

TPO Technical Committee Minutes
July 8, 2014
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on July 8, 2014, 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. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves.

*Kathryn Baldwin	City of Oak Ridge
*Don Brown	ETDD, <i>for Terry Bobrowski</i>
*Houston Daugherty	Anderson County
*Mark Donaldson	Metropolitan Planning Commission
*Karen Estes	CAC
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Angie Luckie	City of Maryville, <i>for Brian Boone</i>
*Ted Newsom	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County
*Mike Patterson	ETHRA, <i>FOR Gary Holiway</i>
*Pat Phillips	City of Loudon and Loudon County
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County, <i>for Dwight Van de Vate</i>
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit (KAT)
*Blake Sartin	Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
*Andrew Sonner	City of Alcoa
*Nick Weander	Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), <i>for Jack Qualls</i>
**Scott Allen	Federal Highway Administration
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	
**non-voting member	

1. Approval of June 10, 2014 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of June 10, 2014 Minutes TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by Blake Sartin and seconded by John Lamb to approve the June 10, 2014 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

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

Item Summary: The following proposed Amendments to the TIP are listed below.

Staff recommends approval.

Discussion: Bryan Berry reviewed the 13 proposed amendments before the Committee. Attachment #2A is the addition of the Tellico Village Greenway project to the current TIP using L-STP funds. Jeff Welch pointed out that the local match in Attachment #2A is coming from the Tellico Village Homeowners Association, not Loudon County and provides an opportunity for a unique partnership.

The remaining amendments involve Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds. Attachment #2B is the project placeholder for FTA Section 5307 funds for projects being added to the TIP and identified in Attachments #2C through #2J, and amends the total project cost from \$26,687,065 to \$19,959,798. These amendments involve Associated Transportation Improvements, Security System Costs – E911 Fees, ADA Non-Fixed Route, Preventive Maintenance / Associated Capital Maintenance Items, Transit Planning Activities, Support Vehicles Purchase and Operating Assistance for KAT, CAC and ETHRA. Attachment #2K is the project placeholder for FTA Section 5339 for projects being added to the TIP and identified in Attachments #2K and #2L, and amends the total project cost from \$3,681,571 to \$2,195,202. These amendments involve capital funds to purchase bus and bus facilities for KAT and ETHRA. Melissa Roberson clarified that “super stops” as noted in Attachment #2C typically serve 2 or more bus routes and often involve the transfer of passengers. She stated they try to have enhanced amenities at these stops such as shelters, landscaping, lighting etc.

A Motion was made by Nick Weander and seconded by Pat Phillips to recommend approval of the Amendments to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Recommend Approval of the final Draft of the FY 2014-2015 Transportation Planning Work Program

Item Summary: The TPO staff has prepared an amended FY2014-2015 Transportation Planning Work Program. Minor modifications were made to the budget and additional tasks were added related FHWA emphasis areas and the PlanET Playbook .

Staff recommends approval.

Discussion: Jeff Welch gave an overview of the amended Work Program and noted it has minor changes from last year. Mr. Welch noted the emphasis areas for the upcoming year are a result of planning efforts of the Plan East Tennessee project, and leverage PlanET resources including documents produced, data, and publicly identified priorities and issues. He then noted staff will be utilizing transportation dollars to identify and pursue additional projects related to PlanET. One such initiative will be to convene the Board of Mayors on a regular basis (ideally quarterly) to identify and discuss regional issues. Further, staff plan to continue to disseminate the vast amount of information gathered and produced in the over 40 publications generated by PlanET. Mr. Welch also noted a major product from PlanET is the *etindex website* (www.etindex.org) which will be regularly updated and expanded as well as used as a resource to continue regional dialogues. Mr. Welch noted staff will continue to work with TDOT to define and maintain performance measures as mandated by MAP-21. New planning regulations will be forthcoming in the next 3 – 6 months from the Federal Highway Administration and these will be implemented as well. He also noted staff will continue to work with our regional transit partners, KAT, ETHRA and CAC to look for ways to improve transit services. Staff will also continue to work to develop better bicycle and greenway options for the region. Mr. Welch noted TDOT and FWHA have reviewed the Work Program with only minor changes.

A discussion ensued regarding the need for coordination of bicycle programs in the outlying 4 counties, possibly including identifying funding for a staff position. It was noted there were many well received bicycle programs and activities in Knoxville/Knox County and that other counties would benefit from similar efforts but do not have the expertise to take on such a role. Staff would also be available to meet with any interested communities to discuss the development and implementation of bicycle related programs and activities.

