

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

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Attendance:

Organization	Name	Present
Voting Members		
Lawrence City Commission	Michael Dever, Mayor	X
Lawrence City Commission	Robert Chestnut, Vice-Mayor	
Douglas County Commission	Charles Jones	X
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Lisa Harris	X
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Stanley Rasmussen	X
City of Eudora	Maria Nelson	X
Kansas Department of Transportation	Davonna Moore	X
Non-Voting Members		
Federal Highway Administration	Byron Low	
Federal Transit Administration	Joni Roeseler	
University of Kansas	Margaret (Peg) Livingood, ASLA	X
City of Baldwin City	Gary Walbridge, 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	
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	X
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 Eudora	Cheryl Beatty	
City of Lawrence	John Miller	X

1. Call Meeting to Order and Introductions

Chairwoman Davonna Moore called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM and a quorum was assured. Ms. Moore welcomed all attendees and introductions followed.

2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from the February 19, 2009 MPO Meeting

Approval of the minutes from the February 19, 2009 meeting was moved by Mr. Rasmussen, seconded by Ms. Harris and passed unanimously.

3. Action Item: 2009 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment #1

Mr. Girdler asked the Board to approve the UPWP Amendment #1 that will add KDOT controlled federal money and local match for the Lawrence-KU Transit Study, revise the budget to reflect the exact amount of the 2009 Consolidated Planning Grant, add the development of a Title VI Plan to the work tasks and budget, and revise the UPWP budget to provide some MPO funding for the GIS staff that does MPO work. Mr. Girdler explained that these additions will allow the MPO to capture more federal money for MPO activities. There was no public comment received during the 15-day comment period. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) approved the UPWP Amendment #1 on March 3, 2009.

Ms. Harris moved to approve the 2009 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment #1 as drafted by the MPO staff. Mr. Dever seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Action Item: 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #3

Mr. Girdler asked the Board to approve the Draft 2008-12 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #3 after receiving no public comments during the public comment period. This amendment will add the proposed projects recommended for funding through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA - Economic Stimulus) to the TIP document in anticipation of our region receiving ARRA funds through KDOT. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) approved the TIP Amendment #3 on March 3, 2009.

Ms. Nelson added that all of the Eudora projects that were missing from the TIP have been added and that she liked how staff presented the TIP that made it easy for the Board to identify the changes.

Mr. Browning stated that at the last Douglas County Commission meeting, the Commission decided to contribute \$100,000 of local money to two of the projects being added under this TIP amendment. The amount of federal funds anticipated for Projects numbered 79 (Route 1057) and 80 (Route 458) will then be reduced by \$100,000. Route 1057 will now request \$411,000 in ARRA funds and \$100,000 in local funds. Route 458 will now request \$423,000 in ARRA funds and \$100,000 in local funds.

Mr. Jones moved to amend the 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #3 to include the changes Mr. Browning reported. Ms. Harris seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jones then moved to approve the 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #3 as amended. Ms. Harris seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion Item: Metropolitan Transportation Plan Updates to reflect ARRA funding and projects

Mr. Girdler reported that the MPO is in the process of updating the T2030 transportation plan to show the projects added to our regional transportation system with potential ARRA funds. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) will have new language added to reflect ARRA as a new funding source. This amendment will be posted online for a 30-day public review and comment period on Monday, March 16, 2009 so that it will be ready for MPO approval at its April 16th meeting. Mr. Girdler informed the Board that MPO staff will work with KDOT to accomplish this task.

Mr. Uddin asked if the projects being submitted for Transportation Enhancements (TE) funds will be included in the amendment. Mr. Girdler replied that the TE projects would be added to the TIP with amendment #4, once the projects have been selected by KDOT.

The MPO Policy Board supported the MPO staff's effort in drafting this MTP amendment.

6. Discussion/Action Item: MPO Bylaws

Mr. Girdler led a discussion around the draft Bylaws that were distributed at January's meeting and discussed at the February meeting. Bylaws must be approved by the Board within six-months (by June 8, 2009) of the execution of the MPO Re-Designation Agreement.

