

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

**Meeting Minutes**-Thursday, January, 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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**Attendance:**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Voting Members</b>		
Lawrence City Commission	Michael Dever	<b>X</b>
Lawrence City Commission	Vacant	
Douglas County Commission	Nancy Thellman	<b>X</b>
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Bruce Liese	<b>X</b>
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Charles Blaser	
City of Lecompton	Mary Jane Hoffer	<b>X</b>
Kansas Department of Transportation	Davonna Moore	<b>X</b>
<b>Non-Voting Members</b>		
Federal Highway Administration	Paul Foundoukis	
Federal Transit Administration	Joni Roeseler	
University of Kansas	alt- Alli Gerth	<b>X</b>
City of Baldwin City	Ken Wagner	
City of Eudora	John Fiore	
<b>Staff</b>		
Lawrence - Douglas County MPO	Todd Girdler, AICP	<b>X</b>
Lawrence - Douglas County MPO	Jessica Mortinger	<b>X</b>
City of Lawrence-Douglas County Planning & Development Services Dept.	Scott McCullough	<b>X</b>
<b>Others</b>		
Kansas Department of Transportation	Allison Smith	<b>X</b>
Olsson Associates	Tom Worker-Braddock	<b>X</b>
City of Lawrence	Randy Larkin	<b>X</b>
Douglas County Public Works	Keith Browning	<b>X</b>
City of Eudora	Collin Bielser	<b>X</b>
Lawrence-Douglas County Health Dept.	Chris Tilden	<b>X</b>
City of Eudora	Barack Matite	<b>X</b>
City of Lawrence	Lynne Zollner	<b>X</b>

**1. Call Meeting to Order and Introductions were made**

Davonna Moore called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM and a quorum was assured. Introductions were made. Two new members are joining the MPO as voting members, Nancy Thellman is replacing Mike Gaughan and Mary Jane Hoffer representing Lecompton is replacing Eudora in the small cities rotating seat vote.

**2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from the December 12, 2012 MPO Meeting**

Approval of the minutes from the 2012 MPO meeting was moved by Mr. Dever., seconded by Ms, Moore and passed 2-0-3 with Ms. Hoffer, Ms. Thellman and Mr. Liese obtaining since they were not in attendance at the December meeting.

### **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. There were no additional questions or discussions.

### **4. Election of Officers for 2013**

Mr. Girdler asked the MPO Policy Board members to elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson to serve during calendar year 2013. A motion was made by Mr. Dever and seconded by Ms. Thellman to elect Mr. Liese as Chairperson and Mrs. Moore as Vice Chairperson. The motion passed unanimously.

### **5. Action Item: MPO Support Resolutions for 2013 Transportation Enhancement (TE) Funding Applications**

Mr. Girdler indicated that KDOT was accepting applications for last round of TE projects to use up the remaining SAFETEA-LU funding they have for the TE program. After this round is finished KDOT will proceed to issue funding for these types of projects under the new federal MAP-21 legislation and the Transportation Alternatives (TA) program. The MPO staff has received five application summaries that were included in the agenda packet along with draft resolutions for support. The KDOT process requires all projects within MPO planning areas to have support from the MPO to be eligible.

The five TE application project summaries include three from Lawrence, one from Eudora and one from Baldwin City. Baldwin City's proposed project is a Baldwin City Depot renovation. No one was present to answer questions about that project. Eudora's project is a bicycle-pedestrian bridge over K-10 Highway. Mr. Bielser described the project as a bridge for pedestrians and cyclists to use to move between the north side of K-10 at the Recreation Center to the south side of the highway in the Middle/High School area. This bridge is planned for construction west of the Church Street K-10 Bridge. The project will connect the schools on the south side of the highway to the recreation center on the north side of K-10 and allow bicyclist and pedestrians to cross the highway without doing so in the vehicle travel lane. Lawrence's three applications include a proposed paving and extension of the Burroughs Creek Trail (BCT) from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, a restoration of the Breezedale Monuments, and a Santa Fe Station preservation project. Ms. Zollner was present to answer questions about the Breezedale Monument restoration. Mr. Dever indicated he could answer any questions about the BCT paving. He noted that the trail exist now to 29<sup>th</sup> Street but is not paved south of 23<sup>rd</sup>. This project would complete the paved trail all the way from 11<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> Street. A motion was made by Ms. Thellman to approve all five support resolutions as drafted by MPO staff; the motion was seconded by Mr. Dever and passed unanimously.

