

Mayor's Climate Protection Task Force  
Transportation Work Group  
Meeting Minutes  
June 5, 2008  
City Manager's Conference Room, Lawrence City Hall

Present: Carey Maynard-Moody (chair), Charles Gruber, Karen Clawson, Kyle Schneweis, Marc Epard, Marian Hukle.

The chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM and the members approved the agenda as written.

#### 1. *Introductions*

Carey is chair and long-time member of the Wakarusa Group of the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club and helped initiate the city's climate protection efforts.

Charles, a real estate agent, had a flat tire in Lawrence in 1971 and stayed. He is honored to be part of the CPTF and seized the opportunity to work on transportation due to his long history of automobile use and repair.

Karen, who recently moved from Lawrence to Kansas City, is a Transportation Planner for the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC). Karen will be sharing work group duties with Lisa Pool, another MARC Transportation Planner, who was not present.

Kyle is a Project Manager with the Kansas Department of Transportation. Kyle said he's recruited similar committees before and decided it was time to serve on one.

Marc is a software engineer who is serving his second term on Lawrence's Public Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC).

Marian, a mathematician, is an avid proponent of public transportation and former chair of PTAC. She prefers not to own a car.

2. Group members will share *minute-taking duties* and Marc will record the first meeting.

3. Carey discussed the *history and purpose of the Mayor's Client Protection Task Force*.

The City of Lawrence joined the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives' (ICLEI) to help the City establish its baseline study of GHG emissions necessary for drafting a climate protection plan. The city has completed a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and will now establish an emissions target and the CPTF can begin the task of creating a plan for meeting that target. The plan will be drafted by the Mayor's Climate Protection Task force, which will be assisted by four work groups: Energy Efficiency and Conservation, Policy/Education, Transportation, and Waste Management.

#### 4. *Timeline*

The target date for presentation of the action plan draft is March, 2009 to the Lawrence City Commission for approval. Upon approval, the city will begin implementing policies and measures to reach the emissions target and start monitoring the results. We speculated about the future of the plan given the current city commission's concern about the city's budget in general and for funding bus service of particular interest to our group.

#### 5. *Templates for transportation chapters and model plans'*

Group members discussed the *plans of other cities*. Norman, Oklahoma's plan was the overall favorite with members citing the plan's brevity and straight forward goals. Lawrence's interest in reducing sprawl by incorporating Placemaker's *Smart Code* to its Comprehensive Plan, matches up with Norman's Recommended Action #2. Members also admired Bolder, Colorado's plan, but consider Norman to be a more politically acceptable comparison.

In comparing our effort to other cities, we again wondered how ours will be financed. Will the city allocate budget and staff for reporting and monitoring such as KCMO did with the hiring of Dennis Murphy??

We noted the integration of some cities' plans with regional planning, particularly with regard to commuting. Involving MARC in our chapter will help us partake and shape regional transportation goals.

#### 6. *Content of the chapter*

Our Transportation Work Group will draft the chapter of the plan related to all forms of transportation for both the community and the government. Our draft should be completed by January, 2009 for incorporation into the overall plan.

We discussed the car culture of the US and how our chapter will address overcoming cultural issues. The consensus was that transportation by individual car has historically been underpriced with the actual costs hidden from consumers. Educational outreach will be huge, but already citizens are driving less due to the loss of cheap fuel.

We talked about reducing either the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) or the emissions per mile or both. Kyle pointed out that vehicle miles traveled in the US declined in March and April. Federal and state DOTs are concerned about their revenues as miles traveled and fuel consumed decline. The gas tax provides a revenue stream the DOTs have been counting on for projects.

In a discussion of the current Green House Gas Inventory for Lawrence, Carey noted that although it appears Lawrence already significantly reduced our emissions between 2000 and 2005, the reduction is almost entirely due to the shutdown of the Farmland Industries plant. The group expressed a desire to have an inventory of past emissions that leaves out Farmland Industries so we can better compare current and future emissions due to ongoing transportation activities.

The group began *dividing the work* to be done and sketching an outline of our chapter. Carey will be the primary author and the rest of us will do research, contribute content, and help edit. Kyle said he's trained in charts, graphs, and the like. Charles has a penchant for graphics.

We discussed the need for a deeper understanding of transportation components of the Green House Gas Inventory in order to know where to focus our efforts. Kyle will seek more information. We agreed that we need to focus on tractable problems.

We discussed possible topics to cover in our chapter:

- Local transportation
- Regional transportation
- Government transportation
- Community transportation
- Projections and Scenarios
- Recommended actions with associated costs and savings for each

#### 7. *Source of revenue*

We wondered if our chapter needs a revenue for drafting and printing our chapter. Also about general revenue stream for implementation of the entire Climate Protection Plan once passed by the City Commission.

#### 8. *Distribution of assignments to be completed by next meeting*

All of us, and Kyle, in particular, will try to get more details (e.g. local vs regional commuting) as to the nature of emissions from transportation in Lawrence. Marc will transcribe and post minutes. All others will continue to examine other communities' plans in particular Norman, OK.

#### 9. *Composition of our work group*

Carey wondered if we were missing any constituency in our work group. We wondered if we should have a USD 497 group member, which lead to speculation on the amount of GHG emissions contributed by getting to school. We concluded that unless we hear back from the USD, our group is large enough.

#### 10. The group *scheduled meetings* for:

- Thursday, June 26 from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM
- Thursday, July 10, 2008 from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM
- Thursday, August 7, 2008 from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM
- Thursday, September 4 from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Carey will notify group will be notified of meeting space/place which she will seek from Bobbi Walthall at the City.