

**TPO Technical Committee Minutes
September 12, 2017
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City County Building
400 Main Street
Knoxville, TN**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on September 12, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building in Knoxville, TN. Vice Chair Jeff Ownby presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined that there was a quorum. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves.

*Wayne Blasius	City of Oak Ridge
*Don Brown	ETDD, <i>for Terry Bobrowski</i>
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway Area MTPO
*Karen Estes	Knox County CAC Transit
*Deanna Flinchum	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Larry Gann	City of Clinton
*Gerald Green	Metropolitan Planning Commission
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville
*Chico Messer	Blount County
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County
*Mike Patterson	ETHRA (<i>for Gary Holiway</i>)
*Jack Qualls	City of Loudon and Loudon County
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit
*Blake Sartin	Metro Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
*Josh Suddath	TDOT Region 1
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	

1. Motion to Approve July 11, 2017 TPO Technical Committee Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of the July 11, 2017 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by Gerald Green and seconded by Jack Qualls to approve the July 11, 2017 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Election of Chair

Item Summary: Kathryn Baldwin, now former Chair, retired from the City of Oak Ridge in July 2017. Jeff Ownby is currently serving his second term as Vice Chair.

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted this is an interim election for terms serving until January of 2018 (or first meeting of the year) when elections for full year-long terms will take place per the By-laws.

Andrew Sonner moved to nominate Brian Boone for Vice Chair. The Motion was seconded by Darryl Smith. The Motion carried unanimously.

Darryl Smith moved to nominate Jeff Ownby as Chair. The Motion was seconded by Gerald Green. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion to Recommend Approval of a Resolution to Amend the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Item Summary: A short conformity report was prepared since five of these amendments involve air quality non-exempt projects. Staff recommends approval.

Discussion: Elizabeth Watkins noted 10 of the proposed 13 projects before the Committee reflect projects included in the IMPROVE Act and that are also in TDOT's 3 year program, and which need to be amended into our TIP. She then noted of the 13 proposed Amendments, 8 involve adding new projects which are already included in our Long Range Mobility Plan but as they are now funded they need to be added to our TIP, 2 projects are to be removed and 3 existing projects are being modified by clarifying termini and/or adding funding. Lastly, of these 13 projects, 8 projects are air quality exempt and 5 are air quality non-exempt. Ms. Watkins noted the proposed Amendments total \$43.4 million of added funding and encompass 3 different funding sources, primarily NHPP and S-STBG. Air quality exempt projects for consideration: Added: Alcoa Highway (SR-115/US-129) ITS Expansion, I-75 ITS Expansion, I-40 ITS Expansion, Northshore Drive (SR-332) at Kingston Pike (SR-1) Intersection Improvements and Chapman Highway (SR-71/US-441) Operational and Safety Improvements; Removed: J. Carmichael Greer Pedestrian Bridge and Old Stage Road/Kingston Pike Greenway Connector; Modified: Kingston Pike Sidewalk in Farragut. Air Quality non-exempt projects for consideration: Added: Emory Road (SR-131), Edgemoor Road (SR-170) and I-640/I-275/I-75 Interchange; Modified: 2 Alcoa Highway (SR-115/US-129) widening/other improvement projects. All of the projects are summarized in a PowerPoint presentation which is available online and can be found here:

http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/sep17/TIP_2017-20_amendments.pdf

Mike Conger noted the 5 non-exempt projects were required to go through air quality conformity determination. Fortunately, all of these projects had been included in our most recent Mobility Plan Update, and subsequently accounted for in the in the regional emissions analysis done in conjunction with the Plan Update and 2017-2020 TIP Amendments, both adopted by the TPO Executive Board in April of 2017. Therefore, staff were able to do a Short Conformity Report, which he briefly explained and reviewed, and which documents that these projects demonstrate conformity. He noted this report has been reviewed by the Air Quality Interagency Consultation group which consists of representatives from FHWA, EPA, TDOT and TDEC and has approved it. Mr. Conger noted we are currently in the 14 day public comment period leading up to final adoption at the September 27, 2017 TPO Executive Board meeting.

A motion was made by Jack Qualls and seconded by Gerald Green to recommend approval of a Resolution to amend the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Motion carried unanimously.

