

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

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Attendance:

Organization	Name	Present
Voting Members		
Lawrence City Commission	Michael Dever	
Lawrence City Commission	Vacant	
Douglas County Commission	Mike Gaughan	X
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Bruce Liese	X
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Charles Blaser	
City of Baldwin	Ken Wagner	X
Kansas Department of Transportation	Davonna Moore	X
Non-Voting Members		
Federal Highway Administration	Paul Foundoukis	
Federal Transit Administration	Joni Roeseler	
University of Kansas	Margaret (Peg) Livingood, ASLA	X
City of Eudora	Maria Nelson	
City of Lecompton	Jimmy Wilkins	
Staff		
Lawrence - Douglas County MPO	Todd Girdler, AICP	X
Lawrence - Douglas County MPO	Jessica Mortinger	X
City of Lawrence-Douglas County Planning & Development Services Dept.	Scott McCullough	X
Others		
Lawrence-Douglas County Health Dept.	Charlie Bryan	X
Lawrence Transit	Bob Nugent	X
Douglas County Public Works	Keith Browning	X
Sustainability Action Network	Michael Almon	X
City of Lawrence Public Works	Charles Soules	X
Kansas Department of Transportation	Stephanie Watts	X

1. Call Meeting to Order

Vice Chairperson Davonna Moore called the meeting to order at 4:09 PM and a quorum was assured.

2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from the June 16, 2011 MPO Meeting

Approval of the minutes from the June 16, 2011 MPO meeting was moved by Mr. Liese, seconded by Mr. Gaughan and passed unanimously.

3. Discussion Item: Old Business and Correspondence: Mr. Girdler presented the Project Updates Memo & TAC minutes included in the agenda packet and asked if any members of the Board had additional questions. No questions or discussion were presented by MPO policy board members.

4. Action Item: Logo and Information Pamphlet for the Lawrence-Douglas County

MPO Ms. Mortinger presented the MPO logo and MPO information pamphlet to the MPO Policy Board for final review and comment and asked the MPO for approval of those items. Mr. Gaughan asked if the previous Title VI work required this pamphlet to be reproduced in alternate formats or other languages. Mr. Girdler indicated that the MPO was not required to translate documents. Ms. Mortinger said upon request for alternative format the MPO staff would make the best effort to accommodate requests. Mr. Gaughan made a motion to approve these MPO products. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wagner and passed unanimously.

5. Action Item: 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Amendment #11 Ms. Mortinger presented this amendment to the MPO for review and approval. This is the final amendment for the current TIP; it accommodates several projects including several KDOT projects and adds the toll feasibility study for the South Lawrence Traffic Way into the TIP. This TIP amendment also includes recently awarded Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) funding for the restoration of the Lawrence passenger rail station. The amendment was re-posted in late August for public comments after the FRA funding was added to comply with the MPO's requirement for a 15-day public comment period. Mr. Gaughan asked for more clarification on the toll feasibility study, including how it would impact users and who would be sampled during the study process. Mr. McCullough indicated he had attended a presentation with engineers for the project; KDOT is planning on conducting this study in house to determine the feasibility of adding tolling as an innovative financing method. The study will determine if users will be impacted by the tolling and if the tolls are likely to change the traffic demand on this new road. Mr. Soules said the study cannot impact or change the effects or benefits gained from SLT completion. Therefore, KDOT with the help of a consultant will survey people to determine if they will be inhibited from using the SLT if they were required to pay a toll. Mr. Gaughan said he had heard that tolling would not be for local users, so he was wondering who would be the sample group used to determine the impact. Mr. Gaughan made a motion to approve the 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #11. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wagner and passed unanimously.

