

TPO Technical Committee Minutes
January 10, 2017
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 January 10, 2017, 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
*Jeff Branham	City of Knoxville, <i>for Jim Hagerman</i>
*Don Brown	ETDD, <i>for Terry Bobrowski</i>
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway MPO
*Karen Estes	Knox County CAC Transit
*Gerald Green	Metropolitan Planning Commission
*Jerome Joiner	TDOT Region 1
*Thomas Lloyd	Blount County, <i>for Chico Messer</i>
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County
*Mike Patterson	ETHRA
*Jeremy Pearson	City of Alcoa, <i>for Andrew Sonner</i>
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County
*Jack Qualls	City of Loudon and Loudon County
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
**Scott Allen	Federal Highway Administration, Tennessee Division
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	
**non-voting member	

1. Motion to Approve November 8, 2016 Minutes

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

A Motion was made by Gerald Green and seconded by Cindy Pionke to approve the November 8, 2016 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. 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 officers, Kathryn Baldwin, Chair and Jeff Ownby, Vice Chair have each served one term.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

A Motion was made by Cindy Pionke and seconded by Gerald Green to nominate Kathryn Baldwin as Chair. The Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion was made by Cindy Pionke and seconded by Jack Qualls to nominate Jeff Ownby as Vice-Chair. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. FY 2018/19 TPO Transportation Planning Work Program Requests

Item Summary: The TPO is required to prepare a two year planning work program. A FY 2018-2019 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) will be prepared this spring. Staff is requesting identification of any planning studies/research that the TPO should undertake or financially support after October 2017. Topics should be submitted to staff by January 31, 2017. The current FY 2016-2017 TPWP is located here: <http://www.knoxtrans.org/plans/upwp/tpwp-2016-2017.pdf>

Discussion: Mr. Welch noted that our planning partners can still submit any special planning studies on their horizon that staff could implement this current fiscal year (through the end of September 2017). He noted that our planning partners were welcome to take the lead on any of these studies as they do not need to be led by TPO staff. Member jurisdictions can also utilize consultants to lead them. Local governments need to provide a 10 to 20% match to the TPO's 80 to 90% match. Mr. Welch stressed the need to submit these studies within the month if at all possible for either the current or for the FY 2018-2020 work program that will be developed later this spring.

4. Motion to Recommend Approval of Amendments to the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program

Item Summary: The following amendments are to include the recently awarded FY2017 CMAQ projects into the FY2017-2020 TIP. The FY2017-2020 TIP is pending approval by FHWA. The projects can only be amended into the FY2017-2020 TIP once it is approved and in effect. Staff recommends approval.

Discussion: Elizabeth Watkins noted our FY 2017-2020 TIP was approved late last Friday, January 6th. She then reviewed the 6 amendments/projects which total \$10.6 million in federal CMAQ funds. There was one project in Farragut to upgrade their closed loop signal system to a centrally controlled signal system for FY 2017 and 2018. Three were projects in Anderson County: Replacement of two gasoline-powered transportation trucks and four gasoline-powered EMS trucks with Chevrolet trucks converted to propane autogas, both for FY 2017, and replacement of thirteen gasoline-powered maintenance (highway operations) trucks with Ford vehicles converted to propane autogas, also for FY 2017. A fifth project is in the City of Knoxville from FY 2017 to FY 2019 to deploy the region's first bus rapid transit (BRT) project along the Broadway corridor consisting of six BRT stops. The 6th project is for the TPO and funds Smart Trips-Ridesharing Program from FY 2018 to FY 2020.

A Motion was made by Darryl Smith and seconded by Jeff Ownby to recommend approval of Amendments to the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

5. Motion to Recommend Approval of the Ranking of Proposed TDOT Highway Projects

Item Summary: TDOT has asked the TPO to rank a proposed list of transportation improvement projects in the 3 Year Capital Program for FY2018-FY2020. Staff recommends the ranking of projects as shown on the list.

