

**TPO Executive Board**  
**9 a.m., October 25, 2006**  
**Small Assembly Room**  
**City/County Building**  
**Knoxville, Tennessee**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Board met on October 25 at 9 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building, Knoxville, TN. Mayor Eddy Ford, Chair of the Executive Board presided.

*Mark Brown	City of Knoxville
*Eddy Ford	Mayor, Town of Farragut
*Mike Hammond	East Tennessee Development District
*Bill Haslam	City of Knoxville
*John Lamb	for Blount County Mayor Jerry Cunningham
*Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
*Don Mull	Mayor, City of Alcoa
*Russ Newman	for Loudon County Mayor Doyle Arp
*Mike Ragsdale	Knox County Mayor
*Joe Swann	City of Maryville
Jeff Welch	Transportation Planning Organization Director
Doug Burton	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Mike Conger	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Kathy DeLozier	Blount County Chamber
Kelsey Finch	Tennessee Department of Transportation – Civil Rights
Fred Frank	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Katie Habgood	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Chris Hamby	City of Alcoa
Steve King	City of Knoxville Engineering
Steve McDaniel	Knox County Dept. of Air Quality Management
Cindy McGinnis	Knoxville Area Transit
Angie Midgett	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Barbara Monty	Knox County Community Action Committee
Ted Newsom	UT Knoxville Commuter Pool
James Norris	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Cindy Pionke	Knox County Department of Engineering and Public Works
Scott Poland	City of Maryville
Kelley Segars	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Shannon Tolliver	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Bruce Wuethrich	Knox County Engineering
Charlotte West	Transportation Planning Organization Staff
Ellen Zavisca	Transportation Planning Organization Staff

\*Voting Member

Eddy Ford introduced Mike Hammond as the new board member representing the East Tennessee Development District and Cindy McGinnis, the new General Manager of Knoxville Area Transit. Doyle Arp and Jerry Cunningham are the new mayors from Loudon and Blount Counties.

**Determination of quorum**

Jeff Welch called the roll and determined there was a quorum for the TPO Executive Board.

## 1. Approval of July 26, 2006 Minutes

**Presenter:** Eddy Ford, Chair

**Item Summary:** Approval of July 26, 2006 TPO Executive Board minutes.

**Background:** Attachment #1 – July 26 Minutes.

Eddy Ford stated that the words “as amended by Jeanne Stevens” should be inserted in the motion on page 6 of the minutes concerning TPO’s support for Knoxville Regional Parkway (SR-475) being designated as a scenic highway.

**A motion was made by Don Mull and seconded by Joe Swann to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.**

## 2. Approval of a Resolution Adopting an Amendment to the 2006 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary: Attachment #2a – Resolution. The TPO Technical Committee recommends adoption of the resolution.** There have been cost overruns in four task items in the FY06 UPWP. No increase in funds is required. The attached memo and tables reflect the proposed budget amendments. **Attachment #2b – Memo. Attachment #2c - Table 1: Funding Sources by Task. Attachment #2d – Table 2: Agency Participation.**

**Background:** Contractual terms between TDOT and the TPO (MPC) require a budget amendment if any task exceeds the budget amount by 10 percent.

**A motion was made by Don Mull and seconded by Mike Ragsdale to approve the resolution to amend the UPWP (see Attachments #2a-d). The motion carried unanimously.**

## 3. Approval of a Resolution to Amend the FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Attachment #3a – Resolution. The TPO Technical Committee recommends approval of the resolution to amend the TIP as described below.**

**a. Item Summary:** Washington Pk/Millertown Pk/Murphy Rd Area: Planning analysis, environmental assessment and preliminary engineering.

**Background:** In the year 2000 preliminary engineering funds were obligated but were not spent. The City of Knoxville is requesting that these funds be reprogrammed and spent on a planning study/environmental assessment and preliminary engineering for a broader study area to include Washington Pk/Millertown Pk and Murphy Rd Corridors. **Attachment #3b.**

**b. Item Summary:** Kingston Pk/Northshore Dr Planning Study. **Background:** This project was previously in the 2002-2004 TIP for preliminary engineering. The funds were obligated, but work on preliminary engineering did not occur. The City of Knoxville has requested that the project be placed back in the TIP as a preliminary engineering/feasibility study and that the project scope be expanded to cover a broader area. **Attachment #3c.**

**c. Item Summary:** Ten Mile Creek Greenway.

**Background:** The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) and the City of Knoxville are requesting that \$120,000 enhancement/\$30,000 local funds be added to this existing project. **Attachment #3d.**

**d. Item Summary:** Northwest Middle School/Badgett Field Greenway.

**Background:** TDOT and the City of Knoxville are requesting that this project be added into the TIP for \$80,000 enhancement/\$20,000 local. **Attachment #3e.**

**A motion was made by Mark Brown and seconded by Don Mull to approve the resolution to amend the TIP (see Attachments #3a-e). The motion carried unanimously.**

Mark Brown stated that he is glad that planning dollars for the Kingston Pk./Northshore Dr. project are being put back in the TIP.

#### **4. Approval of a Request to TDOT to Fund Transportation Corridor Studies/Transportation Planning Reports**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** The TPO Technical Committee recommends submittal of this request to TDOT. Following discussions with officials from the cities of Knoxville, Alcoa and Maryville, the TPO has been asked to submit three requests to TDOT for corridor studies. The corridors include Broadway Ave. (US 441, SR 33) in Knoxville, Broadway Ave. (SR 33) in Maryville and S. Hall Rd./Washington St. in Alcoa and Maryville.

**Background:** The scope of the Broadway Ave. corridor in Knoxville and S. Hall Rd./Washington St. would be to explore ways to improve the cross section for all modes of transportation. The Broadway Ave. corridor in Maryville will be a more traditional planning study looking at ways to increase capacity and safety of the roadway. TDOT is currently conducting a study of a small segment of this corridor.

Jeff Welch stated that the TPO has been asked to submit three requests to TDOT for corridor studies. These include Broadway Ave. (US 441, SR 33) in Knoxville, Broadway Ave. (SR 33) in Maryville and S. Hall Rd./Washington St. in Alcoa and Maryville.

**A motion was made by Mark Brown and seconded by John Lamb to approve a request to fund the three Transportation Corridor Studies. The motion carried unanimously.**

John Lamb stated that the limits of the SR 33 corridor study should be extended to the Blount County line to ensure that the business park is included.

**A motion was made by John Lamb and seconded by Joe Swann to approve an amendment to the request for the SR 33 corridor to be extended to the Blount County line. The amended motion carried unanimously.**

#### **5. Submittal of a Letter Regarding Overlay District Designation along Proposed SR-475 (Knoxville Parkway)**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** The Technical Committee asks that the Executive Board submit a letter to local governments seeking local government support to prohibit billboards along the proposed SR-475 (Knoxville Parkway). If locally the intent is to prohibit billboards in the corridor of the proposed parkway, then local governments and citizens should work with state legislators to get that specific designating legislation, according to TDOT's Ed Cole.

**Attachment #4 – Letter.**

**Background:** The Knoxville Parkway Resource Team recommendation, which TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely accepted, included the seeking of scenic or Tennessee parkway designation to prohibit billboards.

Jeff Welch stated that this request came from a discussion the Technical Committee had at its last meeting. One of the recommendations from the Resource Team was to seek scenic designation and prohibit billboards. The members of the Technical Committee felt they should take action because this had been endorsed by the Resource Team. A draft letter to local governments regarding overlay district designation is included in the packet.

