

TPO Technical Committee Minutes
June 10, 2014
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on June 10, 2014, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville. Chair Cindy Pionke 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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| *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 |
| *Houston Daugherty | Anderson County |
| *Mark Donaldson | Metropolitan Planning Commission |
| *Jim Hagerman | City of Knoxville |
| *Brooke Keyes | Sevier County, <i>for Jeff Ownby</i> |
| *John Lamb | Blount County |
| *Ted Newsom | Knoxville Commuter Pool |
| *Pat Phillips | City of Loudon and Loudon County |
| *Cindy Pionke | Knox County, <i>for Dwight Van de Vate</i> |
| *Jack Qualls | Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) |
| *Melissa Roberson | Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) |
| *Blake Sartin | Metro Airport Authority |
| *Darryl Smith | Town of Farragut |
| *Andrew Sonner | City of Alcoa |
| **Scott Allen | Federal Highway Administration |
| TPO Staff | |
| Partner Agency Staff | |
| Members of the Public | |
| *voting members | |
| **non-voting member | |

Technical Committee members agreed to hear Item 6 immediately after Item 1.

1. Approval of May 13, 2014 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of May 13, 2014 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Jim Hagerman to approve the May 13, 2014 Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Recommend Adoption of the PlanET Playbook as a Guide for the Next Regional Mobility Plan Update

Item Summary: TPO Staff requests that the Technical Committee endorse the PlanET Playbook as the basis for the development of the next Regional Mobility Plan for the Knoxville Transportation Planning Organization. The timeline for completion of the next mobility plan is 30 to 36 months (Spring 2017). The Playbook can be found online at <http://www.planeasttn.org/GrowStronger/RegionalPlaybook.aspx>

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted there was a Draft Motion for the Committee's consideration prepared prior to the meeting subsequent to discussions clarifying the language/intent of the requested Action. He then read the proposed draft.

It reads: *The TPO Technical Committee recommends endorsement of the PlanET Playbook and other PlanET documents and products as resources for the development of the next Regional Mobility Plan for the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization.*

Mr. Welch noted that that the next Update for the Mobility Plan needs to be adopted by the Technical Committee by June of 2017. He noted the research produced by a variety of groups from the University of Tennessee as well as numerous consultants, in addition to the public input received during the PlanET project has provided staff with a wealth of invaluable information to use to shape the next generation of our Regional Mobility Plan.

A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to approve the Draft Motion as read. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Greenway Guidelines for the East Tennessee Region

Item Summary: Created as part of the PlanET process, the Greenway Guidelines offer resources for greenway design professionals, trail activists, and newcomers to the world of greenway planning and design. Staff will present an overview of what's included in the Greenway Guidelines. They can be found online at <http://planeasttn.org/GrowStronger/DemonstrationProjects/GreenwayGuidelines.aspx>

Discussion: Ellen Zavisca noted this was another publication funded by PlanET and done in partnership with the University of Tennessee. She noted the intended audiences for the Guidelines were individuals beginning to learn about greenways, elected officials who may be approached by citizens wanting a greenway in their community, community activists interested in getting a trail and experienced planners and advocates. The project team intended for the Guidelines to have multiple uses: as an introduction to the design and planning of greenway systems and corridors, as a graphic reference for greenways in East Tennessee and also as a resource to guide readers to additional information. She noted the Guidelines contain an introduction to greenways and trail design, an overview of greenways in 3 typical east Tennessee landscapes, those being along water, those following a road network and the third, along rails. She then noted there is a visual index that provides details about things like surface materials, seating arrangements and amenities, to name a few. The guidelines also have a plant palate developed by the UT School of Landscape Architecture as well as guidelines for signing. Appendices are included at the end. Ms. Zavisca then provided a detailed overview of the document. The complete presentation can be found here:

http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/jun14/greenway_presentation.pdf

4. Presentation on Tennessee Regions Roundtable

Item Summary: An overview of the purpose of the Tennessee Regions Roundtable, partners and latest initiatives will be presented.

Discussion: Amy Brooks noted the Roundtable is a network of 5 lead organizations from across Tennessee and was formed in 2011. At that time the MPC was embarking on their PlanET effort, Chattanooga was beginning their Thrive 2055 effort (a similar but self-funded regional planning initiative) and Memphis was looking at how to improve their greenprint (green infrastructure) for which they also received a HUD grant. Key agencies from across the state joined together to share ideas, resources and strategies for what were clearly very similar goals and objectives, and to maximize connections at the federal level and with potential funders. Shared objectives were economic competitiveness, job creation, quality community development and what it looks like, ensuring that we have adequate choices for housing, transportation and workforce participation and lastly wise use of fiscal and natural resources. Ms. Brooks noted their first collaboration, the booklet *Navigating Our Future*, was funded by NATO and is a great resource for activities that occur across the state in support of quality community issues.

