

TPO Technical Committee Minutes
January 12, 2016
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, TN

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on January 12, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville, TN. 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
*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Don Brown	ETDD, <i>for Terry Bobrowski</i>
*Beth Collins	City of Lenoir City
*Karen Estes	Knox County CAC Transit
*Gerald Green	Metropolitan Planning Commission
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Janice Osborne (arrived late)	Knoxville Commuter Pool, <i>for Deanna Flinchum</i>
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County
*Pat Phillips	City of Loudon and Loudon County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County
*Jack Qualls	TDOT, Region 1
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit
*Blake Sartin	Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
**Scott Allen	Federal Highway Administration, TN Division
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	
**non-voting member	

1. Motion to Approve December 8, 2015 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of December 8, 2015 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by Blake Sartin and seconded by Jim Hagerman to approve the December 8, 2015 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Approve the Submission of Two Multimodal Access Grants to TDOT

Item Summary: Local governments submitted three applications for Multimodal Access Grant funding to TPO staff. The TPO has been asked to submit two projects from the region. A review committee met in December and discussed the three applications received. Staff will share the review committee's ranking. Members of the review committee were:

- Dr. Caroline Cooley, Bike Walk Knoxville
- Nicole Curtis, Loudon Utilities
- Donna Dixon, Blount County
- Carol Evans, Legacy Park Foundation
- Deb Haines, former member of TPO's Bicycle Advisory Committee

- Stephanie Wells, Anderson County Tourism Council
- From TPO staff: Jeff Welch, Amy Brooks, Tarren Barrett, Kelley Segars & Ellen Zavisca

Discussion: Ellen Zavisca briefly described the grant program and its focus which is to increase access and safety for people who are walking and bicycling in our transportation system, noting all submitted projects need to be close to a state route to be funded. She noted staff received 3 applications and described each project submitted, one each from the Cities of Lenoir City, Oak Ridge and Knoxville, with the applications from the Cities of Lenoir City and Oak Ridge scoring slightly higher than the application from the City of Knoxville. Ms. Zavisca noted a distinguishing factor being that Hall of Fame Drive is now a state route which would necessitate involving TDOT and that project readiness (to be able to complete the project within 18 months) was a large ranking factor. She also noted other larger scoring factors were safety and linking neighborhoods. She concluded stating that the review committee recommends submitting the projects submitted by the Cities of Lenoir City and Oak Ridge to TDOT.

A Motion was made by Beth Collins and seconded by John Lamb to approve the submission of two Multimodal Access Grants [as recommended by the review committee] to TDOT. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion of TDOT Identified Current Backlog and New Highway Projects

Item Summary: TDOT Commissioner John Schroer made a presentation to the Executive Board at their December meeting on highway project needs at the state and regional level. He discussed the financial outlook for transportation funding in the state and identified the current backlog (projects approved by the TN General Assembly and currently under development) of highway projects in our area. In addition he distributed a list of new highway projects (Identified Needs-Projects Not Currently Under Development)

Discussion: Mike Conger noted that TDOT has developed a list of backlogged projects which TDOT Commissioner John Schroer presented at the December 2015 Executive Board meeting. Comm. Schroer also spoke regarding funding issues both nationally and in Tennessee. Mr. Conger reviewed the list of backlogged projects in the TPO planning area. He noted that this is basically the same list of projects the TPO has been ranking at TDOT's request for the last 3 to 4 years save for a few projects that have moved into development. He then reviewed the list of new projects in our planning area, also touched on by Commissioner Schroer last month. Lastly, he reviewed a list staff developed in response to the ranking of projects process last year of other major project needs on state routes within our planning area. This list was approved by the Executive Board January 28, 2015 and was also submitted to TDOT. Mr. Conger asked member jurisdictions to review these lists as staff will ask for their recommendation for approval at the February Technical Committee meeting which will then go before the Executive Board at their February meeting for final approval. Jeff Welch noted that in February the Executive Board will be voting on a Resolution in support of increased transportation funding, regionally as well as statewide. Staff are seeking Technical Committee support for projects in our region to be included with the Resolution. He noted this support can extend to multimodal projects as well. He asked that Committee members review the lists and if there are other projects they feel should be included on them to note them and provide staff with some background information. Staff will then compile a final list to submit. Chair Cindy Pionke asked that Committee members give their feedback on the lists to staff by January 26th.

