

TPO Technical Committee Minutes
November 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 November 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.

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| *Kathryn Baldwin | City of Oak Ridge |
| *Don Brown | ETDD, <i>for Terry Bobrowski</i> |
| *Brian Boone | City of Maryville |
| *Beth Collins | City of Lenoir City |
| *Mark Donaldson | Metropolitan Planning Commission |
| *Karen Estes | CAC |
| *Jim Hagerman | City of Knoxville |
| *Brooke Keyes | Sevier County, <i>for Jeff Ownby</i> |
| *Ted Newsom | Knoxville Commuter Pool |
| *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 October 14, 2014 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of October 14, 2014 Minutes TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by Blake Sartin and seconded by Beth Collins to approve the October 14, 2014 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Recommend Approval of the Title VI Report

Item Summary: As the recipient of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding, the TPO is required to prepare a Title VI Report every three years. The requirements are outlined in FTA Circular 4702.1B that details the information, data, and maps that must be submitted. It is required that the Executive Board approves the Report. The TPO follows the FTA recommendation that the Report be structured to mirror the FTA Title VI Report checklist. The TPO is required to follow Title VI with all sources of federal transportation funding, but this Report specifically focuses on FTA funding. Attached is a Summary of the Title VI Report. The complete Report can be found here: <http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/nov14/att2a.pdf>

Discussion: Doug Burton noted the Title VI reflects adherence to civil rights laws in the awarding of federal funds by the TPO to local projects. He noted that because our urban area has a population over 200,000 we are required to adhere to both the General Requirements and the [Program] Specific-Requirements for MPO's outlined in the FTA Circular.

Mr. Burton noted this is the first time in his tenure here that the Circular requires that the Executive Board endorse/adopt the Report. He noted staff has followed the checklist in preparing the Report, as is recommended by FTA. Mr. Burton then reviewed the General Requirements highlighting the Title VI Notice which is posted at all of the public areas of the MPC/TPO office, and also noting this Notice is included in all of the vital documents produced. He further highlighted the Complaint Procedures and Complaint Form. Addressing the Specific Requirements, Mr. Burton described the demographic information and maps contained in the Report reflecting the profile of the area, GIS mapping, US Census and transit performance data and surveys used to measure the mobility needs of minority and disadvantaged populations in our area, impacts of the distribution of state and federal funds for public transportation for each census tract and lastly, the results of the required analysis of the distribution of state and federal transit funds for our area (FY 2013). He referenced the PlanET project which included an Equity Team that generated a regional Equity Report as well as a vast amount of information on minority/disadvantaged populations that can be obtained from the ETIndex tool, another PlanET product. The entire presentation can be found here:
http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/nov14/title_vi_presentation.pdf.

A Motion was made by Melissa Roberson and seconded by Pat Phillips to recommend to the Executive Board approval of the Title VI Report. The Motion carried unanimously.

- 3. Recommend Approval of a Resolution Supporting Retention of the Existing Fort Loudon Dam Bridge**
Item Summary: This resolution was submitted at the request of Lenoir City and Loudon County. Preserving the existing structure would provide a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a non motorized crossing over the Tennessee River in East Tennessee.

Discussion: Doug Burton noted that a parallel bridge is being built to accommodate traffic and this existing bridge, if retained, would provide an opportunity for a pedestrian bridge. Mr. Burton noted staff is in Agreement with Loudon County representatives and supports recommending approval of Resolution that endorses retention of the bridge. Pat Phillips noted the current bridge is located on a TVA dam. TVA has been forthcoming about wanting to remove the bridge for a number of reasons including security and cost. He noted the new bridge that is being constructed by TDOT does not have pedestrian and/or bike facilities. Mr. Phillips noted the purpose of this initiative is to allow the existing bridge to tie into the greenways and trails along Tellico Lake and Tellico Village and essentially provides a link from Tellico Village into the City of Lenoir City. He further noted this has been a project endorsed by State Representative Jimmy Matlock. He also noted it appears that TDOT is OK with retaining the bridge with the biggest opposition coming from TVA. Mr. Phillips clarified that TVA has been approached by Representative Matlock as well as others from Loudon County and TVA is not taking a position either way at this juncture. Andy Sonner noted reluctance to move forward at this time with a recommendation without additional information. Mr. Phillips noted Loudon County government and Lenoir City government (to the best of his knowledge) have adopted this Resolution. Brian Boone noted that it has been well documented over the years that TVA wanted the structure removed from the dam and questioned in essence forcing them to retain and hence maintain it without additional discussion and review of this initiative with TVA. Mr. Phillips noted this was only to demonstrate support of retention of the bridge and noted he felt it was asset to the community and would enhance pedestrian and bicycle activity in the area. Kathryn Baldwin agreed that this was only a recommendation and melds well with initiatives in other cities to maintain and expand pedestrian and bicycle activities. Jim Hagerman suggested having someone from TVA come to the Executive Board who may have additional information/clarification to share and also agreed it was just a request to the appropriate parties.

A Motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Jim Hagerman to recommend approval [to the TPO Executive Board] of a Resolution Supporting Retention of the Existing Fort Loudon Dam Bridge. The Motion carried by a vote of 14 to 3.

- 4. Overview of the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects for FY 2014**
Item Summary: Each year the TPO is required to make available to the public a listing of all transportation related projects in which federal funds were obligated in the past fiscal year.

Discussion: Bryan Berry noted these projects are all FY 2014 projects and are all in the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. He noted the report provides an historical perspective of obligated funds programmed and obligated each year since 2007. It also reflects the FY 2014 obligations by programming authority, funding source and system type. Lastly he noted the report contains a table which lists of all projects obligated in FY 2014.

