

TPO Technical Committee Minutes
June 12, 2012
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on June 12, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building in Knoxville. Vice-Chair, Leslie Johnson, presided and called the meeting to order.

*Perrin Anderson	Sevier County, <i>for Greg Patterson</i>
*Kathryn Baldwin	Anderson County
*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville-Knox County MPC
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville
*Leslie Johnson	Lenoir City
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Phil Layman	ETDD, <i>for Terry Bobrowski</i>
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
*Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC)
*Pat Phillips	Loudon County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Dwight Van de Vate</i>
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit (KAT)
*Jeremy Pearson	City of Alcoa, <i>for Andrew Sonner</i>
John Benditz	Kimley-Horn & Associates
Caroline Cooley	TPO Bicycle Advisory Committee
Corbin Davis	Federal Highway Administration - TN
Karen Estes	Knox County CAC Transit
John Hunter	City of Knoxville
Larry McGoogin	Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
Kimery Smith	Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
Anne Wallace	City of Knoxville
Jeff Welch	Director, Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)
Bryan Berry	Metropolitan Planning Commission Staff
Terry Gilhula	Metropolitan Planning Commission Staff
Alan Huff	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

Determination of Quorum: It was determined that there was a quorum by Vice-Chair Leslie Johnson (Lenoir City)

1. Approval of May 8, 2012 Minutes

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: Leslie Johnson, Vice-Chair

Item Summary: Approval of May 8, 2012 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

Attachment #1 – May 8, 2012 Minutes

Action: A motion was made by Cindy Pionke (Knox County) and seconded by Mark Donaldson (MPC) to approve the May 8, 2012 Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Consider an Amendment to the Bylaws of the Technical Committee and Executive Board to add a Voting Member from the City of Oak Ridge

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Metropolitan Planning Area expansion to include the City of Oak Ridge was approved by the Executive Board and concurred with by the Governor. Now that the City of Oak Ridge is within the TPO's Metropolitan Planning Area and the new 2010 urbanized area they are eligible to become a voting member of the Technical Committee and the Executive Board. The Technical Committee will consider an amendment to the bylaws to add the City of Oak Ridge as a voting member. As required by the bylaws this amendment has been listed as an agenda item and discussed at a previous meeting. The Technical Committee will also review and if appropriate make a recommendation to the Executive Board that they amend their bylaws to include the City of Oak Ridge as a voting member.

- a. Motion to Amend the Bylaws of the Technical Committee to Include the City of Oak Ridge as a Voting Member.

Attachment #2a – Draft Technical Committee Bylaws

- b. Motion to Recommend to the Executive Board Approval of the Amended Executive Board Bylaws to include Oak Ridge as Voting Member

Attachment #2b – Draft Executive Board Bylaws

Discussion: Jeff Welch (TPO) stated that amendments to include the City of Oak Ridge as a voting member of the Technical Committee and Executive Board have been prepared and presented to both the Committee and the Board for consideration. The amendments, presented at the last meeting included Article XI, Allocation of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds, which reflects that STP funds will not be allocated outside of the Knoxville urbanized area boundaries (revised) unless approved by a 2/3 majority vote of the Technical Committee and Board. Mr. Welch clarified that although there can be some smoothing out of the boundaries as makes sense, the amount of funds allocated will not change.

Action: A Motion was made by Pat Phillips (Loudon County) and seconded by Perrin Anderson (Sevier County) to approve adoption of the Technical Committee Bylaws, as presented, to include the City of Oak Ridge as a voting member. The Motion carried unanimously.

Action: A Motion was made by Pat Phillips (Loudon County) and seconded by Perrin Anderson (Sevier County) to recommend to the Executive Board adoption of the amended Executive Board Bylaws to include the City of Oak Ridge as a voting member. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Regional Mobility Plan Updates

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff continues to move forward with efforts to update the Regional Mobility Plan. Staff presented an initial draft Project Application form in May and made updates (Attachment #3) based on comments received as well as based on research of other practices.

Attachment #3 - Draft Project Application

Discussion: Alan Huff (TPO) noted that the Draft Project application, presented at the last meeting, has been updated to reflect the changes requested by the Technical Committee. There have also been small changes, such as on page 2, allowing for more detail in the Transit and Bike/Ped Facility Scope of Work sections. A separate page for any additional information that may be needed to further clarify the project was added. Mr. Huff clarified that there will be a 60-day period to complete and return the application once it is distributed. He also stated that as with the Outreach Plan, the focus of the current update of the Mobility Plan is to make the document clearer, to shorten it, and to provide technical details in the appendices. TPO staff will also be focusing on improved graphics to better present data.

4. Quarterly TIP Project Status Update

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff is looking to begin a quarterly email to municipalities and entities with projects in the current Transportation Improvement Program and ask for project status updates.

