

**TPO Technical Committee Minutes  
October 10, 2017  
9:00 a.m.  
Small Assembly Room  
City County Building  
400 Main Street  
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on October 10, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building in Knoxville, TN. Chair Jeff Ownby presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined that there was a quorum. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves.

*Wayne Blasius	City of Oak Ridge
*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Don Brown	ETDD, <i>for Terry Bobrowski</i>
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway Area MTPO
*Karen Estes	Knox County CAC Transit
*Deanna Flinchum	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Gerald Green	Metropolitan Planning Commission
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville
*Jerome Joiner	TDOT, Region 1
*Chico Messer	Blount County
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County
*Jack Qualls	City of Loudon and Loudon County
*Blake Sartin	Metro Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	

**1. Motion to Approve September 12, 2017 TPO Technical Committee Minutes**

**Item Summary:** Approval of the September 12, 2017 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

**A Motion was made by Jim Hagerman and seconded by Cindy Pionke to approve the September 12, 2017 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Presentation on L-STBG Obligations and FY2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program Status Update**

**Item Summary:** Staff will report on FY2017Q4 Local-Surface Transportation Block Grant (L-STBG) obligations and general status update of projects funded with TPO-awarded grant funds (L-STBG and Transportation Alternatives) in the FY2017-2020 TIP.

**Discussion:** Elizabeth Watkins shared the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter update noting the purpose of these updates is to share our obligations progress with Committee members as well to provide an ongoing measure of the efficacy of our programming policies.

She stated that an obligation is the formal commitment from the federal government to reimburse a member jurisdiction for a project and noted that staff are using the amount of funds obligated as a performance measure. She then reviewed the FY 2017 L-STBG forecast, noting multiple reasons that obligations progress is important to our region. Ms. Watkins noted during this last quarter of FY2017, 4 projects in the current TIP entered NEPA, 7 entered preliminary design, 2 entered ROW, 1 entered construction and 2 were closed out. These projects were further outlined in a handout presented to the Committee that lists all of the locally funded projects in our region. Ms. Watkins also reviewed the FY2017 TAP obligations progress. She closed touching on the 11 TIP adjustments made this quarter. Jeff Welch noted that in the past STP allocations to MPO's have been protected from rescissions, however, there is a bill in the US House of Representatives that would allow state DOT's to dip into non-obligated STP funds, which if passed in the House and then Senate, could open us up to future rescissions. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

[http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/oct17/FY2017\\_Q4\\_TIP\\_Tracking.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/oct17/FY2017_Q4_TIP_Tracking.pdf)

### 3. Endorsement of Critical Urban Freight Corridor List

**Item Summary:** The 2015 FAST Act requires the designation of Critical Urban Freight Corridors (CUFCs) for the State of Tennessee. The Knoxville TPO is the lead agency for selecting CUFCs in the TPO area within a mileage limit set by TDOT, which is subject to a statewide maximum mileage limit. Designation of a CUFC allows projects that are located along that corridor to be eligible for National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) funding. This is the initial designation process and the CUFC network can be modified as determined necessary annually.

**Discussion:** Kevin Teagarden, Planning Specialist, TDOT Long Range Planning Division noted TDOT is in the process of updating their freight plan. A specific portion of that is the Critical Freight Corridor designation process. He noted however, as TDOT continues to do further evaluation on the actual designation process, they do not yet have a finalized list of mileage for endorsement today. He emphasized that this is a collaborative effort with regards to consultation and coordination between state DOT's and their respective MPOs/TPOs/RPOs as outlined in the FHWA guidance. He clarified that statewide, there will be a total of 100 miles for urban designations and 211 miles for rural designations, figures established by FHWA. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

[http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/oct17/Critical\\_Freight\\_Corridors.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/oct17/Critical_Freight_Corridors.pdf)

### 4. Complete Streets Technical Assistance

**Item Summary:** The TPO and City of Knoxville are part of a consortium (including Chattanooga and Nashville) receiving technical assistance from Smart Growth America (SGA) on implementing complete streets policies. Staff will share an update on the work.

