

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

Meeting Minutes-Thursday, August 15th, 2013

Attendance:

Organization	Name	Present
Voting Members		
Lawrence City Commission	Michael Dever	X
Lawrence City Commission	Bob Schumm	
Douglas County Commission	Nancy Thellman	X
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Bruce Liese	X
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Bryan Culver	X
City of Lecompton	Mary Jane Hoffer	
Kansas Department of Transportation	Davonna Moore	X
Non-Voting Members		
Federal Highway Administration	Paul Foundoukis	X
Federal Transit Administration	Joni Roeseler	
University of Kansas	Peg Livingood	X
City of Baldwin City	Ken Wagner	
City of Eudora	John Fiore	
Staff		
Lawrence - Douglas County MPO	Mr. Girdler, AICP	X
Lawrence - Douglas County MPO	Ms. Mortinger	X
City of Lawrence-Douglas County Planning & Development Services Dept.	Scott McCullough	X
Others		
Kansas Department of Transportation	Allison Smith	X
Lawrence Transit	Bob Nugent	X
Vance Brothers	Mike Mitchell	X

1. Call Meeting to Order and Introductions were made

Mr. Liese called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM a quorum was assured, and introductions were made.

2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from the May 16, 2013 MPO Meeting

Approval of the minutes from the May 16th MPO meeting was moved by Mr. Liese, seconded by Ms. Moore and passed 2-0 with Mr. Culver, Mr. Dever, and Ms. Thellman 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. Liese asked to explain what the TAC does. Mr. Girdler explained that the TAC provides technical support to assist the MPO staff in preparing the required MPO documents. The committee is composed of state and local government planning, transit and public work staffs.

4. 2013 Unified Planning Work Program – Amendment #1

Mr. Girdler presented the UPWP amendment to the MPO for approval explaining that this is in part a routine mid-year update to adjust the budget for new hourly labor rates, make adjustments to match amounts for federal funding, and adjust staff hour allocations for particular work tasks. In addition to that routine revision this amendment also includes moving all of the funding for the Multimodal Studies Project into 2013 instead of having spent some of that money in 2012 and moving the funds to hire a consultant for the Regional ITS Architecture Update out of 2013 and into 2014. The amendment also includes additional staff hours to Task 3.2-Metropolitan Transportation Plan to reflect the amount of work the MPO staff did during the first quarter leading up to the approval of the new T2040 Plan in March and the current need to revise that new MTP to reflect recently announced changes to major projects in the region including the new design for the K-10/US-40 Interchange. This amendment was posted online for a 15-day public comment period and received no public comments. Mr. Liese asked if there were any questions about the proposed changes to the UPWP. There was none. A motion to approve this UPWP amendment as presented was moved by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Dever and passed unanimously.

5. Action Item: 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program – Amendment #6

Ms. Mortinger presented the TIP amendment to the MPO for approval explaining that this TIP amendment was precipitated by the major change in design and funding for improvements at the US-40/K-10 Interchange but that now this amendment also includes other projects including the recently awarded Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds, changes to Lawrence Transit's funding allocations, and adding all the T2040 listed local projects to the TIP because of their regional significance. The following T2040 MTP amendment includes these same project changes. This amendment was posted online for a 15 day public comment period and received no public comment. Mr. Liese asked if there were any questions about the proposed changes to the TIP. There was none. A motion to approve this TIP amendment as presented was moved by Mr. Dever, seconded by Ms. Thellman and passed unanimously.

6. Transportation 2040-Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Amendment #1

Mr. Girdler presented the MTP amendment to the MPO and explained that this amendment is being made to reflect recent changes to some large projects including the planned improvements to the US-40/K-10 Interchange, and to reflect the recent awards of TE funds to projects in Lawrence. This MTP amendment also incorporates the project schedule and funding changes included in TIP Amendment #6. This MTP amendment was posted online for a 30 day public comment period and received no public comment. Mr. Liese asked if there were any questions about the proposed changes to the MTP. There was none. A motion to approve this MTP amendment as presented was moved by Ms. Thellman, seconded by Mr. Dever and passed unanimously.

7. Discussion Item: Special Studies and Programs for Transit in Lawrence

Mr. Nugent informed the MPO that Lawrence Transit began a one year late night service pilot project called Night Line. The service will target residence to employment trips and will be a scheduled demand service. The service is a premium service, bus passes won't be eligible and each ride will cost \$2.00. They will allow subscription rides to be booked and will begin visiting employers in the community with shift workers to advertise the program. This year was also the first year that Lawrence Transit offered a Summer Bus Pass for Students for June, July and August for \$10. The pass was advertised in partnership with the Lawrence Public Library program in schools and as a result around 400 passes were sold. While it's too early to tell the

overall success of these programs there have been early surprises and we are surpassing initial goals with both projects/programs. More information about either of these programs can be found at: lawrencetransit.org

Mr. Nugent informed the MPO that Lawrence Transit also hired a consultant to conduct a Transit Center Location Analysis Study. Historically, 13 years ago with the birth of Lawrence Transit, the community choose to focus the central hub of the system downtown, however since more development has occurred in the downtown, the required 300 feet of curb space required to facilitate the systems' hard transfers downtown has become increasingly difficult to find. The study explores locations in the entire community that could serve the Lawrence Transit and coordinated KU on Wheel service. Mr. Nugent asked if anyone had any questions about these three ongoing efforts.

Mr. Liese asked about the marketing for the two pilot projects. Mr. Nugent indicated that most of the Night Line marketing has been face to face with Transit staff educating local businesses about the opportunities for late night travel. As for the summer passes, the Library shared the materials provided by Lawrence Transit in the schools as part of their summer reading program. Ms. Moore asked why the Night Line didn't accept monthly passes. Mr. Nugent indicated that this time the service is a premium service and possible evaluation and changes to the service in the future might include acceptance of a pass.

8. Discussion Item: Multimodal Studies Project

Mr. Girdler informed the MPO that the multimodal studies is ongoing with the consultant team (URS, Toole Design, and Vireo) working to analyze the information received from the online interactive mapping tool and mobile meetings held recently to prepare for the final round of input and a working draft to present at the next open house. The consultant team will soon have an online survey up for public input, the next open house is being planned for October 9th, and the consultants have started to draft reports for this study now and those reports are available online. Mr. Girdler indicated that this study is being coordinated with the KU Master Planning process, the I-70 Commuter Study and activities by local bicycle and pedestrian advocacy groups. The final report is expected to be ready for approval at the end of the year. The report will be brought the MPO Policy Board and the local governing bodies. These study results will feed into T2040 and the planning work the MPO staff is conducting next year. Mr. Dever asked the MPO staff if they were aware of local efforts of citizens to request dedicated funding for bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure and engineering staff. Mr. Girdler indicated that the MPO was aware of local advocate group requests for dedicated funding.

9. Other Business

10. There was none.

11. Public Comments

There was none.

12. Adjournment

The MPO staff noted that there may not be a need for a September MPO meeting, and they would let members know soon if it would be canceled. The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 PM.