4. PM2.5 Attainment Status Designation Announcement

Item Summary: Staff will provide information regarding the recent EPA final approvals of the re-designation to Attainment status for the 1997 Annual and 2006 Daily PM2.5 standards for the Knoxville Region.

Discussion: Mike Conger noted our entire Knoxville region is in now Attainment for all of the EPA Air Quality Standards for the first time since June 15, 2004, based on “Clean” data for a 3-year period from 2013-2015. He briefly touched on the Attainment process and the benefits, including cleaner air for better health and environment of the region, elimination of the stigma of Non-Attainment status for recruiting of new industries to the region and elimination of the Transportation Conformity Requirement for the PM_{2.5} Annual Standard. He closed touching on sources of the air quality improvements. Jeff Welch further noted that the entire state of Tennessee is now in Attainment for all EPA Air Quality Standards as well. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/sep17/air_quality.pdf

5. Presentation on TDOT Safety Performance Factors/Targets

Item Summary: Federal regulations require states and MPO’s to establish safety performance targets for five performance measures. The state DOT establishes their targets first and then the MPO’s have 180 days to either: agree to support the state target or establish specific numeric targets for a safety performance measure specific to our region. TDOT will present their targets and methodology for our review.

Discussion: Josh Suddath, TDOT, Office of Community Transportation, gave a presentation which encompassed the federal legislative background resulting in establishment of these targets, definitions and target setting methodology, a review of TDOT’s [FINAL] Safety Targets and the key factor considerations surrounding their development, a review of the role of MPOs in achieving the targets and the timeline for completion of adherence to this federal mandate. He stressed that although MPOs have a significant role in this process, individual states are directly responsible to FHWA for ensuring overall compliance. MPOs, TDOT and transit agencies will need to cooperatively develop a process and written agreement for developing and sharing performance data and reporting targets and performance. Jeff Welch noted staff have begun internal discussions on a recommendation for response to the mandate which they will bring before the Technical Committee and Executive Board and welcome input from member jurisdictions. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/sep17/safety_targets.pdf

6. Presentation on new NTSB Safety Study: Reducing Speeding-Related Crashes Involving Passenger Vehicles

Item Summary: Staff will present a summary of this new study from the National Transportation Safety Board, available online at:

<https://www.nts.gov/safety/safety-studies/Documents/SS1701.pdf>

Discussion: Ellen Zavisca noted the purpose and reason for the study which states that the number of speeding-related fatalities is comparable to the number of fatalities from alcohol-impaired driving. She touched on the definition of speeding, the impact of road types and land-use with regards to speeding-related crashes and also noted speeding-related crashes are routinely underreported. The report also states that that speeding increases the likelihood and severity of a crash. She reviewed several recommendations from the study: rethinking how speed limits are set, automated speed enforcement (ASE) and traffic safety campaigns. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/sep17/NTSB_speeding.pdf

7. Demonstration of Remix Transit Planning Software

Item Summary: MPC entered into an agreement with REMIX, a software as a service transit planning platform, to assist KAT in developing and evaluating modifications to existing routes or new routes. A demonstration of the software will be presented and possible other opportunities will be explored.

Discussion: Belinda Woodiel-Brill, Knoxville Area Transit, demonstrated their new Software as a Service (SAAS) program. She noted her primary role at KAT was route planning and touched on the very complicated process necessary to plan a new route prior to their implementing this program. She then discussed the significantly positive impact use of this software has been in route design and implementation, touching on the tremendous amount of data generated by the program for each potential route including satellite/topographic data, population and employment related demographics and specific neighborhood related data, to name a few, further noting additional layers can be added to further expand the use of this program as a route planning tool. She noted REMIX has responded well to feedback for product improvement and also continues to serve as a resource. Jeff Welch noted that additional licenses are available and this tool can potentially be used for other planning purposes across our region.

8. Other Business

- Executive Board meeting Wednesday September 27, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.
- The City of Alcoa is hosting a Public Open House on the Alcoa West Plant Redevelopment Master/Vision Plan on September 28, 2017 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Alcoa Service Center located at 725 Universal Street in Alcoa.
- A Recode Knoxville Community Meeting is being held at the Central United Methodist Church, located at 201 3rd Avenue in Knoxville, on September 19, 2017 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Gerald Green and seconded by Jack Qualls to adjourn the meeting. The Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.