

# Attachment #1

**TPO Technical Committee  
April 14, 2009  
9 a.m.  
Small Assembly Room  
City/County Building  
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on April 14 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
*Monica Austin Carroll	Anderson County for Kathryn Baldwin
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway Area TPO
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville/Knox County MPC
*Steve King	City of Knoxville Engineering
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee
*Russ Newman	Loudon County
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit
*Blake Sartin	Metro Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
*Bruce Wuethrich	Knox County Engineering
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Becky Bottoms	Cannon & Cannon
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Karen Estes	Knox County Community Action Committee Transit
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Chris Jenkins	Town of Farragut
Brent Johnson	City of Knoxville
Cindy Pionke	Knox County
Anne Wallace	City of Knoxville
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

\*voting members

## **Determination of Quorum**

### **1. Approval of March 10, 2009, Minutes**

**Presenter:** John Lamb, Chair

**Item Summary:** Approval of March 10, 2009, TPO Technical Committee minutes.

**Background:** Attachment #1, March 10, 2009, Minutes

**A motion was made by Bruce Wuethrich and seconded by Blake Sartin to approve the March 10 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

## 2. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** Staff has submitted a draft 2010 UPWP to TDOT and FHWA. If there are any planning studies that your jurisdiction is interested in please let us know as soon as possible. There will be additional time to add to the UPWP over the next couple of months.

**Background: Attachment #2: TDOT TPR Flowchart**

Jeff Welch explained what is included in the UPWP and discussed the TPR flowchart. If there are any planning studies the jurisdictions want to do, you have to follow this format to meet TDOT standards. The TPR requests need to be included in the work program. The work program will be approved at the July meeting.

## 3. Complete Streets

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** The Regional Complete Streets Study is winding down, with draft plans for both corridors completed, and the generic guidelines in progress. In other complete streets news, the Complete Streets Act of 2009 has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. **Background: Draft Complete Streets corridor plans are available at [www.knoxtrans.org](http://www.knoxtrans.org). Attachment #3a - Summary of Complete Streets Act. Attachment #3b - full text of Complete Streets Act.**

Ellen Zavisca stated that this study began in the fall with corridor studies of Broadway in Knoxville and Washington Street/Hall Road in Maryville/Alcoa. A public meeting will be held to notify neighborhood groups about the finished plan. Attachment #3a gives a summary of the Complete Streets Act, and Attachment #3b is the full bill, which has been introduced in the House of Representatives. Jeff Welch stated that a handout has been distributed called the AMPO Legislation Update containing the summary of bills that would affect transportation planning. SAFETEA-LU expires in September, and we will share with the committee as we get updates on the process of reauthorizing that legislation.

## 4. Long Range Mobility Plan Update and Draft Conformity Analysis

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**a. Item Summary:** TDOT has completed their review of the Draft 2009-2034 Knoxville Regional Mobility Plan. Staff has responded to the comments and resubmitted the draft plan to TDOT. The plan should be submitted to FHWA shortly. Staff has also completed the final round of public meetings. The draft is available on the TPO's website and through a document-sharing site. A brief presentation will also be made on the draft conformity analysis. **Attachment #4: Executive Summary Draft Conformity Analysis**

**b. Background:** The Plan is updated every four years and is scheduled for approval by the Technical Committee on May 12 and adoption by the Board on May 27. The Draft Plan is open for public review and comment until May 27, 2009.

Katie Habgood stated that the Draft Mobility Plan has been sent to TDOT, and she has received their comments. It will then be sent to the Federal Highway Administration for their review. Eight meetings were held in five counties with 50 people attending. She distributed a copy of the presentation. The document will be open for public comment until May 27 when it goes to the Executive Board.

Mike Conger stated that as part of the plan we are required to do a conformity determination for air quality. Attachment #4 is an executive summary of the Mobility Plan Conformity Determination Report. The TPO must perform a conformity analysis for both ozone and PM2.5. We had to show that projected emissions will not exceed the acceptable limits. Mike discussed the charts in the document, which demonstrate that our Plan meets conformity. Mike stated that he will have a draft of the report ready and posted to the TPO website within the next couple days and that the draft will also be sent for review by the interagency consultation partners for their comments. Mike noted that the interagency group has been involved throughout the process of developing the conformity determination; therefore, he does not expect there to be significant issues that will need to be addressed as part of their review of the draft.

John Fairstein, 11205 Sam Lee Road, asked about the calculations in the conformity report and if a sensitivity analysis had been performed in order to determine which of the parameters have the greatest effect on emission rates. Mike Conger stated that he did not specifically conduct a sensitivity analysis although he was aware of one that had been done on the EPA MOBILE model, which he could send to John. Mike added that the model was sensitive to various different parameters depending on the type of emissions and that the main goal was to use local specific data wherever possible. Mr. Fairstein asked if there had ever been any follow-up done to compare what the TPO modeling showed in terms of emissions versus what the actual amounts being measured were. Mike stated that ultimately the monitoring data determines whether attainment is being achieved, but other than that there is no way to actually collect all emissions that strictly come from mobile sources since there are several different emission sources in the area plus what comes into the area from outside. Mike also noted that ozone is not directly emitted, but rather is formed after complex chemical reactions.

