

TPO Technical Committee Minutes
October 13, 2015
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, TN

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on October 13, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville, TN. Chair Cindy Pionke presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined that there was a quorum. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves.

*Kathryn Baldwin	City of Oak Ridge
*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Don Brown	ETDD, <i>for Terry Bobrowski</i>
*Houston Daugherty	Anderson County
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway Area MPO
*Dawn Distler	KAT, <i>for Melissa Roberson</i>
*Karen Estes	Knox County CAC Transit
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville
*Brooke Keyes	Sevier County, <i>for Jeff Ownby</i>
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Janice Osborne	Knoxville Commuter Poole, <i>for Deanna Flinchum</i>
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County
*Blake Sartin	Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
*Nick Weander	TDOT, Region 1, <i>for Jack Qualls</i>
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	

1. Motion to Approve September 8, 2015 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of September 8, 2015 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to approve the September 8, 2015 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Update on Section 5307 - Urban Area Transit Funding

Item Summary: Update on Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Funding

Staff will update the Technical Committee about the final funding being distributed to KAT, Knox County CAC Transit, and ETHRA. Section 5307 funding comes through the FTA to the urban area and can be used for operations or capital projects. The FTA recently released the final FY15 appropriation amount. This is a very late date as FY15 ended on September 30th. In May, the Executive Board endorsed the City of Knoxville's distribution plan, which included the possibility that funding could be adjusted once the final amount was known. The final appropriation was slightly more than forecasted. Mayor Rogero has approved dividing the extra funding and the remaining reserve dollars between all three transit agencies based on the approved distribution formula. However, these additional funds should be applied to the start of FY16 (October 1st) and should not be considered extra.

An official TIP amendment does not need to occur as the Executive Board previously approved TIP sheets based on the original distribution plan. The new funding is within the range set by TDOT and FTA and will be done by staff as a TIP adjustment.

Discussion: Doug Burton gave an overview of the FTA Section 5307 funds to be distributed. He noted that with the \$8,711.00 additional dollars we received, Mayor Rogero has decided to also allocate the “rainy day” funds, for a total of approximately \$323,059.00 to be distributed. As FY16 started October 1st these additional dollars should be applied to the new fiscal year. He also noted that as requested by the Technical Committee, staff are having conversations with TDOT regarding whether or not they will be continuing to provide half [or any] of the match going forward.

3. Update on Section 5339 - Bus & Bus Facilities Funding and Motion to Recommend Approval of Amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program

Item Summary: Update on Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Funding

Section 5339 is funding that comes through the FTA to be used for the purchase of buses or capital improvements related to bus facilities. The FTA recently released the final FY15 appropriation and the urban area received an additional \$954 over the estimate. In May, the Executive Board endorsed the City of Knoxville’s distribution plan that awarded funds to KAT and ETHRA. Unfortunately, FTA notified ETHRA that it was not eligible. FTA said this determination was based on a technicality in the federal law. As KAT is the only agency currently eligible, Mayor Rogero, based on staff’s input, is recommending all of the funds be allocated to KAT. ETHRA has submitted an official letter asking to return the funding to the City of Knoxville. The two TIP amendments must be approved to return ETHRA’s funding and to re-appropriate it with any extra funding to KAT. Staff recommends Approval.

Discussion: Doug Burton reviewed the FTA Section 5339 funds being returned by ETHRA that will now be awarded to the only currently eligible agency, which is KAT. There are two Amendments that must be passed to transfer the funding. The first Amendment allocates the returned funds as well as an additional \$954.00 of federal funds to KAT. The second Amendment reflects the return of the FY 2014 and 2015 funds originally allocated to ETHRA back to the City, as the designated recipient, and officially removes ETHRA’s project from the TIP.

A Motion was made by Nick Weander and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to recommend approval of Amendments [reflecting FTA Section 5339 - Bus & Bus Facilities Funding] to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion to Recommend Approval of Amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program

Item Summary: Staff recommends approval.

Discussion: Bryan Berry reviewed the proposed Amendments. The first one amends the project description, termini and project length of the City of Knoxville’s South Waterfront Roadway Improvements project which consists of various roadway streetscape improvements to Sevier Ave. and adjacent side streets to enhance connectivity with a new city Park, Suttree Landing. He clarified that the proposed changes do not add any length to the overall project. The second project is amended by adding it to the TIP and awards L-STP funds to Knox County CAC to install cameras in approximately 40 existing vehicles providing demand response transit services.

A Motion was made by Darryl Smith and seconded by Don Brown to recommend approval of Amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

5. Presentation on the TPO Website's Updated Traffic Count Page

Item Summary: Staff will demonstrate the TPO's recently updated Traffic Counts page, located here: <http://knoxtrans.org/traffic-counts>.

Discussion: Alex Zendel, MPC's GIS analyst, noted he has been working with TPO to staff disseminate all of the traffic count data into one signal data base which incorporates data from both TPO [via contracted entities] and TDOT. He gave a brief overview of how the TPO has disseminated traffic count data in the past and then demonstrated the recently updated Traffic Count Page, which unlike KGIS that only maps Knox County, includes data collected by TPO's contractors in Knox and Blount counties in addition to counts collected by TDOT at several thousand locations across the 10 county region.

6. Presentation on Public Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)

Item Summary: An update on the standard the TDOT has adopted for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). **This Item is postponed to an upcoming Committee meeting.**

7. Other Business

- The EPA announced a revision to the 8-hour ozone standard on October 1, 2015. The new standard will be set at 70 parts-per-billion (ppb). Jeff Welch reviewed the revised standard and the process going forward. **Attachment #5 - Revised Ozone Standard October 2015**
- Representatives from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will be in Knoxville December 7-9, 2015 for the 2016 Transportation Management Area (TMA) Certification Review for the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization. This will be done in conjunction with TDOT and kicks off with a public meeting at the KAT transfer station at 5:30 p.m. on December 7th.
- Mr. Welch noted TDOT released the final environmental impact statement for the Pellissippi Parkway in Blount County last month. They have extended the public comment period to November 18th.
- Senate Transportation and Safety Committee Chairman Jim Tracy is holding a hearing at Bridgewater Place this Thursday (10/15) from 10:00 a.m. to noon to discuss Tennessee's roads and transportation needs.
- Karen Estes noted the Knoxville Livability Summit, a joint venture between the City of Knoxville, the Knoxville-Knox County CAC Office on Aging and the TN Commission on Aging and Disability, is being held on November 12th at the Rothchild Conference Center. Register at www.tn4lifetime.org. For more information call the Office on Aging at 865-524-2786.
- Nick Weander briefly reviewed the office reorganization that has been ongoing in TDOT's Long Range Planning Division. He also noted they are hiring additional GIS technicians [in Nashville] to expand their GIS capabilities and will be hiring additional planners this fall to expand their ability to support the MPO's/TPO's across the state.
- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.

8. Public Comment

There was no comment from the public

9. Adjournment

A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Darryl Smith to adjourn. The Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.