

Attachment #1

**TPO Technical Committee
February 9, 2010
9 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City/County Building
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on February 9 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.

*Kathryn Baldwin	Anderson County
*Brian Boone	City of Maryville
*Rich DesGrosielliers	Lakeway Area TPO
*Mark Donaldson	Knoxville/Knox County MPC
*Leslie Johnson	Lenoir City
*Steve King	City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	Blount County
*Phil Layman	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
*Pat Phillips	Loudon County
*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
Nathan Benditz	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Bryan Berry	Metropolitan Planning Commission Staff
Amy Brooks	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Karen Estes	Community Action Committee Transit
John Hunter	City of Knoxville
Brent Johnson	City of Knoxville
Tameka Macon	Federal Highway Administration
Cindy Pionke	Knox County Engineering
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Hubert Smith	Citizen
Jim Ullrich	Citizen
Anne Wallace	City of Knoxville
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Bob Whetsel	City of Knoxville
Kenny Wiggins	City of Alcoa
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

***voting members**

Determination of Quorum

1. Approval of January 12, 2010 Minutes

Presenter: John Lamb, Chair

Item Summary: Approval of January 12, 2010 TPO Technical Committee minutes.

Attachment #1 – January 12, 2010 minutes.

A motion was made by Bruce Wuethrich and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to approve the January 12 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Amendment to the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Requested by TDOT

a. Amend TIP Project #2008-004 SR-115/US-129 (Alcoa Bypass) with a new project description of Hall Road (SR-35)/Alcoa Highway (SR-115) south of Airport Road to Proposed Interchange Serving McGhee Tyson Airport, Construct New 8-Lane.

b. Add TIP Project #2008-152 SR-115/US-129 (Alcoa Bypass) with a project description of Interchange Serving McGhee Tyson Airport to Pellissippi Parkway (SR-162), Construct New 6-Lane w/Auxiliary Lanes.

Background: The Alcoa Bypass project from Hall Road to Pellissippi Parkway needs to be split out into two segments in order to match the project descriptions contained in the updated 2009-2034 Long Range Mobility Plan and Air Quality Conformity Determination.

Attachment #2a - TIP Pages

Attachment #2b - Conformity Determination Report

Attachment #2c – Memo from Don Ellis regarding the Jobs for Main Street Act (JMSA)

Attachment #2d – Memo from Don Ellis regarding the Rockfall Mitigation Program Bucket

Jeff Welch discussed Attachment #2a and #2b which is the Alcoa Highway bypass and has a new project description of Hall Road/Alcoa Highway south of Airport Road to a proposed interchange serving McGhee Tyson Airport to construct a new 8-lane highway. The Alcoa bypass project from Hall Road to Pellissippi Parkway needs to be split out into two segments.

A motion was made by Blake Sartin and seconded by Andrew Sonner to recommend approval of a resolution for two TIP amendments (Attachments #2a and #2b) to the Executive Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Jeff stated that in Attachment #2c TDOT is requesting the TPO to amend the TIP by adding a line item for the anticipated Jobs for Main Street Act (JMSA) in the two resurfacing buckets and two bridge replacement buckets currently in the TIP.

TDOT wants the TPO to amend the TIP by adding in the project described in Attachment #2d to allow for the use of federal funds for Rockfall Mitigation Program Bucket.

A motion was made by Leslie Johnson and seconded by Kathryn Baldwin to recommend approval of a resolution for two TIP amendments (Attachments #2c and #2d). The motion carried unanimously.

3. Revised FY 2010 Work Program Budget and Tasks

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: Due to less than anticipated federal planning funds for FY 2010 the work program and budget needs to be amended. The federal planning funds were reduced by \$116,299. Staff is recommending eliminating the contingency line item reducing \$92,730 in federal funds. The remaining \$23,569 was eliminated among most other task items. In addition additional funds were moved around to reflect increased work efforts in a couple of task items.

Staff seeks motion to recommend to the Board to amend the FY 2010 UPWP as presented in the attached table.

Attachment #3a - Memo

Attachment #3b - Revised UPWP Tables and Work Program

Jeff Welch stated that TPO's allocation was reduced by \$116,000, so the Work Program needs to be amended. Jeff listed the losses in different categories. The largest loss was from Contingency, which was zeroed out. TDOT also has provided for funding of an urban transit corridor study. Adjustments were sent to TDOT and are in the revised Work Program. After it is approved, it will go to FHWA.

A motion was made by Kathryn Baldwin and seconded by Bruce Wuethrich to approve the revised 2010 Work Program including any revisions that TDOT may request before the Executive Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

4. ARRA I update and discussion of possible ARRA II funds

Presenter: TPO Staff

Item Summary: ARRA I fund allocation opportunities have come to a close for the TPO. There is discussion of a new round of economic stimulus funds coming available very soon and we need to be prepared with amending the TIP with shovel ready projects. We can expect up to \$12 million dollars that may need to be obligated very quickly.

