

Attachment #1

TPO Technical Committee Minutes July 13, 2010 9 a.m. Small Assembly Room City/County Building Knoxville, Tennessee

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

*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway Area TPO
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville/Knox County MPC
*Leslie Johnson	Lenoir City
*Steve King	City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Barbara Monty	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Greg Patterson	Sevier County
*Pat Phillips	Loudon County
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
*Bruce Wuethrich	Knox County Engineering
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Bob Becker	City of Knoxville
Nicole Belanger	City of Maryville
Bryan Berry	Metropolitan Planning Commission Staff
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Kevin Durand	KCHD
Karen Estes	Community Action Committee Transit
Terry Gilhula	Metropolitan Planning Commission
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Kim Henry	Development Corporation of Knox County
Brent Johnson	City of Knoxville
Cindy Pionke	Knox County
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Anne Wallace	City of Knoxville
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Bob Whetsel	City of Knoxville
Jessica Wilson	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

***voting members**

Determination of Quorum

1. Approval of June 8, 2010, Minutes

Presenter: John Lamb, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of June 8, 2010, TPO Technical Committee minutes. **Attachment #1.**

A motion was made by Bruce Wuethrich and seconded by Pat Phillips to approve the June 8 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of a new members to the TPO Bicycle Advisory Committee

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: The TPO Technical Committee appoints members to the Bicycle Advisory Committee. Three new members need to be appointed to the committee. Those seeking appointment are: Patrick Beeson, Jennifer Robinson and Thomas Skibinski

Background: **Attachment #2a** - Bicycle Committee Application form for each member seeking appointment. **2b** - List of current Bicycle Committee members

A motion was made by Leslie Johnson and seconded by Bruce Wuethrich to approve three new members to the Bicycle Advisory Committee, Patrick Beeson, Jennifer Robinson and Thomas Skibinski. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Recommend Approval to the Executive Board of the FY 2011 and 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: **Attachment #3 - Final Draft UPWP for FY 2011 and 2012**

Background: This is the first time that we have submitted a multi-year work program. The proposed work program covers both FY 2011 and 2012. TDOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are encouraging the development of a two-year work program.

Jeff Welch stated that this is a two-year work program and has been reviewed by TDOT and FHWA. This is the first time we have prepared a two-year program. We will review it next spring depending on the budget issues. We will be working on the Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan update and will use the census data from 2011 and 2012. When the new air quality standards are put in place, the plan will be updated.

A motion was made by Pat Phillips and seconded by Andrew Sonner to recommend approval of the FY 2011 and 2012 Unified Planning Work Program to the Executive Board. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Recommend Approval to the Executive Board of an amendment to the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program programming \$1,818,187 of Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds to Knoxville Central Station Project

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: City of Knoxville through KAT has requested \$1,818,187 of TPO STP funds to help fill a budget gap for the new Knoxville Central Station transit center. The current estimated TPO STP funding balance is \$35,000,000.

Background: **Attachment #4** - Request from City of Knoxville/KAT for STP funds for Knoxville Central Station.

Melissa Roberson stated that the memo in the packet from Cindy McGinnis outlines the request. The original budget was \$27.5 million. The current budget is \$29,935,000. The budget includes funding for items that were not included originally. Most of the funding came from SAFETEA-LU. We still need \$2 million and are asking for \$1,818,187 in STP funding to be amended into the current TIP. Jeff Welch stated that TPO's STP balance is about \$35 million. The House of Representatives approved a rescission for state Departments of Transportation, and the Senate has not heard it yet. This is 25 percent of what was rescinded last year.

A motion was made by Pat Phillips and seconded by Bruce Wuethrich to recommend approval to the Executive Board of an amendment to the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program for \$1,818,187 of STP funds to Knoxville Central Station Project. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Review of 2011-2014 Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Staff also requests vote on STP buckets for safety and bike/ped/greenway to be funded with Local STP funds

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff continues to address comments from TDOT on the draft TIP. Final comments were received on July 7. A new draft TIP addressing TDOT's comments will now be sent to FHWA for a 30-day review period.

There has been discussion at the Technical Committee on the merits of creating a local STP TIP buckets for bike/pedestrian/greenway projects and for safety-related projects. Staff has prepared a memo discussing this proposal and would like the Technical Committee to endorse or not endorse the creation of the two buckets at this time. This will allow staff to prepare a final draft TIP to send to FHWA and to submit for public review.

