

TPO Technical Committee Minutes  
April 16, 2013  
9:00 a.m.  
Small Assembly Room  
City/County Building  
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on April 16, 2013 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville. Chair Cindy Pionke presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined that there was a quorum.

*Perrin Anderson	Sevier County, <i>for Greg Patterson</i>
*Kathryn Baldwin	City of Oak Ridge
*Terry Bobrowski	ETDD
*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Beth Collins	Lenoir City
*Karen Estes	CAC
*Jim Hageman	City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville-Knox County MPC
*Mike Patterson	ETHRA, <i>for Gary Holiway</i>
*Pat Phillips	Loudon County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Dwight Van de Vate</i>
*Jack Qualls	Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit (KAT)
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	

**1. Approval of March 12, 2013 Minutes**

Action       Possible Action       Discussion

**Presenter: Cindy Pionke, Chair**

**Item Summary:** Approval of March 12, 2013 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

**Attachment #1 - March 12, 2013 Minutes**

**Action: A Motion was made by Perrin Anderson (Sevier County) and seconded by Darryl Smith (Town of Farragut) to approve the March 12, 2013 Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.**

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

Action       Possible Action       Discussion

**Presenter: TPO Staff**

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

**Attachment #2a - TIP Amendment 2011-020 (Cumberland Ave (US-70/11 and SR-1) Phase I) and TIP Amendment 2011-088 (Cumberland Ave (US-70/11 and SR-1) Phase II)** - Amend the project by splitting it into two phases. The first project phase is 2011-020 and runs from Alcoa Hwy to 22nd Street. The second project phase is new project 2011-088 and runs from 22nd Street to 16th Street. Amend project 2011-020 by moving \$4,200,000 (\$3,360,000 federal and \$840,000 local) in L-STP funds from FY 2011 and 2012 to FY 2013 for utility work (gas, water, sewer, storm water), signal poles, widened sidewalks to University Commons and Tyson Park, and repaving/stripping work where the street will maintain its existing cross section; it may also include a westbound right turn lane at the Alcoa Hwy intersection. Move the remaining \$10,400,000 in L-STP funds from project 2011-020 to FY 2014 in project 2011-088, along with an additional \$2,432,831 in L-STP funds for a total project cost of \$12,832,831 (\$10,266,265 federal and \$2,566,566 local). It is to include the road diet and major streetscape work.

**Attachment #2b - Short Conformity Report for April 2013 Knoxville Regional TPO TIP Amendment**

**Discussion:** Bryan Berry (MPC) reviewed the proposed Amendments as outlined above.

**Action: A Motion was made by Pat Phillips (Loudon County) and seconded by Andrew Sonner (City of Alcoa) to approve the Amendments to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Motion carried unanimously.**

**3. Recommended Approval of the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan**

Action       Possible Action       Discussion

**Presenter: TPO Staff**

**Item Summary:** TPO staff presented an overview of the Draft 2040 Regional Mobility Plan and Air Quality Conformity on March 12, 2013. TPO released a first draft of the Plan on December 6, 2012. On February 27, 2013, a second draft was released that reflected comments from TDOT, and on April 3, 2013 a final draft was released that reflected comments from the public, FHWA, and FTA. From March 1 to April 1, 2013, the Draft Plan was released for public comment.

Public comments indicate that the first chapter was useful in helping the public to better understand the TPO process, however overall half continue to find the Plan difficult to read. To address this, TPO staff is working on an Executive Summary to assist users to catch the high points of the Plan without being bogged down in some of the dense details. In addition, staff received a comment that the Pellissippi Pkwy extension should not be pursued but that we should prioritize fixing existing roads first.

Federal review only brought seven required changes, including minor map changes, additional citations, minor language changes, and changes in funding allocations – none of which required changes to the project lists. FHWA and FTA also included numerous questions, comments, and suggestions. TPO staff responded to each and worked to make as many changes as feasible, however none of the changes were substantive in nature. Additional changes ranged from additional or clarified language to the addition of maps and numerous links to TPO work online. Staff recommends approval of the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan.

**Public Comment:** Prior to action on the Mobility Plan, members of the public may address the Technical Committee with a five-minute time limitation for each person.

**Discussion:** Alan Huff (TPO) thanked everyone for their assistance in meeting the very tight timelines associated with the Plan and for the feedback and input received from all member jurisdictions. He reviewed the timeline of the Draft revisions highlighting certain public, federal and state partner inputs during comment and review periods.

Chair Cindy Pionke (Knox County) opened the meeting up for public comment. There was no public comment.

**Action: A Motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin (City of Oak Ridge) and seconded by Darryl Smith (Town of Farragut) to approve the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**4. Recommended Approval of the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan**

Action       Possible Action       Discussion

**Presenter: TPO Staff**

**Item Summary:** Air quality conformity of new transportation plans is required due to the Knoxville Region's status as an air quality nonattainment area for ozone and PM2.5. The TPO staff has prepared a report that demonstrates that the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan and 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program meet air quality conformity requirements from the EPA Clean Air Act. A regional emissions analysis was conducted which determined that the implementation of projects included in the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan will not cause or contribute to any new violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), increase the frequency or severity of NAAQS violations; or delay timely attainment of the NAAQS. Staff recommends approval.

**Attachment #3 - Conformity Determination Executive Summary**

**Public Comment:** Prior to action on the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the Mobility Plan, members of the public may address the Technical Committee with a five-minute time limitation for each person.