She noted pages 6 and 7 of the booklet lists all of the collaborating partners. Ms. Brooks noted the Roundtable has interest in accessing the expertise at the University of Tennessee. She further noted their second collaboration has been in support of TDOT's Multimodal Messaging work.

5. Presentation/Discussion on Statewide Multimodal Transportation Issues

Item Summary: Jessica Wilson from TDOT will discuss current multimodal issues and the messaging of multimodal in Tennessee.

Discussion: Jessica Wilson noted given the upcoming projected lack of federal funding, we need to rethink how we do things while trying to be the best multimodal state in the country. Per Governor Haslam, TDOT is working to become more efficient with what we already have. She stated several ways to accomplish that was to improve access control, increased use of ITS, encouraging more transit use and walking and bicycling on shorter trips. She noted that through a grant from Cumberland Region Tomorrow and Smart Growth America they worked to identify what kind of message speaks to people with regards to multimodal transportation solutions. They formed an advisory committee to come up with a messaging framework. TDOT then conducted several interviews with the advisory committee as well as elected officials across the state, city managers, public works and local government staff, economic development experts and chamber leaders. She noted an initial hurdle was that most people did not really understand and what multimodal actually meant. Ms. Wilson then reviewed the issues, similarities and differences from all of these interviews. Funding was an overriding factor mentioned consistently throughout the interviews. She reviewed the Tennessee themes derived from their research: economic development and jobs, talent attraction, community re-development, health, safety, choices and connections. They came through the process with the possible Summary Theme of "TDOT Multimodal: Choices + Connections = Opportunity".

Ms. Wilson then touched on multiple TDOT multimodal funding options and several examples of projects made possible from them. She noted through TDOT's Expedited Project Delivery they reviewed the projects currently "on the books" and were able to proceed with many improvements by "Right-Sizing" them. She noted there is a research report being finalized. The complete presentation can be found here:

http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/jun14/tdot_crt_presentation.pdf

6. Presentation/Discussion on Freight and East Tennessee: Energy, Industry and Commerce

Item Summary: A presentation on the capacity, use and resources related to freight in East Tennessee by Dr. Mark Burton, UT Center for Transportation Research.

Discussion: Dr. Burton noted freight is moving all around us and involved in everything we do, yet most people don't know about it, which is by design as most people do not enjoy being around freight. Dr. Burton noted Knoxville is in the center of a great, national freight network with top roadways, rail and waterways. He also noted our region has a very active private sector who invest in freight infrastructure as well as by housing operations centers in the state. He noted freight allows us to live in a global economy, manufacturing items we use all over the world, as it is simply the most cost effective way to move something from one place to another. Dr. Burton stressed that freight follows people. To understand what freight is, go to where the people are and see what they are doing. Most of our needs are met by freight at some point. Good roads, which Tennessee has, will attract pass through freight traffic, and we do capture fuel tax from this revenue, but extracting a larger amount from out of state users, such as utilizing tolling, has its obvious drawbacks. Dr. Burton shared his thoughts on how the soon to be completed expansion of the Panama Canal will affect freight regionally, noting Savannah and Charleston should see measurable increases in freight traffic, some of which may head in our direction. He closed noting that we need to continue to keep freight segregated as much as possible and to work carefully to integrate it as best we can during the last critical mile where integration into a community is typically required. The complete presentation can be found here: http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/jun14/freight_presentation.pdf

7. Other Business

- Executive Board Meeting Wednesday June 25, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, July 8, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- Smart Growth America and the National Complete Streets Coalition have released Dangerous by Design 2014, which looks at pedestrian fatalities across the country. You can see data for Tennessee broken down by city and county online at <http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/documents/dangerous-by-design-2014/dangerous-by-design-2014-tennessee.pdf>
- Cindy Pionke noted the MPC is hosting 2 Webinars: *Calming Arterial Streets* on Wednesday, June 18th and *Separated Bikeways* on Thursday, June 19th.

8. Public comment

Members of the public may address the Technical Committee with a five-minute time limitation for each person. There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Don Brown to adjourn. The Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Immediately following the meeting Jessica Wilson will lead an open discussion on multimodal issues and grant application process.