

**Lawrence-Douglas County
Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Policy Board**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 16, 2009

Attendance:

Organization	Name	Present
Voting Members		
Lawrence City Commission	Michael Dever	X
Lawrence City Commission	Robert Chestnut, Mayor	X
Douglas County Commission	Mike Gaughan	X
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Lisa Harris	X
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Stanley Rasmussen	X
City of Eudora	Maria Nelson	
Kansas Department of Transportation	Davonna Moore	X
Non-Voting Members		
Federal Highway Administration	Byron Low	X
Federal Transit Administration	Joni Roeseler	
University of Kansas	Margaret (Peg) Livingood, ASLA	X
City of Baldwin City	Ken Wagner, Mayor	
City of Leocompton	Christina M. Mallonee	
Staff		
Lawrence - Douglas County MPO	Todd Girdler, AICP	X
Lawrence - Douglas County MPO	Bart Rudolph	X
City of Lawrence-Douglas County Planning & Development Services Dept.	Scott McCullough, AICP	X
Others		
City of Lawrence-Douglas County Planning & Development Services Dept.	Sheila Stogsdill	
City of Baldwin City	Jeff Dingman	
City of Lawrence	Cynthia Boecker	
City of Lawrence	David Corliss	
City of Lawrence, Public Works	Charles Soules	X
City of Lawrence, Public Works	Shoeb Uddin	X
Douglas County Public Works	Keith Browning	X
Kansas Department of Transportation	Christy H. Lane	X
Kansas Department of Transportation	Thomas Dow	
Douglas County	Linda Finger	
Federal Highway Administration	Steve Foust	
City of Lawrence	John Miller	

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairwoman Davonna Moore called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM and a quorum was assured.

2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from the March 12, 2009 MPO Meeting

Approval of the minutes from the March 12, 2009 meeting was moved by Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Dever and passed unanimously.

3. Action Item: Approval of the US 56 Corridor Study-Project Agreement

Mr. Girdler presented the US 56 Corridor Study-Project Agreement which includes the funding arrangements and the scope of work to be completed by the project consultants, TranSystems, for the US 56 Corridor Study. The L-DC MPO is responsible for four and four-tenths percent (4.4%) of the total actual costs of the study, up to \$20,000. Mr. Girdler asked the Board to approve this agreement and authorize the Chair to sign it.

Ms. Harris moved to approve the US 56 Corridor Study-Project Agreement and authorized the Chair to sign it. Mr. Dever seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Action Item: 2030 Transportation – Lawrence/Douglas County Long Range Transportation Plan Amendment #1

Mr. Rudolph presented the Lawrence/Douglas County Long Range Transportation Plan Amendment #1. The amendment updates Chapter 8 of the region's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and includes a new 2009 Bikeway System Map and related text revisions. The Bikeway system map identifies existing and proposed bike lanes, bike routes, and shared use paths within Lawrence and nearby unincorporated parts of Douglas County. Mr. Rudolph mentioned that the BAC approved this item on February 17, 2009, the TAC approved this item on April 7, 2009, and no comments were received during the 30-day public review and comment period. Mr. Rudolph also noted that the 2009 Bikeway System Map was on display at the Helmet Fair and Bicycle Rodeo on April 11, 2009 and was well received by the cyclists who attended. Mr. Rudolph asked the Board to approve this MTP amendment.

Ms. Harris moved to approve the Lawrence/Douglas County Long Range Transportation Plan Amendment #1. Mr. Dever seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Action Item: 2030 Transportation – Lawrence/Douglas County Long Range Transportation Plan Amendment #2

Mr. Girdler discussed the Lawrence/Douglas County Long Range Transportation Plan Amendment #2. The amendment adds two pages to chapter 14 of the region's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) which includes a table and text revisions related to the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA - Economic Stimulus) funded projects planned for our region. Mr. Girdler stated that the TAC approved this amendment on April 7, 2009 and no comments were received during the 30-day public review and comment period.

Mr. Chestnut asked if all the projects presented in the MTP amendment originated and were approved by each of the jurisdictions in which they are located. Mr. Girdler responded that the list was populated with the input of the local jurisdictions and they submitted the project applications to the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT).

Mr. Chestnut moved to approve the Lawrence/Douglas County Long Range Transportation Plan Amendment #2. Ms. Harris seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Action Item: Public Participation Plan

Mr. Rudolph recalled the February 19, 2009 MPO Policy Board meeting where he gave a presentation outlining the contents of the Draft Public Participation Plan (PPP). The goal of the PPP is to establish a public participation process that is effective and meaningful for citizens in order to engage them in regional transportation planning activities. Mr. Rudolph noted that no changes have been made to the document since the February meeting. During the 45-day public review and comment period MPO staff received two comments, one thanking staff for including the cycling community during the creation of the document and the other noting it was a nice plan with interesting results. A spelling error was also identified. The plan was approved by the TAC on April 7, 2009. Mr. Girdler noted that the adoption of this plan will bring this document into compliance with the latest federal planning regulations. Mr. Rudolph requested that the Board approve the 2009 Public Participation Plan to replace the 2004 Public Involvement Plan.

Ms. Harris asked if this plan established or created sub-committees like the Bicycle Advisory Committee and suggested that the Board look into creating a Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Mr. Rudolph explained that the PPP did not call for the creation of any committee, but simply listed the ones that already existed as means to identify them as an outreach tool to engage the public. Mr. Girdler mentioned that the MPO Policy Board had the authority to create any sub-committees needed within the MPO structure once the bylaws have been adopted and that the Board could then create a Pedestrian Advisory Committee if desired.

