

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

**Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, February 19, 2009

**Attendance:**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Voting Members</b>		
Lawrence City Commission	Michael Dever, Mayor	<b>X</b>
Lawrence City Commission	Robert Chestnut, Vice-Mayor	
Douglas County Commission	Charles Jones	<b>X</b>
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Lisa Harris	
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Stanley Rasmussen	<b>X</b>
City of Eudora	Maria Nelson	<b>X</b>
Kansas Department of Transportation	Davonna Moore	<b>X</b>
<b>Non-Voting Members</b>		
Federal Highway Administration	Byron Low	
Federal Transit Administration	Joni Roeseler	
University of Kansas	Margaret (Peg) Livingood, ASLA	
City of Baldwin City	Gary Walbridge, 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>Others</b>		
City of Lawrence-Douglas County Planning & Development Services Dept.	Sheila Stogsdill (For Scott McCullough)	<b>X</b>
City of Baldwin City	Jeff Dingman	<b>X</b>
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	<b>X</b>
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 Eudora	Cheryl Beatty	<b>X</b>

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

Chairwoman Davonna Moore called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM and a quorum was assured. Ms. Moore welcomed all attendees and introductions followed.

Ms. Moore suggested that agenda item seven be moved to the end of the agenda to allow time for discussion after MPO business is attended to.

### **2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from the January 22, 2009 MPO Meeting**

Approval of the minutes from the January 22, 2009 meeting was moved by Mr. Dever, seconded by Mr. Jones and passed unanimously.

### **3. Action Item: 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #2**

Mr. Girdler asked the Board to approve the Draft 2008-12 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #2 after receiving no public comments during the public comment period. Lawrence and KDOT projects have been added to the document and the FFY 2008 List of Obligated Federal Aid Projects has been added to the text. The original TIP was approved in April 2008 and the first amendment was in August. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) approved the TIP Amendment #2 on February 3, 2009.

Mr. Dever suggested that in the future, he would like the changes to be identified within the document so that it illustrates exactly what has changed since the last time he saw it. Mr. Girdler replied that he would provide that information in the future.

Ms. Nelson was concerned about Eudora projects missing from the TIP, specifically Winchester Road, and asked if it was too late to add projects to the TIP. She also inquired about when Economic Stimulus projects should be added to the TIP. Mr. Girdler mentioned that the next TIP amendment would include the list of Economic Stimulus projects and any projects missing from Eudora could be added at that time. In order to have the next amendment ready to be approved at the next board meeting, the amendment will need to be released for public review and comment by February 26, 2009. The project list from each jurisdiction will need to be delivered to the MPO by Wednesday, February 25, 2009 to meet that deadline.

After discussion, Mr. Jones moved to approve the 2008-12 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #2. Ms. Nelson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Discussion Item: Public Participation Plan**

Mr. Rudolph gave a presentation outlining the contents of the Draft Public Participation Plan (PPP). He mentioned that the goal of the PPP was to establish a public participation process that is effective and meaningful for citizens in order to engage them in regional transportation planning activities. The plan was approved by the TAC on February 3, 2009 and is currently posted on the Web site for a 45-day public review and comment period. Mr. Rudolph stated that after the public review and comment period ends on March 27, 2009, the PPP would be brought back to the Board for approval in April with any comments or suggestions added as a result of the public comment process.

Mr. Rasmussen inquired about the list of "interested parties" identified in the plan and asked if contractors or developers should be included. Mr. Rudolph stated that the list presented in the PPP is the list of stakeholders that FHWA specifically mentions in the federal regulations and that the L-DC MPO is not limited to that list. He also stated that the last group

mentioned in the “interested parties” list is “other interested parties” intended to catch any additional groups that are stakeholders within the region.

This item was for information only, no action was taken.

#### **5. Discussion Item: Bikeway System Map**

Mr. Rudolph discussed changes made to this Bikeway System Map over the last few months that were recommended by the TAC and the Lawrence Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC). MPO staff has conducted a review of the existing network and worked with both committees to update the future bicycle facility network. The most notable changes to the map include the addition of recommended bicycle facilities on the future thoroughfares identified in Transportation: 2030. Mr. Rudolph asked that the MPO Policy Board review the Bikeway System Map and authorize staff to post it on the web for a 30-day public review and comment period as an amendment to Transportation: 2030. The MPO Policy Board will be scheduled to approve the amendment in April 2009.

