

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

**Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, January 21, 2010

**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	
Douglas County Commission	Mike Gaughan	
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Lisa Harris	<b>X</b>
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Stanley Rasmussen	<b>X</b>
City of Leocompton	Jimmy Wilkins	<b>X</b>
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 Eudora	Maria Nelson	
<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 (For Scott McCullough)	
City of Baldwin City	Jeff Dingman	
City of Lawrence	Cynthia Boecker	
City of Lawrence	David Corliss	
City of Lawrence, Public Works	Charles Soules	
City of Lawrence, Public Works	Shoeb Uddin	
Douglas County Public Works	Keith Browning	
Kansas Department of Transportation	Stephanie Watts	<b>X</b>
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	Jordan Wilkinson	<b>X</b>
Kansas Department of Transportation	John Maddox	

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

Chairperson Lisa Harris called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM and a quorum was assured. Introductions were made and Mr. Wilkins introduced himself as the new voting representative from the City of Lecompton. Mr. Girdler explained that the three smaller cities in Douglas County rotate as the voting member every year. The City of Eudora served in 2009, the City of Lecompton will serve in 2010 and the City of Baldwin City will serve as the voting member in 2011.

### **2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from the October 15, 2009 MPO Meeting and Meeting Notes from the December 17, 2009 Meeting**

Approval of the minutes from the October 15, 2009 MPO meeting and Meeting Notes from the December 17, 2009 meeting was moved by Mr. Dever, seconded by Ms. Moore and passed unanimously.

### **3. 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. There were no questions from the Board.

### **4. Action Item: Approval of 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.

Mr. Rasmussen arrived at the meeting.

A motion to approve the 2010 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment #1 was made by Mr. Dever, seconded by Ms. Moore and passed unanimously.

### **5. 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.

Chairperson Harris mentioned that this item was discussed at the last MPO meeting and Mr. Thiel from the Lawrence Public Works Department gave a presentation in which he demonstrated how the lights would work using a replica of the lighted bollards that would be installed as part of the KU/Oread Neighborhood/Downtown Lawrence Lighted Pedestrian Pathway.

A motion to approve the support resolutions for the three TE projects was made by Mr. Wilkins, seconded by Ms. Moore and passed unanimously.

**6. Action Item: Approval of 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Amendment #7**

Mr. Girdler reported that this TIP amendment adds three KDOT sponsored projects to the TIP text, map, and project table. The three projects include bridge replacements along US Highway 56 at points 1.95 miles and 2.7 miles east of US Highway 59, another bridge replacement along US Highway 56 at point 4.15 miles east of US Highway 59, and the addition of a bridge deck overlay project along US Highway 59 at a point 8.97 miles north of US Highway 56 over the Wakarusa River.

The 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #7 was reviewed and approved by the Technical Advisory Committee at its January 5, 2010 meeting. There were no public comments received during the public comment and review period that ended on January 20, 2010.

A motion to approve the 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #7 was made by Mr. Rasmussen, seconded by Mr. Dever and passed unanimously.

**7. Action Item: Approval of MPO support letter for the Cottonwood Incorporated grant application for Section 5310 operating assistance funding**

Mr. Rudolph stated that Cottonwood Incorporated has requested a letter of support from the MPO to accompany their application for Section 5310 funding provided by the Kansas Department of Transportation. Cottonwood Incorporated is requesting to maintain their current level of operating assistance funding of \$4,000. The operating assistance funding will be used to help with covering the maintenance costs of KDOT funded vehicles.

Mr. Rudolph explained that Section 5310 funding is provided to states for the purpose of assisting private nonprofit groups in meeting the needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities. He clarified that the letter of support states that the operations of Cottonwood Incorporated are consistent with Chapter 7 of Transportation 2030 and if awarded the funding, the MPO will amend the TIP to reflect the additional state obligated funds.

A motion to approve the letter of support for Cottonwood Incorporated's application for Section 5310 funding was made by Mr. Wilkins, seconded by Ms. Moore and passed unanimously.

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

Chairperson Harris stated that according to the MPO Bylaws, the term of the current officers ended on December 31, 2009, but due to the lack of a quorum at the December meeting no action was taken. She did mention that the members present at the last meeting recommended to re-elect the current officers. Chairperson Harris asked if there are any other nominations or volunteers for the Chair and/or Vice Chair positions.

With no other nominations, Mr. Rasmussen made a motion to re-elect Ms. Harris as Chair and Ms. Moore as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dever and passed unanimously.

## **9. Other Business**

Mr. Dever asked what kind of response The T and KU on Wheels received at the first transit public open house. Mr. Nugent mentioned that most of the comments received regarded the demand response service proposed for North Lawrence. He mentioned that there were some concerns about having to make arrangements 24 hours prior to the requested pickup. He explained that it would take some time for users to become acclimated with the service and same day service would most likely be available in the beginning to help with that process. Ms. Livingood asked Mr. Nugent to explain the reasoning behind the decision to offer a demand response system. Mr. Nugent said that transit needed to evolve to remain viable and typically a fixed route is established in the hopes that ridership will follow. In this case, the fixed route has not attracted much ridership and the ridership numbers for this route have been low for years. The demand response approach allows transit to get into the neighborhood and establish a ridership base and in the future that will help determine a fixed route based on that ridership demands. Chairperson Harris asked how the system would work when traveling across town. Mr. Nugent stated that if a rider was traveling outside of the demand response zone, the rider would be dropped off at a transfer point downtown to transition to the fixed route system unless doing so would be a hardship for the person, for example, if the rider were disabled. Mr. Rasmussen asked if the hours would remain the same and Mr. Nugent replied that they would remain the same.

## **10. Public Comments**

There were no public comments

## **11. Adjournment**

Chairperson Harris adjourned the MPO Policy Board Meeting at 4:23 PM.