## **5. Economic Stimulus Program**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** Staff will discuss the latest information on the Economic Stimulus program or American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

**Background:** The TPO Board has approved the Technical Committee recommended list of projects to be funded with ARRA dollars.

Approval of a Resolution to Amend the FY 2008-2011 TIP to drop TIP Project # 2008-129 Alcoa Highway [SR 115] and Wright Road safety Improvements \$120,000 of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding [ARRA] and add \$120,000 to TIP Project #2008-133 ARRA resurfacing projects, to be equitably distributed among the nine resurfacing projects.

Jeff Welch stated that the staff has submitted recommended projects to TDOT for the economic stimulus funding. TDOT is working on contracts. Angie Midgett met with Teresa Estes and Nancy Sartor and will have a conference call with the TPO staff.

Andrew Sonner stated that Alcoa wants to withdraw the \$120,000 stimulus money that was to be used for Alcoa Highway and Wright Road safety improvements. Jeff stated that the \$120,000 could be divided up by percentages among all the nine resurfacing projects. Bruce Wuethrich would like the money added to resurfacing.

**Motion by Bruce Wuethrich and second by Darryl Smith to remove \$120,000 from the Alcoa Highway and Wright Road safety improvements project economic stimulus funding and put this money toward nine resurfacing projects. The motion carried unanimously.**

Angie Midgett suggested that the stimulus funds not be put in an overrun bucket but to set up a separate overrun bucket.

Brian Boone asked when we will know what the actual dollar amounts will be. Staff can provide the new dollar amount for each project after the Board approves the amendment. The Executive Board will vote on this TIP Amendment at their April 22 meeting.

## **6. Discussion of Surface Transportation Program (STP) Fund Balance**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** The Knoxville TPO is carrying a fund balance of \$27,409,141. This represents almost 4 years of STP allocation. In the attached letter and a conference call with TDOT on February 13, 2009, TDOT is asking for a plan of action on how we will spend down this balance. There is no immediate threat of losing any of these federal funds.

**Background:** Staff will present a proposal to the Technical Committee at the meeting.

Jeff Welch discussed the spreadsheet that identifies the STP funds that have been estimated. These are federal dollars. Staff asked that the Technical Committee members review the proposal and provide comments by May 1, 2009. Also a process to develop a new TIP for the FY2011-2013 will begin in of 2010

Angie Midgett stated that TDOT is pleased with the way TPO spent the STP funds allocated to them.

## **7. Challenges Implementing Greenway and Sidewalk Projects**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** At the Great Smoky Mountains Regional Greenway Council (GSMRGC), representatives of several local governments have raised concerns about the many hoops to be jumped through to construct greenway and sidewalks with federal funding. The Council would like to start a dialogue among TDOT, local governments and the TPO concerning this issue.

Ellen Zavisca stated that discussions have taken place at GSMRGC meetings concerning the barriers to constructing greenways and sidewalk with federal and state funding. A subcommittee of the Regional Greenway Council met and talked about the process and solutions. John Lamb stated that we are looking at getting greenways looked at differently than roadways. Does TPO want to partner with this group? Andrew Sonner stated that the categorical exclusion process should be streamlined. Steve King added that this is a federal issue not TPO project. We have to go through FHWA for PM2.5 for sidewalks and greenways. Jeff Welch stated that we should be able to ask questions of FHWA for these projects. John thinks TPO should be a part of this. He asked Andrew to work with Ellen on drafting a letter to TDOT requesting a meeting with TDOT on this issue.

## **8. U.S. House of Representatives High Priority Transportation Projects Application**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**a. Item Summary:** The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) is developing a process whereby all Representatives will be able to submit new "high priority projects" (HPP) for the next surface transportation act. These are taking the place of "earmarks." The attachment explains how the process will work. Each proposed project must have a fairly detailed submittal to get into the system. Note that requests must be received between April 27 and May 8. **Attachment #5: U.S. House T&I Committee letter/guidance.**

Jeff Welch advised the committee that the **U.S. House of Representatives T&I Committee has issued a process to request HPP projects by the Representatives.**

John Fairstein asked if the committee knows of any projects to be submitted through HPP, and Jeff stated he did not. Mr. Fairstein asked if there are lower limits, and Jeff answered that he has not seen anything like that. This is the House version and there will be a Senate version.

## **9. Other Business**

**Executive Board April 22. Draft Mobility Plan, Economic Stimulus funding, resurfacing projects.**

- **Technical Committee Meeting, May 12 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**
- **Executive Board Meeting, May 27 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**

Jeff Welch stated that the state is now working on budgets to create transportation authorities, and the State house and Senate are discussing it.

## **10. Public Comment**

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

## **11. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.