Mr. Dever made a motion to post the draft Bikeway System Map as an amendment to Transportation: 2030 online for a 30-day public review and comment period. Mr. Rasmussen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jones inquired about the possibility of creating a county wide Bikeway System Map, expanding the membership of the Lawrence BAC to allow Douglas County and small city representatives, and incorporating the BAC as part of the MPO structure. After Discussion, Mr. Jones made a motion that would allow MPO staff to begin the process of establishing a county wide Bicycle Advisory Committee with the charge of creating a county wide Bikeway System Map. Mr. Rasmussen seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Rudolph mentioned that he would begin drafting a proposal for the Board’s review in April 2009.

#### **6. Discussion/Action Item: MPO Bylaws**

Mr. Girdler led a discussion around the draft Bylaws that were distributed at last month’s 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. Rasmussen asked that MPO staff clarify certain language to establish consistency throughout the document. Mr. Jones also asked for more clarification on terms throughout the document. Members of the Board discussed public comment opportunities and time limits during meetings. Ms. Beatty suggested that a short statement be added to the agenda template that allows open public comment at the end of the regular agenda and limits individual comments to 5 minutes. MPO staff will revise the Bylaws and have them available for review at the next MPO Policy Board meeting.

Ms. Moore asked the Board if they were satisfied with the name of the MPO and whether or not it should remain the Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization. Members of the Board expressed interest in creating a name that better suggested its role in transportation planning throughout Douglas County and placed less of an emphasis on the City of Lawrence.

#### **8. Discussion/Action Item: MPO Meeting Dates and Times for 2009**

Mr. Girdler presented possible times to hold regularly scheduled MPO meetings in 2009. Monthly meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of every month (except March) from

4 PM to 5:30 PM at Lawrence City Hall. The March meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2009 to accelerate the TIP Amendment for projects competing for ARRA funding and to avoid Spring Break. MPO staff does not think that the MPO Policy Board will be required to meet monthly, but wanted to leave the option open in case certain activities or projects warranted a meeting.

Mr. Jones suggested that the MPO Policy Board take advantage of other meeting locations throughout Douglas County and that the Board occasionally meet in places other than Lawrence City Hall. The Board agreed and the MPO staff will begin coordinating with other jurisdictions to arrange meeting locations.

Mr. Dever made a motion to approve the meeting dates and times. Mr. Jones seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **9. Discussion Item: 2009 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment #1**

Mr. Girdler presented the Draft 2009 UPWP Amendment #1 to the MPO Policy Board for review and asked the MPO to direct staff to post it on the web for a 30-day public review and comment period. This UPWP Amendment was revised after the TAC approved it at their February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. The revisions include partial funding for the GIS Planner and GIS Analyst for 2009 using Consolidated Planning Grant funds controlled by the MPO and KDOT.

Mr. Dever made a motion to allow staff to post the UPWP amendment for a 30-day public review and comment period. Mr. Jones seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **7. Discussion Item: Economic Recovery Package**

Mr. Girdler and Ms. Moore updated the MPO Policy Board on the latest information about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) that was signed by President Obama on February 17, 2009 and how it may impact the Lawrence-Douglas County MPO. The MPO staff recently posted information online regarding the stimulus package as well as the list of potential projects identified by Lawrence and Douglas County. Ms. Moore reported that KDOT is still becoming familiar with ARRA but anticipates a pool of \$32 million for city and county projects outside of the Kansas City and Wichita areas. KDOT will also make available \$10 million for Transportation Enhancements projects statewide. Douglas County, Baldwin City, Eudora, Lawrence, and Lecompton will be eligible to submit projects to compete for a portion of that funding. KDOT also anticipates that the 75 – 90 day timeframe for projects to be under contract will not apply to the portion of funds made available for local projects. Local projects will have until December 2009 to have their projects under contract.

In an effort to ensure effective coordination and support among state and federal agencies as well as preparing our planning partners, local jurisdictions, and stakeholders, MPO staff is preparing to implement the ARRA by gathering a list of projects eligible to receive ARRA funding to include in the next TIP amendment. Ms. Moore suggested that the TIP be amended to include all projects competing for funding and another amendment be made to remove the projects that weren't selected after final decisions have been made by KDOT.

Mr. Jones made a motion to have MPO staff work with local jurisdiction and prepare a list of projects to be included in the TIP for potential ARRA funding. Mr. Dever seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Girdler requested that each jurisdiction meet with their appropriate decision makers and have their lists of projects sent to him by Wednesday, February 25, 2009 to ensure that the TIP amendment will be ready to approve by the MPO Policy Board at their March meeting. The TIP requires a mandatory 15-day public review and comment period.

**10. Brief Descriptions and Quick Updates:**

This item was deferred due to time restrictions.

**11. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**12. Adjournment**

The MPO Policy Board meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM.