

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

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Attendance:

Organization	Name	Present
Voting Members		
Lawrence City Commission	Michael Dever	X
Lawrence City Commission	Robert Chestnut, Mayor	X
Douglas County Commission	Mike Gaughan	X
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Lisa Harris	
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	Paul Foundoukis	X
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	X
Others		
City of Lawrence-Douglas County Planning & Development Services Dept.	Sheila Stogsdill	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	Shoeb Uddin	
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 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	X

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairwoman Davonna Moore called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM and a quorum was assured.

Ms. Moore suggested that agenda item eight be moved to the front of the agenda to be respectful to the guest speaker's time. She also recommended that agenda item three be moved to the end of the agenda because that change will take effect immediately and the nominee for Chairperson will be absent from this meeting.

8. Discussion Item: Statewide Freight Study

John Maddox, Office of Rail Affairs Program Manager, from KDOT briefed the Board on the recently completed Statewide Freight Study. He mentioned that this was the first statewide multimodal freight study conducted by KDOT. In general, the study found that the highway and rail network are operating efficiently and free flowing with some pockets of congestion. The Kansas City metropolitan area is the second largest rail hub in the nation by number of car loads and the largest by tonnage. He mentioned that with truck traffic expected to increase, key highway corridors will need to be monitored and updated to accommodate the increased traffic. The largest increased volumes are expected on Interstates 35, 70, 335, and 135. In addition to growth on major Kansas trade corridors, emerging freight corridors in rural parts of the State also will experience significant increases in truck volumes, particularly U.S. 81, 50, 283, and 54. The intermodal facility currently being constructed in Gardener is expected to generate 10,000 trucks per day when it is fully built. Freight growth statewide is expected to grow 1.5% annually. In 2006, \$894 million of freight traveled across Kansas. By 2030, 1.2 billion tons of freight, valued at over \$1.7 trillion will be transported into, out of, within, and through the State. The study also found that the populations are shrinking in rural communities, while increasing in urban areas, but agriculture production continues to increase. He suggested that was mostly the result of science and technological advances. The study recommended that freight issues be better incorporated into the decision making process, key freight facilities and bottlenecks be identified, performance measures be established for freight, rail planning efforts be enhanced, and allocate more money to freight in the CTP and expand the applicant pool to include shippers. Mr. Maddox concluded that Kansas' trade corridors are critically important to the statewide, regional, and national economy and a state advisory committee regarding freight issues is being developed and as a result of this study. The Statewide Freight Study is available online at <http://www.ksdot.org/burRail/Rail/default.asp>.

Mr. Chestnut excused himself from the meeting.

2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from the May 21, 2009 MPO Meeting

Approval of the minutes from the May 21, 2009 meeting was moved by Mr. Rasmussen, seconded by Mr. Gaughan and passed unanimously.

4. Action Item: 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program - Revision #1

Mr. Girdler presented the 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program - Revision #1. He mentioned that this administrative revision required no public comment period and increased the federal operating assistance for the T in 2009 by \$51,000. This revision to the TIP programs the increased level of federal funding. The TIP revision was approved by the Technical Advisory Committee on July 7, 2009. Mr. Girdler asked the Board to approve TIP Revision #1.

Mr. Dever moved to approve the 2008–2012 Transportation Improvement Program - Revision #1. Mr. Rasmussen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Action Item: 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program - Amendment #5

Mr. Girdler mentioned that the Douglas County Public Works Department has been working with KDOT Local Projects staff to add a major roadway improvement project into the County's 5-Year Plan, and KDOT staff has informed the County that this project needs to be listed in the TIP. Mr. Girdler stated that TIP Amendment #5 adds the restoration, resurfacing and reconstruction of Route 458 between E 800 Road and N 1175 Road. The TIP amendment was approved by the Technical Advisory Committee on July 7, 2009 and received no public comments during the 15 day public review and comment period. Mr. Girdler asked the Board to approve TIP Amendment #5.

Mr. Gaughan moved to approve the 2008–2012 Transportation Improvement Program - Amendment #5. Mr. Dever seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Action Item: Title VI Plan

Mr. Rudolph presented the Title VI Program Manual to the Board for approval. He mentioned that the manual outlines the responsibilities of the MPO to ensure compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and identifies the procedures to address complaints related to Title VI. He also stated that, at the request of the City Legal Services Director, the Planning & Development Services Director would be designated as the Title VI Coordinator. The manual also illustrates how the core documents of the MPO work together to ensure compliance. Included in the manual is the official Title VI Discriminatory Complaint Form and draft language that should be incorporated into public notices.

Mr. Gaughan asked how elected officials and members of the jurisdictions within the L-DC MPO were involved in the process to ensure Title VI Compliance. Mr. Rudolph stated that the MPO organizational structure and established committees allow for both elected officials and staff to be part of the process.

