

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

Meeting Notes

Thursday, December 17, 2009

Attendance:

Organization	Name	Present
Voting Members		
Lawrence City Commission	Michael Dever	
Lawrence City Commission	Robert Chestnut, Mayor	
Douglas County Commission	Mike Gaughan	
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	Paul Foundoukis	
Federal Transit Administration	Joni Roeseler	
University of Kansas	Margaret (Peg) Livingood, ASLA	X
City of Baldwin City	Ken Wagner, Mayor	
City of LeCompton	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 (For Scott McCullough)	X
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	Mark Thiel	X
Douglas County Public Works	Keith Browning	X
Kansas Department of Transportation	Stephanie Watts	X
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	X
University of Kansas	Danny Kaiser (For Peg Livingood)	
Kansas Department of Transportation	John Maddox	

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting began at 4:02 PM. Although a quorum was not assured, the Board members present met and discussed the scheduled agenda items. No official action was taken at this meeting and all of the action items from this meeting will be voted on at the January MPO meeting, and further discussion will be accepted, if requested.

2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from the October 15, 2009 MPO Meeting

No corrections or changes were suggested for the minutes from the October 15, 2009 meeting. No official action was taken due to lack of quorum.

3. Correspondence

Mr. Rudolph called reference to the Project Updates Memo included in the agenda packet and asked if any members of the Board had additional questions.

Chairperson Harris inquired about the Sidewalk Master Plan timeline and whether or not it had been four years since the last sidewalk inventory. Mr. Soules validated that it had been 4 years since the last inventory and Mr. Rudolph reported that the KU student volunteer should complete his inventory of existing sidewalks in January 2010 if the weather cooperates.

4. Discussion Item: US Highway 40/K-10 Highway Interchange Management Plan

Mr. Girdler reported that KDOT has been getting requests for additional access to US 40 from developers recently and suggested creating a management plan along US Hwy 40/K-10 between George Williams Way to E800 Road. The plan will help KDOT and the local governments in assessing the need for access to this highway and better coordinate planning for the road to maintain its operational integrity and the land use planning for this area. Ms. Moore confirmed that KDOT has budgeted for this planning project in 2010 and is asking the MPO to approve \$11,000 towards this project's cost. Mr. Girdler mentioned that the authorization of MPO funds and commitment to the study will be approved by the Board as part of UPWP Amendment #1.

Ms. Harris asked if bicycle and pedestrian issues would be considered in the study. Mr. Girdler assured her that they will.

5. Action Item: Approval of the 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Amendment #1

Mr. Girdler discussed the UPWP Amendment #1 and briefly described the changes. This amendment adjusts the text and budget to reflect that the MPO will participate in the US 40/K-10 Interchange Management Plan sponsored by KDOT and help fund this study with \$11,000 in federal Consolidated Planning Grant funds matched with \$2,750 of cost sharing activity funding supplied by KDOT. There are also adjustments in the text and budget to reflect that the MPO will now fund consultant, equipment, training, and supply costs for the MPO Administration & Staffing, Transportation Improvement Program, and Regional Travel Demand Model & Data Development work tasks with federal Consolidated Planning Grant funds matched with cost sharing activity funding. Minor changes were also made to the work task schedule, budget notes, and text to improve the descriptions of planned MPO staff activities and improve the readability of the document.

The 2010 UPWP Amendment #1 was reviewed and approved by the Technical Advisory Committee at its December 1, 2009 meeting. There were no public comments received during the public comment and review period that ended on December 16, 2009.

No official action was taken due to a lack of quorum.

6. Action Item: Approval of Support Resolutions for Transportation Enhancement (TE) Grant Applications Being Submitted from Local Agencies to KDOT

Mr. Girdler reported that the MPO had received three requests for support resolutions regarding Transportation Enhancement (TE) grant applications. Baldwin City had one application to fund a hike-bike trail from County Road 12 south to Firetree Park in the northern part of Baldwin City. The City of Lawrence had two grant applications; one was for the preservation of the Santa Fe passenger rail station and the other application was for the KU/Oread Neighborhood/Downtown Lawrence Lighted Pedestrian Pathway. Mr. Girdler stated that the resolutions of support for these projects states that the MPO is aware of the projects, the projects are consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and if funded, the MPO will add the projects to the TIP.

Mr. Thiel presented his project and answered questions regarding the lighted pathway project connecting the KU Campus to Downtown Lawrence. He stated that the pathway will have two sections; one using 12th Street and one using 14th Street, but the TE grant would only be applied to the primary route along 12th Street. This project will be designed for pedestrians and not for bicycle traffic. It will incorporate energy saving LED light fixtures and motion sensors. He then demonstrated how the light would work using a replica of the lighted bollards that would be installed as part of the project.

No official action was taken due to a lack of quorum.

7. Discussion Item: Bicycle Rideability Map

Mr. Rudolph presented two versions of the Bicycle Rideability Map. He explained that he had been working with the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) to create this map and were discussing color options to use for printing. He also noted that the purpose of this map is to show relative difficulty of using different bikeways for getting around town and to identify intersections that could prove difficult for some cyclists. KU students have also been involved and provided information about these routes to the MPO staff. Mr. Rudolph reported that the TAC reviewed the maps and suggested modifying the map to indicate which road sections are gravel versus hard surface so that riders can choose a route based on the type of bicycle they ride. He also noted that symbols would be added to delineate where steep hills are along the routes.

After reviewing the two color schemes the majority of the Board liked the grey with white roads, but no consensus was reached. Chairperson Harris identified a spelling error in the legend and Ms. Livingood suggested that a shared use path that runs through KU should be added to the map. Mr. Rasmussen asked if the routes identified on the map were signed as bicycle routes on the streets. Mr. Rudolph replied that the majority of the routes identified on the map were already designated as bicycle routes, but there could be cases where bicycle routes signs still need to be placed. The MPO staff will work with Public Works to review sign placements along these routes and install the needed signs in 2010.

Mr. Rudolph thanked the Board for their input and told them that this map would go back to the BAC in January for further refinement and the final version will be sent to the Board for approval shortly after.

8. Action Item: Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2010

Mr. Girdler stated that according to the MPO Bylaws, the term of the current officers will end on December 31st and new officers for the upcoming year will need to be elected. The election of officers will take place at the next regularly scheduled meeting in January due to the lack of quorum.

9. Other Business

Mr. Rudolph noted that he would send a Microsoft Outlook meeting invitation for the MPO Policy Board 2010 meeting dates. The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2010.

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments

11. Adjournment

The MPO Policy Board Meeting ended at 4:58 PM.