

TPO Technical Committee
9 a.m., February 13, 2007
City/County Building
Small Assembly Room
Knoxville, TN

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

*Terry Bobrowski	East Tennessee Development District
*Drew Daruka	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway Area Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville/Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission
*Chris Hamby	City of Alcoa
*Steve King	City of Knoxville Engineering
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee
*Russ Newman	Loudon County
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County Engineering for Bruce Wuethrich
*Blake Sartin	Metro Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Melissa Trevathan	Knoxville Area Transit
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Arran Addington	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Kelsey Finch	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Fred Frank	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
James Norris	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Kenny Wiggins	City of Alcoa
Terri Willett	City of Rockford
Casey Wood	Town of Farragut
Jill Wolverton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

*voting members

Determination of Quorum

A quorum was declared by Vice Chair Darryl Smith.

1. Approval of November 14, 2006 Minutes

Presenter: Darryl Smith, Vice Chair

Item Summary: Approval of November 14, 2006, TPO Technical Committee minutes.

Background: Attachment #1 – November 14, 2006 Minutes.

A motion was made by Terry Bobrowski and seconded by Ted Newsom to approve the November 14 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Draft FY 2008 TPO Work Program

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The TPO staff will be submitting an early draft of the FY 2008 Work Program for the Tennessee Department of Transportation's (TDOT) review in mid-February. We are asking for your assistance in identifying any special studies or Transportation Planning Reports you would like to see undertaken in your jurisdiction next year.

Background: The TPO must prepare an annual work program that outlines planning projects and studies to be undertaken.

Staff is identifying projects that require a Transportation Planning Report (TPR) and may be funded by TDOT or the TPO. The focus is on projects that can be constructed in ten years. There is \$600,000 in the TPO fund balance, some of which will be needed to update the travel demand forecasting model.

3. Amendments to the FY2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

a. Modifying Tazewell Pk./Beverly Rd. Intersection Improvements (2006-073)

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Change funding source from 20% local to 20% state and add PE and ROW phase to the TIP.

Attachments #2a1, 2a2.

Background: This project includes a state highway and TDOT will assume the 20% match. The total project cost at this time remains the same.

Jeff Welch stated that Tazewell Pike was identified as a state and local match, but since it is a state highway, TDOT will pay the local match.

b. Add \$398,000 to Concord Rd./Northshore Dr. Roundabout for Construction (2006-076)

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Estimates for construction of roundabout continue to increase. The latest local estimate is approximately \$800,000 and TDOT estimate is \$1 million. Staff is recommending a construction estimate of \$900,000. To accomplish this, funds from the CMAQ overrun bucket will need to be transferred to this project. Staff recommends moving a total of \$348,750 from FY 2006 and \$49,250 from FY 2007 CMAQ cost overruns buckets. Total transfer is \$398,000. **Attachments #2b1, 2b2, 2b3 & 2b4.**

Background: Total project cost is now estimated at \$900,000, \$720,000 (CMAQ), \$180,000 (state).

A motion was made by Cindy Pionke and seconded by Chris Hamby to recommend approval of these changes to the Executive Board to modify the Tazewell Pk./Beverly Rd. intersection improvements changing the funding source from 20% local to 20% state and to add \$398,000 to the Concord Rd./Northshore Dr. Roundabout for construction. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Endorsement of Commuter Transportation Assistance Program (CTAP) Application

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The TDOT Office of Public Transportation is taking applications for CTAP funds. CTAP is used to fund travel demand management (TDM) strategies or programs. The TPO is submitting an application to help fund support activities for the Smart Trips program. Endorsement of application by the TPO Technical Committee is required.

Background: The TDOT Office of Public Transportation is making CTAP grants available statewide for each MPO area. The amount of funding available for each MPO area is up to \$50,000 a year for 2007 and 2008 for a maximum of \$100,000. CTAP has a very strict list of eligible activities and funds are to be used for TDM strategies or programs to help support local carpool, vanpool, or ridesharing efforts. TPO staff met with staff of Knoxville Area Transit, Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC) Transit, UT Commuter Pool/Tennessee Vans, and Smart Trips to brainstorm a list of possible projects to be funded with CTAP funds. The local CTAP application submitted will fund support activities for the Smart Trips program. **Attachment #3 - CTAP Application.**

Doug Burton of the TPO staff stated that \$50,000 is available for 2007 with no local match to encourage carpooling and ridesharing. He met with CAC, UT Commuter Pool/Tennessee Vans and Smart Trips to get their input. Angie Midgett of TDOT stated that the endorsement should come from the Executive Board.

A motion was made by Ted Newsom and seconded by Cindy Pionke to send a recommendation to the Executive Board asking that they endorse the CTAP application. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Knoxville Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Regional Architecture Update

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The Knoxville Regional TPO is charged with maintaining the Knoxville ITS Regional Architecture and must make updates every three years. This update includes all ITS measures that have been introduced since the Regional Architecture was developed and given to the TPO.

