

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

**Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, September 17, 2009

**Attendance:**

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

### **1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chairwoman Lisa Harris called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM and a quorum was assured.

### **2. Correspondence**

Mr. Girdler called reference to the Project Updates Memo included in the agenda packet and asked if any members of the Board had additional questions. With no questions from the Board, he invited everyone to attend the October 6, 2009 Lawrence City Commission study session where the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) will present the status of various state projects in Lawrence and Douglas County.

### **3. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from the July 30, 2009 MPO Meeting**

Approval of the minutes from the July 30, 2009 meeting was moved by Mr. Chestnut, seconded by Mr. Dever and passed unanimously.

### **4. Action Item: Approval of 2009 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment #2**

Mr. Girdler discussed the second amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Included in this amendment is a revised budget and text that increases the amount of KDOT in-kind assistance from the US 56 Corridor Management Plan to match federal funds for work done this year. Also included is the addition of consultant services and staff training for the development and maintenance of a regional travel demand model, the allocation of additional hours for the GIS Planner to perform MPO work, the removal of using Consolidated Planning Grant funds to hire a consultant for the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and replaces that activity with increased MPO staff time. He also explained how this amendment will allow the MPO to use the KDOT in-kind match for both purchases and staff time in order to maximize the use of federal funds and decrease the amount of local cash needed to match those federal funds in 2009. He also explained that the KDOT in-kind match will disappear at the end of the year if not fully utilized; stressing that it could not be carried over into the 2010 work program. In all, this amendment will utilize an additional \$14,224 of KDOT in-kind match, \$373 less of Federal Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) funds, and \$15,836 less of Local funds. This amendment was approved by the Technical Advisory Board on September 10, 2009 and received no public comments during the public comment and review period. Mr. Girdler asked the Board to approve this amendment as presented.

A motion to approve the 2009 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment #2 was moved by Mr. Chestnut, seconded by Mr. Dever and passed unanimously.

### **5. Discussion Item: Draft 2010 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Girdler discussed the ongoing development of next year's UPWP. He mentioned that the MPO staff would be working on developing a set of access management guidelines and standards, revising the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project submission process and document formatting, updating and working with the travel demand model, developing a new functional classification map, continuing the ongoing transit planning work, and finalizing the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. He also stated that the MPO would continue their participation in the ongoing 5-County Regional Transportation Study and US-56 Corridor Management Plan. He then invited the Board to make comments about what other activities should be included in the 2010 UPWP.

Mr. Dever recommended that the MPO research the feasibility of initiating a county-wide mass transportation program that would include commuter routes between the four cities in Douglas County. Mr. Nugent added that the State's T-LINK initiative is proposing doubling the State's public transportation budget and allocating \$1.2 million for commuter services. He noted that those funds may be available to help with this study. Mr. Girdler agreed that the MPO could research the feasibility of rural transit services in 2010.

Mr. Gaughan arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Girdler also added that KDOT is interested in conducting an Access Management Study along US-40 from K-10 to Stull Road that the MPO would be involved in that study.

Ms. Harris asked if the access management guidelines and standards would be presented to the local governing body and be city standards rather than county-wide. Mr. Girdler responded that the guidelines and standards would be mostly urban standards for the City of Lawrence and be approved by the Lawrence City Council. However, Douglas County access management standards will also be reviewed and incorporated into this new document.

Ms. Harris also inquired about what pedestrian planning activities would be incorporated into the 2010 work program and if the creation of a Pedestrian Advisory Committee is needed. Mr. Girdler replied that the Bicycle Advisory Committee looks at pedestrian issues to a certain extent and that the development review process incorporates safeguards to ensure pedestrian issues are not overlooked. Mr. Rudolph added that a KU student will be volunteering in the Planning and Development Services Department to conduct his practicum in community health and development. Mr. Rudolph stated that he will be working with the student to create a Sidewalk Master Plan for Lawrence.