Discussion: Elizabeth Watkins noted the list reflects TDOT's priorities and it is sent to each region to review and rank locally as well. Once approved, staff will send the list back to TDOT. She then noted once approved by the state legislature, only funding for FY 2018 is guaranteed.

Ms. Watkins noted all of the projects on the current list were on it the last 2 years with the only difference this year being that two projects were removed because they have moved into the construction phase (a project involving Western Avenue in Knox County and one involving SR73 and SR2 in Lenoir City). Based on feedback from member jurisdictions, the list reflects the same rankings as last year with the two above-referenced projects removed and the others bumped up accordingly. Staff will be asking the Executive Board for approval of the list prior to sending it onto TDOT. Referencing the handout of a Memo from Jeff Welch to the Executive Board, Ms. Watkins noted its purpose was to raise awareness to TDOT that there are other needs/projects we would like them to consider that are not on their list for Proposed Knoxville MPO Projects. This Memo listing those projects has been sent to TDOT the last two years and will be forwarded this year again as well. Jeff Welch requested that member jurisdictions share the list of projects not on TDOT's list (Memo) with their legislators to further increase awareness of our region's needs at the legislative level.

A Motion was made by Gerald Green and seconded by Cindy Pionke to recommend approval of the ranking of proposed TDOT Highway Projects. The Motion carried unanimously.

6. Overview of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Cost Overruns and other Policy/Process Issues

Summary: As we prepare a new TIP for adoption in the spring staff has been exploring various issues related to managing the TIP. Staff will present a brief overview of the issues that the TPO should address in the next few months.

Discussion: Elizabeth Watkins noted in preparing the FY 25017-2020 TIP staff took the opportunity to reflect on the overall process and explore how we can better administer the TIPs. She also noted that the opportunities and challenges discussed today would only involve projects funded with L-STBG funds. TIP administration goals include efficiently and transparently programming L-STBG funds, maximizing project execution and encouraging project obligations. After reviewing projected L-STBG fund balances, she then presented and discussed multiple challenges including cost overruns, dormant projects, and administrative hurdles to managing the TIP and policy opportunities those challenges could present for enhanced management. She closed by touching on next steps. Ms. Watkins asked member jurisdictions to contact her with any other challenges they would like to discuss. She noted staff will be conducting a workshop immediately following the February 14, 2017 Technical Committee meeting to further discuss TIP management going forward. The presentation is available online and is located here: http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/jan17/tip_policy.pdf

7. Presentation on Tennessee River Barge Traffic/Marine Highway Designation

Item Summary: An overview of on the importance of barge traffic in East Tennessee and the desire to seek designation of the Tennessee River as a Marine Highway will be presented.

Discussion: Captain John Farmer, NavCal Marine Services, began by reviewing the national and state freight goals: Improve economic efficiency, productivity and comparativeness, reduce highway and rail congestion, improve safety, security and resilience and reduce adverse environmental and community impacts. He then spoke in detail about how barging meets all of those goals. He stressed the need for a Marine Transportation Authority in East Tennessee which could publicize and promote barging, increase the area freight transport efficiency and promote a proposed M-40/75 Marine Highway. Once an area is designated as a Marine Highway it is eligible for MARAD (Maritime Administration) grant money. A question and answer period then ensued. Jeff Welch clarified that the TPO and its funding is not engaged in the movement of goods along Tennessee Rivers although there are potential funding opportunities for Intermodal facilities. He noted staff could add additional language to the Mobility Plan Update to note potential future opportunities to assist with the movement of goods on barges. The presentation is available online and is located here:

http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/jan17/tn_river_barge_traffic.pdf

8. Other Business

- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Scott Allen noted he has accepted a job with FHWA's main headquarters in Washington, D.C. He was thanked for his support of the TPO over the last 4 years.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Gerald Green and seconded by Cindy Pionke to adjourn the meeting. The Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.