Mr. Jones suggested adding language in the purpose statement that would encourage the consideration of environmental sustainability and the preservation of natural and heritage resources in relation to transportation planning. The Board agreed and Mr. Girdler stated that MPO staff would begin working to add such language.

Mr. Jones also asked if more consideration should be given to rail. He mentioned that rail should be a factor in the Board's decision making process. Ms. Lane suggested that the Board invite John Maddox from KDOT to speak to the MPO Policy Board about rail issues in the region and use that information to shape future discussions. Mr. Uddin added that multi-modal transportation deserves recognition in the purpose statement as well. Ms. Harris added that transit was missing from the purpose statement too. Mr. Girdler stated that MPO staff would work to include rail, transit, and multi-modalism into the purpose statement and invite Mr. Maddox to a future MPO Policy Board meeting to discuss rail issues in Douglas County.

7. Discussion/Action Item: MPO Meeting Organization and Notification

Mr. Girdler and Mr. Rudolph lead a discussion around how meeting notices and packets will be distributed and how meeting rooms will be arranged related to MPO meetings. Mr. Rudolph asked the Board if they would prefer moving towards an electronic agenda packet and sitting at the dais for computer access.

Ms. Nelson stated that she liked the dynamic of the current meeting room setup where all members of the MPO Policy Board sat at the table and she feared that moving the voting members to the dais would change that dynamic. The Board agreed and suggested that meeting packets continue to be sent electronically and members could choose to print or bring a laptop to the meeting, so that the current meeting room setup would not have to be changed.

8. Brief Descriptions and Quick Updates:

a. KU-City Transit Planning Team

Ms. Livingood reported that the transit consultant has made their recommendations for the “low hanging fruit” and the public seems to be reacting to them favorably. She also mentioned that the transit planning team is looking to create a sub-committee to examine the possibility and feasibility of purchasing alternative fuel busses.

b. Air Quality Standards

Mr. Rudolph stated that KDHE has recommended to the EPA that Douglas County be designated as “Unclassifiable/Attainment” meaning that while there is no current data available for Douglas County (because there is no monitoring station), the agency extrapolates from data in surrounding areas that ozone levels in Douglas County are at acceptable levels.

Mr. Jones suggested that the MPO be proactive in keeping Douglas County designated as an attainment area and research what the economic impact of being designated a non-attainment area would be. Mr. Girdler noted that more discussions on air quality will be scheduled for the MPO Policy Board.

c. Title VI Plan

Mr. Rudolph indicated the MPO staff will be starting work to draft a Title VI plan for the MPO as identified in the UPWP amendment #1. This new plan will indicate how the L-DC MPO will encourage participation in the regional transportation planning process by all citizens in the region, discourage discrimination in MPO work based on Title VI factors, and create a process for documenting and handling discrimination complaints.

d. US 56 Corridor Study-Partnership Agreement

Mr. Girdler announced that the first meeting of the study partners had taken place on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 and a Project Agreement was distributed to the study partners. The MPO will be required to sign the agreement once the legal department has reviewed it.

e. 5-County Regional Transportation Study

Mr. Girdler mentioned that all of the community dialogue meetings have taken place, with the final one in Lansing held at the same time as the current MPO meeting. Mr. Rudolph mentioned that Thomas Dow from KDOT will be invited to a future Board meeting to discuss the progress of the study.

Mr. Jones asked MPO staff to keep the MPO Policy Board aware of key times where public comment is most beneficial.

9. Other Business

Mr. Uddin asked the Board to write a letter of support for the four projects the City of Lawrence is submitting to KDOT for potential TE funds made available through ARRA. Ms. Nelson added that Eudora would be interested in obtaining a letter, as well, for their projects they are submitting for TE funds.

Mr. Jones made a motion to empower the MPO Policy Board Chairwomen to sign a letter of support for the four Lawrence projects and another to support the Eudora projects. Ms. Harris seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Harris thanked Ms. Moore, Mr. Girdler, and Mr. Rudolph for their professionalism throughout the MPO re-designation process and Board meetings.

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments

11. Adjournment

The MPO Policy Board meeting was adjourned at 5:14 PM.