

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

Meeting Minutes-Thursday, April 17, 2014

Attendance:

Organization	Name	Present
Voting Members		
Lawrence City Commission	Michael Dever	x
Lawrence City Commission	Bob Schumm	x
Douglas County Commission	Nancy Thellman	x
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Jim Denney	x
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Bryan Culver	x
City of Baldwin City	Marilyn Pearse	
Kansas Department of Transportation	Davonna Moore	x
Non-Voting Members		
Federal Highway Administration	Paul Foundoukis	
Federal Transit Administration	Jeremiah Shuler	
University of Kansas	Paul Graves	x
City of Leocompton	Mary Jane Hoffer	
City of Eudora	John Fiore	
Staff		
Lawrence - Douglas County MPO	Todd Girdler, AICP-CTP	x
Lawrence - Douglas County MPO	Jessica Mortinger, AICP	
City of Lawrence-Douglas County Planning & Development Services Dept.	Scott McCullough, AICP	x
Others		
KDOT	Allison Smith	x
Lawrence Transit	Bob Nugent	x
Lawrence – City Attorney’s Office	Randy Larkin	x
Lawrence – Public Works Department	Chuck Soules	x
HNTB	Ryan Robinson	x

1. Call Meeting to Order and Introductions

Mr. Culver called the meeting to order at 4: 04 PM and introductions were made.

2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from the March 13, 2014 MPO Meeting

Mr. Culver presented the March minutes and asked if there was any discussion. There was none. Approval of the minutes from the March 13th meeting was moved by Jim Denney, seconded by Nancy Thellman and passed unanimously.

3. Discussion Item: Old Business and Correspondence

Mr. Girdler presented the Project Updates Memo included in the agenda packet and the TAC minutes posted online. Mr. Culver asked if there were any questions about the items presented. Bob Nugent informed the MPO that the Transit Center Location Analysis was continuing and that the traffic study done by the consultant is now complete. He noted that a second open house meeting with the neighborhood near the 21st/Iowa site will take place on April 21st at Fire House #5.

Bob Schumm noted that one possible mitigation measure for traffic impacts that has been discussed is the turning of 21st Street into a one-way street near the transit center.

4. Action Item: Action Item: Action Item: 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program – Amendment #9

Todd Girdler presented this draft quarterly TIP amendment to the MPO for review and approval. He noted that this amendment was posted online for the 15 day public comment period on March 28th and briefly described the five projects that have been revised or added with this amendment. Mr. Girdler then went on to describe the recent funding change issues and MPO process issues with the 23rd Street/Iowa/US-59 Intersection Project. Increases in funding levels for this project were part of this amendment when it was advertised and posted for public comments on March 28th. Then on April 8th the Lawrence City Commission acted to significantly increase its funding of this project and a small increase in finding from KDOT was also secured. However, the amount of that project funding change was more than the 20% allowable under the TIP rules for an administrative revision. Normally, that amount of change in funding would trigger another amendment to make the change in the TIP. KDOT and MPO staffs discussed this matter and sent out a notice to MPO members on April 15th outlining two possible ways to handle this project's April 8th funding changes. Option 1 was to revise the funding increases posted for this project as part of this Amendment #9 to match the latest funding approved for this project by KDOT and the Lawrence City Commission. Option 2 was to create a separate Amendment #10 to show those additional funding increases and schedule that TIP amendment in May. Mr. Girdler handed out a new revised TIP listing for this project and noted which figures had changed since Amendment #9 was posted on March 28th. A motion to approve TIP Amendment #9 as revised with updated funding numbers for the 23rd Street/Iowa Intersection Project was moved by Jim Denney, seconded by Bob Schumm and passed unanimously. Todd Girdler told the MPO that the staff would make these changes to the TIP and submit the amendment to KDOT as soon as possible.

5. Action Item: Pedestrian Plan Steering Committee

Todd Girdler presented a draft list of persons and organizations that are being considered for receiving invitations to serve on the steering committee for this MPO project and asked MPO members if they had any changes to make to it before staff sent out invitations. He noted that the TAC added a Baldwin City and Eudora representative to the list at their meeting this month. TAC members noted that those two cities are discussing pedestrian issues including Safe Routes To School (SRTS) issues now. Nancy Thellman asked if a Lecompton representative should also be added. The MPO members agreed that a Lecompton representative should be asked to participate. Bob Schumm asked if a Haskell University representative should be added since there is a KU representative on the list. The MPO members agreed that a Haskell representative should be added. Jim Denney asked about the school district and whether they should be included. Todd Girdler noted that Douglas County has several school districts and that adding just one of them may create an issue and adding all of them would increase the committee size. He did note that the MPO is now discussing pedestrian issues with the Lawrence USD as part of some SRTS application work and is discussing pedestrian issues with TAC members from Eudora and Baldwin City. The school districts will be kept informed about this Pedestrian Plan as it is drafted and the MPO staff will engage the districts as they work on their SRTS issues. He also noted that the first staff draft of this list was quite long with about forty possible members on it, but the staff thought that a group of 15-20 people would be a good manageable size. He noted that with the two additions (Lecompton and Haskell University) requested today the committee would have 16 members and that would work well for staff. A motion to approve this list as revised with Lecompton and Haskell University added was moved by Bob Schumm, seconded by Mike Dever and passed unanimously.

6. Discussion Item: MPO Pedestrian Plan Scope Summary and MPO Coordination with Other Pedestrian and Bicycle Advocacy and Advisory Groups

Todd Girdler informed the MPO that the MPO staff has recently attended meetings of the Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition, the LiveWell Lawrence-Healthy Built Environment Work Group, the Traffic Safety Commission, and the Bicycle Advisory Committee. Issues impacting pedestrian movements and walkable connections around the region have been discussed at all of these meetings. The MPO staff is working to interact with all of these groups and coordinate the planning for pedestrian and bicycle (active transportation) mobility. He also noted that the MPO Pedestrian Plan will focus on sidewalks along collector and arterial streets as part of the regional multimodal transport system while recognizing that some pedestrian issues are much more local and involve the sidewalk condition on local neighborhood streets. Some of these other groups may focus more on neighborhood sidewalk conditions and funding for sidewalk repairs/replacement. The MPO staff work and the work of these groups should complement each other but will not be that same thing. The MPO Pedestrian Plan will present sidewalk information similar to the way the new Countywide Bikeway System Plan presents bikeway network information. Bob Schumm informed the MPO that the Pedestrian Coalition may soon obtain task force status. He also noted that the treatment of sidewalks as a maintenance responsibility of the adjoining property owner does create some problems for walking connectivity, especially when the property owner cannot afford to fix a sidewalk and/or is unable to do the work themselves to keep the sidewalk in good repair.

7. Action Item: I-70 Corridor Transit Feasibility Study (see attached final report from KDOT and approval resolution)

Todd Girdler presented this I-70 Transit Feasibility Study - Final Report to the MPO for review and approval. He noted that the approval resolution states that the MPO recognizes this report as being completed, it notes that the MPO approves of the report's recommendations, and that the MPO directs its staff to use this report in drafting future amendments to the T2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. A motion to approve the resolution as presented was moved by Nancy Thellman, seconded by Jim Denney and passed unanimously.

8. Other Business

There was none.

9. Public Comments

There was none.

10. Adjournment

The MPO Policy Board decided to meet next on May 15, 2014. The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 PM.