

**TPO Technical Committee Minutes
November 8, 2016
9:00 a.m.
Main Assembly Room
City County Building
400 Main Street
Knoxville, TN**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met November 8, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City County Building in Knoxville, TN. Chair Kathryn Baldwin 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
*Terry Bobrowski	ETDD
*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Karen Estes	Knox County CAC Transit
*Deanna Flinchum	Knoxville Commuter Pool
*Gerald Green	Metropolitan Planning Commission
*Jim Hagerman	City of Knoxville
*Jerome Joiner	TDOT Region 1
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Jeff Ownby	Sevier County
*Mike Patterson	ETHRA
*Jeremy Pearson	City of Alcoa, <i>for Andrew Sonner</i>
*Cindy Pionke	Knox County
*Jack Qualls	City of Loudon and Loudon County
*Melissa Roberson	Knoxville Area Transit
*Blake Sartin	Metropolitan Airport Authority
*Darryl Smith	Town of Farragut
TPO Staff	
Partner Agency Staff	
Members of the Public	
*voting members	

Kathryn Baldwin recognized John Lamb for his many years of service. John is retiring next month.

1. Motion to Approve October 11, 2016 Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of October 11, 2016 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Blake Sartin to approve the October 11, 2016 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Approve Recommendations for Distribution of FTA Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program and FTA Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Program Funds

Item Summary: Each fiscal year the urban area receives from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) an allocation of Section 5307 – Urban Area and Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities funds. These funds

are used to provide public transit services. The City of Knoxville is the Designated Recipient of these funds. The City of Knoxville has an application process for agencies interested in receiving these funds.

City of Knoxville Mayor Rogero and the TPO staff reviewed the applications. The City has the responsibility of making the final recommendation for funding distribution. Staff will review the Mayor's recommendation. TIP changes to reflect the distributions will be done as adjustments, which do not require formal approval. Staff recommends approval.

Discussion: Doug Burton reviewed the history of how the FTA Section 5307 and Section 5339 funding began being distributed to KAT, CAC, and ETHRA. He noted that the amount of funds allocated for FY 2016 are less than last year. He touched on a current eligibility issue regarding ETHRA and their ability to use Section 5307 funds for general operations. FTA's regulations currently make ETHRA ineligible to use the 5307 funding for general transit trips, though they can use funding for work trips and maintenance costs on vehicles. This regulation lowered the amount of Section 5307 funding that ETHRA requested in their application.

Mr. Burton reviewed the City of Knoxville's recommended Section 5307 distribution. As there was less funding the decision was to give each agency a proportional cut (except ETHRA who asked for less). Because ETHRA asked for less those savings helped offset KAT and CAC's potential funding reduction. For the recommended distribution of Section 5339 the City of Knoxville awarded funding for both FY 2016 and FY 2017 to ETHRA and KAT (CAC did not make a request). Mr. Burton then noted there will be a public hearing at the November 16, 2016 Executive Board meeting to allow for public comment on the recommendations.

Mr. Burton noted that after four years of the application process, the City of Knoxville, KAT, CAC, and ETHRA would like to enter into a long term agreement on funding. He noted at the request of Mayor Rogero, TPO staff is working towards various scenarios on what this agreement might look like. Mike Patterson from ETHRA noted he would concur that there should be a long term agreement based on a formula that each agency agrees too. Mr. Patterson also stated reduction in ETHRA services in the urban area could occur as a result of ETHRA's eligibility limitations.

Katheryn Baldwin noted each local jurisdiction should advocate to their federal representatives that the regulation not allowing ETHRA to use the Section 5307 funding for general operations be changed. She also said jurisdictions should advocate for increased funding. Jeff Welch noted this is an issue that ultimately rests at the federal level and advocacy for increased funding needs to be at all levels including with TDOT and local governments.

A Motion was made by Gerald Green and seconded by Jack Qualls to approve the recommendations for distribution of FTA Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program and FTA Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Program Funds. The Motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion to Endorse Draft Project List for 2040 Mobility Plan Update

Item Summary: The TPO staff is seeking endorsement of the draft project list for the Mobility Plan Update at this time in order to proceed with compiling the first draft and begin conducting the required air quality conformity analysis of the projects. Any subsequent major changes to the project list in terms of additions, deletions or project scope modifications could cause delays in Plan development and approval.

Discussion: Mike Conger noted this list has been in development since the spring of 2016 starting with a Call-for-Projects. Applications were scored against the criteria adopted by the TPO Executive Board, prioritizing the list into what could be financially constrained over the timeframe of the Plan (2040). He noted this list does not contain the projects placed on the Illustrative List (projects that could not be financially constrained) although that list of projects will be included in the final Plan Update document

as should there be a shift in funding or a change in priorities, it would allow them to be brought back onto the project list. He noted staff has met with member jurisdictions over the course of the development of the list.

Mr. Conger reviewed the final timelines for the Mobility Plan update noting once endorsed, staff will need to conduct an air quality conformity analysis on the project list. Jeff Welch also noted the list of projects has been available for public comment throughout the list development process. The final list will be adopted with the adoption of the Mobility Plan update in the spring of 2017.