**A motion was made by Russ Newman and seconded by Don Mull to approve sending the letter to local jurisdictions. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **6. Alcoa Highway Bypass, Pellissippi Parkway and Alcoa Highway Project Update**

**Presenter:** Mike Russell, TDOT

**Item Summary:** An update on these projects will be provided by TDOT.

**Background:** TDOT last provided a status report on these projects at the March 23, 2006 Executive Board meeting.

Mike Russell, Project Manager from TDOT for the Alcoa Highway Bypass, stated that TDOT has asked a consultant to look at another alternative that would move the alignment further north to avoid the University of Tennessee Agricultural Experimental Station at Singleton Station Road. TDOT's environmental office will work with the consultant and will also meet with the Airport Authority to ensure it does not conflict with their plans. The timeline may be a year away from beginning the project.

TDOT is negotiating with a consultant about traffic counts and Origin and Destination numbers for the Pellissippi Parkway extension. They will begin charettes next year.

Concerning Alcoa Highway, TDOT has been waiting for a response from TVA. The TDOT environmental office is also working with the Marine Station for a land swap and will be conducting public meetings as the next step.

Larry Waters stated that Sevier County Transportation Board discussed plans for an extension from Pigeon Forge to McGhee Tyson Airport. They have submitted this request to Commissioner Nicely for future consideration to improve better access to the airport from Sevier County.

Eddy Ford asked when motorists will be able to go from Pellissippi Parkway to Townsend without going through Maryville. Mike Russell stated that TDOT is currently in the Environmental phase and conducting the NEPA process. This should take another two to three years. Then the Design phase of the project should take one year. After Design, ROW should take 12 to 18 months. The project is funded through the right-of-way part only. It may be seven years or so to get to the construction phase.

## 7. Air Quality Update

**Presenter:** TPO Staff and Knox County Air Quality Management Staff

**Item Summary:** The results of the 2006 ozone season and new PM2.5 standards.

**Background:** Preliminary data from the 2006 ozone season will be presented for the nonattainment area. The new PM2.5 standard will become official in about 90 days. State recommendation of nonattainment areas will occur by November 2007, and EPA will make designation of non-attaining counties in November 2009.

Jeff Welch stated that this ozone season is over. He recognized Larry Waters and Don Mull for serving on the State Air Board. Lynne Liddington, Director of Knox County Air Quality Management gave a presentation to the Technical Committee on October 10. Mike Conger of the TPO staff gave the same presentation. Steve McDaniel from Lynne's staff was present to answer questions. Bill Haslam asked how the figures compare to last year. Conger stated that the monitors are demonstrating attainment. The figures for 2004 will be dropped next year, and we may go back to nonattainment if there is a bad ozone season in 2007. Knox County Air Quality Management will have to submit a contingency plan of measures to be taken if the monitoring values exceed the standard. The process for redesignation to attainment has to be decided by June 1, 2007 since that is when the State Implementation Plan is due for the 8-hour ozone standard. The measures that have already been taken to improve air quality include major TVA reductions, construction burning prohibited, truck stop electrification, speed limit reductions, traffic flow improvements, Smart Trips and increased bus ridership. Contingency measure possibilities are seasonal open burning bans, additional traffic flow improvements, school bus retrofits/biodiesel and anti-idling legislation.

Mike Conger also presented information regarding the revision to the Particulate Matter 2.5 standard, which is being strengthened based on updated science on its health impacts. It is being proposed by EPA to lower the daily standard to 35 micrograms per cubic meter, which will be harder to meet than the current level of 65 micrograms per cubic meter. Mike showed maps showing the counties that will be affected by the new standard.

Mike Ragsdale asked if it would be fair to say that our air is getting cleaner. Mike Conger stated that we are making good progress, but that EPA continually makes the standards stricter. Mike Ragsdale added that TVA has taken measures to reduce emissions. Sea Ray is reducing air pollution by 98 percent. UT steam plant is working on it. Steve McDaniel added that all emissions reductions are helping and that the region is on the right track to meeting attainment. Mike Ragsdale stated that he met with Senator Alexander who told him that the majority of pollutants are not coming from here but are blown in from other states. We have to work with the federal government because we are getting the blame for it, and it needs to be addressed at the site. Eddy Ford asked if

Larry Waters and Don Mull were conveying this message to the State Air Board. Larry Waters stated that at the last State Air Board meeting the air quality across the state was discussed. They are hoping for a redesignation to attainment for our area. If the government does not work with the other states, we will still have a problem.

