MPO Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, July 12, 2018  
City Commission Room  
Lawrence City Hall  

Attendance:  
VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT  
X Bill Anderson City of Lecompton/At Large  
X Jacki Becker Douglas County (Vice-Chair)  
Justin Eddings City of Eudora  
X David Hamby City of Lawrence (Chair)  
X Steve Hitchcock City of Baldwin City  
Cameron Jacques Douglas County  
X Marianne Melling City of Lawrence  

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT  
Matt Messina KDOT  
Kathryn Schartz Transportation Commission  
Vacant KU BAC  

STAFF PRESENT  
X Jessica Mortinger, AICP L-DC MPO  
X Ashley Myers, AICP L-DC MPO  
X Ryan Pearson L-DC MPO  

GUESTS PRESENT  
X Helen Schnoes LDC Sustainability  
X Michael Almon Sustainability Action Network  

1. Call Meeting to Order, Welcome and Introductions  
David Hamby called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM. A quorum was present.  

2. Public Comments  
No public comment was made.  

3. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from April 16, 2018  
Bill Anderson motioned to approve the minutes from April 16th, Steve Hitchcock seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.  

4. Discussion Item: July 28th Working Meeting  
Jessica Mortinger said the working meeting is designed to guide a discussion about goals, visions, and what needs to be done moving forward, noting that it will be beneficial to have discussions that generate ideas and lead to involvement. Bill Anderson asked how many people are expected to attend the meeting. Ms. Mortinger said it will likely be the members of the MPO BAC and a few members of the public. David Hamby asked what the structure of the workshop will look like. Ms. Mortinger said preliminary material including existing conditions and best practices will be made available to get people thinking about different aspects of a bicycle friendly community. The discussion will be broken down into sections about the different E’s (education, equity, etc.) in order to hone in on the details of each essential element of a bicycle plan, which should help develop criteria to prioritize projects. She mentioned national guidance will determine much of the engineering decisions, so the discussion will start with the other E’s.  

5. Discussion Item: Preliminary Survey Results and Existing Conditions  
Jessica Mortinger presented the preliminary survey results and asked the committee whether there are any demographics in the community that do not appear to be involved. Bill Anderson asked about scheduling a meeting with a local parent teacher organization. Ms. Mortinger said that PTO’s are often extremely busy at the beginning of the school year and may already be booked during this round of engagement, but agreed it would be helpful to see what can be done to reach them. Jacki Becker asked whether there would be a tabling event at the upcoming Douglas County Fair in the beginning of August. Ms. Mortinger said that in the past the fair has not provided much participation. Ms. Becker also asked if there is any way to reach
more people from Haskell University. Ms. Mortinger said that the MPO has historically had a difficult time getting participation from Haskell, but that staff will continue to explore options to engage them and follow up. Mr. Anderson said that the online survey process could be made easier if you didn’t have to verify that you are not a robot, as it was the trickiest part of the process. Ashley Myers said that it is a technical issue that is being worked on.

Ms. Mortinger asked whether there are any observations about the preliminary results or whether the data could be analyzed in more insightful ways. Marianne Melling said it would be interesting to see if there are any trends in combining the results of various questions and the conclusions that this leads to. (Ex: is there a correlation between the comfort levels and whether someone is a recreational rider or commuter).

Steve Hitchcock asked whether there is any data that indicates how many KU students bring their bikes to college. Mr. Anderson said that in his experience the amount of bikes that go unclaimed outside of the dorms at the end of the year is enormous, saying that it appears that many students expectations about riding in college go unfulfilled. Mr. Anderson mentioned that the KU campus policy of not allowing bikes in any building is a major hurdle to ridership as it limits ownership and confidence. Mr. Hitchcock agreed that college students can be a very difficult demographic to understand, though essential nonetheless.

Mr. Anderson asked how the role of this committee differs from the Pedestrian Bicycle Issues Task Force. Ms. Mortinger said that the MPO BAC is supposed to think more about specific implementation strategies and broaden the geographic scope of the plan. Ms. Mortinger continued to say that we know what resources are available and there needs to be a serious discussion about priorities and who should be responsible for implementation and maintenance. We need to address gaps in the community which prevent bicycle riding and develop the best and most realistic strategies to fill them. Mr. Hitchcock noted it seems this is the right step towards bringing calculated rationale to the decision making process so that projects don’t just sit on a list.

Ms. Becker asked if there is anything from existing plans that is relevant to this planning process. Ms. Mortinger said this process hopes to draw relevant material from each of the existing plans in a way that leads to their implementation and creates the most effective bicycle plan possible.

Ms. Mortinger mentioned that an important goal is to make sure everyone involved is on the same page and aware what we need moving forward. Mr. Anderson agreed this is very important. He continued to note people just don’t spend as much time outside anymore and brought up how important it is to make room for leadership throughout the community that helps build a bike culture. He mentioned as a cyclist he watched figures like Lance Armstrong generate a ton of enthusiasm around cycling, and said that it is essential to support local leaders who want to establish and guide different aspects of a bicycle culture.

Mr. Hitchcock agreed, saying all the engineering and infrastructure improvements will be useless without a significant bike culture. Mr. Hamby said there’s always an excuse not to ride, so it will be essential to figure out what those excuses are and how to specifically target them.

6. Quick Updates
There were no updates.

7. Other Business

8. Next Meeting: July 28, 2018 – East Lawrence Rec Center from 12 pm – 4 pm –
Meeting adjourned at 5:22 PM.