

**TPO Technical Committee Minutes
December 13, 2011
9 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on December 13 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building in Knoxville. Chair, Andrew Sonner presided and called the meeting to order.

*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Terry Bobrowski	East Tennessee Development District (ETDD)
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville-Knox County MPC
*Steve King	City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
*Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC)
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Kathy Knight	Loudon County <i>for Pat Phillips</i>
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County <i>for Dwight Van de Vate</i>
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit (KAT)
*Blake Sartin	Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority (MCAA)
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
*Kathryn Baldwin	Anderson County
*Mike Patterson	ETHRA <i>for Gary Holiway</i>
*Perrin Anderson	Sevier County <i>for Greg Patterson</i>
Jeff Welch	Director, Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)
Nathan Benditz	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Bryan Berry	Metropolitan Planning Commission Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Terry Gilhula	Metropolitan Planning Commission
Alan Huff	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Anne Wallace	City of Knoxville
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

***voting members**

Determination of Quorum

1. Approval of October 11, 2011 minutes

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: Andrew Sonner, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of October 2011 TPO Technical Committee minutes. **Attachment #1.**

Discussion: N/A

Action: A motion was made by John Lamb (Blount County) and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin (Anderson County) to approve the October 11 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Recommend Approval of Amendments to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The following Amendments to the TIP were requested by our state or local governments and staff recommends approval.

- a. Amend TIP Project 2011-081 (Tazewell Pk. and Emory Rd. Intersection Improvements). Increase FY 2012 total funding for ROW from \$600,000 (\$480,000 federal and \$120,000 state) to \$1,464,000 (\$1,171,200 federal and \$292,800 state) at the request of TDOT. **Attachment #2a**
- b. Add TIP Project 2011-083 (UT Joint Institute for Advanced Materials). Add \$562,500 (\$450,000 federal and \$112,500 local) to FY 2012 for PE and \$21,935,001 (17,548,001 federal and \$4,387,000 local) to FY 2012 for CON. The new research campus is located off Alcoa Hwy along Fort Loudoun Lake. The local match is being provided by The University of Tennessee. **Attachment #2b**

Discussion: Kathy Knight (Loudon County) indicated that she thought that Town Creek LIC would be added. Jeff Welch (TPO) explained that it requires a 15-day review period by IAC first.

Cindy Pionke asked why the UT project had been dropped, then added back in. Jeff Welch (TPO) explained that TPO was under the impression construction had already begun on the facility and was therefore not added to the current TIP. He also stated the facility is slated to be built on Cherokee Farms.

Action: A motion was made by Cindy Pionke (Knox County) and seconded by Blake Sartin (MKAA) to recommend approval of the TIP amendments to the Executive Board. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Recommend Approval of the Ranking of TDOT Highway Priority Projects

- Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff has included two documents for your review regarding ranking of highway projects. **Attachment #3a** is a spreadsheet that includes the ranking of the TDOT projects as submitted by the Technical Committee members. **Attachment #3b** is a project location map.

Discussion: Mike Conger (TPO) explained that TPO staff had received thirteen (13) responses to the initial draft lists and that the attachments reflected those responses, which broke the tie that had previously existed in the first list, but otherwise was essentially unchanged. The second list reflected slight changes in order based on the responses. Project B3 moved down, from number 4 to 5 and B5 moved up one in the ranking.

After the vote on the motion, Jeff Welch (TPO) asked some improvements be added as supplemental projects in addition to this prioritized list, particularly operational and safety improvements to the Chapman Highway corridor. Continuing that with any potential work on the James White Parkway project would take several years and some work to Chapman is needed to improve safety and

operations in the more immediate term. Angie Midgett (TDOT) recommended putting together such a supplemental list. She indicated that Memphis had put together such a list, and that it was very useful for TDOT in that region and that others do the same. Jeff Welch (TPO) said that TPO staff could put together such a list, based on the projects that have been discussed at Technical Committee meetings. Angie Midgett (TDOT) indicated that this would be a good idea. Jeff Welch (TPO) said that such a list would be prepared for the Executive Board meeting.

Action: A motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin (Anderson County) and seconded by Kathy Knight (Loudon County) to recommend approval of the Ranking of TDOT Highway Priority Projects to the Executive Board. The motion carried with Steve King (City of Knoxville) voting against the recommendation.

