

**TPO Executive Board Minutes**  
**October 28, 2015**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**Small Assembly Room**  
**City/County Building**  
**Knoxville, TN**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on October 28, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville, TN. Mayor Madeline Rogero chaired the meeting and called it to order. It was determined there was a quorum.

*Jim Hagerman	Public Transportation Representative, <i>for Dawn Distler</i>
*Doug Hancock	Blount County, <i>for Mayor Ed Mitchell</i>
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County, <i>for Mayor Larry Waters</i>
*Brenda Palmer	City of Knoxville
*Billy Pickel	Loudon County, <i>for Mayor Buddy Bradshaw</i>
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Mayor Tim Burchett</i>
*Madeline Rogero	Mayor, City of Knoxville
*Jack Qualls	State of Tennessee, <i>for Governor Bill Haslam</i>
*Amber Scott	City of Lenoir City, <i>for Mayor Tony Aikens</i>
*Tom Taylor	Mayor, City of Maryville
*Mark Watson	City of Oak Ridge, <i>for Mayor Warren Gooch</i>
*Dave Wright	Knox County Commission
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
* <b>voting members</b>	

**1. Motion to Approve September 23, 2015 Minutes**

**Item Summary:** Approval of September 23, 2015 TPO Executive Board Minutes.

**A Motion was made by Mayor Taylor and seconded by Amber Scott to approve the September 23, 2015 TPO Executive Board Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Update on Section 5307 - Urban Area Transit Funding**

**Item Summary: Update on Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Funding**

Staff will update the Executive Board about the final funding being distributed to KAT, Knox County CAC Transit, and ETHRA. Section 5307 funding comes through the FTA to the urban area and can be used for operations or capital projects. The FTA recently released the final FY15 appropriation amount. This is a very late date as FY15 ended on September 30th. In May, the Executive Board endorsed the City of Knoxville's distribution plan, which included the possibility that funding could be adjusted once the final amount was known. The final appropriation was slightly more than forecasted. Mayor Rogero has approved dividing the extra funding and the remaining reserve dollars between all three transit agencies based on the approved distribution formula. However, these additional funds should be applied to the start of FY16 (October 1<sup>st</sup>) and should not be considered extra. Once the final FY16 appropriation is known, a decision can be made on whether this funding can be considered extra or not. This item was presented to the Technical Committee. An official TIP amendment does not need to occur as the Executive Board previously approved TIP sheets based on the original distribution plan.

The new funding is within the range set by TDOT and FTA and will be done by staff as a TIP adjustment.

**Discussion:** Jeff Welch briefly reviewed the recently released final FY15 appropriation of FTA Section 5307 funds. There was no Action required by the Board.

**3. Update on Section 5339 - Bus & Bus Facilities Funding and Motion to Approve a Resolution to Amend the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program [FTA Section 5339 Bus & Bus Facilities Funding]**

**Item Summary: Update on Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Funding**

Section 5339 is funding that comes through the FTA to be used for the purchase of buses or capital improvements related to bus facilities. The FTA recently released the final FY15 appropriation, which was slightly higher than projected. In May, the Executive Board endorsed the City of Knoxville's distribution plan that awarded funds to KAT and ETHRA. Unfortunately, FTA notified ETHRA that it was not eligible. FTA said this determination was based on a technicality in the federal law. As KAT is the only agency currently eligible, Mayor Rogero, based on staff's input, is recommending all of the funds be allocated to KAT. ETHRA has submitted an official letter asking to return the funding to the City of Knoxville. TIP amendments must be approved to return ETHRA's funding and to re-appropriate it with any extra funding to KAT. **Technical Committee recommends approval.**

**Discussion:** Jeff Welch reviewed the FTA Section 5339 funds being returned by ETHRA that will now be awarded to KAT. He reiterated that these funds were originally defined for large bus transit systems and not for demand response systems. There are two Amendments that must be passed to transfer the funding. The first Amendment allocates the returned funds as well as an additional \$954.00 of federal funds to KAT. The second Amendment reflects the return of the FY 2014 and 2015 funds originally allocated to ETHRA back to the City of Knoxville and officially removes ETHRA's project from the TIP.