5. Update on TDOT Multimodal Grant Applications

Item Summary: TDOT has put out a call for applications for Multimodal funding grants. The TPO is to review any proposed application(s) and submit two to TDOT for consideration. There was only one application submitted and that was from the City of Knoxville for multimodal improvements near the intersection of Kingston Pike and Papermill Drive. The TPO staff will review the application and offer any modifications prior to submittal to TDOT. No further action is required by the TPO.

Discussion: Kelley Segars clarified these grants are 95 % state dollars with a 5% local match. Jack Qualls noted there was approximately \$10 million to be awarded this grant cycle, the second year of a 3 year, \$30 million initiative.

6. Presentation on Knox County Strategic Transportation Plan

Item Summary: The Knox County 2014 Strategic Transportation Plan (STP) Needs Assessment Report will be presented. The STP study was completed for minor arterials, major collectors and minor collectors as well as about a dozen local roads that serve public schools. For the first time in Knox County, existing road width and ADT were reviewed simultaneously with two years of crash data from the TITAN system to begin prioritizing road improvements.

Discussion: Cindy Pionke, Hollis Loveday (CDM Smith) and Kevin Cole (CDM Smith) presented the Plan. Ms. Pionke noted this Plan has been underway in Knox County for over a year and will be completed soon, but will also be updated next Spring once the calendar year 2014 crash data becomes available. She gave a brief historical overview of strategic transportation planning in Knox County. She noted they began to look at crash data back in 1999 to help determine where their problem areas were and where they should putting their capital dollars. She then noted that as the projects from those previous plans (some back to 1995 and 1996) had been completed they realized they need to revisit the remaining projects on that list to see if they were indeed still relevant as well as identify new projects that are needed. In 2013 Knox County decided to conduct the Knox County Strategic Transportation Plan for 2013 and 2014. Kevin Cole noted that as they developed the tools used in this Plan they wanted something that could be readily updated with regards to projects and future scenarios to assist with project prioritization. He noted that in creating the database for this plan they were able to access data from multiple entities/sites combining vast amounts of data including TDOT's eTRIMS for things such as specific roads geometric features and inventory, TITAN, software used by law enforcement to record geo-referenced crash data which could be assigned to a map to identify crash patterns, the TPO Travel Demand Model for existing and future traffic volumes, Google Pro to spot-check values from eTRIMS and the MPC which provides ADT counts. ArcView is the base GIS tool built for Knox County where they can view all of the ongoing and future projects on any road segment. This tool also contains a weighted severity index which can be assessed for any road segment in Knox County. They have subsequently recommended 25 projects for prioritization. The complete presentation is located here:
http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/nov14/knox_county_strategic_transportation_plan_presentation.pdf

7. Update on TDOT's Long Range Transportation Plan

Item Summary: TDOT's 25-Year Long-Range Transportation Plan is a multimodal document that guides the Department's funding and policy decisions by considering various public input on how transportation investments should be implemented. The plan examines current and future needs while testing user-based development scenarios in order to build, operate and maintain a sustainable, multimodal system throughout Tennessee. Unlike previous documents, this document will include a 10 year strategic investment plan that is fiscally constrained.

Discussion: Jack Qualls noted the update for TDOT's Long Range Transportation Plan began in the summer of 2013. He noted to date they have had over 11,000 participants in the process. They intend to complete the plan in 2015. Please visit the link provided and participate in the survey if you have not already done so. The survey is located here: <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/transportationplan/survey.shtml>.

8. Presentation on TPO Traffic Camera

Item Summary: The TPO conducts bicycle and pedestrian counts twice a year at several intersections. In order to increase the efficiency of these counts, the agency recently purchased a video camera and DVR system that can be placed at intersections, allowing counts to be conducted while viewing the video footage on a computer screen at any time. Staff will demonstrate the system, which can be used through the TPO area, for any kind of counts, including turning movements and vehicles. *This Agenda item was deferred to a later date.*

9. Notice of Election of Officers for 2015

Item Summary: Staff wanted to alert Committee members that election of officers will take place during the first meeting in 2015. The Bylaws state that the Technical Committee shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected from the membership of the Technical Committee by a majority vote. The term of office shall be for one year. Any officer is eligible to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. The current Chair and Vice Chair have served two terms.

Attachment #5 - TPO Technical Committee chairs and vice chairs

Discussion: Doug Burton briefly noted that the elections will be taking place at the first meeting of 2015.

10. Other Business

- Highway Trust Fund and Delayed Projects Letter. Doug Burton highlighted the attached letter and table. Jack Qualls stressed these projects were delayed, not cancelled.
- 2015 TPO Executive Board and Technical Committee meeting schedule. Please be aware of next year's meeting schedule.
- Mike Conger noted staff wanted to make Committee members aware of a CMAQ funding opportunity. Alan Jones and Linda Tidwell from TDOT held a meeting last week to review the preliminary parameters. He noted this was a special funding set aside specifically targeted toward reducing PM2.5 emissions under MAP-21. This initiative involves diesel engines and will support removal of a diesel engine from a fleet vehicle and replacement of it with a cleaner diesel or alternative fuel engine. There is \$8.3 million of available funds for the eligible counties statewide and the initiative will be operated as a rebate program. TDOT noted they will also be doing another round of general CMAQ funding applications in early 2015.
- Tennessee Public Transit Association awarded Melissa Roberson the Urban Executive of the Year honor at their recent conference.
- Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, **November 19th** at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- Technical Committee Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, December 9th at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

11. 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.

12. Adjournment

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.