



KNOXVILLE REGIONAL

Draft Minutes

9:00 A.M. | Telemeeting via Zoom

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on April 13, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. by telecommuting via Zoom. Chair Brian Boone presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined that there was a quorum. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves.

- *Beth Collins
- *Megan Brooks
- *Chico Messer
- *Karen Estes
- *Kathryn Baldwin
- *Catherine Olsen
- *Brian Boone
- *DeAnna Flinchum
- *Amy Brooks
- *Blake Sartin
- *Jacob Wright
- *Harold Cannon
- *Don Brown
- *Jack Qualls
- *Mike Patterson
- *Rich DeGroseilliers
- *Michelle Christian
- **Troy Ebbert
- TPO Staff
- Partner Agency Staff
- Members of the Public

- City of Lenoir City
- City of Alcoa
- Blount County
- Knox County CAC Transit
- Anderson County
- Knox County Engineering
- City of Maryville
- Knoxville Commuter Pool
- Knoxville-Knox County Planning
- Metro Knoxville Airport Authority
- Knoxville Area Transit
- City of Knoxville Engineering
- ETDD
- City of Loudon & Loudon County
- ETHRA
- Lakeway MPO
- TDOT, Region 1
- TDOT, Region 1

1 Call to Order

- a. Determination of a Quorum
- b. ***Chair Brian Boone stated that the Technical Committee conducting this meeting by electronic means is necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare of Tennesseans in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. No objections were made.***
- c. Introductions
- d. Amendments to the Agenda.

2 Motion to Approve March 9, 2021 TPO Technical Committee Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of the March 9, 2021 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by Chico Messer and seconded by Harold Cannon to approve the March 9, 2021, TPO Technical Committee Minutes. A roll-call vote was taken. The Motion carried unanimously 19-0.

3 Motion to Recommend Approval of a Resolution to the Executive Board Adopting Mobility Plan 2045 and Air Quality Conformity Report

Item Summary: The Mobility Plan 2045 sets the overall vision and identifies specific investments for the region's transportation system over the next 20+ years. An air quality conformity determination was prepared to demonstrate that the implementation of the proposed projects included in the Plan will conform to requirements from the Clean Air Act. Staff recommends approval.

Discussion: Jeff Welch presented the Mobility Plan 2045 and Air Quality Conformity Report to the TPO Technical Committee to review and recommend approval to the Executive Board. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

A Motion was made by Jack Qualls and seconded by Karen Estes to Recommend Approval of a Resolution to the Executive Board Adopting Mobility Plan 2045 and Air Quality Conformity Report. A roll-call vote was taken. The Motion carried unanimously 19-0.

4 Motion to Recommend Approval of a Resolution to the Executive Board Adopting Amendments to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program and Certifying that the Metropolitan Planning Process is Being Followed

Item Summary: TDOT and locally requested amendments for four (4) air quality exempt and two (2) air quality non-exempt projects. Five (5) of the proposed amendments are to bring the TIP into alignment with the project descriptions and funded list of projects contained in the Draft Mobility Plan 2045.

Discussion: Craig Luebke reviewed the four (4) air quality exempt and two (2) air quality non-exempt proposed amendments to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program with the TPO Technical Committee. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

A Motion was made by Wayne Blasius and seconded by Chico Messer to Recommend Approval of a Resolution to the Executive Board Adopting Amendments to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program and Certifying that the Metropolitan Planning Process is Being Followed. A roll call vote was taken. The Motion carried unanimously 19-0.

Chico Messer left the meeting.

5 **Motion to Recommend Approval to the Executive Board of Public Transit Asset Management and Safety Performance Measures**

Item Summary: Federal requirements require transit agencies to set and MPOs to adopt performance-based planning targets dealing with Transit Asset Management (TAM) and safety. TAM concerns the management of vehicle fleets, equipment, and facilities. Each transit operator is also required to adopt a Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) and set safety targets. Knoxville Area Transit, Knox County CAC Transit, and the East Tennessee Human Resource Agency each prepared a PTASP and set their individual TAM and safety targets and reported them to the TPO. The TPO is required to approve regional TAM targets and each transit agency's individual safety targets.