6. Action Item: MPO Complete Streets Resolution

Ms. Mortinger presented the MPO Complete Streets Resolution. The MPO staff under previous directive of the MPO Policy Board worked on drafting this resolution to address the commitment and support of Complete Streets by the MPO. The resolution, commits the MPO to incorporating Complete Street Principles into the MTP update and also supporting governments in Douglas County as they work on writing Complete Streets Policies. Mr. McCullough asked Ms. Moore to recognize audience members here to speak on the

resolution. Mr. Charlie Bryan, a community health planner for the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department encouraged the MPO Policy Board's passage of this resolution. He has been working with a local Livewell Lawrence initiative, Lawrence Complete Streets, to inform and mobilize support for Complete Streets in Lawrence. The Health Department is linked to complete streets because they recognize the local and national trend of obesity and lack of physical activity. They are working to encourage activity and improve the built infrastructure. Mr. McCullough said the City of Lawrence supports the values of Complete Streets and is working on a city policy that they are hoping will impact the project review process by committing and articulating the focus of Complete Streets. The policy is expected to go to the Lawrence City Commission soon. Mr. Liese indicated that the Lawrence community has recently been awarded both Runner Friendly Community and the American Planning Association's Great Places designations. He sees Complete Streets values as another level of value to encourage people and businesses to choose settling in Lawrence and 100 percent supports the values of Complete Streets. Mr. Girdler indicated that while our existing MTP T-2030 has components of multimodal transportation elements, it does not formally call those elements Complete Streets. Ms. Moore asked the audience if there were any additional public comment. Mr. Michael Almon, of the Sustainability Action Network indicated that the Complete Streets resolution and policy serve as a way for Lawrence to carry out Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood's policy statement that encourages state and local government agencies to consider "walking and bicycling as equals with other transportation modes." Mr. Liese made a motion to approve the MPO Complete Streets Resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gaughan and passed unanimously.

7. Action Item: 2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Administrative Revision

Mr. Girdler presented a proposed budget revision for 2011 to reflect revised late budget allocation numbers from KDOT. This amendment is administrative and requires no public comment period. It allows the MPO to balance the budget and has no impact to the work tasks descriptions. Mr. Wagner made a motion to approve the revision; it was seconded by Mr. Gaughan and passed unanimously.

- 8. Discussion Item: 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program** Ms. Mortinger presented the latest draft of the new TIP document. She indicated that a few changes have been made to the document since it went out in the MPO packet. Those changes include moving the 9th & Tennessee City of Lawrence project from FY 2013 to 2012 and the notation on KDOT tables about Advanced Construction and Advanced Construction Conversion. The 30-day public comment period for the TIP will begin September 20th and end on October 20th. The MPO staff will ask the MPO to approve this new TIP on October 20th. This new document is designed to comply with all current regulations for TIP development and will replace the existing TIP originally approved in 2008. This is the last MPO required document to get an overhaul since the new MPO was designated in December 2008. The document, once passed will receive bi-yearly review and quarterly amendments if necessary. Mr. Gaughan asked if parts of this document go into other plans. Mr. Girdler said some of the same discussions and ideas appear in other documents; however most of the content of this document does not appear anywhere else. Members present discussed the document, saying it was long and sometimes difficult to understand. Mr. Girdler indicated that indeed, the document is intended to program funds and meet the federal regulations as a primary focus. This TIP document should also serve as a local tool and resource for the public wanting to know how funding is programmed in the region. The TIP is responding to federal regulations and the document is not the easiest read among MPO publications. Mr. Girdler asked MPO members to forward him any specific comments they have about how we can make this document more readable. Members asked for the TIP to be posted online in sections to be more navigable for the public.

9. Discussion Item: 2012 Unified Planning Work Program Mr. Girdler presented the MPO with the draft 2012 UPWP. The major work task in 2012 will be the MTP update T2040. Depending on the competitive CPG applications possibly some special studies will also take significant amounts of staff time. The remaining blank highlighted sections in the document are awaiting award announcement from our applications. The 15-day public comment period will be scheduled prior to the next MPO meeting. The MPO staff will ask the MPO to approve this work program on October 20th.

10. Other Business

Ms. Moore announced that the President and the EPA will delay updating the 2008 standard Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone until 2013. The current standard is under debate as well. Ms. Watts said that currently KDHE is recommending installing a monitor in Lawrence. Ms. Livingood asked who makes the decision how Lawrence is classified. Ms. Watts said that if Lawrence has its own monitor then it would be judged separately, if not, then if the Topeka and Leavenworth monitors would serve as proxies, the final decision how to group the region for nonattainment will be made by the EPA with recommendations from KDHE. Currently MARC is a maintenance area for air quality.

11. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:53. The next MPO Policy Board meeting will be held on October 20, 2011 or another date set by the MPO.