### **6. Discussion Item: Overview and Briefing on the Draft T2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

Ms. Mortinger presented an overview of the Transportation 2040 (T2040) Plan. The new T2040 Plan will replace the T2030 Plan approved in 2008 and should be scheduled for MPO adoption on March 21, 2013. The presentation included: a definition of what the T2040 Plan is and why we have to create it, details of the T2040 Public Participation Process and a summary of the methods used to obtain public input, the most common themes from what we heard so far about transportation needs in the region, a draft of the Public Participation Chapter, a T2040 Vision Statement, a draft of the Goals & Objectives Chapter, 2010 Existing Population/Employment maps, 2040 Population/Employment Projection Maps, details about the Travel Demand Model including the existing 2010 roadway network and the existing + committed roadway network,

details of the 14 model scenarios with different roadway projects proposed in each scenario, level of service maps for each of the 14 scenarios, a discussion of fiscal constraint, summary of the financial realities and overall funding estimates, the official 30-day required public comment period and last open house event to obtain public comments, and the approval timeline for this new plan. Members discussed some of the scenarios, and made observations that none of the scenarios with 2040 projected employment and population addressed all the congestion, there was E-F LOS (red lines) on all the scenarios. MPO staff indicated that some congestion is the reality with growth in employment and population. In urban areas it is very difficult to eliminate all peak hour congestion especially on routes that cannot be feasibly widened. However, there are ways to improve the efficiency of the roadway network to manage congestion and make what congestion you have more tolerable.

That is why even with some capacity projects built in the future, the region still needs to invest in solutions to address the peak hour volumes. Some examples of these solutions are: access management, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) projects, and additional turn lanes, Mr. Girdler noted that this model only displays the vehicle mode share and doesn't reflect possible increase in alternative mode trips (transit, bike, pedestrian) that could reduce congestion. Increasing these types of trips in the future would lessen the peak hour demand on the roadways. MPO staff indicated that this would be the first presentation and discussion of three planned presentations to the Board before their scheduled approval of the new plan in March. Paper copies of selected draft chapters and model results were given to members to review and provide additional comments to staff if they wished.

#### **7. Discussion Item: Overview and Briefing on the Draft Updates to the MPO Functional Classification Map and the Major Thoroughfares Map**

Mr. Girdler presented the latest draft of the updated MPO Functional Classification Map for Roadways in Douglas County. This updated version is proposed to replace the latest version approved in 2003. This map is required by the USDOT and is used by the MPO, KDOT, and the FHWA to classify roadways. This is the map used to determine road classifications for MAP-21 purposes including the designation of the National Highway System (NHS) routes in Douglas County. This MPO map update is being reviewed by KDOT staff and is planned to be on the MPO agenda for approval on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The largest changes to this map were some functional classification changes to rural area roadways not on the state system but operated like minor arterials. That classification for off-state system roads in rural areas was not previously allowed by KDOT. These roadways include the road to Lecompton and the road out to Shawnee Heights from US-40. The City of Eudora, receiving 2<sup>nd</sup> class city status also provided them the opportunity to define an urban area boundary (UAB) for MPO and FHWA use. A UAB is a boundary that includes the existing Urban Place boundary and includes what reasonably could urbanize in the next 20 years. This allows planners to plan and design roadways to urban standards. Ms. Smith indicated that KDOT was busy processing map work and that a list of changes from the previously approved map should be provided to KDOT as soon as possible. Mr. Girdler indicated this map and the list of changes was almost ready to send to KDOT for final review and approval.

Mr. Girdler also presented the Major Thoroughfares Map, which is used by local governments in Douglas County for various land development regulation purposes. This is the map commonly referred to locally as the functional class map. However, these two maps serve different functions. The Major Thoroughfares Map is important because it is referenced in the Lawrence-Douglas County Comprehensive Plan and zoning codes and subdivision regulations. That map is being reviewed and updated now with coordination between Lawrence and Douglas County staffs. Both of these maps are planned for updates that will become part of the T2040 Transportation Plan approval process and will be included in the plan text.

## **8. Other Business**

There was none.

## **9. Public Comments**

Mr. Worker-Braddock introduced himself as a resident in Douglas County and an employee of Olsson Associates. He noted that he had reviewed the TE applications discussed at today's meeting and thought he should bring to Eudora's attention the idea of planning their TE bike-pedestrian bridge project to accommodate future K-10 bus slips. He shared a printout of other similar facilities in Colorado.

## **10. Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 5:10PM by Ms. Hoffer, seconded by Ms. Moore and passed unanimously.