Ms. Harris moved to approve the Public Participation Plan. Mr. Chestnut seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion/Action Item: MPO Bylaws

Mr. Girdler presented the draft Bylaws that were distributed at January's meeting and discussed at the February and March meetings. Mr. Girdler noted that he had incorporated the changes discussed at the March meeting and that no other comments were received. Bylaws must be approved by the Board within six-months (by June 8, 2009) of the execution of the MPO Re-Designation Agreement.

The Board briefly discussed the possible need to formally bring the BAC under the MPO structure and it was decided that the BAC can serve both the City and the MPO as an advisory board. Mr. Girdler envisioned the BAC and PTAC acting as advisory groups for the MPO and coordinating their actions with the TAC. Mr. Girdler also noted that temporary advisory boards can arise if needed and this will most likely occur during the creation of the next Metropolitan Transportation Plan update.

Mr. Rasmussen moved to approve the MPO Policy Board Bylaws. Ms. Harris seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board then unanimously nominated Ms. Moore to remain as the Board's chair and Mr. Rasmussen as Vice-Chair. The board agreed to vote on this matter at the next scheduled meeting on May 21, 2009.

8. Brief Descriptions and Quick Updates:

a. TAC Bylaws

Mr. Girdler reported that the TAC is currently reviewing the draft version of its Bylaws and those will be presented to the MPO Policy Board once the TAC approves them.

b. KU-City Transit Planning Team

Ms. Livingood and Mr. Girdler reported that the transit team is currently working to create one map that includes both the T's and KU's route information and a hotline that will allow riders to call one number to receive information about both transit systems. They also mentioned that the group was continuing to look at alternative fuel vehicles to replace the T's aging fleet.

Mr. Chestnut asked when the map is anticipated to be published. Ms. Livingood replied that the map would be completed by August 1, 2009 and should help the public perceive the routes as one system.

c. New Transit Administrator

Mr. Girdler reported that an offer to fill the position of Transit Administrator has been extended and accepted. The City is currently waiting on an acceptance letter and official start date from the applicant. Mr. Chestnut added that this person would be a good fit for the position and that he was excited about the coordination efforts between KU and the T and the recent approval of the two sales tax initiatives.

d. 5-County Regional Transportation Study

Mr. Girdler mentioned that both the Freight Movement and Mobility - Accessibility - Connectivity working groups have met earlier this month and the Land use - Economic Development and Environment / Social Equity working groups will meet later this month. He also stated that Thomas Dow from KDOT would be invited to the May 21, 2009 Board meeting to discuss the progress of this study.

Mr. Girdler also mentioned that John Maddox from KDOT was invited to the next meeting to discuss rail issues in Douglas County.

e. UPWP Amendment #1

Mr. Girdler indicated that the UPWP Amendment #1, which added KDOT controlled federal money and local match for the Lawrence-KU Transit Study, revised the budget to reflect the exact amount of the 2009 Consolidated Planning Grant, added the development of a Title VI Plan to the work tasks and budget, and revised the UPWP budget to provide some MPO funding for the GIS staff that does MPO work, had been approved by KDOT, FTA, and FHWA and is posted online.

f. TIP Amendment #3 and #4

Mr. Girdler announced that TIP amendment #3, which added the proposed projects recommended for funding through the ARRA - Economic Stimulus Program to the TIP document in anticipation of our region receiving ARRA funds through KDOT, had been approved by KDOT, FTA, and FHWA and is posted online. He also mentioned that TIP amendment #4 is scheduled to be approved by the TAC in May and will delete the road and bridge projects not selected by KDOT for funding with ARRA funds and add the Transportation Enhancement projects that were selected. This amendment will also make changes to the transit portion of the TIP. The MPO will be asked to approve this amendment on May 21, 2009.

g. Expansion of the Bicycle Advisory Committee

Mr. Rudolph announced that the BAC will be amending their Bylaws later this month to include better representation from the smaller cities in Douglas County. The BAC originally discussed this on March 24, 2009 and was very excited and open to the idea of expanding its membership with the purpose of creating a county-wide Bikeway System Map.

9. Other Business

Mr. Girdler stated that a Cooperative Agreement will need to be signed by the MPO, transit agency, and KDOT as a requirement of the re-designation of the MPO. He mentioned that a draft version would be available for discussion at the next Board meeting in May.

Mr. Girdler also reported that the U.S. Census has provided notice that the American Community Survey will no longer provide certain 5-year data products at all summary levels. This will result in less information being collected at the block or block group level. The Kansas Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (KAMPO) has requested that the five MPO's in Kansas sign a letter protesting this decision. Mr. Girdler asked if the Board would authorize the chair to participate and sign the letter. The Board agreed that the L-DC MPO should participate and authorized the Chair to sign the letter once drafted. Mr. Rasmussen suggested that KAMPO copy state and local congressmen and women, the Governor of Kansas, the Secretary of State, KDOT, FHWA, and the FTA on the letter. He mentioned it would be a good idea to alert them of our concern. Ms. Harris also stressed that it would be important to include in the letter why that level of data is important to the work that we do.

Mr. Dever asked about the status of changing the name of the L-DC MPO. This was briefly mentioned at the February 19, 2009 Board meeting. Mr. Chestnut suggested that it be renamed as the Douglas County MPO. There was general consensus from the Board and Mr. Girdler stated that he would look into the feasibility and necessary procedures required to change the name. This item will be on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments

11. Adjournment

Mr. Chestnut moved to adjourn the MPO Policy Board at 4:55 PM. Ms. Harris seconded and the motion passed unanimously.