



KNOXVILLE REGIONAL

Draft Minutes

9:00 A.M. | Telemeeting via Zoom

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on February 9, 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.

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| *Wayne Blasius | City of Oak Ridge |
| *Beth Collins | City of Lenoir City |
| *Megan Brooks | City of Alcoa |
| *Chico Messer | Blount County |
| *Karen Estes | Knox County CAC Transit |
| *Darryl Smith | Town of Farragut |
| *Kathryn Baldwin | Anderson County |
| *Kathy Olsen for Jim Snowden | Knox County Engineering |
| *Brian Boone | City of Maryville |
| *Deanna Flinchum | Knoxville Commuter Pool |
| *Mike Patterson | ETHRA, for Gary Holliday |
| *Jack Qualls | City of Loudon, Loudon County |
| *Amy Brooks | Knoxville-Knox County Planning |
| *Blake Sartin | Metro Knoxville Airport Authority |
| *Jacob Wright | Knoxville Area Transit |
| *Harold Cannon | City of Knoxville Engineering |
| *Larry Gann | City of Clinton |
| *Don Brown | ETDD |
| *Jeff Ownby | Sevier County |
| *Michelle Christian | TDOT, Region 1 |
| **Troy Ebbert | TDOT, Region 1 |
| **Sean Santalla | FHWA |
| **Andrew Sibold | FHWA, Professional Development |
| Nancy Nabors | Knoxville Chamber |
| TPO Staff | |
| Partner Agency Staff | |
| Members of the Public | |
| *voting members | |
| **non-voting members | |

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 December 8, 2020 TPO Technical Committee Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of the December 8, 2020 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by Jack Qualls and seconded by Chico Messer to approve the December 8, 2020 TPO Technical Committee Minutes including the discussed modification. A roll call vote was taken. The Motion carried unanimously.

3 Election of Officers

Item Summary: The Bylaws state that the Technical Committee shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from its membership. Such election shall be by a majority vote of that membership. Election of officers shall take place on the first meeting of the calendar year and term of office shall be for one year. An officer is eligible to serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms. The current Chair and Vice-Chair are ineligible to serve an additional term in their current positions.

Discussion: Jeff Welch explained that the election of officers generally takes place at the first meeting of the calendar year. However, since the January Technical Committee Meeting was cancelled, the elections are taking place at this meeting. Mr. Welch share that the term of office is for one year and an officer is eligible to serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms. Mr. Welch then opened the floor for nominations for both Chair and Vice-Chair of the TPO Technical Committee.

A Motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Chico Messer to recommend nominate Brian Boone as Chair. A roll call vote was taken. The Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Chico Messer to nominate Wayne Blasius as Vice-Chair. A roll call vote was taken. The Motion carried unanimously.

4 Motion to Recommend Adoption of Performance Measure Targets to the Executive Board

Item Summary: Federal regulations require states and MPOs to establish performance targets for three major areas of the transportation system including: (1) safety, (2) pavement/bridge condition and (3) traffic congestion/environment. Safety performance targets are required to be set on an annual basis while the other performance targets covered an initial 4-year period that can be adjusted at the mid-point. Once TDOT establishes targets the MPO has 180 days to either: agree to support the state target or establish specific numeric targets for our region.

STAFF RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Discussion: Mike Conger shared the Performance Measure Targets with Technical Committee Members. Safety performance targets are required to be set on an annual basis while Performance targets cover a 4-year period and can be adjusted at the mid-point. Mr. Conger shared that staff recommends approval and is seeking Technical Committee support of the state

targets to the Executive Board. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

A Motion was made by Wayne Blasius and seconded by Harold Cannon to recommend approval of Adoption of Performance Measure Targets to the Executive Board. A roll call vote was taken. The Motion carried unanimously.

5 Motion to Recommend Approval of the FTA Section 5307/5339 FY21-Program of Projects to the Executive Board.

Item Summary: FTA requires a public hearing on the Program of Projects (POP). The POP is a list of projects, for each agency, to be funded with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 and 5339 funding. The POP public hearing will be at the February 24, 2021 Executive Board meeting. Staff will update the Technical Committee on the FY21 – FTA apportionments and the local distribution of funds. Because the TIP already has both the Section 5307 and 5339 funding pages approved, the additional funds and projects will be added through internal adjustments. Staff recommends approval of the FY21 – POP.