Attachment #4 – Sample Quarterly Project Update

Discussion: Jeff Welch (TPO) noted that TPO staff has been in discussion for over a year regarding improving everyone's base knowledge of the use of local STP projects that are in our TIP, especially given the large balance currently being carried. Staff will be compiling a quarterly report, the first of which will be prepared at the end of June or early July. The Technical Committee and Executive Board can then be kept up to date with where we are in the implementation stage for each project that has been programmed. Mr. Welch further noted this information can be shared with our federal and state partners.

5. Release of Final Designations for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: EPA recently published final ozone designations for the 2008 ozone NAAQS. The effective date is July 20, 2012. The area in Nonattainment includes Anderson (part), Blount County, and Knox County.

Attachment #5 – Map of Old and New Ozone Nonattainment Areas

Discussion: Mike Conger (TPO) noted that although our area is no longer in Attainment for Ozone, the area of Nonattainment for ozone did shrink considerably. The new area consists of Knox and Blount Counties as well as a portion of Anderson County, which encompasses the Bull Run steam plant, a major emission source. The areas that are no longer part of the Nonattainment area are the rest of Anderson County, Loudon, Sevier, and Jefferson Counties and the small part of Cocke County that is in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The new Nonattainment designation becomes effective on July 20, 2012. This date starts a one year clock to demonstrate conformity for the new standard. Mr. Conger stated that conformity requirements will be revoked for the counties not in the 2008 Nonattainment area, for which the biggest impact to us will be the removal of our nonattainment ties to the Lakeway TPO as we no longer will need to coordinate efforts in the overlap area in Jefferson County. Mr. Conger stated that of the 9 ozone monitors located in our region, only one of them exceeded the 2008 standard of 75 parts per billion (ppb), which was the Look Rock monitor in Blount County. He clarified that the areas that have been removed from Nonattainment would still be considered as maintenance areas for a 20-year period, and that they should still be eligible for CMAQ funds. Mr. Conger further clarified that the air quality standards have to be reviewed every 5 years by EPA and the ozone standard could be revised lower again as early as next year, which could have a significant impact since several monitors in the area are barely meeting the current 75 ppb standard.

6. Regional Greenway Planning Studies

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: Jeremy Pearson

Item Summary: Discussion of request by Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council (RGC) for TPO planning funds to undertake three regional greenway planning studies over three years. The studies will be overseen by TPO staff, with local match paid by the RGC.

Attachment #6 – Regional Greenway Planning Study

Discussion: Jeremy Pearson (City of Alcoa) introduced himself and noted he currently sat as Vice-Chair on the Great Smoky Mountain Regional Greenway Council, representing the City of Alcoa. The Council is a coalition of local governments, agencies, and individuals that work together to coordinate, promote, and plan greenway connections in the greater Knoxville region. Mr. Pearson stated the Council would like to request TPO funds to develop a series of 3 greenway planning studies over a 3-year period, with a cost of between \$25,000 and \$50,000 per study. TPO would contract with consultants to conduct the studies and each study would involve a public process to engage the public for input. Jeff Welch (TPO) noted that these efforts could be combined with similar conceptual efforts of a regional greenway plan in conjunction with the PlanET process, which may also allow for maximizing available funds at both the TPO and PlanET levels. A brief discussion ensued with regards to funding options and staff will bring specifics on how these may be funded to the next meeting.

7. Call for Studies for FY 2013 & FY 2014 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP)

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Discussion and update on the draft FY 2013 & FY 2014 Transportation Planning Work Program. Staff is seeking any special studies or issues that TPO membership would like to have conducted.

Discussion: Jeff Welch (TPO) noted that staff is close to finalizing the Draft Transportation Planning Work Program for our urbanized area. Input was received last week from FTA, FHWA, and TDOT which involve mostly editorial changes. The deadline for input is June 30. Mr. Welch noted that transportation is now being combined and intertwined with other things like livability, obesity, diabetes, economic development, and the needs of the elderly. He further noted TPO needs to integrate these other initiatives into the overall planning process and use of transportation dollars.

8. Summary of Regional ITS Architecture Update Study

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff and Consultants

Item Summary: The Knoxville Regional ITS Architecture Update Study is nearing its conclusion. A representative of the consulting firm Kimley-Horn & Associates will provide a summary overview of the final Regional ITS Architecture and ITS projects identified in the Strategic Deployment Plan.

