



Memorandum

TO: Craig Weinaug, Douglas County Administrator
David L. Corliss, Lawrence City Manager
Mike Press, Eudora City Manager
Chris Lowe, Baldwin City Manager
Lynley Sanford, Lecompton City Clerk

FROM: Jessica Mortinger, Transportation Planner

CC: MPO Policy Board , MPO Technical Advisory Committee , MPO Regional Transit Advisory Committee, Lawrence –Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee

Date: November 27, 2013

RE: **Multimodal Studies Project - Draft Reports**
Available for Public Comment
Draft Reports available for Public Comment

Overview

The Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) kicked off the Multimodal Studies Project with the signing of a consultant contract in January 2013. A consultant team consisting of URS Corporation, Vireo, and Toole Design Group is working with the MPO to complete this project.

Over the last seven months the project team sought input from the community through a variety of means including mobile meetings at events like a farmer's market, an interactive mapping/comment tool that allowed people to click on a map to identify a concern area and create a comment describing their concerns, two open house public information meetings where residents could talk to the project consultant team and MPO staff, numerous conversations at various committee meetings, and individual conversations with MPO staff. All of that community input has been blended with land use and transportation planning information to develop draft reports for the three transportation studies which comprise this project, including:

- Commuter Park-and-Ride Study
- Fixed-Route Transit and Pedestrian Accessibility Study
- Countywide-Bikeway System Plan

These three studies (which are packaged into one project) are being created simultaneously and describe a detailed vision for greater multimodal transportation opportunities in the Lawrence-Douglas County Region. The overall goal of this planning effort is to identify and prioritize transportation needs

for commuters, pedestrians, cyclists and transit riders for the next 5-to-10 years. Implementation of the studies' recommendations will then happen as funding becomes available.

Final Public Comment Opportunity

Public involvement and input are essential to the success of the Multimodal Studies Project. The studies describe a detailed vision for greater multimodal transportation opportunities in the Lawrence-Douglas County Region. The studies include policy changes, short-term capital improvement projects, and long-term improvement concepts that would contribute to making the vision a reality. The draft reports include a Park & Ride Study, a Fixed-Route Transit and Pedestrian Accessibility Study, and a Countywide Bikeway System Plan. You can access the draft reports online at www.lawrenceks.org/mpo/study. The public review and comment period will be open for 15 days. You are encouraged to submit your comments in writing to the consultant team project manager Jim Meyer at jim.meyer@urs.com by Friday, December 13, 2013.

The planning process will conclude by the end of 2013. Implementation of the studies' recommendations will happen as funding becomes available.

Visit the project web page at www.lawrenceks.org/mpo/study. You can also contact Todd Girdler, Senior Transportation Planner, Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization, at (785) 832-3155 and tgirdler@lawrenceks.org or Jessica Mortinger, Transportation Planner, Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization, at (785) 832-3165 and jmortinger@lawrenceks.org.