

**TPO Technical Committee**  
**9 a.m., September 12, 2006**  
**City/County Building**  
**Small Assembly Room**  
**Knoxville, TN**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on September 12 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville. Scott Poland, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order. A quorum was determined.

*Kathryn Baldwin	Anderson County
*Drew Barrie Daruka	Tennessee Dept. of Transportation - Office of Public Transportation
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway Area Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville/Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission
*Chris Hamby	City of Alcoa
*Curtis Henry	Sevier County
*Steve King	City of Knoxville Engineering
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Jennifer Lehto	East Tennessee Development District for Terry Bobrowski
*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
*Scott Poland	City of Maryville
*Blake Sartin	Metro Knoxville Airport Authority for Bryan White
*Melissa Trevathan	Knoxville Area Transit
*Casey Wood	Town of Farragut for Darryl Smith
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Monica Austin	City of Oak Ridge
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
John Fairstein	Citizens Against the Beltway Orange Location
Kelsey Finch	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Fred Frank	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mark Geldmeier	City of Knoxville Engineering
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
James Norris	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Gary Palmer	Town of Farragut
Susan Ralph	Tennessee Department of Transportation – Local Programs
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Bob Shaw	Citizens Against the Beltway Orange Location
Shannon Tolliver	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Nathan Vatter	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Kenny Wiggins	City of Alcoa
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

\*voting members

### **1. Approval of July 18, 2006 Minutes**

**Presenter:** Scott Poland, Chair

**Item Summary:** Approval of July 18, 2006 TPO Technical Committee minutes.

**Background:** Attachment #1 – July Minutes.

**A motion was made by Chris Hamby and seconded by Blake Sartin to approve the July 18 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

Bob Shaw of 6705 Cate Road stated that he spoke at the July 18 meeting and wants the minutes revised to reflect exactly what he said. On page 4, fourth paragraph, fourth sentence beginning with "Mark Donaldson stated" he wants the sentence to read "The Resource Team's study report did identify a number of geology problems along the orange route, but the TDOT reevaluation report only stated that it is highly likely that the blue route has comparable karst areas, and thinks the blue route has similar problems." He would like to see a somewhat more even ~~end~~ approach to the EIS that these dollars will be spent on.

On Page 5, second paragraph, Bob Shaw asked where the urgency is in this proposal because the alignment has not been set and the final EIS has not been completed. The information in the packet provided by TDOT ~~is clearly about~~ clearly describes the orange route and yet the final EIS is still underway. The Technical Committee has endorsed ~~the~~ a beltway but not the orange route specifically. This NHS request predates TDOT's selection of a ~~preferred~~ finalized alternative. He encouraged the Technical Committee to wait to recommend approval to add the Knoxville Regional Parkway to the NHS until after the EIS is completed in case there is a change in the plan.

John Fairstein of 11205 Sam Lee Road stated that he thinks a tape recorder should be used that can be patched into the sound system.

**A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Mark Donaldson to approve the July 18 minutes at the October meeting subject to review. The motion carried unanimously.**

Jeff Welch announced that Mark Hairr will be leaving Knoxville Area Transit and has taken a job in Chattanooga.

Jeff announced that this is Smart Trips commuter challenge week and encouraged everyone to ride share and to register online at [knoxtrans.org](http://knoxtrans.org). Prizes will be awarded.

## **2. Approval of New Bicycle Advisory Committee Member**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** Michael E. Winck has applied to serve on the Bicycle Advisory Committee. He is replacing a retiring member who served since the committee's inception in 2001. **Attachment #2 – Application.**

Kelley Segars of the TPO staff stated she wanted to encourage the Technical Committee to ride their bikes to work and attend the commuter breakfast Friday, September 15 on Market Square.

Carol Ann Lawhorn is no longer on the Bicycle Advisory Committee, and Michael Winck will be her replacement.