Background: The Knoxville ITS Regional Architecture was adopted by the TPO Executive Board on October 26, 2005.

Attachment #4 – Knoxville ITS Regional Architecture Update Resolution.

Fred Frank of the TPO Staff stated that TPO is responsible for maintaining the ITS. Since it was developed, we have added TDOT 511 Traveler Information, TDOT Incident Management, TDOT Freeway Surveillance, TDOT Weather Collection, TDOT Work Zone Management, TDOT Highway Advisory Radio, Ride Sharing (TPO Smart Tips), Travel Demand Forecasting (TPO Travel Demand Model) and TDOT Amber Alert.

ITS architecture is a database that identifies all the partners involved in management of the ITS and the components they are in charge of.

A motion was made by Chris Hamby and seconded by Blake Sartin to recommend to the Executive Board that the ITS Architecture be updated.

6. Election of Officers

Presenter: Technical Committee Chair

Item Summary: The Bylaws of the Technical Committee require an annual election of officers: Chair and Vice Chair. The terms of office are for one year and an officer is eligible to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. The bylaws require an election to be held at the first meeting of the year.

Background: Chair Scott Poland and Vice Chair Darryl Smith have served two one-year terms already.

A motion was made by Terry Bobrowski and seconded by Blake Sartin to nominate John Lamb as Vice Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Cindy Pionke and seconded by Russ Newman to nominate Darryl Smith as Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Pedestrians and Bicyclists: Challenges and Opportunities

Presenter: John Z Wetmore, Producer of "Perils for Pedestrians"

Item Summary: Mr. Wetmore will talk about "the three things pedestrians need."

Background: John Z Wetmore travels the world talking to planners and safety advocates about the obstacles pedestrians and bicyclists face and how those obstacles can be overcome. He produces the satellite, cable, and Internet series "Perils for Pedestrians." He's in Knoxville today to produce an episode about pedestrians and bicycle issues here. An archive of his shows can be found online at:

<http://video.google.com/videosearch?q=%22Perils+For+Pedestrians%22>. More information about his work can be found on his website: <http://www.pedestrians.org>. Safe Routes to School Application Deadline is now March 15, 2007 www.tdot.state.tn.us/bikeped/saferoutes.htm

Ellen Zavisca of the TPO staff stated that she had hoped John Wetmore would be able to speak this morning, but he did not make it to the meeting in time. He is meeting later today with two activists from Fountain City Connections, a group that grew from the pedestrian audit that was conducted in Fountain City last April. They have been meeting regularly with the city working on pedestrian issues.

8. Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation Workshop/Training

Presenter: Kelley Segars

Item Summary: TDOT and the TPO are holding a training workshop March 19-20 - "Designing Streets for Bicyclists and Pedestrians" - in Knoxville. The purpose is to train engineers on road design that complies with the TDOT and TPO policies on bicycle and pedestrian accommodation, meets ADA requirements, and increases the safety of all transportation modes.

Background: As walking and bicycling activity increases, our street system must safely accommodate these modes of transportation.

Ellen Zavisca stated that the Technical Committee received an e-mail message from Kelley Segars of the TPO staff concerning "Designing Streets Workshop." The training will be for engineers and project managers for bike and pedestrian facilities. Registration forms can be returned to TPO. It will be held at the Cansler YMCA.

9. SAFETEA-LU Compliant Process

Presenter: TPO and TDOT Staff

Item Summary: Bringing our transportation planning process and plans into compliance with SAFETEA-LU continues to be a moving target. Staff will discuss our best estimate of when this will occur.

Background: On August 10, 2005, SAFETEA-LU was signed by the President. There have been several guides published and draft regulations, but no final planning regulations have been issued. This leads to varying interpretations on what needs to be done and in what order.

Fred Frank of the TPO staff stated that with the new SAFETEA-LU legislation there are changes to be made to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to comply with the timeline. After July 1 no amendments can be made to the TIP until the LRTP is approved. Jeff Welch stated that our goal is to have a new four-year TIP to be adopted in August.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. Other Business

Jeff Welch stated that Ed Cole of TDOT spoke at the Legislative Luncheon regarding funding for FY 2008. He noted that three items are causing serious problems for transportation projects, costs are spiraling for highway construction and materials, the federal budget has been operating under a continuing resolution, and there have been rescissions of previously authorized federal funds. With higher costs and flat revenues, projects will be delayed in implementation.

Darryl Smith asked whether the STP funding for Farragut is in any jeopardy. Jeff Welch stated that STP funds will not be affected by the rescission. He emphasized that the jurisdictions should get their projects obligated as soon as possible.

Jeff stated that President Bush presented his FY 2008 budget to Congress. There is \$67 billion funding for transportation. This figure falls short for transit. Most of the reductions are for fixed rail.

The next Executive Board Meeting is February 28, 9 a.m., Small Assembly Room, City/County Building; and the Technical Committee Meeting is March 13, 9 a.m., Small Assembly Room, City/County Building.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.