Attachment #4a - ARRA Memo

Attachment #4b - TPO ARRA I Table

Jeff Welch stated that he participated in a conference call with TPOs across the nation. ARRA II has passed the House of Representatives and a version has been introduced in the Senate. If the House version is passed, FHWA expects the same amount of ARRA II funds will be available as the first round. The money must be obligated within 90 days. Jobs need to be created quickly. The money could be awarded in March. TPOs must show why funding was not spent in economic distressed areas. They must show the money is being spent on transportation infrastructure. We should immediately identify projects to utilize these funds if they become available and begin to amend the TIP.

Melissa Roberson asked if the ARRA II money could be eligible for flexing and Jeff said it would.

Under ARRA II signal timing upgrade may be eligible. Examples of eligible projects were distributed. A letter from Darryl Smith suggested the Kingston Pike project to construct a center turn lane west of Everett Road and widening the existing bridge over Little Turkey Creek. A letter from Brian Boone suggested a streetscape projects for Maryville. Jeff stated that some of our projects have been moved to use CMAQ money. He asked that the Technical Committee submit any additional projects to the staff by the end of February so an amendment can be added to the TIP.

Steve King stated that the City of Knoxville will suggest using state allocated ARRA II funds for continued widening of Pleasant Ridge Road. Jeff stated that the last page of Attachment #4b lists projects that received ARRA I funds. The planning studies and the Knoxville signal project were not funded. According to FHWA, studies must lead to construction within 2 years. TDOT will use approximately \$640,000 of the TPO unallocated ARRA funds for local projects.

5. CMAQ Projects Awarded by TDOT

Presenter: TPO Staff

Background: On Tuesday, February 02, 2010, TDOT announced the selection of FY 2010 projects to be funded with CMAQ dollars. The projects selected for our area will be discussed and the importance of meeting the schedule will be emphasized.

Attachments: #5a Letter from TDOT, Attachment #5b. CMAQ Project List and Attachment #5c. TDOT Project schedule form

Jeff Welch discussed a letter from Ed Cole and Paul Degges from TDOT regarding CMAQ projects selected for 2010. Attachment #5b is the list of projects TDOT has approved for funding. TDOT is funding 100% at their discretion. Twelve projects are listed. Mr. Cole wants a project schedule for each CMAQ project, which should be submitted to the local program office of TDOT by February 16. TDOT will contract to local governments by April 15. Staff has submitted letters to TDOT requesting the flexing of CMAQ funds to FTA for CAC and KAT capital purchases projects.

6. Memos on CE and CEI

Presenter: TPO Staff

Background: In July 2009, representatives from local governments and TPO staff met with TDOT officials to discuss regulatory barriers to getting greenways designed and built in a timely matter.

Item Summary: TPO staff has continued to gather information from TDOT about how the Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) and Categorical Exclusion (CE) processes can be streamlined for bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Attachment #6—Memos on CE and CEI

Ellen Zavisca stated that discussions have been held with TDOT and the Regional Greenway Council on how to move projects forward and built in a timely matter. She discussed categorical inclusion, which is a type of NEPA finding stating that neither an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement is required for a project.

Jeff Welch indicated that Joe Matlock and Lisa Dunn of TDOT reviewed these memos and concurred with the information. MPO coordinators had a conference call with TDOT last week. TDOT would be glad to send someone, maybe Joe Matlock, to discuss the NEPA process. Jeff stated that we would like to have Joe come to the Technical Committee meeting on March 9, and a workshop may be held after the meeting. Angie Midgett will check on his availability.

Steve King asked whether sidewalk projects are subject to PM 2.5 review. Mike Conger stated that yes they are.

7. Development of the FY 2011-2014 TIP

Presenter: TPO Staff

Background: Staff will present a schedule that TDOT is requiring the TPO to follow in the development of the new TIP

TDOT is requesting the TPO to have an approved TIP by September 2010. Staff will start the project application process immediately. A public notice will also be issued later this month.

We will advertise a Call for Projects and procedures for submitting projects. Most projects require a 20 percent match and must be sponsored by a governmental entity. The completed applications must be received by the TPO no later than March 12, 2010. Projects received after this date will not be included in the 2011-2014 TIP.

Cindy Pionke asked if she should submit information for the Lovell Road project for inclusion in the TIP before the TPR is finished. Jeff stated that we will have to submit documentation for TDOT to request the TPR be prepared. TPO staff will assist in that effort.

8. Other Business

Executive Board Meeting, February 24 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building
Technical Committee Meeting, March 9 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building

TPO received a response from Barry Stephens with TDEC responding to our request for TDEC to expedite the process to bring us up to attainment. They replied that it is a priority and with local support, should submit the paperwork by July.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.