

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

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on September 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
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway Area Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville/Knox County MPC
*Chris Hamby	City of Alcoa
*Curtis Henry	City of Sevierville
*Steve King	City of Knoxville Engineering
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County Engineering for Bruce Wuethrich
*Blake Sartin	Metro Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Melissa Trevathan	Knoxville Area Transit
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Arran Addington	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Monica Austin	City of Oak Ridge
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Karen Estes	Knox County Community Action Committee
Mark Geldmeier	City of Knoxville Engineering
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Casey Wood	Town of Farragut
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*voting members

A quorum was declared by Chair Darryl Smith.

1. Approval of August 14, 2007, Minutes

Presenter: Darryl Smith, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of August 14, 2007, TPO Technical Committee minutes.

Background: Attachment #1 – August 14, 2007, Minutes.

A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Blake Sartin to approve the August 14 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Recommend Approval of a Resolution Adopting the 2005-2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update and Air Quality Conformity Analysis Update

To view the entire LRTP go to: www.knoxtrans.org/plans/lrtp2030/2007_draft_update.pdf

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: In response to SAFETEA-LU planning regulations, an MPO's long range transportation plan must

be compliant to the planning regulations. Numerous text changes were made to the plan to become in compliance. Some adjustments were made to the highway project schedule in recognition of higher construction costs and slower implementation. Two public meetings were held on this plan update. TDOT has reviewed and approved the plan and currently FHWA/FTA is reviewing it.

Background: The entire LRTP Update is not included in the packet as it has been distributed and discussed with the Technical Committee members at the July 10th committee meeting. We have attached the Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the LRTP Update. The participants in the air quality Interagency Consultation process have reviewed and commented on the conformity analysis.

Staff recommends the LRTP Update be recommended for approval to the Board subject to comments from FHWA and FTA. **Attachment #2a - Public Comments. Attachment #2b - Air Quality Conformity Analysis.**

Jeff Welch stated the LRTP Update needs recommendation for approval from the Technical Committee, and then it will be sent to the Executive Board for their approval. Two plan-specific public meetings were held. It has been reviewed by TDOT, and their comments were incorporated. It was sent to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and today's handout includes their recommendations for changes. Staff recommends we address these comments and make the changes before the Executive Board on September 24. We have moved projects out to 2014 and 2020 due to financial constraints. This is a plan update, and staff recommends approval. Staff is addressing the FHWA and FTA comments.

A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Chris Hamby to recommend Approval of a Resolution Adopting the 2005-2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update and Air Quality Conformity Analysis Update and send it to the Executive Board. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Recommend Approval of a Resolution Adopting the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

To view the entire TIP go to: www.knoxtrans.org/plans/tip08_11/tip08_11_draft.pdf

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The 2008-2011 TIP documents how federal and state funds will be expended on highway and public transportation projects in the urban area. Also included are projects for the McGhee Tyson Airport. There have been two public meetings to review the draft TIP. Comments that we received at these meetings are included in attachment 2a. We have made corrections that were requested by both our state and federal partners. Their comments are shown on Attachment 3b. **Attachment #3a - Summary of the 2008-2011 TIP. Attachment #3b - Comments from FHWA/FTA and disposition of those comments.**

Background: SAFETEA-LU requires a four-year TIP that is financially constrained.

Jeff Welch stated that the TIP has been before the Technical Committee twice. TDOT, FHWA and FTA have reviewed it, and staff has addressed their comments. It includes the FY 2008-2011 programs for funding from right-of-way acquisition to construction. He received some late information from TDOT yesterday, and the handout includes this information. There are three additional projects eligible for enhancement funds. Jeff asked for a recommendation for approval with these adjustments, which will be incorporated into the final TIP to be sent to the Executive Board.

A motion was made by Chris Hamby and seconded by John Lamb to recommend approval of the resolution adopting the 2008-2011 TIP with the changes to send to the Executive Board. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Recommend Approval of a Resolution certifying that the TPO transportation planning process is addressing the major issues in the area and that the process is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements.

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: As part of the TIP process, SAFETEA-LU planning regulations require that the TPO certify that our planning process is addressing major issues and meeting all the federal requirements. The attached resolution needs to be approved by the TPO Board and staff recommends approval. **Attachment #4 - Resolution.**

Jeff Welch stated that Attachment #4 will go into the TIP, and we have made sure we are in compliance with the regulations. Angie Midgett stated that we do not need a signed certification with it.

A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Blake Sartin to recommend approval to the Executive Board of a resolution certifying the transportation planning process is addressing the major issues in the area. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion of High Priority Transportation Issues/Projects

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Annually the TPO sponsors a meeting with our state legislators and TDOT administration to discuss our major transportation issues. Staff will plan for such an event if the TPO Technical Committee and Board feel that the event is beneficial.

Background: Attached is the material that was presented at the last meeting. **Attachment #5.**

Jeff Welch stated that annually the TPO has a luncheon with our legislators to discuss transportation issues. Attachment #5 is the priority projects list we distributed at the luncheon. Staff had questioned whether we should continue having the luncheon to discuss the projects with legislators. We will take this to the Executive Board in September to see if they feel we should continue the luncheon tradition. Darryl Smith stated that last year it was held in January instead of December and asked when it would be held next year. Jeff stated that after the legislative session is over is a good time. Darryl stated that we could go back to Fox Den Country Club in Farragut. Jeff stated that we have not held it in Blount County yet, but he is not sure where it will be held.

Angie Midgett stated that TDOT would like for the TPO to continue making a priority list even we do not have a luncheon. They appreciate the helpful input.

Kathryn Baldwin stated that the RPOs make a priority list also. The I-40 interchange at Sevierville was listed as the No. 1 priority. The RPO board made a priority list to share with TDOT. Angie stated that TDOT considers all the projects, new and old, when they are looking at projects for funding. The East Tennessee South RPO is a regional agency and still needs representatives from all the areas. Not everyone who should be represented understands how important the process is. A combined luncheon with the TPO and RPOs might be a good idea. Jeff stated that he will talk to the Executive Board about the possibility of combining the luncheon.

A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Chris Hamby to recommend these projects to the Executive Board and discuss a combined luncheon of the RPOs and TPO with the legislators. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Other Business

- **I-40/I-81 Corridor Public Meeting Tuesday, September 25 - See Attachment #6 for agenda.**
- **2008 Transportation Enhancement applications due to TDOT by November 30. Applications are not held over from year to year.**
- **Executive Board Meeting, Monday, September 24, at 10:30 a.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City/County Building to approve the LRTP and TIP**
- **Technical Committee Meeting, October 9 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**

Jeff Welch stated that staff needs origin and destination data for the Travel Demand Model. TDOT will fund a consultant to do license plate readings on major interstates. Law enforcement agencies will have to be contacted.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.