

Memorandum

City of Lawrence

Planning and Development Services

TO: David L. Corliss, Lawrence City Manager

FROM: Bart Rudolph, L-DC MPO Transportation Planner

**CC: Scott McCullough, Planning and Development Services Director
Todd Girdler, L-DC MPO Senior Transportation Planner**

DATE: 11/24/09

**RE: City of Lawrence - Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee
Amended Bylaws - December 8, 2009 Agenda Item**

Please include the following item on the City Commission agenda for consideration at the December 8, 2009 meeting:

I. **Description**

The Lawrence-Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) has requested to amend its bylaws to include greater representation from Douglas County, Baldwin City, Lecompton and Eudora. The new bylaws would increase the size of the Committee to nine (9) members. Currently, there are six (6) representatives from Lawrence and one (1) from Douglas County. The new membership would include representatives from the following:

- **Lawrence (4)** – Appointed by the Mayor
- **Douglas County (2)** – Appointed by the Chair of the Douglas County Commission
- **Baldwin City (1)** - Appointed by the Mayor
- **Eudora (1)** - Appointed by the Mayor
- **Lecompton (1)** - Appointed by the Mayor

All appointments will also need to have consent from the respective City or County Commission.

The City of Lawrence will reduce its membership by attrition. Three (3) of the six (6) representatives are currently serving terms that expire on December 31, 2009. One (1) representative has served two complete terms and will not be eligible for reappointment. One (1) representative has chosen not to seek an

additional term and the third representative is completing a term vacated earlier this year and will seek reappointment.

The expanded membership would allow for:

- Increased regional coordination and connectivity. Identifying bicycle facilities plans and improvements in the County and the smaller cities in Douglas County will help create a more regional plan. Also bicycle connections to Kansas City and Topeka can be planned and coordinated with other plans in the region
- Expansion of the Bikeway System Map. The map depicts existing and future bicycle facilities in Lawrence and serves to guide decisions and planning for new streets and roads and rehabilitation of existing streets with regard to bicycle facilities. Last updated in 2009, the Bikeway System Map stops just past the City limits. More work is needed to identify linkages between the cities and county routes in Douglas County.
- Greater participation with the Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization. The expanded membership will allow the BAC to advise the MPO on regional bicycle related issues and recommend amendments to Chapter 8 of the Long Range Transportation Plan. Chapter 8 identifies bicycle facility needs and houses the Bikeway System Map. Bicycle infrastructure improvements identified in the Long Range Transportation Plan make them eligible to receive federal funding when available.
- Provide greater awareness. Bicycle safety and education messaging will reach further into the County. Increased partnerships with other cities, community groups and organizations will also strengthen our designation as a Bicycle Friendly Community.
- Increase the amount of bicycle knowledge represented on the Committee. Having representation from sources outside of Lawrence allows the Committee to stay up-to-date on current trends, programs, and facilities happening with the region.

II. **Function**

The Bicycle Advisory Committee provides a communication linkage between the City Commission and the community on bicycling related issues. The Committee works to improve bicycle safety and awareness through education of motorists and non-motorists; review, update, and oversee the distribution of the City's Biking Map; seek information from multiple sources on current trends, programs, and facilities outside the local area; and promote bicycle awareness by coordinating activities with the City, County, the school district, universities, and the local bicycle clubs.

III. **History**

November 21, 1995 - Resolution 5763 originally created the Lawrence Bicycle Advisory Committee

October 14, 2003 – The Lawrence City Commission approved amending the bylaws to become a joint City/County advisory committee.

November 17, 2003 – The Douglas County Commission approved the joint City/County bylaws to establish the Lawrence-Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee.

IV. **Action Request.**

Approve the amended bylaws of the Lawrence – Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Thank you for your assistance. Please advise if you have any questions.