

Attachment #1

**TPO Technical Committee
October 13, 2009
9 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on October 13 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building in Knoxville. John Lamb, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order.

*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Monica Austin Carroll	for Kathryn Baldwin, Anderson County
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville/Knox County MPC
*Chris Jenkins	for Darryl Smith, Town of Farragut
*Steve King	City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Russ Newman	Loudon County
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Greg Patterson	Sevier County
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit
*Blake Sartin	Metro Knoxville Airport Authority
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
*Bruce Wuethrich	Knox County Engineering
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Nathan Benditz	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Brian Berry	Metropolitan Planning Commission Staff
Becky Bottoms	Cannon & Cannon
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Roger Campbell	City of Maryville
Terry Gilhula	Metropolitan Planning Commission Staff
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Cindy Pionke	Knox County Engineering
Scott Poland	City of Maryville
Dee Anne Reynolds	Metropolitan Planning Commission Staff
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Robert Shaw	Citizens Against Beltway Orange Location
Terry Shupp	Knox County Parks and Recreation
Anne Wallace	City of Knoxville
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*voting members

Determination of Quorum- A quorum was determined.

1. Approval of September 8, 2009, Minutes

Presenter: John Lamb, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of September 8, 2009, TPO Technical Committee minutes.

Attachment #1 – September 8, 2009, minutes.

A motion was made by Bruce Wuethrich and seconded by Steve King to approve the September 8 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion of the Potential Impact the Rescission Will Have on the TPO Area

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Congress failed to repeal the rescission (required by previous acts of Congress, SAFETEA-LU and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007) that resulted in reducing the federal contract authority to states and urban areas by \$8.7 billion. As a result Tennessee had to return approximately \$190 million of transportation funding. This rescission will directly impact the TPO.

Attachments #2a, b, and c - TDOT's preliminary estimate of the reduction in funding for program areas statewide and for urban areas.

Jeff stated that on October 8, 2009, Paul Degges, Chief Engineer, and Ed Cole, Chief of Environment and Planning, for the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) briefed MPO staffs throughout the state on the impact the congressionally mandated rescission may have on TDOT and MPOs. \$190,619,674 was rescinded from TDOT on September 30, 2009. At that meeting, Paul and Ed presented **preliminary** information regarding the rescission amounts by each program. Staff reviewed two tables developed by TDOT that showed the amount of the rescission by funding categories that TDOT felt was going to be required by the Federal Highway Administration. Several program areas were zeroed out.

The Highway Safety Improvement Program lost \$22.4 million with no remaining balance. The Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program lost approximately \$37 million with no remaining balance. Metropolitan Planning Program lost \$3.6 million with no remaining balance. The Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds for urban areas under 200,000 population lost \$31.3 million with no remaining balance. The STP urbanized funds for the four large cities were rescinded a total of \$45.6 million. The STP Enhancement Program lost approximately \$20 million. No money was taken from Federal Transit Administration programs.

The direct impact to the Knoxville area includes a loss of \$8,277,362 of STP Program funds, resulting in a balance of approximately \$19,127,916. A loss of \$769,000 of Metropolitan Planning funds and a loss of approximately \$5,118,132 million of CMAQ funds. The loss of the planning and the CMAQ funds results in a zero balance in each program area.

TDOT will assist metropolitan planning areas in fully funding minimum planning work program effort for FY2010. Our TPO will not have any carryover funds or contingency funds in the Work Program that began on October 1, 2009.

The loss of all CMAQ funds will have an immediate negative impact on several projects. Not only will existing projects be stopped in their current phase, but no new projects can be started. Staff distributed a list of CMAQ funded projects that could come to an immediate halt as a result of the loss of funds.

Concerning the UPWP on the Funding Sources by Task table, under FHWA, PL, \$775,330 is the total FY 2010 allocation and reprogramming request. It will go into a pot for the state for TDOT to distribute. Concerning the Work Program Line Item 6, Jeff will adjust it and will zero out Contingency. He will wait a few more months before amending the Work Program.

Mark Donaldson asked what projects are listed in Task Item 2 Special Projects of the Work Program. Jeff responded that corridor studies such as Knoxville Parkway EIS and Pellissippi Parkway EIS are part of that task effort. The Regional Air Quality planning and modeling effort will continue and contracts between MPC/TPO and the state

have been signed. This will help pay for the staff salaries and overhead. Smart Trips had \$100,000 already obligated for CMAQ funds which will last a year. Jeff asked that Technical Committee members help update this list. Steve King asked if a design has been obligated, will the project stop, and Jeff stated it will continue in the design phase.

TDOT will receive 30 percent less. Angie Midgett stated that TDOT is waiting for the final notice from the FHWA on the amount that will be lost in each program area due to the rescission. Angie Midgett also indicated that Work Program adjustments should not be considered until after November when all final quarterly reports are submitted.

Jeff reported that on September 30 Congress passed a 30-day extension to all federal departments with one month's funding.