Discussion: Mike Conger (TPO) introduced the TPO's consultant, John Benditz of Kimley-Horn & Associates. Mr. Benditz noted this study involved an update of existing regional ITS architecture which serves as a blueprint for ITS deployment within the region. The Strategic Deployment Plan provides a long range plan for deployment and integration. It involves numerous agencies in the region and serves as documentation of the inter-connectability of the emergent programs. Mr. Benditz noted the study also involved an ITS master plan for Sevier County. He noted the main thrust of the ITS program is to look at the various transportation issues in the region as well as to look at the availability of ITS solutions that exist in the marketplace. Mr. Benditz stated the Plan supports integrated ITS deployment throughout the entire region. The emergent systems can be designed to

link together with existing systems and the process encourages use of specific standards as well as use of shared resources. Mr. Benditz stated this will assist in avoiding overbuilding and duplication of infrastructure investments.

The program involved a series of stakeholder meetings involving both the public and private sectors that were conducted in both Knoxville and Sevier County. The program involved 3 primary steps: identifying existing ITS inventory, looking at individual ITS service packages available that would meet the needs of this region, and identification of projects for deployment within the region. The focus of the service packages are traffic management, traveler information, emergency management, transit management, and archival data. Mr. Benditz noted that currently they are actively involved in identifying a deployment plan for the region. The Draft denotes short, mid and long term projects for the region identified by stakeholders. A brief discussion took place with regards to funding options for the projects. Mr. Benditz remarked that the Plan has an established process allowing for revisions and updates as necessary. He noted there is a website that contains all of the documents under review and that the draft documents have already been sent to the stakeholders for review. Once input has been received they will update the Draft Plan documents and then resend them back to the stakeholders. He noted they would be finalizing the documents by the end of the month.

Mike Conger (TPO) discussed the next steps in using this Plan going forward. He noted that TPO is looking to develop an ongoing planning for operations emphasis which involves focusing on integrating these types of management and operations strategies into the long range planning process. He further noted that it is in fact a requirement under SAFTEA-LU that long range transportation planning include management and operations strategies. TPO staff wants to develop an ongoing regional operations task force which would consist of 2 separate sub-task groups. One would address incident and emergency management; the other would address traffic and transit management. These task forces would be engaged as TPO finalizes the long range mobility plan update due next year.

9. Other Business

Update on PlanET: Jeff Welch (TPO) stated that the 5 stakeholder groups were meeting this week to review all of the data now available for the 5 county PlanET area. The groups are working on a vision statement as well as a scenario plan for the 5-county area.

Federal Legislation Update: Jeff Welch (TPO) noted that it is looking less optimistic that the joint house and senate committee will get long term transportation legislation out without another extension as SAFETEA-LU expires again at the end of June. They will most likely seek another extension that will go until the end of the year and beyond the next election cycle.

TDOT Update: Angie Midget introduced Larry McGoogin and Kimery Smith from the local TDOT programs office. Ms. Smith is the contact for the Region 1 area.

Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, June 27, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building

Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, July 10, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building

10. Public comment

Members of the public may address the Technical Committee with a five-minute time limitation for each person.

11. Adjournment There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

**Urbanized Area Boundaries Workshop
June 12, 2012
(Following the TPO Technical Committee Meeting)**

Jeff Welch (TPO) began the workshop by stating TPO staff wanted to provide an overview of the new urbanized area boundaries released for 2010 by the US Census Bureau.

Bryan Berry (TPO) noted that there were 4 areas of importance TPO staff wanted to touch on during this workshop. They are:

- The definition of what is an urban area
- How is an urban area designated
- Historical data for the Knoxville urbanized area (reflecting approximately a 30-year span)
- Look at the Metro Planning Area and it's relation to the Knoxville urbanized area

It was clarified that an Urban Cluster is the core of a Micropolitan Area, which are smaller than Metropolitan Statistical areas. A Micropolitan Area will have an Urban Cluster with a population no greater than 49,999 whereas an MSA will have an Urbanized Area at its core with a population of at least 50,000. Mr. Berry reviewed an overview of the steps outlined by the Census Bureau, found in the Federal Register, of how Urbanized Areas and Urban Clusters are identified and delineated, and potentially expanded through smoothing. The new Urbanized Area Boundaries were released in March of 2012. Mr. Berry presented information showing a 30-year historical expansion from 1990 through 2010.

Mr. Berry discussed the next steps which include:

- Adjusting (or smoothing) of the Urbanized Area boundary
- Defining the 2012 Metropolitan Planning Area
- Amending the bylaws

Jeff Welch stated that TPO staff would meet with each county to look at smoothing, and their MPA expansions, in more detail prior to reconvening at a second workshop to review staff assessment. He further stated that staff would target this for completion by October 2012.

Mike Conger (TPO) noted that as part of the PlanET process, TPO staff is moving to a new Land Use Forecasting Model to identify growth patterns. Subsequently when staff meets with each county to look at smoothing and MPA expansions they will also be discussing where each county is projecting growth over the next 20 years. He noted staff would be meeting with everyone around the middle of July.