**A motion was made by Steve King and seconded by John Lamb to approve Michael Winck as a new member of the Bicycle Advisory Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **3. Recommendation to Approve an Amendment to the FY 2006 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** There have been cost overruns in four task items in the FY06 UPWP. No increase in funds is required. The attached memo and tables reflect the proposed budget amendments. **Attachment #3a – Memo. Attachment #3b - Table 1: Funding Sources by Task. Attachment #3c – Table 2: Agency Participation.**

**Background:** Contractual terms between TDOT and the TPO (MPC) require a budget amendment if any task exceeds the budget amount by 10 percent.

Jeff Welch stated that an amendment is needed to the UPWP that expires in 2006. Additional dollars are needed for line items. There has been greater emphasis in pedestrian, greenway and bicycle facility planning in the region, thus more staff time is needed to address these issues. Staff has also prepared over 60 amendments or adjustments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) this past year. Staff has also spent considerable time interpreting SAFETEA-LU guidelines and proposed regulations that may significantly impact our transportation planning process in the upcoming years.

**A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Barbara Monty to approve the amendment to the**

**UPWP. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **4. Recommendation to Approve Amendments to the FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**a. Item Summary:** Add First Creek Greenway in Caswell Park into the TIP then transfer the funds to Ten Mile Creek Greenway and Northwest Middle School/Badgett Field Greenway.

**Background:** The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) and the City of Knoxville are requesting that the First Creek Greenway be added into the TIP for a total of \$200,000 Enhancement/\$50,000 local for construction phase. Of this \$200,000 Enhancement/\$50,000 local, \$120,000 enhancement/\$30,000 local funds will be transferred to Ten Mile Creek Greenway project, and \$80,000 enhancement/\$20,000 local will be transferred to Northwest Middle School/Badgett Field greenway. **Attachments #4a.**

Shannon Tolliver of the TPO staff explained that unused funds from the First Creek Greenway need to be transferred to Ten Mile Creek Greenway and Northwest Middle School/Badgett Field Greenway. The First Creek Greenway project was in a previous TIP, but all the funds were not spent. In order to transfer funds the project will need to be added into the current TIP. Once the First Creek Greenway is in the TIP, \$120,000 enhancement and \$30,000 funds will be transferred to Ten Mile Creek Greenway, and \$80,000 enhancement and \$20,000 local funds will be transferred to Northwest Middle School/Badgett Field Greenway.

**A motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Steve King to transfer funds to Ten Mile Creek Greenway and Northwest Middle School/Badgett Field Greenway. The motion carried unanimously.**

**a. Item Summary:** Bearden Village Trip Reduction Program overrun cost.

**b. Background:** The City of Knoxville has requested that funds be transferred from the FY 2006 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) project cost overrun bucket to cover these overrun costs. The overrun cost for both phases is less than 30 percent of the project cost and thus qualifies as an administrative adjustment. The total cost overrun for both phases is \$178,828 CMAQ/\$44,707 local. If taken from the project cost overrun bucket, the remaining FY 2006 balance will be \$112,619 CMAQ/\$26,031 local. **Attachments #4b.**

Shannon discussed a letter Jeff Welch received from Thomas Clabo, Chief Civil Engineer with the City of Knoxville, concerning an administrative adjustment to CMAQ projects. This is the second cost overrun that these projects have incurred. The total cost of the overrun for this request is \$178,828 CMAQ/\$44,707 local. This amount qualifies as an administrative adjustment since the funds are less than 30 percent of the total project cost. These funds will be taken out of the cost overrun bucket. The FY 2006 balance after this transfer will be \$112,619 CMAQ/\$26,031 local.

**c. Item Summary:** Kingston Pike/Northshore Drive planning study.

**Background:** This project was previously in the 2002-2004 TIP for preliminary engineering. The funds were obligated, but work on preliminary engineering did not occur. The City of Knoxville has requested that the project be placed back in the TIP as a preliminary engineering/feasibility study and that the project scope be expanded to cover a broader area. **Attachments #4c.**

Shannon stated that the project would be added back in the TIP as an administrative amendment. The funds were obligated but work on preliminary engineering did not occur. The City of Knoxville would like to begin this project but the study will cover a broader area.