Mike Hammond asked about the contingency measures dealing with idling and biodiesel. Steve McDaniel stated they have no specific measures in place or proposed but that they are part of a list of measures that potentially can be implemented to improve air quality. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation will do air quality modeling to determine impacts of the different contingency measures.

Joe Swann stated that the cities of Alcoa and Maryville are using biodiesel in their trucks and buses. He stated that 15 years ago our concern was pollution from other areas. How do we separate what pollution is coming from us and what is coming from other states? Mike Conger answered that some models have been done, and it is very complex and has to do with several factors that change on a daily basis such as wind patterns. If we can not prove where it comes from, it will be hard to solve. Steve McDaniel added that it changes on a daily basis but some models have shown significant pollution comes in from outside areas such as Atlanta and Birmingham on some days or from Ohio on other days. Modeling is very expensive. We work with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and UT. Eddy Ford suggested that the Environmental Office at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) be contacted to see what assistance they may be able to provide based on modeling efforts they have utilized.

Don Mull stated that we are in a bowl where pollution cannot get out. The standards are being tightened, and the general public does not realize we are lowering pollutants and that the standards are getting stricter. Joe Swann added that if we are not sure how much pollution comes into our area from other states, how can we determine that the local measures taken will improve our air quality.

Eddy Ford asked that Jeff Welch write a letter to the Director of ORNL to ask about assistance in studying the sources of pollution in order to determine how much is coming here from other areas.

## **8. Amendments and Updates to the 2005-2030 Knoxville Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** The recently adopted SAFETEA-LU requires that all transportation plans and TIPs be in compliance with SAFETEA-LU by July 1, 2007. The staff is reviewing the proposed planning regulations to determine the level of effort that will be required.

**Background:** Since the original 2005-2030 LRTP was adopted in March of 2005, staff has prepared one update and two plan amendments. If there are changes or additions to the list of highway projects, it requires an update to the conformity analysis also.

Jeff Welch stated that we are required to have an update by July 1, 2007. The regulations should be out in January and the staff is working on portions of the plan that need to be updated.

## **9. 2006 Legislative Luncheon**

**Presenter:** TPO Staff

**Item Summary:** The Annual Legislative Luncheon began as a way for the Knoxville Region to communicate its transportation priorities to the local legislators.

Jeff Welch stated that we present our highest project priorities at this luncheon. The handout is the list of projects that were presented last year. January 26 is the tentative date for the luncheon to try to catch legislators while they are in session and the priority projects will be fresh on their mind. He asked if there were any comments or discussion. Eddy Ford stated that the luncheon is important because TPO can show the legislators what projects are important, and it will help move these projects through the funding phase with TDOT.

## **10. Other Business**

**Technical Committee Meeting, November 14 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City/County Building.**

**TIP amendment.** Jeff Welch stated yesterday he received notice from the Federal Highway Administration stating that TPO staff cannot approve cost overruns for projects in a previous TIP administratively and that a formal resolution is needed to cover them. These projects were heard as administrative adjustments at the April, May and September Technical Committee meetings. These cost overruns will be funded out of the cost overrun bucket which will first require transferring unspent funds from 2006 to 2007.

**A motion was made by Angie Midgett and seconded by Mike Hammond to approve the TIP resolution (see Attachment #10). The motion carried unanimously.**

Jeff stated that the handouts include a list of TPO staff members including their titles, responsibilities, phone numbers and email addresses for anyone who might have questions for the staff. Also included is the 2007 schedule of Executive Board and Technical Committee meetings.

Bill Haslam stated that the neighborhood bike ride was a great event, and he appreciates everyone's work.

## **11. Public Comment**

Members of the public may address the Executive Board with a five-minute time limitation.

## **12. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.