

**TPO Technical Committee  
November 18, 2008  
9 a.m.  
Main Assembly Room  
City/County Building  
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on November 18 at 9 a.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City/County Building in Knoxville. Darryl Smith, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order.

*Monica Austin Carroll	Anderson County for Kathryn Baldwin
*Rich DesGroseilliers	Lakeway Area TPO
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville/Knox County MPC
*Chris Hamby	City of Alcoa
*Steve King	City of Knoxville Engineering
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Jennifer Lehto	East Tennessee Development District for Terry Bobrowski
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Greg Patterson	Sevier County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County Engineering for Bruce Wuethrich
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit
*Blake Sartin	Metro Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Nathan Benditz	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mark Geldmeier	City of Knoxville
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Brent Johnson	City of Knoxville
Tina Rolan	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Russell	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

\*voting members

### **Determination of Quorum**

#### **1. Approval of October 14, 2008, Minutes**

**Presenter:** Darryl Smith, Chair

**Item Summary:** Approval of October 14, 2008, TPO Technical Committee minutes.

**Background:** Attachment #1 – October 14, 2008, Minutes.

**A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Cindy Pionke to approve the October 14, 2008 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **2. Recommendation of Approval of Transportation Improvement Program Amendment and Status of TIP Projects and Budget**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**a. Item Summary:** Add Pilot Road Construction Diesel Retrofit Project (TIP Project 2008-126).

**Background:** Two engine repowers and one engine upgrade on heavy-duty road construction equipment. This CMAQ project requires a minimum 20 percent match. Charles Blalock and Sons will provide \$88,002 in matching funds. **Attachment #2a.**

**A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Blake Sartin to recommend approval to the Executive Board of the TIP amendment to add the Pilot Road Construction Diesel Retrofit Project. The motion carried unanimously.**

**b. Background:** The 2008 -2011 TIP had originally anticipated a yearly increase of \$500,000 in available local STP funds through 2011. Due to declining revenues at the federal level, we have seen an actual decline of \$100,000 in our local STP allocation for fiscal year 2009. Status reports will be distributed at the meeting.

**An administrative adjustment was made to the following project and needs no action.**

a. Adjust TIP Project 2008-105 (Streetscape Improvements near the Tennessee Theatre) to increase Federal funding for FY 2009 by \$220,154. The total project cost was increased by less than 30 percent and therefore does not need an amendment, but rather an adjustment.

Jeff Welch stated that one sheet that was distributed is the STP quarterly report provided by TDOT for funding allocations for coming year. He asked each member to check the status of their projects, dollar amounts, etc. He asked that they set up a time to meet with staff if there are any funding issues. He described the amounts and cost overrun bucket. He stated that the TPO wants to obligate as much money as quickly as possible. The other sheet that was distributed is the CMAQ quarterly report and asked the members to check the status of their projects, dollar amounts, projects, etc. There is adequate funding for CMAQ projects. There is \$1.1 million in the fund, and the goal for this fund also is to get the money obligated as soon as possible.

## **3. Federal and State Legislative Issues**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** The Tennessee House and Senate Transportation Study Committee met for the first time on October 21, 2008. TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely presented a status report.

**Attachment 3a – Committee Members and 3b – TDOT Presentation**

TPO staff attended the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations' annual meeting and a summary of major issues discussed will be provided.

Jeff Welch stated that Commissioner Nicely made a presentation to State Senate and House special transportation committee which is Attachment 3b. The presentation described how TDOT is currently funded and outlines possible revenue enhancement options.

Jeff attended an AMPO annual meeting in Seattle. Greenhouse gas emissions are a major concern throughout the transportation industry. MPOs may be required to develop plans and programs that address emissions reductions through land use policies, cap and trade programs and other possibilities.

Jeff stated that as of yesterday, there will not be a stimulus bill for infrastructure in the current Appropriations Bill. We need to look at federal funding and programs and concentrate on congestion as we develop the Long Range Mobility Plan. The issues we are facing include energy independence, health, emissions reductions, sustainability of transportation infrastructure and global climate change.

## **4. Review of the Initial Results of the Existing Plus Committed Highway Network Travel Demand Model Run**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** Staff will review the results for the Existing Plus Committed Model run with the 2034 socio-economic forecasted conditions.

**Background:** A new Long Range Mobility Plan (LRMP) needs to be approved by June of 2009.

Mike Conger first gave an update on the update to the Travel Demand Model that is underway based on the recent updated household travel survey. He said that he met with the Travel Demand Model TDOT modeling staff in order to review the model design since it is taking a different approach than traditional 4 step models. He described some of the new features that will be incorporated in the model that should be more realistic in terms of how travel demand is modeled. It will be 5 or 6 months to complete the updated model.

Mike then gave a presentation of results from running the current model based on the existing roadway network plus the addition of projects that are expected to be completed by the end of 2009. Three different land use scenarios developed from the Urban Land Use Allocation Model were used - a Historical Trend, Sustainable Development and a Corridor Development Scenario. Mike described each scenario and went through the overall outputs from the model with regard to projected vehicle miles of travel and delay. Mike noted that the Sustainable Development Scenario was projected to have the least amount of VMT while the Corridor Development Scenario minimized the amount of delay. Mike described some of the major assumptions built into the model, which should be kept in mind while reviewing the results. One item is the mode share built into the model which is based on current data showing that 98% of most trip types use the personal vehicle mode. One drawback of the current model is that it cannot account for the likelihood that a future land use scenario with higher densities and job/housing mixes might shift trips to other modes. Mike also pointed out that the delay figures may be artificially high because the model assumes that trips are taken at the same time periods while one might expect that peak periods may spread out in response to congestion. Mike used data from large cities such as Los Angeles to demonstrate this peak spreading effect. Mike noted that the data for the different scenarios would be used in conjunction with travel time data that was collected as part of the Congestion Management Process as well as some crash data that is being compiled in order to assist in project selection for the Long Range Mobility Plan. Mike noted that the intent is to meet in smaller groups with the jurisdictions to develop project priorities next month. This information would then be presented to the public for their input in January or February.

John Lamb asked if a copy of the presentation were available. Jeff responded that the presentation will be made available on the website.

## **5. Other Business**

- **FHWA Intersection Safety Strategies Brochure**
- **Technical Committee Meeting, December 9 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**

Jeff Welch announced there will be a TDOT public meeting on December 2 at the West Knox Library concerning the I-75 Corridor between Chattanooga and Jellico at the Tennessee/Kentucky state line.

Jeff distributed an article called "Burton W. Marsh Distinguished Service Award: Make No Little Plans." The article discusses major issues in the country related to energy, climate change, congestion, financing and safety.

Jeff distributed a FHWA brochure containing information about intersection safety strategies.

Jeff stated that for the next meeting the staff will meet with the cities and counties to talk about the LRMP model outputs and discuss projects. There probably will not be a December meeting.

Ellen Zavisca announced the Tour De Lights bicycle ride will be held on December 17. You can decorate your bike.

## **6. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **7. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.