4. Recommend Approval to Expand the Metropolitan Planning Area Boundaries to Include the City of Oak Ridge

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff has prepared a technical memorandum that supports the expansion of the Metropolitan Planning Area boundaries to include the city of Oak Ridge. Staff recommends approval of the expansion. **Attachment #4 - memorandum**

Discussion: Jeff Welch (TPO) indicated that TPO staff has been working on this effort for about a year. And that TDOT had asked for more material to support the request to add Oak Ridge to the TPO Planning Area. He indicated that he feels that the support and request were ready to forward to TDOT, if recommended by the Technical Committee and approved by the Executive Board, and therefore TPO staff recommended approval of the expansion.

Jeff Welch (TPO) explained that if recommended by the Technical Committee and approved by the Executive Board, the request would go to TDOT and the Governor. If approved by the Governor it would be forwarded to FHWA for approval. This would then require the TPO to update its Bylaws and the Prospectus document.

Action: A motion was made by John Lamb (Blount County) and seconded by Mark Donaldson (MPC) to recommend approval of the expansion of the Metropolitan Planning Area Boundaries to include the City of Oak Ridge to the Executive Board. The motion carried with Angie Midgett (TDOT) abstaining from the vote.

5. Presentation of Amendments to the TPO Bylaws and Prospectus

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff has prepared drafts of the TPO Bylaws, MOA, and Prospectus. Major updates and revisions are presented in the attached drafts. **Attachment #5 - Overview of Prospectus and Bylaws Updates, #5a - Draft Executive Board Bylaws, #5b - Draft Technical Committee Bylaws, #5c -Draft Bicycle Advisory Committee Bylaws, #5d -Revised MOA related to Regional conformity analysis and regional modeling, #5e - Draft Updated Prospectus.**

Discussion: Terry Bobrowski (ETDD) asked why Cocke County was removed from membership of the Technical Committee. Jeff Welch (TPO) explained that Cocke County was removed because the

portion of Cocke County in the TPO area, which is a very small area in the Smoky Mountain National Park, was not large enough for membership to be appropriate.

Jeff Welch (TPO) emphasized that the language in the bylaws on the STP funding was staff taking a first crack at reasonable language that would be flexible, but only allow STP funding to be allocated outside of the urbanized area, only if it was agreed upon by a 2/3 majority. A possible scenario where this may be relevant would be where additional funding remained, and left unallocated the region would lose that funding, in which case allocating it outside of the urbanized area would be the best option available to the region.

Barbara Monty (Knox County CAC) commented that in the Technical Committee Bylaws, the “Knox County CAC Transit” should be changed to “Knox County CAC.”

Kathy Knight (Loudon County) commented that language in the Executive Board Bylaws should be flexible to allow the mayors or other officials on the Board to appoint a proxy in the event that they could not attend a particular meeting.

6. Annual Obligations

Action Possible Action Discussion Information

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: TDOT has provided to the TPO a list of obligated projects for fiscal year 2011 (October 1, 2010, to Sept. 30, 2011). Approximately \$24,485,216 was obligated in our TPO area. **Attachment #6.** List of obligated projects for Fiscal Year 2011.

Discussion: Jeff Welch (TPO) explained that TDOT must identify projects with federal funding obligated to it. This list has been online for the past 15 days or so. This year this obligated funding totaled approximately \$24 million. If anyone finds any mistakes they should contact TDOT Local Programs. Angie Midgett (TDOT) asked if transit had been included in that list. Jeff Welch (TPO) indicated that it had not. Angie Midgett (TDOT) indicated that the inclusion of transit projects was required, and that the TPO should contact local transit to add that information.

7. Other Business

Upcoming Events/Meetings:

- Federal Legislation Update
- Executive Board Meeting, Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the city County Building
- Technical Committee Meeting, January 10, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building

Discussion: Angie Midgett (TDOT) indicated that there have been a number of staff changes at TDOT. A complete list of these changes was read, and will be included when it is received by TPO staff. She continued that as a part of the top to bottom review of state departments, TDOT has received a new organizational chart. It is uncertain what those changes mean at this time, but more information will be coming soon.

8. Public comment

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

Discussion: None

9. Adjournment