Scott Allen clarified that INVEST (Infrastructure Voluntary Evaluation Sustainability Tool) is a free web based tool developed by the FHWA. It is a software platform where planning products (plans and/or projects) entered will be measured for their levels of sustainability, producing a ranking to identify how sustainable that particular plan or project is in the planning process.

A Motion was made by Pat Phillips and seconded by John Lamb to recommend approval of the Final Draft of the FY 2014 - 2015 Transportation Planning Work Program. The Motion carried unanimously.

4. Transit Representation on the Executive Board

Item Summary: MAP-21 requires that representation by provider(s) of public transportation be on the Policy Board of MPO's that have a population of greater than 200,000. There is a compliance date of October 1, 2014. FHWA/FTA just issued policy guidance on this issue.

Discussion: Jeff Welch referenced Attachment #4 and noted under MAP-21 there was language added, as part of the law, stating that MPO's with populations greater than 200,000 must include representation by providers of public transportation on their Executive Board. Currently, FHWA and FTA have developed guidance for implementation of that part of the regulation which is currently out for public comment. Mr. Welch noted this guidance will ultimately be part of the new planning regulations which FHWA and FTA also have jointly out for comment. Compliance must be met by October 1, 2014. Mr. Welch highlighted a Policy Guidance statement noting that FTA and FHWA have stated their clear intent *"to ensure that providers of public transportation are represented on the MPO Board and should have equal rights and authorities as other members that are on the policy board"*. It was clarified that Board compositions, and subsequently Bylaws, may need to be altered to comply with the law. He noted that part of the discussion at the federal level is that transit agencies are typically either city or county departments and that there is already city and county (voting) representation on the Executive Boards. These transit departments would report to those city and county mayors/elected officials already sitting on the Board. However he noted, there is indication at the federal level that that would not meet the intent of the law, and there needs to be an actual member of the transit community sitting on the Board. Mr. Welch noted staff is exploring options to comply with the intent of the law. It was clarified that the decision on how to demonstrate compliance is a local decision. It was also noted staff does not have a recommendation at this time but will need to have a decision within the next 90 days.

5. Highway Trust Fund Status

Item Summary: Staff will provide the latest information on federal transportation funding.

Discussion: Jeff Welch noted the latest communication from both the federal and state levels is that pending no solution coming from Congress, FHWA will, beginning in September, reduce the amount of reimbursement back to state governments based on federal shortfalls in the Highway Trust Fund. He noted these shortfalls will begin to affect transit funding approximately 30-60 days after that. Mr. Welch touched on the types of impacts that we can expect going forward. TDOT has identified projects that may not continue to the next phase (Attachment #5D). Senators Corker and Murphy have introduced legislation to increase the fuel tax 12 cents over the next 2 years, with future increases indexed per the consumer price index.

6. Taking Off: McGhee Tyson Airport – Who We Are and What We do

Item Summary: An overview of McGhee Tyson Airport Operations and emerging issues and opportunities.

Discussion: Becky Huckabee, vice-President of Public Relations for the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority gave an overview of the organization. She noted the Airport Authority owns and operates the McGee-Tyson Airport, the Downtown Island Airport and is in the process of working towards bringing a general aviation airport to the Oak Ridge community. She then noted their Mission is to provide high-quality facilities and services to meet aviation related needs and to support aviation development in East Tennessee. Ms. Huckabee noted they are funded by user fees (restaurants, airlines, car rental agencies) and parking fees and that no taxpayer dollars are used to support any airport operations. They are governed by a nine member Board of Commissioners, appointed by the Mayor of Knoxville, which includes private and commercial pilots. Ms. Huckabee reviewed each department and its function. She touched on the arc map of the Knoxville airports noting they offer a combined 140 daily flights linking 19 nonstop airports, a great amount of air service for a community our size. She then reviewed in some detail a recently launched \$108 million dollar renovation plan that will span 6 years. Ms. Huckabee noted they will be using various forms of media to keep the public informed on the progress of the project. She invited Committee members to explore attending the Aviation Academy, a 5 evening program which focuses on different aspects of aviation at the airport and its impact on the community. She closed giving a more detailed overview of their current activities in Oak Ridge.

7. Other Business

- Executive Board Meeting Wednesday July 23rd at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, August 12th, at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.
- Jeff Welch noted there is a webinar following the meeting (10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) in the MPC Large Conference room on the *NACTO Urban Street Design Guide*.
- TDOT released the TAP grant applications which are due to Ellen Zavisca at the TPO by November 3rd. These do not need to be endorsed by the TPO however staff is available to assist member jurisdictions.
- It was noted there are no updates on the CMAQ applications submitted earlier this year.

8. Public comment

Members of the public may address the Technical Committee with a five-minute time limitation for each person. There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

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