#### **6. Discussion Item: Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grants**

Mr. Soules updated the Board on the status of the Lawrence - Douglas County application to receive TIGER funding for the extension of 31st Street. He stated that the application was complete, but was just shy of the \$20 million requirement. Applications are still accepted for projects less than \$20 million and he hopes this will be an advantage as other projects will not be able to compete for the remainder of funds, once the larger projects have been selected. He also mentioned that new applications questions made it more difficult to complete, such as estimating emission reductions, job creation, and economic development. He stated that the completed application would be available online if any member of the Board would like to view it.

Ms. Moore asked if the project was included in the TIP or Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) in case it was funded and needed to start quickly. Mr. Girdler replied that a portion of the project is in the TIP and MTP and could easily be expanded if selected to receive TIGER funding.

#### **7. Discussion Item: Transit Consolidation in Lawrence**

Mr. Nugent announced that the new joint City – KU Route 11 began service on August 17, 2009 and that ridership is up about 37% system wide. He reported no operational issues caused by the new coordinated route except that more buses had to be added to keep up with the increased demand.

Mr. Dever asked about the progress of establishing a joint maintenance facility. Mr. Nugent replied that a Request for Proposals has been published that will allow for a variety of options and recommendations to be made for a new facility. Those proposals are due back by early October.

Mr. Chestnut excused himself from the meeting.

#### **8. Discussion Item: National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project in Lawrence**

Mr. Rudolph distributed preliminary results from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project conducted during the week of September 8 - 12, 2009. He reported that 47 volunteers counted at 11 locations in Lawrence at three different times. Counts were conducted on Thursday, September 10, 2009 from 10am – 12pm and 5pm - 7pm and Saturday, September 12, 2009 from 12pm – 2pm. During the count times, a total of 737 bicyclists, 34% of which were wearing helmets, and 1,112 pedestrians were counted. The National Highway Traffic Safety Association estimates that only 25% of bicyclists were helmets, so Lawrence is slightly higher than the national average. Mr. Rudolph explained that he has begun working with the data and formula developed by Alta Planning and ITE to extrapolate daily, monthly and yearly estimates of bicycle and pedestrians facility users, but reminded the Board that the information distributed at the meeting was still in working form and not finalized. He reported that it was not surprising to find out that most of the pedestrian and bicycle activity occurs around the KU campus and downtown. Bicyclists and pedestrians averaged about 3.5% of the annual average daily traffic at the 11 locations and some locations were as high as 18%. A more detailed report will be available in the coming weeks and distributed to the Board as well as included in an upcoming City Manger's Report to the Lawrence City Commission.

Ms. Livingood shared that KU had conducted a pedestrian count on W. Campus Road and would share the results with the MPO if it would be helpful. Mr. Rudolph replied that any data regarding bicycle and pedestrian counts would be helpful and should be included in the database maintained by the MPO.

Mr. Gaughan asked what it cost to conduct this count and why Monterey Way was selected as a location. Mr. Rudolph stated that the count was conducted solely with the help of volunteers and the only cost associated with the count was the MPO staff time organizing the project and working with the data. The MPO also sponsored a training session with Alta Planning at the Mid-America Regional Council in August to train city and regional staff on how to conduct bicycle and pedestrian counts. The MPO contributed \$1,000 of the \$9,000 total cost for that training.

#### **9. Discussion Item: 2008-2012 TIP Amendment #6**

Mr. Girdler mentioned that KDOT is proposing a TIP change to add engineering funds for the planned new interchange at 15th Street/Bob Billings Parkway and Highway K-10. Funding for the engineering portion of this project was recently announced by KDOT Secretary Deb Miller as part of the 2010-2012 KDOT program. Mr. Girdler asked that if

any other jurisdictions had projects that needed to be included into the TIP, to let him know, so that they could be included with this amendment.

Mr. Gaughan asked what the total amount was for the five projects announced by Secretary Miller as part of the 2010-2012 KDOT program. Ms. Moore replied that the cost for the projects has not been published yet and that she would share the amount with the Board when it becomes available.

**10. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**11. Public Comments**

There were no public comments

**12. Adjournment**

Mr. Dever moved to adjourn the MPO Policy Board Meeting at 4:56 PM. Mr. Gaughan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.