

**TPO Technical Committee
December 11, 2007
City/County Building
Small Assembly Room
Knoxville, TN**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on December 11, 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville. Darryl Smith, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order.

*Kathryn Baldwin	Anderson County
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville/Knox County MPC
*Deborah Fleming	Tennessee Department of Transportation for Angie Midgett
*Curtis Henry	City of Sevierville
*Steve King	City of Knoxville Engineering
*Jennifer Lehto	East Tennessee Development District for Terry Bobrowski
*Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee
*Russ Newman	Loudon County
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County Engineering for Bruce Wuethrich
*Scott Poland	City of Maryville
*Blake Sartin	Metro Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Melissa Trevathan	Knoxville Area Transit
*Kenny Wiggins	City of Alcoa for Chris Hamby
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Jeff Archer	Knoxville/Knox County MPC
Joe Barrett	Local Planning Assistance Office
Mike Brown	Transportation Services, Inc.
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Carberry	Knoxville/Knox County MPC
Monica Austin Carroll	City of Oak Ridge
Karen Estes	Knox County Community Action Committee
Jerry Everett	University of Tennessee Center for Transportation Research
John Fairstein	Citizens Against Beltway Orange Location
Kelsey Finch	Tennessee Department of Transportation – Civil Rights
Terry Gilhula	Knoxville/Knox County MPC
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Bart Hose	Local Planning Assistance Office
Midge Jessiman	Local Planning Assistance Office
Tim Kuhn	Knoxville/Knox County MPC
Tameka Macon	Federal Highway Administration
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Robert Shaw	Citizens Against Beltway Orange Location
Jim Ullrich	Citizen
Fred Wegmann	University of Tennessee
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
David K. Williams	Local Planning Assistance Office
Gerald Yuknavage	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*voting members

Jeff Welch introduced Tameka Macon from the Federal Highway Administration.

A quorum was declared by Chair Darryl Smith.

1. Approval of September 11, 2007, Minutes

Presenter: Darryl Smith, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of September 11, 2007, TPO Technical Committee minutes.

Background: Attachment #1 – September 11, 2007, Minutes.

A motion was made by Cindy Pionke and seconded by Scott Poland to approve the September 11 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Status of FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Recommend Approval of Amendments to the FY 2008-2011 TIP, and Notice of Administrative Adjustments to the FY 2008-2011 TIP

Presenter: TPO Staff

a. Item Summary: Add Pilot Locomotive Diesel Retrofit Project (2008-106).

Background: This TDOT-CMAQ diesel retrofit project will allow 12 Norfolk Southern locomotives to be fitted with automatic stop-start idle reduction systems. Norfolk Southern will fund the required 20-percent match.

Attachment #2a.

b. Item Summary: Add Pilot Road Construction Diesel Retrofit Project (2008-107).

Background: This TDOT-CMAQ diesel retrofit project will allow five pieces of heavy-duty construction equipment used in road construction projects to be repowered with a cleaner Tier 1 engine. Charles Blalock and Sons will provide the required 20-percent match. **Attachment #2b.**

c. Item Summary: Add Safe Routes to School Project Bucket (2008-108)

Background: The Safe Routes to School Bucket will provide funding for projects that focus on increasing the levels of walking and bicycling to school. Projects that were awarded grants this year include Sam Houston Elementary and Beaumont Elementary Schools. **Attachment #2c.**

d. Item Summary: Administrative Adjustment to Adjust Enhancement Program Projects (2008-067). This item does not require action.

Background: Funds (\$52,947 Enhancement/\$13,237 local) are transferred from the Pinkston Greenway to the French Broad River Greenway. **Attachment #2d.**

e. Item Summary: Administrative Adjustment to Adjust Purchase Vehicles for CAC (2008-085). This item does not require action.

Background: This adjustment corrects the 2008 local and state amounts from \$112,500 to \$22,500.

Attachment #2e.

Jeff Welch stated that the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and TIP was approved and then rescinded because our area is linked with Lakeway MPO for the LRTP and air quality. Lakeway had not submitted their LRTP, and ours could not be approved until theirs was approved. Their board approved the plan last week, and it has been forwarded to TDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Anticipate federal approval of Lakeway's reports shortly and then our documents will be approved again.

A motion was made by Blake Sartin and seconded by Cindy Pionke to approve item "a" to add TDOT-CMAQ funds to be used with Norfolk Southern matching 20 percent; and "b" using TDOT-CMAQ funding with Charles Blalock and Sons matching 20 percent and recommended sending these amendments to the Executive Board for their approval. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Scott Poland to approve item "c" using TIP funding for the Safe Routes to School Project Bucket and recommended sending it to the Executive Board for their approval. The motion carried unanimously.

Items d and e are administrative adjustments and do not need a vote.

There were two TIP amendment handouts. The first is for Cumberland Avenue regarding changing the local match to state match. Cumberland Avenue is part of the state/federal highway system, and TDOT will fund this item.

A motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Scott Poland to approve item “f” changing the Cumberland Avenue TIP from a local match to a state match using TDOT funding because Cumberland Avenue is a state highway and recommended sending it to the Executive Board for their approval. The motion carried unanimously.

The second TIP amendment is for Concord Road to be widened, adding curbs, gutters, sidewalks and bike lane from the intersection of Turkey Creek to Northshore Drive.

A motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Scott Poland to approve item “g” for the widening of Concord Road and recommended sending it to the Executive Board for their approval. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) Appointee

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Attachment #3.

Background: The Technical Committee established the BAC in 2001 and is responsible for approving new members.

Kelley Segars, TPO Staff, stated that the BAC was established 2001. Chris Woodhull wants to be a member of the BAC committee.