She distributed Appendix D which included amendments to the TIP from October 2005 through August 2006. She said this appendix replaces the previous Appendix D which was distributed earlier this year. She reminded the committee that in order to begin a project the local agency will need to send a scope of work, budget and a copy of the TIP to Nancy Sartor at TDOT.

#### **5. Approval of a Request to TDOT to Fund Transportation Corridor Studies**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** Following discussions with officials from the cities of Knoxville, Alcoa and Maryville, TPO staff has been asked to submit three requests to TDOT for corridor studies. The corridors include Broadway (US 441, Minutes - TPO Technical Committee – September 12, 2006

SR 33) in the Knoxville neighborhood of Fountain City, Broadway Avenue (SR 33) in Maryville and South Hall Road/Washington Street in Alcoa and Maryville.

**Background:** The purpose of the studies of the Broadway corridor in Knoxville and South Hall Road/Washington Street would be to explore ways to improve the cross section for all modes of transportation. Broadway Avenue corridor in Maryville will be a more traditional planning study looking at ways to increase capacity of the roadway.

Ellen Zavisca of the TPO staff stated that Broadway in Fountain City and South Hall Road/Washington Street in Maryville are two roadways that have been identified by communities as needing to be made safer and more accessible for pedestrians and bicyclists. TPO staff will request that TDOT provide funding for multimodal studies of both of these corridors. Jeff Welch stated that State Route 33 from Washington Street to Pellissippi Parkway in Alcoa and Maryville will be the third corridor study. TPO is seeking a transportation planning report (TPR) for this corridor. TDOT is currently studying a small section of this roadway. Angie Midgett of TDOT stated that TDOT requires a one- to two-page summary of the studies planned for these areas.

**A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Chris Hamby requesting that TDOT fund these transportation corridor studies. The motion carried unanimously.**

Angie stated that at the appropriate time an amendment has to be made to the UPWP to include these additional TPR requests.

## **6. Amendments and Updates to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) - Process and Frequency**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** The recently adopted SAFETEA-LU requires that all transportation plans and TIPs be in compliance with SAFETEA-LU by July 1, 2007. The staff is reviewing the proposed planning regulations to determine the level of effort that will be required.

**Background:** Since the original 2005-2030 LRTP was adopted in March of 2005, staff has prepared one update and two plan amendments. If there are changes or additions to the list of highway projects, it requires an update to the conformity analysis also.

Jeff Welch stated that when SAFETEA-LU was adopted, it brought more transportation dollars for every jurisdiction. New planning regulations are being worked on and may be out by the first of the year. Staff is evaluating the LRTP and TIP to see what adjustments have to be made for the plans to be SAFETEA-LU compliant by July 1, 2007. Additional planning efforts in the areas of security, agency coordination, environmental assessments, congestion management planning, and financial impact assessments will need to occur as part of the LRTP and TIP update. Staff will also need to update the TPO's public involvement plan in the next 6 months. During this update process staff does not want to add any additional of transportation projects to the plan as we do not want to conduct air quality conformity analysis during this review process.

Kathryn Baldwin asked if the update is limited to the urbanized area. Jeff Welch answered that it is the whole nonattainment area. The South Rural Planning Organization (RPO) is working on prioritizing projects that are not listed in the adopted LRTP. Jeff stated that a major air quality conformity analysis update has to be completed by June 2009. RPO projects may not have to be added at this time because we will reevaluate projects beginning in 2007.

## **7. Enhancement Grant Process**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** 2007 Enhancement Grant applications are due November 1, 2006 at 4 p.m. Applications can be found online at [www.tdot.state.tn.us/local/grants.htm](http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/local/grants.htm). Please send copies of completed applications to the TPO staff also.

