

TPO Technical Committee Minutes
April 12, 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 April 12, 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
*Karen Estes	Knox County CAC Transit
*Gerald Green	Metropolitan Planning Commission
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County
*Janice Osborne	Knoxville Commuter Pool, <i>for Deanna Flinchum</i>
*Pat Phillips	City of Loudon and Loudon County
*Jack Qualls	TDOT, Region 1
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit
*Blake Sartin	Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
**Scott Allen	Federal Highway Administration, TN Division
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	
** non-voting member	

1. Motion to Approve March 8, 2016 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of March 8, 2016 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Gerald Green to approve the March 8, 2016 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

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

Item Summary: Staff recommends approval.

Discussion: Jeff Welch briefly reviewed the 5 proposed Amendments. The first 3 involve greenways: for the City of Knoxville, modifying the Project Name, Description, Termini and Map for the First Creek Greenway - Edgewood Park and Environs and for the City of Alcoa, modifying the Project Description, Length and Map for the Pistol Creek Greenway – Phase IV, for both projects to be more consistent with the actual and proposed, respectively, location of the greenway alignment.

An Amendment for the third greenway project involves changing the funding type for all phases of the Everett Rd. / I-40 Greenway from L-STP/Local to 100% Local funds for the Town of Farragut. The 4th Amendment utilizes those L-STP funds (along with a local match) to fund PE-NEPA and Design phases for Union Road/N. Hobbs Road Improvements for FY 2017, also for the Town of Farragut. The last Amendment adds FY 2016 funding for all phases through construction (PE-N,PE-D,CN) for the Blair Bend/Williamson Drive Resurfacing project for the City of Loudon. Mr. Welch indicated these projects are being reviewed by the Interagency Consultation Group with regards to air quality.

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

3. Overview of TDOT's 25-Year Long-Range Transportation Policy Plan

Item Summary: Jack Qualls, TDOT Region 1 will give an overview of TDOT's recently released 25-Year Long-Range Transportation Policy Plan.

Discussion: Jack Qualls, TDOT Region 1, touched on the Plan's highlights, noting the Plan has been in development for approximately 2 years with over 20,000 people/partners giving their input via TDOT's Customer Survey, Book-a Planner Presentations, over 6000 meetings and events, an online survey as well through the 25-Year Plan website. After noting input was similar from both rural and urban areas he briefly touched on the Plan development process. Mr. Qualls noted the Plan is basically complete but they are continuing to receive input which will be incorporated into the final document. TDOT's 25-Year Long-Range Transportation Policy Plan can be found in its entirety here: <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/section/25-year-transportation-plan>. The complete presentation is available online and can be found here: <http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/apr16/TDOT-LRTP Presentation.pdf>

4. Overview of the 2017 Long Range Mobility Plan Update

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Technical Committee on the Mobility Plan Update Project Application and Financial Assumptions

a. Project Application Overview

Discussion: Amy Brooks noted the Call for Projects is out for the 2017 Mobility Plan Update and reviewed the Project Application, which is required for *all* projects that will be considered for the Plan, further noting that projects currently in the Plan will not be automatically rolled over into the Update unless they are significantly underway. There was a brief discussion surrounding the rating system that will be used. Member jurisdictions were encouraged to contact staff if they need assistance in completing the Application/meeting the May 23rd deadline for submittal. It was noted member jurisdictions may rank the projects they submit with regards to their local priorities. The Application can be downloaded from the TPO website and is located here: <http://knoxtrans.org/downloads/Final2016MobilityPlan-ProjectApplicationPacket.pdf>

b. Financial Assumptions Mobility Plan and TIP

Discussion: Jeff Welch reviewed the Estimated Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STPBG) funds that will be programmed to the Knoxville TPO for our urbanized area under the FAST Act, and which fund the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Including our current FY 2016 approximate balance [as of April 1st] the total amount of STP funds available over the next 4 years will total about \$87 million. Mr. Welch further noted much of this balance has already been programmed and that it is changing (being reduced) regularly as projects move forward. Referencing the Mobility Plan Update Project Application he noted that there is a request for additional information for projects slated for the next 4 years (page 6, a budget worksheet for inclusion in the TIP). Mr. Welch also noted we will be rolling our current [FY 2014-2017] TIP over to the FY 2017-2020 TIP by September/October as our TIP must be in alignment with the state's TIP (STIP).

A full amendment of the TIP will occur in conjunction with the adoption of the Long Range Mobility Plan next April or May and staff will be meeting with member jurisdictions in conjunction with that process. Mr. Welch noted staff plan to use a 2% increase for both the projected revenues and expenses for the Plan Update. Scott Allen noted that the FAST Act consolidated multiple grant programs, as did MAP-21, and that the STP figures now include Transportation Alternative Program funds which may be why the numbers appear slightly higher than expected.

5. Work Program Update/Request for Planning Studies

Item Summary: Staff is preparing the update to the 2016/2017 Transportation Planning Work Program.

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted the Work Program is being updated and this needs to be completed by October 1st. He briefly noted some examples of planning studies undertaken by staff under the Work Program and asked member jurisdictions to contact staff with any planning studies they would like to see included in the Program. The TPO can provide up to an 80% match. He also noted staff are interested in seeking opportunities to fund creative projects that would study what has been identified as best practices on a national level such as PlaceMaking, town centers, activity centers and transportation corridors as well as multimodal connectivity. He asked that member jurisdictions to submit any studies to staff by the end of May.

6. Other Business

- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- East Tennessee Quality Growth is hosting a conference “Plain Talk 2016 Connecting Competitive Communities” which will be held on April 28, 2016 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Hilton Hotel - Airport, Alcoa, TN. Contact Julie Graham at julie.graham@etqualitygrowth.org or visit their website at <http://etqualitygrowth.org/newsite/plaintalk2016conference/> for more information. The date for the reduced rate has been extended to April 15th.
- Scott Allen, Federal Highway Administration, Tennessee Division will present the results of the 2016 Knoxville TMA (Transportation Management Area) Certification Review at both the May Technical Committee and Executive Board meetings. The Federal review, done every 4 years, was conducted last December.
- Scott Allen noted the FHWA, TN Division has nominated the Maryville-Alcoa Greenway as a national best practice example of a connected bicycle-pedestrian network. He also noted that the FHWA’s Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Performance Management Final Rules will be published in the next few weeks, providing external stakeholders with additional resources.
- Jack Qualls noted TDOT will be issuing another CMAQ Call for Proposals in early May with a timeline for submission sometime in late June. Contact Alan Jones or Casey Langford with any questions.
- TDOT has announced a Design Public Meeting to take place on Thursday, April 21, 2016 to gather public input on the Knox County SR-71 (Chapman Highway) widening project from South of Simpson Road to Hendron Chapel Road. The meeting will be held from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Valley Grove Baptist Church located at 9000 Sevierville Pike in Knoxville, TN 37920. For more information contact Eric Wilson at 865-594-0742 or Eric.Wilson@tn.gov.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Jeff Ownby to adjourn. The Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.