A motion was made by Russ Newman and seconded by Mark Donaldson to approve Chris Woodhull as a member of the BAC. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Bike/Ped Counts

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Attachment #4.

Background: Bicycle and pedestrian counts are conducted twice a year at several locations in Knoxville and Blount County.

Kelley Segars announced results of the bike counts. The count in Knoxville was taken in the center city, Maryville and Alcoa from 7-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. There was an increase in bicyclists in the area.

5. Urban Land Use Allocation Model Update

Presenter: Mike Brown, Transportation Planning Services, Inc.

Item Summary: Attachment #5 – ULAM Population and Employment Control Totals.

Background: The consultant will be providing an overview of the land use model that is being developed for the TPO. In addition, information on data that will be used for county-level population and employment control totals in our study area will be presented for information and comment.

Mike Conger, TPO staff, stated that our consultant is here to make a presentation. He is developing a land use model for TPO with a grant from TDOT. This model has been used extensively in Florida. He began the work on October 1, which requires data collection. The model will show existing land use, zoning and development constraints. MPC's GIS staff is providing the data for this project. There is a need for travel demand forecasting model for developing the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). It will be updated in 2009. The model will allow us to test what happens when you build a major road and what impact that will have. The model includes a nine-county region. We are developing a map of the traffic analysis zones.

Mike introduced Mike Brown from Transportation Services, Inc. Mr. Brown stated he will develop how much growth we going to need. The projected growth for 2025 will be put in the model. A 56-percent increase in population is expected by 2025 and 66-percent growth of employment. The model is called the Urban Allocation Model, which interfaces with GIS. Local land use planners can also use the model. Land types and zoning will be broken out. The model develops traffic projections for each land type by traffic zone. The land use model is

integrated with the transportation model. He listed what data he has for the nine counties and stated they take into account federal land. He will look at trends on what has been built in the counties. School enrollment should be

projected to 2025. The University of Tennessee Transportation Research Center will conduct a workshop to bring in local developers. They will be testing land use alternatives to develop the LRTP. The model will be completed on June 1, 2008.

Mike Conger asked for comments on the population data for each county by January 1.

John Fairstein, 11205 Sam Lee Road, asked how this project is being funded. Jeff Welch stated that TDOT is funding the project 100 percent. He asked how this relates to the 20-year-growth plan in relation to MPC, City Council and County Commission. Jeff stated that this is a tool that will be used by TPO, and each organization can use this data. Mark Donaldson stated that it would be an update to a sector plan using the data. John asked if County Commission has the ability to override a slope development decision that MPC makes. Mark responded that if it is a zoning decision they can, but if it is a subdivision, it would take court action. John asked if there is a sprawl index.

Mike Brown stated that is in the model. John asked how the public would find out about this information. Jeff Welch stated that the model is identifying land that could be redeveloped. This will not automatically mean the land will be rezoned. Mark stated that the public is notified about sector plans and rezonings. Jeff stated that the TPO Executive Board will be briefed on this.

Mike Carberry, MPC staff, asked about sewer services. Mike Brown responded that they will look at wells, sewers, drainage and utilities in the GIS model for the areas.

6. JARC/New Freedoms Update

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update of activities to date including requesting additional technical committee members to participate in the project selection process.

Background: The TPO is the Knoxville-area designated recipient for the JARC and New Freedom program funds and is required to award the program funds through a competitive selection process. Staff has been working with the Human Service Transportation Coordination Plan (HSTCP) Committee to prepare the application and process. Because some HSTCP Committee members may apply for funding it is recommended that additional technical committee members be added to the project selection process.

Doug Burton, TPO staff, stated that Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan (HSTCP) was adopted by the Executive Board. The TPO will be the direct recipient of the grants and therefore must be certified by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The TPO also had to produce a Program Management Plan that outlines the application and project selection process. The HSTCP Committee has met several times to design the application process. The Committee recommends using request for proposals (RFP) format to encourage innovation. The TPO will work with interested organizations to make sure projects are allowed under the strict FTA guidelines. The goal of the TPO staff is to advertise the funding availability and the RFP process in mid-to-late January. The HSTCP recommends that the HSTCP Committee review the applications and make recommendations to the Technical Committee. Because, one or more members of the HSTCP Committee may apply for the funds Doug asked for volunteers from the Technical Committee to help during the project selection process. Doug asked Technical Committee members to let him know over the next two months if they were interested in participating.

7. East Tennessee Quality Growth Update

Presenter: TDOT Staff

Item Summary: The TPO has continued to work with the team that planned the Plain Talk on Quality Growth Conference. A Steering Committee has begun meeting to lay the groundwork for a permanent organization to promote quality growth throughout the region.

Ellen Zavisca, TPO staff, gave a progress report on what has happened since the Plain Talk on Quality Growth Conference. The follow up activities will use the ideas from the conference, and a steering committee representing 12 counties is working to establish a nonprofit entity that would promote quality growth initiatives.

John Fairstein, 11205 Sam Lee Road, asked if the public would be able to attend the steering committee meetings. Jeff Welch stated that he would forward their request to the Chair of the working group.

8. Other Business

- **Technical Committee Meeting, January 8 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building. This meeting may be cancelled if there no items to be voted on, but an Executive Board meeting may have to be called to approve the Transportation Improvement Program.**
- **Legislative Luncheon, Friday, February 8, 2008, at noon at the Knoxville Convention Center.**
- **Executive Board Meeting, February 27 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building**
- **Certification Review of the TPO planning process by FHWA, FTA and EPA staff is scheduled for February 26 – 27, 2008, in Room 453 of the City/County Building. Public meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m., February 26 in the Small Assembly Room.**

9. Public Comment

There was no other public comment.

10. Adjournment