STAFF RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Discussion: Doug Burton shared the Program of Projects (POP) with the Technical Committee. FTA requires a public hearing on the Program of Projects (POP). The POP public hearing will be at the February 24, 2021 Executive Board meeting. Mr. Burton explained that because the TIP already has both the Section 5307 and 5339 funding pages approved, the additional funds and projects will be added through internal adjustments. Lastly, Mr. Burton shared how the community can comment and give input on the Program of Projects. 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 the FTA Section 5307/5339 FY21-Program of Projects to the Executive Board. A roll call vote was taken. The Motion carried unanimously.

6 Motion to Recommend Approval of a Resolution to Amend the FY20/21 TPO Work Program to the Executive Board.

Item Summary: A transportation planning study for I-40/75, from I-40/75 split to Campbell Station Road interchange will be added to the work program. It is anticipated this study will be completed in the fall of 2021. The TPO and TDOT are sharing on the cost of this study.

STAFF RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Discussion: Jeff Welch shared that a transportation planning study for I-40/75, from I-40/75 split to Campbell Station Road interchange has been added to the Work Program. Mr. Welch explained that the cost of the study will be shared between the TPO and TDOT. Lastly, staff anticipates the study will be completed by Fall of 2021. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

A Motion was made by Wayne Blasius and seconded by Harold Cannon to recommend approval of a Resolution to Amend the FY20/21 TPO Work Program to the Executive Board. A roll call vote was taken. The Motion carried unanimously.

7 Overview of the Draft 2045 Mobility Plan, Accompanying Air Quality Conformity Analysis and Remaining Time Line

Item Summary: TPO Staff and KCI Consultants will provide a high-level overview of the Draft Mobility Plan and Air Quality Conformity Analysis. This will be followed by a review of the remaining plan development schedule and opportunity for Technical Committee members to participate in a virtual public meeting on the plan.

Discussion: Kayla Ferguson, KCI Consultants, shared the status of the Draft Mobility Plan and Air Quality Conformity Analysis. Ms. Ferguson briefly shared the timeline of upcoming public and Technical Committee involvement opportunities along with the remaining plan development schedule. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

8 Staff Approach to the distribution of COVID-19 Supplemental Appropriations Act

Item Summary: The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) appropriated an additional \$10,000,000,000 for Highway Infrastructure Programs (HIP) nationwide. Note that a preliminary estimate of \$10.5M in funding for the Knoxville TPO area provided in a TDOT letter dated Dec. 29, 2020 was incorrect. The actual distribution to the TPO area is \$4,592,425. These funds have a hard expiration date and must be obligated by September 30, 2024 or they will lapse. With the intent to put these funds to work as soon as possible, staff recommends applying this funding to eligible projects currently scheduled for obligation in FY 2021. Additional eligibility guidance will be forthcoming, but it is currently anticipated that any project phase may use these funds. This approach will provide relief to the L-STBG budget equal to the new funding distribution.

Discussion: Craig Luebke shared that legislation passed a Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) which appropriated an additional \$10,000,000,000 for Highway Infrastructure Programs (HIP) nationwide. These funds have a hard expiration date and must be obligated by September 30, 2024 or they will lapse. With the intent to put these funds to work as soon as possible, staff recommends applying this funding to eligible projects currently scheduled for obligation in FY 2021. Lastly, Craig shared the Programming Plan with Technical Committee Members. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

9 Request for any Transportation Planning Study Needs for the Next Two-Year Fiscal Year Work Program

Presenter: Jeff Welch, TPO Staff

Item Summary: The TPO staff is in the early stages of developing the two-year transportation planning work program for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022. Staff is requesting local

partners to submit any requests for planning studies to us by March 15, 2021. The local match required is 15 percent of the total cost.

Discussion: Jeff Welch shared that TPO staff is in the early stages of developing a two-year Transportation Planning Work Program for the fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2022. Mr. Welch is requesting local partners to submit requests for planning studies by March 15, 2021. The presentation is available online and can be found here: [Presentation](#)

10 Other Business

- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 9 a.m. This meeting will be held electronically.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 9 a.m. This meeting will be held electronically.
- TDOT Transportation Needs Focus Group Invitation to Participate
[Attachment #7: Invitation to Participate](#)

10 Public Comment

There was no public comment

11 Adjournment.

There was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 A.M.