**Discussion:** Ellen Zavisca summarized the events that led to the awarding of this assistance from SGA last spring, noting this consortium was the only awardee nationwide. SGA, in conjunction with the National Complete Streets Partnership, wanted to assist MPOs and local governments that had complete streets policies in place, and who wanted to learn more on how these policies can be effectively implemented and how can complete streets be built into the fabric of what we do on a daily basis. The first workshop took place in Chattanooga in September and was attended by a 10 member team from our region. A second workshop will take place in Nashville in December and a third will be Knoxville at the end of January 2018 and will focus on preventing bicycle and pedestrian crashes, specifically in the North Broadway corridor. All of the workshops look at complete streets in the rural, suburban and urban contexts.

## 5. Presentation on the Cumberland Avenue Road Diet Project

**Item Summary:** The City of Knoxville has substantially completed a road diet on Cumberland Avenue, former Highway 11/70. This presentation will highlight the plan, implementation, public input, decision making, and construction that brought about a new three lane cross section on time and within budget. The new road accomplishes the goal of “a more attractive, economically successful, vibrant and safe Cumberland Avenue.”

**Discussion:** Anne Wallace, City of Knoxville gave an overview of the redevelopment of the Cumberland Avenue corridor, stressing the high degree of collaboration of many public and private agencies as well as a series of public, stakeholder and business/property owner meetings that took place throughout the entire project, for which the initial planning began back in the fall of 2006. Noting a key element of the Cumberland project was leveraging, she highlighted 5 private investment projects totaling \$190 million leveraged from the \$25 million of public investment, with the potential for leveraging of an additional \$80 million involving 2 more projects. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

<http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/oct17/Cumberland Ave Road Diet.pdf>

## 6. Other Business

- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.
- TDOT has announced a new competitive capital grant program made possible by the IMPROVE Act. Transit providers that receive Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 or 5311 funds are invited to apply for up to \$3 million. The application deadline is November 17, 2017 at 5:00 PM Central time. Applications should be submitted to Matthew Long, TDOT Transit Manager, at [matthew.long@tn.gov](mailto:matthew.long@tn.gov) as well as [TDOT.MultimodalAdmin@tn.gov](mailto:TDOT.MultimodalAdmin@tn.gov). The application and instructions are available on the TPO website [www.knoxtrans.org](http://www.knoxtrans.org).
- Jeff Welch noted the City of Alcoa held a public meeting on the new downtown Master Plan with approximately 250 in attendance. Andrew Sonner noted they received mostly very positive comments and feedback and the City is very happy with the consultant’s efforts and resulting Plan.
- Trey Joiner noted there is an upcoming webinar on October 12th on the Request for Application (RFA) for Access to Health through Healthy Active Built Environments Funding Opportunity recently issued by the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH). The letters of intent for this grant are due on November 16<sup>th</sup>.  
<http://tn.gov/health/article/funding-opportunities>.
- Jeff Ownby, Chair, congratulated Brian Boone on being elected Vice Chair of the Technical Committee.

## 7. Public Comment

Bill Stack was present and spoke on behalf of the Halls Crossroads community. Mr. Stack expressed concern that the recently completed work on a very busy commercial stretch of Maynardville Highway, done by TDOT, which although has significantly improved traffic flow through their community, has no sidewalks, crosswalks or other pedestrian facilities.

He stated he reached out to TDOT through elected officials who noted that at the time this project was funded, funding for pedestrian improvements was not available, and as they knew it was necessary, acquired the ROWs and graded them for future sidewalks.

Mr. Stark stated he was here to stress the importance of funding these necessary pedestrian facilities in the Halls Crossroads community. Gerald Green and Jeff Welch both highlighted current initiatives implemented to address the need for increased pedestrian facilities along our roads and creating walkable communities.

## **8. Adjournment**

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