**Discussion:** Mike Conger (TPO) noted throughout this process of developing the Plan and the Conformity Determination, staff has been working closely with their Interagency Consultation Group, which is made up of regulatory agencies and federal review partners such as EPA and FHWA, state partners TDOT and TDEC in addition to our local air quality agency. This has also included the National Park Service/Great Smoky Mountains.

Chair Cindy Pionke (Knox County) opened the meeting up for public comment. There was no public comment.

**Action: A Motion was made by Terry Bobrowski (ETDD) and seconded by Pat Phillips (Loudon County) to approve the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the 2040 Regional Mobility Plan. The Motion carried unanimously.**

**Further Discussion:** Jeff Welch noted the Lakeway MTPO will also be adopting their Mobility Plan and Conformity Analysis later this month. The RPO is voting electronically to endorse the Long Range Mobility Plan by the end of this month as well. After approval by the Executive Board, the final document will go onto TDOT and then FHWA to confer with EPA to obtain a final letter of approval of the Conformity Analysis for the Plan by June.

## 5. Summary of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Projects Submitted

Action       Possible Action       Discussion

**Presenter: TPO Staff**

**Item Summary:** The TPO received a total of 49 project applications for the upcoming FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A list summarizing those preliminary applications will be handed out to the committee for review. Staff will prioritize the projects and make recommendations for funding.

**Discussion:** Bryan Berry (MPC) noted staff is awaiting projects from TDOT as their three year plan is still in the final phase of being approved. He noted staff would be following up with individual jurisdictions as necessary for additional information and/or clarification as staff begins to evaluate each project. Jeff Welch (TPO) stated the present list represents approximately 75 million dollars in L-STP funds. He then noted that given our current balance and funds projected to be spent this year, along with cost overruns, there will most likely be insufficient funds to cover the entire list. Subsequently, some projects may need to be trimmed or pushed back beyond the 2017 Horizon year. He also noted we will need to amend the TIP once we receive the final breakdown from TDOT of what we expect to be approximately 4.3 million dollars of cost overruns, and that staff will share TDOT's three year plan as soon as it is available. He requested that Committee members revisit their project applications to see if they can trim any costs as the final numbers will be very close.

## 6. Summary of Transportation Alternatives Program Projects Submitted

Action       Possible Action       Discussion

**Presenter: TPO Staff**

**Item Summary:** The TPO put out a call for projects for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding, and received eight applications for funding that meet the criteria for the program. Staff will prioritize the projects and make recommendations for funding.

**Attachment #4 – TAP Application Summary**

**Discussion:** Ellen Zavisca noted that the TAP has essentially replaced the Transportation Enhancements Program. Previously local governments applied to TDOT for that funding. Now with TAP, at least within major metropolitan areas, local governments are applying to the TPOs and MPOs for project funding. She noted there was some overlap with the TIP process and subsequently there were a few applications that were placed under the purview of that program. She further noted that it has been identified that one of the projects listed, a bike/ped path – from Old Stage Road to Kingston Pike near Everett Road – is already in the pipeline and will be removed from the list, taking us to seven projects. Of the seven, five are greenway projects: one in Alcoa, two in Farragut, one in Oak Ridge, and one in Knoxville that is requesting additional funding. Two projects were downtown ped/bike improvement projects: one a connector between two streets in Maryville and one involving some lighting and pedestrian safety improvements in Lenoir City. Ms. Zavisca noted we expect to receive approximately 1.5 million dollars in TAP funds over the next 2 years.

## 7. Other Business

- Kelley Segars (TPO) noted that the 13<sup>th</sup> annual bike ride is scheduled for May 5, also the date of the I Bike Knoxville festival on Market Square in downtown Knoxville. The festival goes from 2 to 5 p.m., and the bike ride is at 2:30 p.m. Staff is working on a Cinco de Mayo theme. Local bike shops and bike advocacy groups will be at the festival. Ms. Segars encouraged everyone to attend.
- The public is invited to attend a retirement reception honoring Barbara Monty, Director of CAC's Office on Aging. The reception is being held this afternoon, April 16<sup>th</sup>, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the L.T. Ross Building, 2247 Western Avenue.

- Taxes, Green Vehicles and the Death of Tennessee Transportation Panel Discussion - Wednesday, April 17, 2013, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Toyota Auditorium, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy.
- PlanET is hosting Chuck Marohn from Strong Towns on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The event is scheduled to take place in the Goins Building Auditorium on the Hardin Valley campus of Pellissippi State Community College. This will be the first in a series of speakers hosted by PlanET. He will also be presenting to the Board of Mayors and City Managers earlier in the day.

**Attachment #5 – Curbside Chat Flyer**

- Jeff Welch (TPO) noted that former US Secretary of Energy and New Mexico Governor, Bill Richardson, will be speaking at the Baker Center on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Toyota Auditorium. Gov. Richardson, a longtime environmental advocate, will give the Baker Distinguished Lecture on Energy and the Environment. His topic is *Policies America Should Follow to Protect the Environment!*
- The TPO welcomed Jack Qualls to the Technical Committee. He and Tarren Barrett are the new TDOT Community Transportation Planners for Region 1 and will represent TDOT on the Technical Committee and Executive Board.
- Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, April 24, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, May 14, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

**8. Public comment**

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

**9. Adjournment: A Motion was made by John Lamb (Blount County) and seconded by Terry Bobrowski (ETDD) to adjourn. The Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.**