**Background:** Local officials have used the funds to build sidewalks, bike and pedestrian trails and to renovate historic train depots and other transportation related structures. Locally, Enhancement Grants have funded a variety of projects such as the Knox-Blount Greenway, the Blount County Heritage Museum and Interpretative Center, the Will Skelton Greenway and various streetscape projects on local roads.

Jeff Welch stated that if your jurisdiction applied for an Enhancement Grant and was not successful, you have to reapply. Please send a copy of the Enhancement Grant application to TPO staff.

## **8. Other Business**

### **Memo to Executive Board regarding Scenic Highway designation for Knoxville Parkway (SR 475).**

**Attachment #5.** Jeff Welch stated that the Executive Board passed the resolution on July 26. He received a letter from Ed Cole, Assistant Commissioner for Environment and Planning for TDOT, stating he received the resolution regarding supporting designating the Knoxville Regional Parkway as a Tennessee Parkway or State Scenic Highway. He stated that Commissioner Nicely accepted the Knoxville Parkway Citizens Team's recommendations including the seeking of scenic or Tennessee parkway designation to prohibit billboards. The designation of Tennessee parkway status by TDOT does not supersede comprehensive zoning in an area and the designation of scenic highways does not offer full prohibition of billboards.

### **Technical Committee Meeting, October 10, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**

### **Executive Board Meeting, October 25 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**

Jeff stated that TDOT is initiating three Transportation Planning Reports in this area and includes Watt Road extension, Concord Road from Turkey Creek to Northshore and a small section of SR-33 near Pellissippi Parkway.

## **9. Public Comment**

Bob Shaw stated that he served on the parkway resource team, and one of the most important things accomplished was to raise the bar on this road asking for a parkway status. It was originally called the beltway. He read from the team's final recommendation report concerning the scenic parkway. This is not just about billboards because there are also other restrictions. He wants to keep the ball rolling. He was anxious to hear from the Technical Committee concerning what they think about the scenic highway status. In the letter Ed Cole of TDOT wrote, he stated the description of parkways and scenic highways applies to both parkways and scenic highways, and it does not. Why is TDOT saying they will wait until the Technical Committee gets back to them?

John Fairstein stated that at the last meeting, Jeanne Stevens of TDOT suggested that he ask Mayor Ragsdale and Mayor Haslam to write letters endorsing the designation of proposed SR 475 as a scenic parkway, and he wondered why this is necessary. The Executive Board and the resource team have already endorsed it. He asked if the TPO could reaffirm the resolution that has already passed. Scott Poland stated that the resolution should have been enough. Jeff Welch interpreted Ed Cole's letter suggesting that the support of local governments and state legislators will be necessary to fully prohibit billboards along this entire corridor. John asked if TPO could compose a resolution for City Council and County Commission to sign. John does not feel he should have to contact the legislators. Jeff stated that TPO could write a letter to the legislators enclosing the resolution and requesting support for scenic highway/scenic parkway designation for the proposed Knoxville Parkway. John stated that each jurisdiction of TPO could write their legislators and send a copy of the resource team's suggestion. Kathryn Baldwin stated that billboards are on private property and not on TDOT's property. Zoning districts along the corridor have to be looked at. In Oak Ridge onsite signage is only allowed. Mark Donaldson stated the easiest way to handle this would be through County Commission.

**A motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Melissa Trevathan that a letter be sent from the TPO Executive Board recommending that the local jurisdictions, either city municipalities or county commissions, consider an overlay district which would prohibit billboards along the proposed orange route (Knoxville Parkway) corridor be added in their zoning ordinance. The motion carried unanimously.**

Bob Shaw asked that the motion be reworded to include not just billboards, but junkyards and setbacks (parkway status requirements). Kathryn did not accept the new wording except the name Knoxville Parkway.

## **10. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.