

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

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Attendance:

Organization	Name	Present
Voting Members		
Lawrence City Commission	Michael Dever	X
Lawrence City Commission	Vacant	
Douglas County Commission	Mike Gaughan	
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Bruce Liese	X
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Charles Blaser	X
City of Eudora	John Fiore	X
Kansas Department of Transportation	Davonna Moore	X
Non-Voting Members		
Federal Highway Administration	Paul Foundoukis	X
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		
Design and Construction Management-KU	Ben Wagner	X
Olsson Associates	Tom Worker-Braddock	X
City of Lawrence	Randy Larkin	X

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mr. Blaser called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM, a quorum was assured, and introductions were made.

2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from the November 17, 2011 MPO Meeting

Approval of the minutes from the November 17, 2011 MPO meeting was moved by Mr. Dever, seconded by Mr. Blaser and approved 3-0 with Mr. Liese abstaining.

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. Mr. Blaser indicated he will be interested to hear more about the Riverfront Pathway Proposal as it moves forward. Mr. Girdler

indicated that there is still a lot of work remaining on the project and few details have been determined at this point in time. Mrs. Watts asked if there was a funding source for the project and Mr. Girdler indicated that the project will have to investigate all of the funding opportunities that are available including grants that KDOT administers.

4. Action Item: Election of MPO Officers for 2012

Mr. Girdler informed the Board that it was time for them to elect officers for 2012. A motion was made by Mr. Liese and seconded by Mr. Dever to reelect Mr. Blaser as Chairperson and Mrs. Moore as Vice Chairperson. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Action Item: 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Amendment #1 including Major Projects and Significant Delays List and FFY 2011 List of Obligated Federal Aid Projects

Ms. Mortinger presented the first scheduled amendment to the new 2012-2015 TIP. This amendment will make changes to several KDOT projects in Douglas County including the project addition of and funding for K-10 Cable Median Barriers to be constructed in 2012. The “major projects” and “significant delay” definitions and a list of major projects from the previous 2008-2012 TIP that were implemented and projects that had significant delays were added. Creating this list is the final addition to bring this TIP into full compliance with federal regulations for TIP content. This amendment also replaces the 2010 list of obligated federal aid projects with the new 2011 list. Major Amendments to this document require a 15-day public comment period; this period will end February 23, 2012. Mr. Blaser asked if any public comment had been collected. Mr. Girdler indicated that none had been received yet. Ms. Mortinger indicated that if any public comments are collected before February 23rd that they will be incorporated into the amended TIP before it is sent to KDOT for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Dever to approve the amendment, providing the staff the ability to address any public comments received before the end of the public comment period. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Moore and passed unanimously.

6. Action Item: Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP) for Douglas County

Ms. Mortinger presented the RTAC approved CPT-HSTP to the Board for approval. This plan will replace the outdated CTD #1 CPT-HSTP plan. Providers have worked together over the past year through the creation of the MPO advisory committee RTAC. They approved this plan on December 1, 2011. Mr. Dever asked staff how much time they had spent on this document. MPO staff said while they didn't have a specific number of hours it was a significant effort to coordinate the providers through 8 meetings over the past year and to write the plan. Mr. Girdler indicated the process had been valuable, because the MPO staff learned a lot about the providers and even rode the services to talk to riders. Staff found that this plan will formalize the informal coordination that has existed for years between providers and will provide them an outlet to continue to work towards coordination efforts. Ms. Mortinger indicated that the document has been valuable to the City of Lawrence retiree recruitment task force since transit is an important retiree issue. Mr. Liese indicated that two different population numbers for Lawrence were listed in the plan. Staff indicated they were aware of this due to the nature of the difference between the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS) and the 2010 Census and the availability of data as the plan was being written. 2010 Census data is not available for all the data presented in the plan, so some 2009 ACS data was used. A motion was made by Mr. Liese to approve the plan as presented, seconded by Mrs. Moore and passed unanimously.

7. Discussion Item: Review and Update of the Public Participation Plan

Todd Girdler presented the updated version of the 2009 PPP; the original draft had been sent out to TAC and MPO Policy Board members on January 27th, 2012 and posted online to begin

the public comment period which is scheduled to last 45 days and end on March 12th, 2012. This PPP amendment makes several minor changes to the PPP and is the result of the public participation review requested by KDOT during 2011. Most changes and comments made by KDOT and FHWA were directing staff to shorten the document, remove the section for how we meet the federal regulations, and improving how we involve interested parties by creating an email list that the MPO can use when anything goes out for public comments. Mr. Liese agreed that heightened awareness of public involvement is important, and he indicated that the website should be improved to provide better information about MPO Policy Board meeting dates/times and better tags encouraging people to get involved. MPO staff said they would address these changes. Mr. Girdler indicated that MPO staff would be finalizing the collection of comments and makes more changes to present a final draft for TAC and MPO approval in March.

8. Discussion Item: MPO-FHWA Roadway Functional Classification Map

Todd Girdler informed the MPO Policy Board that the GIS staff is still working on this map and it should be ready for initial KDOT review soon. He also noted that developing a map using the federal guidelines will likely produce a MPO map that has a few differences from the current Major Thoroughfares Map and other maps used by local governments for access management and maintenance purposes. Therefore, it is likely that the MPO-FHWA approved functional classification map shown in the new T-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan will not be identical to the functional classifications shown on maps used by local governments. The MPO staff is planning on making this distinction in the T-2040 text and on the map notes in the T-2040 plan. The MPO staff is also planning to include the similar local maps showing roadway classifications in the appendices of the T-2040 document. Local staffs will still be able to use the locally derived maps, but the official regional planning functional classification map will be the one approved by the MPO and the FHWA. Mr. Girdler indicated that the map would be presented to the MPO soon.

9. Other Business

The Kansas Department of Transportation and BG Consultants are hosting a public open house for the US-40/K-10 Interchange – Area Transportation Plan on Thursday, March 3, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend the open house style meeting anytime between 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Lawrence Indoor Aquatic Center located in the Free State High School at 4706 Overland Drive in west Lawrence.

KDOT Urban Planning has assigned a staff change for the MPO; Stephanie Watts will be leaving this assignment and Allison Smith will be our new staff contact.

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m. The next MPO Policy Board meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2012.