A Motion was made by Jeremy Pearson and seconded by Gerald Green to endorse the Draft Project List for the 2040 Mobility Plan Update. The Motion carried unanimously.

4. Review of Annual Listing of Obligated Projects for FY2016

Item Summary: Each year the TPO is required to make available to the public a listing of all transportation related projects in which federal funds were obligated in the past fiscal year.

Discussion: Elizabeth Watkins clarified that “programmed dollars” reflect the dollar amount programmed into the Transportation Improvement Program for each phase of a project, and that “obligated dollars” are dollars that the federal government has committed to reimburse the project sponsor for those costs. She reviewed the funding obligations starting with an 8 year historical prospective of what was programmed verses what was obligated. She then reviewed the FY 2016 obligations by type of project, by fund source and by programming authority. She also reviewed how regionally managed funds were obligated in FY 2016. She closed touching on potential hurdles to moving forward with the obligations.. The complete annual list of obligated projects is available on the TPO website at www.knoxtrans.org. The complete presentation is available online and is located here: [http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/nov16/Obligated Projects FY2016.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/nov16/Obligated%20Projects%20FY2016.pdf)

5. Update on the Americans With Disabilities Act Transition Plan Requirements

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the region’s ADA compliance status. Milestones and strategies to achieving TDOT’s 7 Steps to ADA Compliance will also be discussed.

Discussion: Elizabeth Watkins updated Committee members on regional compliance with regards to FHWA and TDOT mandated ADA Transition Plan Compliance Milestones and Completion Dates. Several member jurisdictions shared their action steps and progress. A training on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self Evaluations/Transition Plans and Overview of Elements of Public Right-of-Way Accessibility will be held on November 16, 2016 at the UT Outreach Center, 1201 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Suite 100, Oak Ridge, TN. It is being sponsored by the Tennessee Transportation Assistance Program. The complete presentation is available online and is located here: [http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/nov16/ADA Compliance.pdf](http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/nov16/ADA%20Compliance.pdf)

6. Video on Walkability in Knox County

Item Summary: TPO staff worked with the Knox County Health Department and other partners on this video highlighting the importance of walkability to our fiscal and physical health. The video is online here: <https://vimeo.com/188694218>

Discussion: Ellen Zavisca shared a video in walkability in Knox County. In addition to the KCHD, others collaborating on the video were members of the Knox County Commission, MPC, Chamber of Commerce, Bike Walk Knoxville and with support from the National Association of Counties. She also noted the video can be viewed on the TPO website at www.knoxtrans.org.

7. Climate Resiliency Presentation

Item Summary: Jack Fellows, Director of ORNL's Climate Change Science Institute, and Erin Gill, Director of Sustainability for the City of Knoxville, will provide an overview of how East Tennessee's climate is expected to change over coming decades and explore the implications of these changes on our region's efforts to become more prosperous, sustainable, and resilient.

Discussion: Erin Gill, City of Knoxville noted she has been working with Jack Fellows, ORNL's Climate Change Science Institute, the TPO and City Engineering for approximately 1 year to try and understand how our region might change as a result of climate, noting going forward, climate information will begin to be more integral in everyday local government decisions and has already begun to affect federal regulations. She then touched on the many stresses our region regularly faces. Jack Fellows gave a general overview of climate science and an historical summary of major shifts in climate dating back 500 million years, noting the climate actually became quite stable approximately 10,000 years ago allowing for sustainable agriculture. Mr. Fellows noted in the last 100 years, the rate of change in the atmospheric carbon dioxide has increased at a rate that is 10 times faster than it has changed over the last 800,000 years, further noting this rate of change is significant and we that could conceivably end this century with a 6 to 9 degree increase in temperature globally. Mr. Fellows and Ms. Gill touched on the potential impact of this climate trend on our region. Committee members were encouraged to share this information. A question, answer and comment period ensued. The complete presentation is available online and is located here: <http://www.knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/nov16/ETN Climate Change.pdf>

8. Other Business

- Executive Board meeting *Wednesday, November 16, 2016* at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.
- Save the Date: November 29, 2016, the TPO is partnering with the Knox County Health Department, ETQG and others to host another ET Competes/Walkability Speaker Series Event. This event will feature Joe Minicozzi, principal of Urban3 of Asheville, NC. Mr. Minicozzi's company, Urban3, analyzes the relationship between building design and tax production across the United States and Canada. Their method aims to simplify complex information in order to help inform conversations about community growth. Invitations will be going out soon. Events include:
 - At noon, a luncheon with community leaders, including elected and appointed officials, and members of the development community. This invitation-only event will be at the Knoxville Chamber.
 - At 2:30 p.m., a training with design professionals, including engineers, planners, landscape architects and architects. This event will be at the Cansler YMCA.
 - At 6 p.m., a public community event, at the Knox County Health Department.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Gerald Green and seconded by Cindy Pionke to adjourn the meeting. The Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.