3. Consideration of Amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Regarding Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Funds (CMAQ) funds

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Attachment #3 – Staff recommends postponement until the impact of the rescission can be assessed.

Jeff Welch stated that this item should be deferred until we have more information in the rescission of CMAQ funds.

A motion was made by Bruce Wuethrich and seconded by Steve King to defer the TIP amendment until more information is available. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Recommend Approval of TPO Priority Project List to be submitted to TDOT and Area State Legislators

Presenter: TPO Staff

Annually the TPO sponsors a meeting with our State legislators and TDOT Administration to discuss our major transportation issues and projects.

Background: Attachments #4a and #4b reflect what was approved by the TPO last year and updated to reflect current status in the TIP.

Jeff Welch stated that annually the TPO holds a luncheon with legislators and officials from TDOT to discuss projects for the upcoming year. Staff has taken last year's list of high priority projects and where they are in the Long Range Transportation Plan. He asked if there are any projects that should be added or dropped. Campbell Station is already under construction and should be dropped. Emory Road from Clinton Highway to Tazewell Pike may be dropped; drop the Campbell Station park-n-ride; and drop Emory Road east of Maynardville to Tazewell. John Lamb stated that he would like to keep Morganton Road on the list.

Brian Boone stated that in the description for Project G, Montvale Road, that "US-321" should replace "Broadway." He also asked that Sevierville Road (SR-35/US-411) from Washington Street to Dogwood be added to the list for consideration as a priority project for the TPO. He added that Maryville sees this corridor as needing significant improvements. Also, TDOT will be conducting a TPR this fiscal year for the corridor.

Robert Shaw, 6705 Cate Road, stated that the handout at the luncheon has always been a wish list. He asked if a third column should be added for the estimated cost of the project. Jeff stated it could be added if that is the wishes of the committee.

A motion was made by Bruce Wuethrich and seconded by Russ Newman to defer action on this issue until the November meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Report on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Projects

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The TPO received approximately \$13 million of ARRA funds this past spring. Staff will provide an update on the status of the projects approved by the TPO. Report will be distributed at the meeting.

Amy Brooks discussed the Project Status Update table. Barbara Monty stated that the Community Action Committee project bid is in progress, and they should be able to obligate those funds within a month. John Lamb asked the committee to contact Amy if they need to update this table.

Steve King stated that the City of Knoxville has two resurfacing projects that have been determined to be too costly. The city of Knoxville would like to drop the resurfacing projects and use those funds to conduct a traffic signal system analysis. Steve indicated that this would be a more efficient use of the funds. Cindy Pionke of Knox County expressed her support of the signal study and asked that the Knox County's signal system be part of the study. Steve indicated that the major corridors that crossed jurisdictions should be part of the analysis. Jeff asked Steve to give him the information so the Executive Board can vote to amend the TIP for this project.

A motion was made by Steve King and seconded by Andrew Sonner to amend the TIP to delete two city resurfacing projects and roll them into an area wide traffic signal system analysis. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Presentation of a Proposal to Set Aside a Portion of Annual STP Funds for Complete Streets Projects

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: This program will further the work begun with the TPO's Regional Complete Streets Study by providing a steady funding stream for projects that promote pedestrian and bicycle safety and accessibility.

Attachment # 5 – Draft program

Ellen Zavisca stated that the Complete Streets Study, funded by TDOT, has been completed. At public meetings there was a lot of support for the concept. People are asking for more and improved access to different modes of transportation. There has also been more interest in the Safe Routes to Schools program. Ellen distributed a proposal, prepared by staff that would set aside 10 percent of the annual STP funds for projects that promote pedestrian and bicycle safety and accessibility. Staff asked for comments over the next couple of months.

Steve King stated that his initial concerns are that the minimum grant threshold should be greater than \$50,000. Also, local governments already have the ability to submit "complete street" type projects so why set aside money for this activity.

7. Other Business

Jeff Welch stated that the following roads were added to the Functional Classification system for the Knoxville Urban Area: Hufstetler Road from US 129 (Calderwood Highway) to Mint Road; Chilhowee View Road from Whites Mill Road to Wilkinson Pike and Whites Mill Road from Chilhowee View Road to Tuckaleechee Pike. These three roads were upgraded from urban local to urban collector.

A motion was made by Andrew Sonner and seconded by Steve King to approve the addition of three roadways in Blount County to the Urban Area State Functional Classification System. The motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Welch referenced a letter from Lisa Jackson, US Environmental Protection Agency to Governor Phil Bredesen designating Anderson, Blount, Knox, Loudon and parts of Roane Counties as nonattainment for the 24 –hour PM2.5 standard. Once the official notice is published in the Federal Register, the TPO will have one year to redo air quality conformity analysis.

- **Executive Board Meeting, October 28 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building**
- **Technical Committee Meeting, November 10 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building**

8. Public Comment

There was no other public comment.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.