

TPO Technical Committee Minutes
August 12, 2014
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on August 12, 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.

*Kathryn Baldwin	City of Oak Ridge
*Terry Bobrowski	ETDD
*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Houston Daugherty	Anderson County
*Mark Donaldson	Metropolitan Planning Commission
*Karen Estes	CAC
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Mike Patterson	ETHRA, <i>for Gary Holiway</i>
*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), Region 1
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit (KAT)
*Blake Sartin	Metropolitan 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. Approval of July 8, 2014 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of July 8, 2014 Minutes TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Pat Phillips to approve the July 8, 2014 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Recommend Approval of Amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Item Summary: The following proposed Amendments to the TIP are listed below.

Staff recommends approval.

Discussion: Bryan Berry briefly reviewed the proposed Amendments to the TIP. He noted Attachment #2A is regarding an Amendment for an existing project in the TIP, the Tazewell Pike/Emory Road Intersection Improvements. TDOT requested that the STP funding be increased from \$2.6 million to \$5 million by adding \$2.4 million.

He then noted Attachment #2B is for a project to be added to the TIP for FY 2015, a TDOT Enhancement Grant Award project for the construction of an extension of an existing greenway along North Wright Rd. in Alcoa by 1.6 miles for a total project cost of \$849,978 (\$679,982 federal and \$169,996 local).

A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Darryl Smith to recommend approval of the Amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Overview of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Application Process

Presenter: Ellen Zavisca, TPO Staff

Item Summary: TDOT is accepting applications for its TAP funding through Nov. 3. Application information is on their website: <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/local/grants.htm>. For projects within the TPO planning area, TDOT requires that we review the application before submittal. We will need to receive draft applications by Oct. 20. TPO endorsement of applications prior to submittal to TDOT is optional. Any local government that wants the TPO to endorse its application before submittal should contact TPO staff by Oct. 3. Staff contact will be Kelley Segars.

Discussion: Ellen Zavisca reviewed the timeline for the application process.

4. Transit Grant Programs Update

Item Summary: The TPO is administering three Federal Transit Administration grants that are in various stages of approval. Staff will provide an update on the grants and related issues.

Discussion: Doug Burton gave an update on the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grants either administered directly by TPO staff or where staff assists the City of Knoxville to administer. He noted the grant process takes some time to complete and various issues can cause extra delays. Each grant is unique and it is very hard to anticipate where delays could occur. Mr. Burton noted funding approval for these grants has typically taken anywhere from 4 to 12 months. Fortunately for some agencies, the FTA grants have a pre-award authority which allows agencies to continue to provide transit services while the grants are going through the approval process. Mr. Burton then touched on a recently arisen issue concerning TDOT's policy of providing half of the local match to FTA grants. For capital grants the match ratio has been 80% FTA, 10% TDOT, and 10% local. For operating grants the ratio has been 50% FTA, 25% TDOT, and 25% local. He noted that the TPO was notified by TDOT that they were re-assessing the match policy and would no longer be providing a match to certain grants. The new policy would be retroactive to FY 2013. This presents a concern to both the TPO and local transit agencies as projects have not only been amended into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) but have also already been approved by FTA with the "traditional" matching ratios. The TPO staff and the local transit agencies met with Liza Joffrion, the Director of TDOT Multimodal Transportation Resources and Deputy Commissioner Toks Omishakin in late July. He noted TDOT staff agreed that the policy change was very late and they would look to see if they can find some transitional funding to help with FY 2013 and FY 2014. He then noted as of this date, the TPO has received notification that TDOT could help with the grants the TPO administers. TDOT also stated there was funding to match any capital project at the 80/10/10 rate (past and future projects). There has been no word yet on the Section 5307 urban area projects, administered by the City of Knoxville, that use funding for operations (TDOT provided a 25% match). Staff has requested that at a minimum, TDOT provide a 10% match to operating projects as TDOT has agreed to do with capital projects. TDOT is considering this request. Mr. Burton stressed that TDOT has put everyone on notice that changes will be occurring with the match policy for funding operations moving forward with FY 2015 and beyond. Mr. Burton then stated that the next application process would start soon. One concern regarding Section 5307 urban area funding, is if each agency is funded for 12 months at the same rate of funding they had received to-date, it is forecasted that there would be a shortage of approximately \$320,000 for FY 2015. For FY 2016 the shortage could grow to \$520,000.

5. Transportation Funding Update

Item Summary: On July 31, Congress passed and sent to the President for his signature a bill that transfers \$10.8 billion into the Highway Trust Fund, allowing the Trust Fund to stay solvent through May 2015, and extends MAP-21 funding authorization and policies for highway, mass transit, and safety programs through May 31, 2015.

Discussion: Jeff Welch gave an update noting congress just passed a 9 month, \$11 billion extension of Map-21 which takes us to the end of May 2015 for both the highway and transit sides of the Fund. Hopefully this will allow Congress to pass a more long term solution in those 9 months. He briefly touched on the attached recent article which speculates that next year there may need to be fuel tax increases at the state level to provide and maintain long term transportation services and infrastructure.

6. Complete Streets Policy

Presenter: Christy Smith and Carrie Turner, Safe Routes to School National Partnership

Item Summary: The Safe Routes to School National Partnership is supporting Bike Walk Knoxville in its collaboration with the City of Knoxville on a Complete Streets ordinance. Christy Smith and Carrie Turner will provide an overview of Complete Streets policy and why it matters. This will lead into the workshop following the meeting.

Discussion: Ellen Zavisca introduced the 2 guest speakers. Christie Smith gave a brief overview of their workshop being held immediately following the meeting and invited all Committee members to join them. She noted they feel there is great potential in this region for more Complete Streets policies. They will be sharing the types of policies and their most important elements as well as discussing potential next steps. Carrie Turner noted they would like to address the key elements in successful policies and further noted they would be sharing examples of successful ones.

7. Other Business

- Executive Board Meeting Wednesday August 27th at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, September 9th, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- Jeff Welch noted the Knoxville Area Planners Association is having their quarterly meeting on August 20th at the UT Visitors Center. John Lamb will be presenting on the health aspects of planning based on analysis of population growth. The meeting starts at 11:00 a.m.
- Jack Qualls noted a public meeting was being held tonight from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the SR 73/ US 321 intersection. It is taking place at the Lenoir City elementary school

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

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING THERE WILL BE A COMPLETE STREETS POLICY WORKSHOP.