

**CHATTANOOGA-HAMILTON COUNTY/NORTH GEORGIA
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO)
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

February 15, 2011 (1:30 PM)

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Manuel Rico.

Item #1: Ms. Melissa Taylor welcomed and recognized the newly elected officials who were present. She expressed special appreciation to Ms. Karen Rennich, Interim Executive Director of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency (July 30, 2010 thru November 07, 2010) for her service to the TPO as Interim Secretary of the TPO Executive Board, and Interim Chair of the TPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC). Ms. Taylor introduced Mr. John Bridger, Executive Director, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency, Secretary of the TPO Executive Board, and Chair of the TPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) effective November 8, 2010.

Item #2: There being no additions or corrections to the October 12, 2010 TPO Executive Board meeting minutes, they were approved by general consent.

Item #3: Mr. Patrick Hall referenced the **Resolution to Approve an Amendment to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** and reviewed details of the individual TIP pages contained in the packet: Atlanta-Chattanooga-Nashville High Speed Ground Transportation High Priority Project Funds; New Grouping for Cost Overruns of Previous TIPs; and New Chattanooga Area Regional Transit Authority (CARTA) "State of Good Repair" Grant. These amendments were approved for Public Comment (14 days) and Recommended for Approval by the TPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) on January 4, 2011. ICC concurred that the projects are Exempt or of "no impact" to air quality on January 6, 2011. New 2010 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Award for Countywide Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Phase I Implementation. ICC concurred that the project is Exempt or of "no impact" to air quality on January 21, 2011. There being no questions, **motion to approve was made by Mr. Billy Cooper and seconded by Mr. Steve Leach.**

Item #4: Referencing the **Resolution to Amend the Incident Management Plan**, Mr. Patrick Hall said that the 2010 update to the Incident Management Plan (IMP) came before the TCC on January 4, 2011, and a public meeting was held on February 10, 2011, with no comments being received. He outlined the major changes in the 2010 update and said that we had hoped this 2010 update to our IMP could coincide with and be rolled into the State of Tennessee's revised plan, but completion of the state's plan is still pending. We will continue to work with TDOT and hope to incorporate the two plans at the appropriate time, which may necessitate revisions to our IMP. Ms. Taylor said that we are looking at performance measures and evaluations related to traffic management and that, in the future, we hope to roll out a different way that we handle traffic management and operations from a planning standpoint. We may look at how well the interstate notification boards are performing (the data is available to us). The IMP is a Chattanooga TPO plan that does not relate directly to other safety programs/plans (although we may incorporate with the state IMP plan). The web link for the IMP has been provided to the TPO, and copies were available at the meeting. There being no further discussion, **motion to approve was made by Mr. Steve Leach and seconded by Mr. Billy Cooper.**

Item #5: Ms. Melissa Taylor said that the state DOT's publish their **Obligated List of Projects** every year and provide them to us. Working with both DOT's (Tennessee and Georgia) and our Chattanooga Area Regional Transit Authority (CARTA), we have developed the required Annual Obligated List of Projects for Local and State Governments within the TPO Area (Tennessee, Georgia, and CARTA) for this year, and this is the official notice to the TPO Executive Board. The list was shared with the TCC on January 4, 2011, and publicized in the newspaper on December 22, 2010. It was previously sent to the TPO in meeting notices with web link. An oversized copy was available at the meeting.

