adhere to the deadline. Sean Santalla, Federal Highway Administration, answered by saying that they like to see TPO's working with their local agencies to show progress in completing the ADA Transition Plans. Sean explained that based on what FHWA has seen here and working with the TPO, they feel fairly confident to be in a position to be able to approve the TIP that has been put together. The next step as FHWA is doing obligations of funding is to check certifications and compliance action towards meeting all of the federal compliance which is the ADA. Therefore, not adhering to the ADA deadline could potentially be a secondary restriction. If local agencies are not showing progress in the completion of the ADA Transition Plan, FHWA may not be able to obligate funding within those regions or to the local agencies.

Further discussion ensued on the ADA Transition Plans expectations of urbanized areas versus rural areas.

7 Overview of Federal Highway Administration Certification Process of the TPO

Item Summary: Every 4 years the TPO planning process is reviewed by our Federal Partners (FHWA, FTA and EPA). Sean will review the certification process and seek comments from Technical Committee members on planning issues, priorities, and TPO activities.

Discussion: Sean Santalla, Federal Highway Administration, was present to discuss the Federal Administration Certification Process of the TPO. Sean explained the process of the upcoming 2020 Knoxville Transportation Management Area Federal Certification Review. Mr. Santalla ended the presentation by requesting feedback from local agencies working directly with the Knoxville TPO and staff either in person or by e-mail. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

8 Other Business

- ETHRA has been awarded grant funding to purchase up to 45 paratransit vans. Funding is from a \$16.2 million statewide award from the FTA applied for by TDOT on the behalf of 10 agencies. Most of the vans will be used in ETHRA's rural service.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, December 18, 2019, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.

9 Public Comment

There was no public comment

10 Adjournment.

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 A.M.