4. Discussion on Mobility Plan Update

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the process to update the Mobility Plan 2040: Connecting People and Places

Discussion: Amy Brooks noted for the last 6 months staff have been working on the Mobility Plan Update, due to be adopted in the spring of 2017. She noted staff do not plan to do a major rewrite of the 2013 plan as much of that information is still relevant. The Horizon Year will remain the same but staff will be looking at ways to incorporate what we learned from PlanET as well as incorporating some of the

resources generated from that process. The major focus of this update will be to review the selection criteria for which projects are included in the Mobility Plan.

She noted staff will be seeking input from both the Technical Committee as well as from the Mobility Advisory Committee (MAC) on the selection criteria used in the 2013 Plan update. She also noted a focus with the selection criteria will be to look at how to move more projects to implementation. She then touched on additional topics for the January 28th MAC meeting. Ms. Brooks noted staff plan to have a workshop with Committee members in early February to solicit their feedback on the selection criteria and to share feedback received from the MAC. She reviewed future initiatives for the 2017 update over the next 12 to 18 months including a Call-for-Projects in late March followed by a public launch of a draft list of projects later this spring, which will likely include an interactive website. Ms. Brooks then noted staff will begin to meet with individual member jurisdictions in mid to late February. It was clarified that all current and potential new projects for the Mobility Plan will be assessed during this update.

5. Election of Officers

Item Summary: The Bylaws state that the Technical Committee shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from its membership. Such election shall be by a majority vote of that membership. Election of officers shall take place on the first meeting of the calendar year and term of office shall be for one year.

An officer is eligible to serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms. The current officers, Cindy Pionke, Chair and Kathryn Baldwin, Vice Chair have served two consecutive terms.

Discussion: Jeff Welch reviewed the election process as identified by the current By-Laws.

A Motion was made by Pat Phillips and seconded by Gerald Green to suspend the By-Laws for the purpose of allowing Cindy Pionke continue to serve as Chair for one more year. A general vote was taken [however following immediate further discussion there was consensus that a roll call vote be taken].

Further Discussion: A discussion ensued with regards to suspending the bylaws for this purpose which included the process of amending them. The historical length of the term, and its subsequent pros and cons were also briefly discussed.

A roll call vote on the Motion on the floor was taken:

Ayes 2 Nays 13 Abstain 2 **The Motion failed.**

A Motion was made by Brian Boone and seconded by John Lamb to nominate Kathryn Baldwin as Chair. The Motion carried unanimously.

John Lamb declined a Motion by Gerald Green to nominate him as Vice-Chair.

A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Pat Phillips to nominate Jeff Ownby as Vice Chair. The Motion carried unanimously.

6. Other Business

- Cindy Pionke shared that 2016 is the 50th anniversary of the Tennessee Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers. This year they are trying to do a lot of outreach. February 18th is the actual date of the signing of the charter. As a member of the southern district the TN Section is having their annual meeting in Nashville. Further, they are doing a joint TAPA- TSITE meeting in September. Details to follow as they unfold.
- The January 27, 2016 Executive Board meeting has been cancelled due to the lack of Action Items.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.

- At the March Technical Committee meeting Allen Jones from TDOT will be there to present on a study done by TDOT with consultants on severe weather and the liability and resiliency of our transportation system.
- The Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council will be hearing from Charles Sims at their January meeting about potential economic impact of Knoxville's Urban Wilderness trail system. He published a white paper on the topic last summer. He'll be speaking at 12:30 p.m. Jan. 14 in the Toyota Auditorium at the Baker Center on Cumberland Avenue. Anyone is welcome to attend. The white paper can be found here: <http://bakercenter.utk.edu/2015/06/19/economic-potential-of-south-knoxvilles-urban-wilderness/>
- Reminder: Letters of Intent for CMAQ PM 2.5 Funding (Diesel) are due to TDOT by January 15, 2016. Jack Qualls noted the criteria they are looking at involve diesel engines that are 2006 and older and projects looking to replace or retrofit these engines. He encouraged Committee members to take advantage of these funds. There is a 20% local match.
- Jeff Welch noted that those organizations that have been identified to receive Transportation Alternative Program funds need to have their paperwork to Lisa Dunn at TDOT by July 1, 2016 so they can get the funds obligated and the projects moving forward.
- East Tennessee Quality Growth will be having a conference on April 28th at the airport Hilton Inn. Details will be shared as they become available.
- Jack Qualls noted that TDOT's local programs is having a training on February 9th at the Region 1 office. It is a required training for any municipality, government or county that receives grants. Committee members can register on the TDOT website.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Pat Phillips to adjourn. The Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.