Item #6: Mr. Kevin Tilbury of GRESHAM, SMITH AND PARTNERS gave an update on the **Central Hamilton County Scenario Planning Study**. His firm was commissioned to perform this study by TDOT in summer, 2010, and they have worked very closely with the RPA/TPO staff. The announcement of Volkswagen at Enterprise South and its related industries (with an estimated 11,000 jobs), along with the proposed Tennessee River Bridge, resulted in some legitimate questions about growth and development in the study area and prompted this study. We are looking at potentially 11,000 jobs at Enterprise South (possibly thousands more associated jobs), and 20,000 rooftops projected by the year of 2035. The study (with a 25-year planning horizon) is designed to look at what is going to happen with all of this growth and development (infrastructure impacts and costs). The current LRTP identifies about \$5M in project needs with an estimated \$2M of available funds, resulting in a huge gap. With limited project funds available, the study approach is to preserve our existing system. It is about transportation and the people who use the roads (places where they live and how they use the roads). The study includes the DOT's Livability Principles that will determine future funding allocations by the federal government and principles which are the language that TPO's must speak. The study looked at three options for growth, transportation and land use relationships, and the Livability Principles. Three different scenarios for how growth might occur over the next 25 years within the study area were developed (Current Trend, Comprehensive and Area Plans, and Alternative Growth). Mr. Tilbury covered each scenario, major findings and conclusions in detail, but focused on transportation and land use coordination. Where you build things absolutely has an impact on the transportation network (distance between origins and destinations, how you connect them, and where they go into the system). When homes are clustered around schools, parks and shopping, the potential for walking increases. Complete Streets only work if you put places (*attractions*) within walking and biking distance *from the origin*, which is a land use decision (how you cluster origins and destinations). One of the major concerns identified in the study is that there are a lot of homes (origins) in the study area, but not as many places (attractions) for people to go. By 2035, 80,000 trips will have to leave the study area every day to meet daily needs, which will impact the roads perhaps around Enterprise South, which will already be at capacity from the industrial growth. Planning needs to be done for non-residential land uses in the study area (thinking about compact growth and distinct centers, possibly with a transit stop), so that people do not have to travel across the county to meet their daily needs. In the President's (*President of the U.S.*) budget proposal for the new Transportation Bill Authorization, 22% (versus the current 4-5%) is for transit (a fundamental shift toward passenger rail and transit). Another study concern is how land use gets built along the transportation network (multiple driveways impact traffic flow speeds and can be a safety hazard), requiring access management and growth patterns along the network. Keeping on the current path will result in over one-half of the roads being low speed. The roads that would form the approach to the possible Tennessee River Bridge should be planned now. Three major recommendations from the study are: (1) Align the next LRTP update with land use plans, (2) Coordinate investments and growth decisions (transit, Complete Streets or new transportation networks), and (3) Corridor management/preservation. Also, consider that each home (potentially 20,000 additional) has a driveway, which may be on a frontage road. Ms. Taylor said that perhaps we should consider an Access Management Plan and Mr. Tilbury said that he would be happy to give a presentation to the TPO on Access Management. Ms. Karen Rennich said that we have about 30 days to take input on the study (Mr. Tilbury is presenting the plan to the Planning Commission in March 2011), that the plan is available (either by copy or web link which can be provided), and an Executive Summary is being prepared. Ms. Rennich said that Stakeholders have been very involved in the process and she welcomed any comments from the TPO members. Public meetings were held in August and October, 2010, at the Ooltewah and Soddy-Daisy High Schools. Two thirds of public responses said that, "growth is inevitable, but I would like to see it happen in a coordinated, thoughtful pattern, preserving as much of the open space and natural resources as possible."

Item #7: Staff Reports

Notice of 2011-2014 TIP Adjustment(s) (TN ENH1 Processed 1/5/2011) and Modification(s) (GA-621530 Processed 2/4/11 and GA-001084 Processed 2/8/11) – Mr. Patrick Hall reviewed the adjustments/modifications (which are for information purposes only) and there were no questions.

Regional Freight Study – Mr. Hall said that the TPO staff met with the Freight Forum on February 3, 2011. He presented the Scope of Work, Project Schedule, Super-Region Flows, Location of Freight Stakeholders, and Safety Analysis of truck-involved crashes, Regional Waterways and Air Cargo Infrastructure (details contained in the packet).

Ms. Taylor said that Cambridge Systematics may give a presentation to the TPO Board soon, possibly with preliminary findings in April and final results in June. Ms. Taylor said that we may be able to work with the State of Tennessee representative who was involved with the Waterway plan, and possibly get some calculations on lock traffic delays. At present, there is no new funding allocation for the lock repair.

Education Campaign – Ms. Betsy Evans said that Mr. Alan Jones (TDOT) will make a presentation on the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program at the March 1, 2011 TCC meeting. The complete Education Campaign schedule is contained in the packet including past workshops, and future potential topics/speakers.

Review of CARTA On-Board Survey – Mr. Nelson Galeano said that data was collected in November, 2010, and data is now being cleaned. We are satisfied with the data collected as we have 800+ clean records (achieving statistical validation). Mr. Galeano recapped various data analysis examples that will be included in the final report, and said that the survey is integral to developing the transit component of the Travel Demand Model (*as a federal requirement for improving transportation*).