**A Motion was made by Jim Hagerman and seconded by Mayor Mull to approve a Resolution to amend the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program [FTA Section 5339 Bus & Bus Facilities Funding]. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**4. Motion to Approve a Resolution to Amend the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program**

**Item Summary:** The following are amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. **Technical Committee recommends approval.**

**Discussion:** Bryan Berry reviewed the proposed Amendments. The first one amends the project description, termini and project length of the City of Knoxville's South Waterfront Roadway Improvements project which consists of various roadway streetscape improvements to Sevier Ave. and adjacent side streets to enhance connectivity with a new city Park, Suttree Landing. The second project is amended by adding it to the TIP and awards L-STP funds to Knox County CAC to install cameras in approximately 40 existing vehicles providing demand response transit services.

**A Motion was made by Amber Scott and seconded by Jack Qualls to approve a Resolution to amend the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**5. Presentation on Revised 8-Hour Ozone Standard**

**Item Summary:** The EPA announced a revision to the 8-hour Ozone Standard on October 1, 2015. TPO staff will provide a brief summary of the new standard and its potential implications.

**Discussion:** Mike Conger briefly reviewed the events leading up to the announcement of the revised standard and touched on the projected health and economic benefits. He then reviewed the actual designation timeline and process. He concluded with a review of the 2013 – 2015 data for our region's 9 monitors, noting the 2015 numbers are preliminary. He reiterated that the EPA reviews these standards every 5 years. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here: [http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/oct15/ozone\\_update\\_oct\\_2015.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/exec/oct15/ozone_update_oct_2015.pdf)

## 6. Other Business

- Representatives from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will be in Knoxville December 7-9, 2015 for the 2016 Transportation Management Area (TMA) Certification Review for the Knoxville Regional TPO. This desk audit occurs every 4 years. Jeff Welch encouraged Board members to attend the public meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the KAT Transfer Station located at 301 E. Church Ave. Their representatives will be attending the December 8<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee meeting.
- Highlights from the first Open Streets Knoxville event that took place Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Jeff Welch noted the event was a huge success, a sentiment echoed by Mayor Rogero. Mr. Welch noted this is a nationally occurring event and that there was significant feedback calling for this to be a regular event.
- Jeff Welch noted that both the November 10<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee meeting and the November 18<sup>th</sup> Executive Board meeting will be cancelled.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building. ***Please note the meeting is being held on the third Wednesday of the month due to the holiday.***
- Mark Watson noted there were 2 upcoming community events being held on November 12<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the establishment of the Manhattan Project National Historic Park: A community celebration at the Oak Ridge High School auditorium beginning at 2:00 p.m. and a ribbon cutting ceremony being held at Historic Jackson Square at 4:00 p.m. He also noted the City of Oak Ridge is participating in a US State Department initiative called the Professional Management Fellows Program through the International City Management Association and introduced 2 colleagues visiting through this initiative from Malaysia and Indonesia.
- Jeff Welch noted the Knoxville Livability Summit, a joint venture between the City of Knoxville, the Knoxville-Knox County CAC Office on Aging and the TN Commission on Aging and Disability is being held on November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Rothchild Conference Center. For more information call the Office on Aging at 865-524-2786.

## 7. Public Comment

David Price was present as an interested citizen representing an entity called the Knoxville PATH Foundation, modeled after a similar entity in Atlanta. They will be raising private funds in order to be active participants for improvements along Northshore Dr. and are interested in working with the TPO. He has organized all of the Home Owners Associations from the Loudon County line to I-140. He noted that their goal is to effect change on Northshore Dr. Mayor Rogero thanked Mr. Price for his input.

## 8. Adjournment

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.