Discussion: Doug Burton explained that Federal requirements require transit agencies and MPO's to set and adopt performance-based planning targets dealing with Transit Asset Management (TAM) and safety. Mr. Burton presented the TAM and safety targets associated with the management of vehicle fleets, equipment, and facilities. The TPO is required to approve regional TAM targets and each transit agency's individual safety targets. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

A Motion was made by Harold Cannon and seconded by Catherine Olsen to Recommend Approval to the Executive Board of Public Transit Asset Management and Safety Performance Measures. A roll call vote was taken. The Motion carried unanimously 18-0.

Jack Qualls and Mike Patterson left the meeting.

6 **TIP Motion to Recommend Approval to the Executive Board of an Amendment to the FY 2020-FY2021 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) to add Transit Planning Funds to Conduct Three Transit Related Studies**

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on recent TIP Administrative Modifications and project cost overrun funding approvals. The status of projects with regard to schedule delays and the Local-Surface Transportation Block Grant program balance will also be reviewed.

Discussion: Doug Burton shared the recent TIP Administrative Modifications and project cost overrun funding approvals with the Technical Committee. Mr. Burton specifically discussed the request to add Transit Planning Funds to the FY2020-FY2021 Transportation Planning Work Program to conduct three Transit Related Studies. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

A Motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Wayne Blasius to Recommend Approval to the Executive Board of an Amendment to the FY 2020 - FY2021 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) to add Transit Planning Funds to Conduct Three Transit Related Studies. A roll call vote was taken. The Motion carried unanimously 15-0.

Amy Brooks and Harold Cannon left the meeting at 9:57.

DeAnna Flinchum left at 9:58 a.m.

7 Overview of Possible Changes by the Census Bureau on How an Urbanized Area is Defined

Item Summary: The U. S. Census Bureau is considering redefining how an urbanized area will be defined. Proposed changes in methodology were recently released by the census bureau and comments must be submitted on the suggested changes by May 20, 2021.

Discussion: Jeff Welch shared that the U.S. Census Bureau is proposing changes in methodology on how an urbanized area is defined. The U.S. Bureau is encouraging community comments on the suggested changes and request that they be submitted no later than May 20, 2021. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

8 Other Business

- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 9 a.m. This meeting may be held electronically.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 9 a.m. This meeting may be held electronically.
- Active Knox & the TPO are hosting two virtual sessions on April 29 titled Right of Way: A Conversation About the Epidemic of Pedestrian Deaths. Our speaker will be Angie Schmitt, whose book Right of Way examines the trends in street design & vehicle design that are contributing to this increase, and her ideas for turning things around. Registration is limited, and two attendees will be randomly selected to receive a copy of Angie's book.
Register for the session at noon on April 29
Register for the session at 6 p.m. on April 29
- ***Making Connections***, the Statewide Active Transportation Plan, is now available for public review and comment. *Making Connections* is about action. It is the first plan focused on improving walking, bicycling, and rolling (i.e., personal mobility devices) in Tennessee since 2005. The plan document is available here: www.tn.gov/tdot/multimodal-transportation-resources/bicycle-and-pedestrian-program/statewide-active-transportation-plan/satp-comments.html. The deadline for comments is ***April 23, 2021***.
- Pellissippi Parkway Extension Design Public Meeting – TDOT will host a Virtual Design public meeting to gather public input on the proposed project in Blount County on SR-162 Ext. (Pellissippi Parkway), from SR-33 to SR-73 (US-321).
The virtual meeting will be open to the public at **8:00, 2021 and will close at 10:00 pm EST on April 29, 2021**. The website link is: <https://gather.cdmsmith.com/v/v8jkyAVO149>
- Overview of American Jobs Plan a \$2.3 Trillion Infrastructure Investment Strategy
Attachment #6: American Jobs Plan

9 Public Comment

There was no public comment

10 Adjournment.

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11 A.M.