Functional Classification System (FCS) – Per Mr. David Baird, TDOT has corrected the inconsistencies between the different FCS files, and the updated map for Hamilton County is now on the TDOT website. The TPO staff will contact local governments in March and April to discuss any possible revisions to the online FCS, and the TPO will submit to TDOT a list of proposed changes to come before the TCC in May, 2011, and TPO Executive Board in June, 2011.

Safe Routes to School Application Process – Mr. Baird said that Soddy Elementary and Woodmore Elementary are actively working on application submittal and the deadline is March 31, 2011. Training workshops were held by TDOT throughout the state in November/December 2010 and all local governments were advised. To apply, the local government must be the applicant and a representative must have attended a training session. Mr. Baird asked that he be advised if anyone else attended a training session and he will be happy to assist them with the application.

Bike Share Update & Bike / Pedestrian / Complete Streets – In Mr. Phil Pugliese absence, Mr. Baird read a prepared statement. Outdoor Chattanooga and CARTA are working to implement a \$2M CMAQ fund public bike share system with 30 initial stations in the Chattanooga downtown and UTC areas (with possible future expansion). FTA approval is pending with hope for implementation in a few months. TDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy was included in the packet and reviewed by Mr. Baird. This new policy specifically expands opportunities for these facilities to be considered, especially in the case of resurfacing and bridge rehabilitation. TDOT will continue to evaluate the needs of these road users in the Transportation Planning Report process and continue to work to ensure that an appropriate exception policy is followed.

Household Travel Survey – Ms. Yuen Lee said that input of the survey data will be completed, the data will be analyzed, and the survey is expected to be complete by June 2011.

External Travel Survey – Ms. Taylor said that there have been some issues with collecting the data given the amount of money initially in the contract and scope of work (which can't be changed). Since we were meeting the ceiling in the Cambridge Systematics contract, she asked them to look at other ways of collecting the data. They have since partnered with AirSage to collect the data, which will be a pilot (less costly) cell phone technology data collection. The survey is expected to be completed by mid-summer 2011.

Item #8: Ms. Taylor reminded everyone of a TDOT Planning for Operations Workshop in Knoxville on February 16 and 17, 2011. The next regularly scheduled TPO Executive Board meeting is April 19, 2011 (1:30-3:00 p.m. Eastern). The next regularly scheduled Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) meeting is May 3, 2011 (1:30-3:00 p.m. Eastern).
Adjourn.

Handouts Available:

Chattanooga Urban Area Highway Incident Management Plan

Chattanooga-Hamilton County / North Georgia TPO Annual Obligated List of Projects / Fiscal Year 2010

TDOT Planning for Operations Workshop – Knoxville February 16 & 17, 2011

TPO Executive Board Meeting

Role Call February 15, 2011

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Governor | State of Tennessee |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner | Georgia Department of Transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor | City of Chattanooga |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elected Representative | Chattanooga City Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Mayor | Hamilton County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Representative | Hamilton County Commission (209-7202) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Official | North Georgia Legislative Delegation |
| | Catoosa, Dade, Walker Counties, Georgia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Official | Tennessee Legislative Delegation, Hamilton |
| | County, Tennessee |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairman of the Board | Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation |
| | Authority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chairman of the Board | Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport Authority |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director | Chattanooga-Hamilton Co. Air Pollution |
| | Control Bureau |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elected Representative | Dade County, Georgia Government |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elected Representative | Walker County, Georgia Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Representative | Catoosa County, Georgia Government |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Commission Representative | Chickamauga, Georgia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Commission Representative | Collegedale, Tennessee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council Representative | East Ridge, Tennessee |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Commission Representative | Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Commission Representative | Lakesite, Tennessee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Commission Representative | Lookout Mountain, Georgia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Commission Representative | Lookout Mountain, Tennessee |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Commission Representative | Red Bank, Tennessee |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Commission Representative | Ridgeside, Tennessee |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Commission Representative | Ringgold, Georgia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Commission Representative | Rossville, Georgia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council Representative | Signal Mountain, Tennessee |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Commission Representative | Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Alderman Representative | Walden, Tennessee |

Quorum? Yes.

Melinda D. Taylor, Director