

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
Minutes for Tuesday, February 3, 2015 Meeting

Voting Members

Allison Smith (KDOT)
Scott McCullough (Lawrence-Douglas County Planning & Development Services)
Robert Nugent (Lawrence Transit Administrator)
Barack Matite (Eudora)
Keith Browning (Douglas County Public Works Director)
Collin Bielser (Baldwin City)
Danny Kaiser (KU on Wheels Administrator)

Non-Voting Members

Paul Foundoukis (Federal Highway Administration)
Daniel Nguyen (Federal Transit Administration)
Charlie Bryan (Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department)

Others

Mark Bechtel (Federal Transit Administration)
Rebecca Garza (Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department)
Chris Tilden (Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department)

Staff

Todd Girdler (Senior Transportation Planner)
Jessica Mortinger (Transportation Planner)

Item 1: Call to Order

Keith Browning, acting as Temporary Chair due to the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:36 PM. A quorum was present.

Item 2: Welcome and Introductions

Keith Browning asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves to the group.

Item 3: Action Item: Approval of Minutes from the December 2, 2014 Regular Meeting

Keith Browning asked if anyone had any changes to the minutes. There were none. Danny Kaiser moved to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Robert Nugent and passed unanimously.

Item 4: Action Item: Election of TAC Officers for 2015

Keith Browning made a motion to elect Scott McCullough as Chair; the motion was seconded by Robert Nugent and passed unanimously. Allison Smith made a motion to elect Robert Nugent as Vice-Chair; the motion was seconded by Danny Kaiser and passed unanimously.

Item 5: Action Item: Regional Pedestrian Plan Update and Revised Scope

Jessica Mortinger handed out copies of the completed pedestrian facility inventories for Eudora and Baldwin City. She told the TAC members that staff had revised the Regional Pedestrian Plan scope to delete the discussion of best construction practices and funding methods. The best practices for construction is more appropriate for discussion later in engineering documents. Funding sources and methods is best described later in budget documents. Those items are important, but the staff revised the scope so that this planning document will focus on building a pedestrian travel system that will be part of the larger multimodal transport system for the region and to coordinate with the other ongoing pedestrian planning processes. Several other groups and documents will focus on funding mechanisms and construction standards. Todd Girdler noted that this MPO plan will be a system plan pointing out what we have and what we do not have in our pedestrian facility network and recommending projects to improve connectivity in that system and its function as a travel network connecting various land uses around the region. TAC members discussed the revised scope for this plan. Jessica Mortinger noted that a steering Committee meeting for this project will be held next week. Charlie Bryan

mentioned how this MPO pedestrian plan can be coordinated with the ongoing Safe Routes To school (SRTS) planning being done by the Health Department. Jessica noted that this revised scope will likely be the only action item on the February MPO agenda and asked TAC members if they believed a February MPO meeting was needed for that one item. TAC members agreed that this revised scope can wait until March for MPO review and approval. They agreed to have MPO staff provide a copy to the MPO Policy Board members via email before the next meeting to ensure that if there are any issues they can be addressed before March. Barrack Matite made a motion to approve the revised scope for the MPO's Regional Pedestrian Plan and that it is put on the MPO agenda for approval in March. That motion was seconded by Allison Smith and approved unanimously.

Item 6: Quick Updates

a. Safe Routes To School (SRTS) Plan for Lawrence

Jessica Mortinger shared the current status of the SRTS process, noting that since the public meeting, hosted on January 14th, the project team has been reviewing comments collected on the proposed routes. Charlie Bryan indicated that the Health Department is now working on coordinating school input around the education, encouragement and enforcement parts of SRTS. The goal is for each school to develop a list of projects and priorities and for those projects/priorities to feed into a Citywide SRTS plan. He noted that some schools seem more organized and supportive of this planning effort now while others are not so organized yet. The survey data collected in the fall and the public meeting has yielded data for each school participating in this year's process. He indicated that the process has solicited a plethora of comments on the proposed routes that are being considered. The MPO staff and PW staff are generating a list of projects along the proposed routes that were presented. This list is expected to provide a basis for a Phase II project application to KDOT. Allison Smith noted that she is not sure when KDOT will issue the next call for SRTS applications. Charlie Bryan told the group that the Health Department's objective is to move the SRTS planning into Baldwin City and Eudora in the next year or two, and that Health Department and City staffs are beginning to coordinate on that. March Bechtel asked what the result of this SRTS planning effort will be. Charlie Bryan stated that the SRTS Plan will eventually be countywide, and identify preferred routes for children to walk/bike to school and identify projects that can help facilitate that walking/biking activity. How projects will be prioritized is still uncertain. Allison Smith told the TAC that if the MPO receives several SRTS project applications the MPO can prioritize them before they are sent to KDOT. TAC members thanked Charlie for the update and asked to be kept informed about this SRTS planning.

b. ITS Architecture Update

Todd Girdler informed the group that this project is progressing with new information on the website and the consultant interviews of stakeholders almost completed. The consultant will tour the 911 Center this month and finish the mapping of flows in Turbo Architecture soon. The next Project Team meeting will be held after the scheduled March TAC meeting, and the second Stakeholders Meeting is being planned. This project is on schedule for completion in early May.

c. 2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)-Amendment #1

Todd Girdler told the TAC that this routine amendment will be completed as soon as new labor rates for the MPO staff are calculated by the City. He noted that 2015 is the last year that the MPO will use non-cash match, and starting in 2016 all MPO activity and projects will be funding with federal CPG funds and local cash matching funds.

d. 2015-2016 KDOT funding and T-WORKS projects

Allison Smith noted that the KDOT budget has been viewed by the Legislature as a source of funds to balance the State Budget. . The new diverging diamond interchange at the K-10/ US-40 junction was delayed before the Legislature acted to switch money out of KDOT, and the engineering study for expanding the west leg of K-10 around Lawrence to four lanes is still funded. So far our region has not had a project delayed or cancelled due to legislative budget actions, but the future is uncertain. KDOT staff will keep the MPO informed about any funding changes affecting projects in Douglas County.

e. Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Planning Work

Jessica Mortinger informed the TAC that the USDOT will be conducting a roadway safety audit for 19th Street east of Iowa/US-59 to Massachusetts to assess its condition for bicycle, pedestrian and transit travel. The Kick-Off meeting for that project was held this morning, and the field work will be conducted on March 26th.

Item 6: Other Business

Scott McCullough reminded the group that the MPO will not meet in February.

Allison Smith informed the group that Dennis Slimmer, Planning Bureau Chief, is retiring from KDOT next month.

Item 7: Next Meeting March 3, 2015 or another date set by the TAC

The TAC members are scheduled to meet next on March 3, 2015. The meeting adjourned at 2:18 PM.