

Memorandum

Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization (L-DC MPO)

To: David L. Corliss, Lawrence City Manager
Craig Weinaug, Douglas County Administrator

From: Todd Girdler, Senior Transportation Planner

CC: Scott McCullough, Planning and Development Services Director

Date: January 25, 2010

RE: Summary of MPO Accomplishments in 2009 and Planned Activities for 2010
Work Program

This report reviews items completed by the MPO in 2009 and also highlights elements of the 2010 work plan.

2009 UPWP Accomplishments

- Established a re-designated MPO for the Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Area, held the first meeting of this group on January 22, 2009, and educated new MPO members about the 3C (continuing, comprehensive, cooperative) process and their role in it
- Approved new Bylaws for the Lawrence-Douglas County MPO
- Approved new Bylaws for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Approved a new Cooperative Agreement/MOU (metropolitan planning agreement) for the 3C planning process in the Lawrence-Douglas County Area
- Completed and approved the 2010 UPWP
- Approved the new Public Participation Plan
- Approved a new Title VI Program Manual
- Hosted the Fall Meeting of the Kansas Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Approved five amendments (#2 through #6) to the 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) including two amendments related to the use of economic stimulus package funding for transportation improvements in the region through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
- Completed an extensive review of the Bicycle Facilities Map and Bicycle Plan
- Approved Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Amendment #1 to update the bikeway system map in the MTP and make other changes to Chapter 8 of the MTP
- Completed a major change to the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) Bylaws that revised/expanded the composition of this group to make it more regional in nature by involving the rural and small city parts of the county, and made changes to this group so that it can serve as an advisory group to the City of Lawrence, Douglas County, and the MPO
- Organized and participated in Bicycle Safety Month activities
- Organized and conducted a pedestrian and bicycle counting program in conjunction with the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project
- Completed MTP Amendment #2 to revise Chapter 14 of the document to reflect the ARRA funding that local jurisdictions applied for from the USDOT
- Attended stakeholder meetings and numerous other staff level meetings for the development of the KDOT sponsored 5-County Regional Transportation Study covering Douglas, Johnson, Wyandotte, Miami and Leavenworth Counties
- Attended stakeholder meetings and numerous other staff level meetings for the development of the KDOT sponsored US 56 Highway Corridor Study covering 22 miles of highway from the I-35 Interchange near Gardner to the US 59 Intersection in Douglas County

- Reviewed the latest KDOT and FHWA approved roadway functional classification maps for Lawrence and Douglas County and compared those maps to the classification maps shown in the T2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- MPO staff participated in the Transit Planning Team activities that led to a new joint Lawrence/University of Kansas route, the start of a major transit consolidation study, and the issuance of a RFP for a new joint KU-City transit maintenance and operations center
- Worked with the MPOs in Kansas City and St. Joseph, Missouri to revise the Carpool Connection agreement to improve this carpool matching service and split the cost three ways with the addition of St. Joseph into the network

Anticipated Major Planning Activities for 2010

Program Support & Administration

- Training and educational opportunities for MPO staff and committee members
- Ongoing improvements and updates to the MPO website
- Preparation and approval of the 2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Implementation of the new Public Participation Plan (PPP) approved in 2009 and the review of public comments received about the MPO process and documents
- Ongoing education of MPO committee members and the public about the MPO regional transportation planning process

Short Range Transportation Planning

- Update the Transportation Improvement Program including an overhaul of the text, the reformatting of the project tables, and other improvements as needed
- Creation of a new email based TIP project submission and updating process that allows MPO staff and project sponsors (KDOT, City, County) to make changes to project listings and update the project database
- Develop a set of project selection criteria for use in creating the TIP project tables
- Complete amendments to the TIP as needed
- Coordinate roadway design concepts and standards to ensure that the needs of non-motorized travelers are addressed, and incorporate Complete Streets principles into local development codes and infrastructure standards to benefits all street users (pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, motorists).
- Review development plans to ensure adherence to requirements for bikeways, bicycle parking, and sidewalks in new and redevelopment projects
- Assist the Lawrence and Douglas County staffs in their review of major land development projects that have potential impacts on the regional transportation system
- Complete the Access Management Standards & Guidelines document for use by developers, current planning staff, and others in designing and reviewing roadways and land development projects

Long Range Transportation Planning

- Obtain travel demand model training for MPO staff and begin to build in-house capabilities to maintain the regional model
- Transfer the regional travel demand model to the MPO staff for future operation and maintenance
- Begin the process of updating land use and economic data that is used in the regional travel demand model and to set the base year data for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update due in March 2013
- Develop projects and land use/transportation network scenarios to model
- Prepare base year, existing + committed (E+C), E+C with projections, and horizon year modeling assignments

- Review and utilize demographic data as part of the metropolitan transportation planning process and use Census data (updated as needed) as input data to the regional traffic demand model
- Compile transportation safety data and decide how to use this data in the next MTP (The MPO staff will work with Lawrence, Douglas County and KDOT officials to compile accident data.)
- Review and revise the regional traffic model road network and traffic analysis zone structure as needed
- Update the Functional Classification Maps for Lawrence and Douglas County and make those FHWA-approved maps consistent with the latest functional classification maps included in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (T2030 document)
- Confer with the Lawrence Transit System staff and determine how the MTP should be modified to reflect recent changes in the Lawrence Area transit system and new City-KU transit consolidation efforts
- Design a program to inform the region's freight community (major shippers and carriers) about the MPO process and invite them to become involved and share their concerns with MPO staff
- Participate in the KDOT-sponsored 5-County Regional Transportation Study
- Participate in the KDOT-sponsored US Highway 56 Corridor Study
- Participate in a KDOT sponsored corridor study of US Highway 40 and K-10 Highway west of Lawrence
- Continue to work with the newly reformed Bicycle Advisory Committee to update and check the accuracy of the Bikeway System Map
- Participate in “Bike to Work” week and other bicycle awareness and safety promotional activities as requested
- Inventory pedestrian facilities and develop a Sidewalk Plan for inclusion in the MTP and for use in TIP development
- Review and utilize the ITS Architecture for the Lawrence-Douglas County Region
- Monitor air quality issues as they relate to regional transportation planning
- Review and comment on draft long range plans for the region and sub-areas, including draft changes to the Comprehensive Plan (Horizon 2020) document

Public Transportation Planning

- Continue to participate in Transit Planning Team meetings and assist the City of Lawrence and the University of Kansas staffs with planning a new transit system for Lawrence that coordinates, consolidates or merges the Lawrence T and the KU on Wheels services into one integrated system meeting the needs of the general public and the KU population
- Continue to work with the Mid-America Regional Council and the St. Joseph Area Transportation Study Organization to implement a ridesharing program covering the Kansas City, Lawrence, and St. Joseph metropolitan areas
- Discuss paratransit issues and challenges with specialized transit providers in Coordinated Transit District -1 and assist those providers with incorporating paratransit topics into the MPO process and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- Review the existing Coordinated Public Transit–Human Services Transportation Plan for Douglas County and update this plan in coordination with KDOT staff and CTD-1 transit providers

If you have any questions about any of these MPO work task or any other MPO questions please contact Todd Girdler at (785) 832-3155 or by email at tgirdler@ci.lawrence.ks.us.