Mr. Gaughan also inquired about the need to hold meetings in “neutral” locations as stated in the manual and what that actually meant. Mr. Rudolph explained that civic buildings, like City Hall or the Police Station, may intimidate people and prevent them from participating. Buildings located in the neighborhoods; like schools or churches are generally more accepted as places people are willing to go to participate in a meeting.

Ms. Nelson inquired about the types of Title VI complaints the MPO might receive. Mr. Rudolph stated that a common complaint arises when a disproportionate amount of projects are programmed for federal aid outside of environmental justice areas. He also mentioned that the Metropolitan Transportation Plan includes an environmental justice evaluation component to help ensure compliance.

Ms. Nelson moved to approve the Title VI Program Manual. Mr. Rasmussen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Action Item: Carpool Connection Agreement

Mr. Girdler announced that the Carpool Connection was being expanded to include the St. Joseph area. He stated that the current MPO work program includes the support of the Carpool Connection ride matching service and has previously been supported by the Lawrence-Douglas County MPO and the Mid-America Regional Council. A new agreement is needed to add the St. Joseph Area Transportation Study Organization to the agreement. Mr. Girdler mentioned that the City Commission has signed the new agreement on behalf of the Lawrence Transit System and he asked the MPO Policy Board to approve this agreement and direct the Chair to sign it as well.

Mr. Rasmussen asked for clarification on the amount paid annually and asked if that amount would decrease with the addition of the St. Joseph MPO. Mr. Girdler replied that the L-DC MPO portion of the maintenance fee would decrease due to splitting it three ways instead of two. Combined with that, the new version of Carpool Connection will include an Employer Module and the L-DC MPO will pay for part of that, so the overall L-DC MPO portion paid will remain the same in 2009 and 2010. The services provided would be enhanced and the new version of the Carpool Connection will be made available to the public within the next couple of months.

Mr. Rasmussen moved to approve the Carpool Connection Agreement and authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement. Mr. Gaughan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Chestnut returned to the meeting.

9. Discussion Item: Possible Name Change for the Lawrence-Douglas County MPO

Mr. Girdler presented information about how the MPO could change its name from the current Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization (L-DC MPO) to another name chosen by the MPO Policy Board if desired. This item was discussed at the May 21, 2009 MPO Policy Board meeting and was tabled to allow time for brainstorming of possible names. Mr. Girdler mentioned that he received no suggestions, but the Board had previously mentioned removing Lawrence from the title. He also stated that a supplemental agreement to the MPO Re-designation Agreement would be required to make the name change official.

There was also a discussion about the need to create a logo for the MPO. Currently the MPO simply spells out its name, while other MPOs in Kansas and nationwide have a designated logo. Mr. Rasmussen suggested keeping the MPO name the same and incorporating the smaller cities' names into the logo. Mr. Chestnut also mentioned that the "Lawrence-Douglas County" naming convention was typical for other regional entities in the area. The Board agreed and the MPO staff affirmed that they will begin work on creating a logo for the L-DC MPO.

10. Discussion Item: Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grants

Mr. Girdler announced that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 appropriated \$1.5 billion, available through September 30, 2011, for Supplementary Discretionary Grants for a National Surface Transportation System. The U.S. Department of Transportation is calling these Supplementary Discretionary Grants for a National Transportation System "TIGER Discretionary Grants" (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery). These grants are to be awarded on a

competitive basis for capital investments in surface transportation projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area or a region. He mentioned that the deadline for submitting applications is September 15, 2009 and the TIGER Discretionary Grants will be awarded based on long-term outcomes, job creation & economic stimulus, innovation and partnership. He also stated that the grants should be no less than \$20 million and no greater than \$300 million.

Mr. Soules stated that the City was creating a list of possible projects that include the 15th Street / Bob Billings Parkway and K-10 interchange, 31st Street from Haskell to 1057, the intersection at 6th Street and Iowa Street, and creating a street network in the existing Farmland industrial area. He indicated that no plans have been completed for the 6th and Iowa intersection and he anticipates that the 15th Street interchange will be included in KDOT's Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan.

Mr. Chestnut asked why the South Lawrence Traffic Way was excluded from the list. Mr. Soules indicated that the 31st Street project would be the closest project to be shovel ready within a year. Mr. Girdler mentioned that any project that received TIGER Funds would need to be completed by February 17, 2012.

KDOT stated that they were planning on submitting four projects: 4 laning of K-18 from Manhattan to Ogden, US-54 Kingman Bypass, BNSF Intermodal facility and Watco to improve some shortline rail road tracks in Kansas and Oklahoma. All four projects are located outside of Douglas County.

Ms. Nelson asked what was required to be submitted with the application and how far along in the planning process would a project need to be to qualify for the program. Mr. Girdler replied that the project sponsor would need to supply a cost estimate and scope of work and indicate how the project can be completed by early 2012.

Mr. Rasmussen inquired about the possibility of replacing all the City's light poles with LED lights. Mr. Chestnut explained that the City currently does not own the light poles, but it could be a possibility to purchase and upgrade them.

There was some discussion about who the applicant would be for these grants and Mr. Girdler explained that the local jurisdictions would be the applicant, not the MPO. Mr. Soules, Mr. Browning and Mr. Girdler agreed to continue to discuss the issue and projects presented at the meeting. City and County Officials should expect to see a final list within the next couple of weeks.

3. Action Item: Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Ms. Moore reminded the Board that this item was tabled at the May MPO meeting until after the Lawrence – Douglas County Planning Commission held its elections. She then opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Girdler mentioned that Lisa Harris had sent an e-mail to the MPO staff to inform them of her absence and volunteered to be Chair if the Board elected her. There was a brief discussion that resulted in no further nominations. Mr. Girdler cited the bylaws which state that the term would end at the end of the year and another set of elections would be held prior. He also mentioned that there were no term limits and since these initial elections were just now taking place, both individuals nominated for Chair and Vice Chair would be eligible to run for the 2010 term.

Mr. Rasmussen moved to nominate Ms. Harris as Chairperson of the MPO Policy Board. Mr. Chestnut seconded the nomination at the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Rasmussen then moved to nominate Ms. Moore as Vice Chairperson of the MPO Policy Board. Mr. Chestnut seconded the nomination at the motion passed unanimously.

11. Brief Descriptions and Quick Updates:

a. KU-City Transit Planning Team

Mr. Nugent announced that the public would start seeing results of the coordinated planning efforts between KU and the T on August 17, 2009 when the new Route 11 is rolled out. Route 11 will run from Massachusetts Street, through the KU campus, to 31st and Iowa; essentially combining 3 routes into 1.

Ms. Livingood reported on the process of establishing a joint maintenance facility. The current facility has no room to grow and makes it difficult for a new vender to come in and operate effectively. She mentioned that a new facility would require between 7 and 8 acres at a minimum. Also, a Request for Proposals has been drafted that will allow for a variety of options and recommendations to be made for a new facility.

Mr. Chestnut asked when the current lease with MV Transportation is set to expire. Ms. Livingood replied that the lease expires at the end of 2010.

b. Fall 2009 KAMPO Conference hosted by the L-DC MPO

Mr. Girdler announced that the L-DC MPO will be hosting the next meeting of the Kansas Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (KAMPO) in mid October. He mentioned that Complete Streets would most likely be the main topic of discussion, but asked the Board to think about any additional topics or activities they would like to see presented at the meeting.

c. KLINK project applications

Mr. Soules indicated that the City of Lawrence has submitted a mill and overlay project along Iowa Street for a KLINK resurfacing project for fiscal year 2012.

d. T-LINK meetings

Mr. Nugent explained that KDOT has typically allocated about \$6 million a year to transit projects statewide and there has been talk during the T-LINK process to increase that amount to \$16 million a year. He mentioned that funding will most likely be distributed into 4 areas; urban, rural, mobility and commuting. The formula funding distribution is also being discussed as part of this process. As more information is available, he promised to share it with the Board.

e. 2009 UPWP Amendment #2

Mr. Girdler reported that MPO staff has been working with KDOT to leverage in-kind match money from the US-56 Study to help cover the local match that is required for MPO expenses. He mentioned that an amendment to the UPWP would likely reflect these changes at the next MPO Policy Board meeting.

12. Other Business

Mr. Girdler indicated that the MPO staff would like to present the “quick updates” in the form of a memo that would be included in the agenda packet and not spoken at the meeting in an effort to keep the meeting within the allotted time frame. The Board supported the idea and the MPO staff agreed to initiate the process in time for the next meeting.

Mr. Rasmussen mentioned that he recently attended a Public Officials Briefing on the US-56 Corridor Management Plan. The briefing provided an overview of transportation, land use and public involvement to date and explained the legal aspects of implementing the Corridor Plan. He mentioned that they are looking to the year 2040 and partnering with Douglas County, Johnson County, the Cities of Baldwin City, Edgerton, Gardner, the L-DC MPO and the Mid-America Regional Council. He also mentioned that the project website was located at www.us56corridorplan.org.

13. Public Comments

There were no public comments

14. Adjournment

Ms. Moore moved to adjourn the MPO Policy Board Meeting at 5:58 PM. Mr. Dever seconded and the motion passed unanimously.