Background: Attachment # 5a - Draft 2011-2014 TIP and Attachment #5b - Memo on STP buckets

Katie Habgood stated that staff has been working on the new TIP, and all the project detail sheets are included in the packet. It is still a draft. TDOT has reviewed it and staff has been addressing the changes. It will go back to TDOT and to FHWA again for their review and will be adopted in September. We have a \$35 million balance now. She asked that each member check their jurisdiction's sheets for accuracy.

Mike Conger stated that an air quality conformity analysis will be part of the TIP. The Mobility Plan is being updated as well to account for changes to projects that are included in the TIP and since the TIP must be consistent with the Mobility Plan.

Jeff Welch stated that staff needs comments back as soon as possible. He mentioned the memo on STP buckets and TIP amendments. They are suggesting two buckets.

A motion was made by Pat Phillips and seconded by Mark Donaldson to endorse the two buckets for bike/pedestrian/greenway and safety-related projects. The vote was seven for

and seven against with Angie Midgett, of TDOT, abstaining. The motion failed for lack of a majority.

Bruce Wuethrich asked what the process would be regarding sidewalks. Jeff Welch explained how the money could be used to build sidewalks, but it will require a TIP amendment, which will take more time.

John Lamb stated that since the vote was equally for and against, it can be brought up at a later date.

6. Review of CMAQ projects submitted to TDOT for funding this fiscal year

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff completed the emission analysis for the CMAQ projects local governments submitted for consideration for funding by TDOT. The applications and emissions analysis had to be submitted to TDOT on July 2.

Background: Attachment #6a – CMAQ Project Data and Attachment #6b – CMAQ Project Air Quality Data

Jeff Welch stated that TDOT has developed a new process for CMAQ funds. TPOs/MPOs in nonattainment areas collect projects from local governments and submit them to TDOT to select from. He and some of the TPO staff will present the projects to TDOT tomorrow in Nashville. They are not ranked. They looked at the projects with the best emission reductions. TDOT will tell us which projects they will be funding. The projects will be added to the new TIP.

Steve King stated he is concerned that the members of the Technical Committee did not have a chance to vote on the projects before they were chosen. He asked why some of the sidewalk projects were not included. Jeff responded that staff included everything that was submitted by local jurisdictions.

7. Status of local American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Projects and any leftover funds

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the status of ARRA funded projects.

Background: All funds must be obligated by August 31, 2010. Any funds not obligated to local ARRA projects will be turned over to TDOT.

Jeff Welch stated that he has been talking with Andy Barlow of TDOT. There may be \$200,000 that will be turned back to TDOT that could be made available to us. If you have any additions or cost overruns to projects going on now, you may be able to receive more money.

8. Impact the decision by TDOT to select the No Build Alternative for SR-475/Knoxville Parkway will have on the TPO planning process

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: On June 25, TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely announced that the department has selected the no-build alternative for SR-475/Knoxville Parkway. The TPO and TDOT will now concentrate on identifying other projects and management practices to improve and maintain our traffic in the north and western parts of our study areas.

Background: After more than 10 years of discussion and analysis TDOT has determined that work on the Knoxville Parkway project will end with the preparation of the Supplemental EIS. The supplemental EIS will recommend a no-build for the Parkway (SR-475).

Jeff Welch stated that on June 25 TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely announced that SR-475 will not be built. The main reason that Commissioner Nicely gave for terminating the project was due to the projected cost being too large for the amount of benefit that would be achieved in terms of the amount of traffic that was estimated to be diverted from I-40 and I-75. Jeff stated that TDOT identified other projects that could be implemented on existing roadways to alleviate future traffic congestion that would cost less money than building SR-475. The projects that were identified are mainly along the corridors of I-40, I-75, I-640 and Pellissippi Parkway. The TPO staff plans to request interchange modification studies at several interchanges along those corridors that also need to be addressed. In summary Jeff stated that we need to put a plan of action in place and focus on projects that can be implemented in the alternative corridors.

Jeff asked Mike Conger to comment on the air quality conformity implications of removing the SR-475 project from our Long Range Mobility Plan. Mike stated that since we are already updating the Mobility Plan at the current time, the removal of this project can be accounted for in the updated air quality conformity analysis. He stated that the removal of this project will therefore not cause any problems with air quality conformity.

9. Other Business

Latest rescission action at the federal level

July 20, 2010, Public Hearing on draft EIS for Pellissippi Parkway, 5-8 p.m., Heritage High School, Blount County

July 28, 2010, TPO Board Meeting

August 10, 2010, Technical Committee meeting

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Workshop on TDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program with Jessica Wilson, TDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator.