

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

Meeting Minutes-Thursday, January 16, 2014

Attendance:

Organization	Name	Present
Voting Members		
Lawrence City Commission	Michael Dever	X
Lawrence City Commission	Bob Schumm	X
Douglas County Commission	Nancy Thellman	
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	Allison Smith	X
Non-Voting Members		
Federal Highway Administration	Paul Foundoukis	
Federal Transit Administration	Jeremiah Shuler	X
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	X
City of Lawrence-Douglas County Planning & Development Services Dept.	Amy Miller	X
Others		
Lawrence- Douglas County Health Dept.	Chris Tilden	X
Sustainability Action	Michael Almon	X
Douglas County Public Works	Keith Browning	X
City of Lawrence Public Works	Chuck Soules	X
Lawrence Transit	Bob Nugent	X
FTA	Cindy Terwilliger	X
FTA	Mark Bechtel	X

1. Call Meeting to Order and Introductions

Mr. Culver called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM a quorum was assured, and introductions were made. Ms. Mortinger noted that Paul Graves is replacing Ms. Peg Livingood as a nonvoting member representing the University of Kansas on the Board. She also noted that Marilyn Pearse had been appointed from Baldwin City to serve on the MPO, however was unable to attend the meeting today.

2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from the November 21, 2013 MPO Meeting

Mr. Culver presented the November minutes and asked if there was any discussion. There was none. Approval of the minutes from the November 21st meeting was moved by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Denney and passed unanimously.

3. Discussion/Action Item: Kansas open Meetings Act (KOMA) Presentation

Mr. Girdler informed the MPO that this item would be presented in February.

4. Discussion Item: Old Business and Correspondence:

Mr. Girdler presented the Project Updates Memo included in the agenda packet and the TAC minutes posted online and asked if any members of the Board had additional questions. Mr. Culver asked if there were any questions or discussion about the items presented. There was none.

5. Discussion Item: Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project Listings

Ms. Mortinger shared paper copies of Appendix 5 from the TIP and a current set of TIP project listings to policy board members in response to the request from members in November to review the process and acronyms. She explained that the 2 page appendix 5 has the definitions and codes that are used to develop a project listing explaining how complex projects that span multiple years and have multiple funding sources are listed. Mr. Culver thanked MPO staff for including additional education for members about TIP project listings.

6. Action Item: 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program – Revision #2

Ms. Mortinger presented the administrative TIP revision that the MPO posted on December 16, 2013. This administrative revision was made to keep certain Lawrence projects on schedule. Project changes that do not exceed a 20% change in total funding costs are eligible for a revision if they cannot be accommodated in the quarterly amendment process. This TIP revision includes minor budget changes to the following projects: South Lawrence Trafficway, 9th and Kentucky Intersection Improvements, and Various Railroad Safety Projects that are not yet specified in Douglas County. All of these changes were requested by the City and KDOT to meet obligation deadlines and were requested by KDOT in coordination with local governments. A motion to approve this TIP revision as presented was moved by Mr. Schumm, seconded by Ms. Smith and passed unanimously.

7. Action/Discussion Item: Reports for the Multimodal Studies Project

Mr. Girdler indicated that the reports for the three part multimodal studies project including: the Commuter Park & Ride Study, the Fixed Route Transit and Pedestrian Accessibility Study, and the Countywide Bikeway System Plan were being finalized by the consultant team.

Each of these plans/studies has a full report and an executive summary report. There is also a technical appendix for this project which includes lengthy items such as a full listing of all the public comments received during the course of this project. Mr. Girdler provided brief summaries and highlights of each study part.

Commuter Park & Ride Study - The top sites are the I-70/North 2nd Street Interchange Area, the K-10/US-40/6th Street Interchange Area, and the K-10/US-59/Iowa street Interchange Area in Lawrence. All three of those sites are recommended for a park and ride facility in the future. In the shorter time frame the K-10/US-59/Iowa Street Interchange Area should be explored for development of a shared use park and ride lot. The I-70/North 2nd Street Interchange Area should be studied more for development of a dedicated park and ride facility to be coordinated with local transit routes and possible future regional commuter transit service along the I-70 Corridor. The Church Street/K-10 Interchange Area in Eudora is also recommended for a shared use park and ride lot as a way to discourage and provide a safer alternative to the shoulder parking that is currently occurring regularly.

Fixed Route Transit and Pedestrian Accessibility Study - The existing pedestrian environment along bus routes in Lawrence is less than ideal, this study calls out four main corridors and recommends a variety of pedestrian and transit user improvements. The corridors include: 6th Street Corridor, 23rd Street Corridor, 19th Street Corridor, and the Naismith Drive Corridor. There is a lot of recent community interest in pedestrian improvements, and this study has a list of projects that could keep the City of Lawrence busy for the next few years.

Countywide Bikeway System Plan- This plan updates and expands the existing bikeway system planning that exists in Douglas County. The general policy recommendations for bikeway improvements call for building more complete networks and using sharrows to connect existing improvements. The plan calls for the City and County to use a variety of new bikeway types, consider narrowing travel lanes to install bike lanes within the current curb to curb dimensions, and consider the mutual benefit of bike lanes and shared use paths in a corridor to meet the needs of all bicyclists. The plan specifically addresses four areas of concern including, connections to schools in Baldwin City and Eudora, the Lawrence 6th & Iowa Intersection, and the Hobbs to Constant Park Connection.

Mr. Girdler indicated that all of these plan parts went through an extensive public involvement process that included, online mapping, open houses, mobile meetings, and online surveys. Mr. Bechtel asked if consideration about connections to transit were considered as part of the Park & Ride Study, especially the possibility of K-10 Commuter service connections to Eudora and the possibility of coordination with a park & ride lot. Specifically he mentioned that Johnson County might pursue funding through the FTA 5311 category which would require connecting stops in rural areas. Mr. Girdler noted that the possibility of a K-10 Connector stop in Eudora was addressed in the report. Mr. Almon wanted to mention that the bikeway plan also calls for use of additional design standards and options like the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide. Mr. Girdler also mentioned that the plan has recommendations and suggested policies and programs for the other E's of bicycle planning including: Enforcement, Encouragement, Evaluation and Education in addition to Engineering.

The reports are now in the final staff editing/formatting process and when that is complete they will be sent out and announced via email and press release and posted online. The February meeting will detail presentations of each of the reports by the MPO staff for the MPO policy Board to approve the reports. Local government approvals and acceptances of the plans will occur following the MPO's approval and meetings and related presentations will be scheduled as requested and as appropriate.

8. Action Item: Review of Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program Grant Applications from Local Governments and MPO Support Resolutions

Todd Girdler passed out the most current and revised copies of the four local project support resolution the MPO should consider for approval. Each project sponsor was allowed to present and answer questions about their projects. The four projects include: KU Jayhawk Boulevard Phases 3 and 4, Baldwin City RR Depot Restoration (a revised version of last year's unsuccessful application), the Eudora Bike-Ped Bridge Project (a revised version of last year's unsuccessful application), and the Lawrence Constant Park to Hobbs Park bikeway connection. Mr. Graves noted that he had just received word from KDOT that the eligibility of some of the project details were being considered and KU would need to amend the values in their application based on these facts. Mr. Girdler indicated that the MPO could approve the resolution and allow MPO staff to work with KU to determine the final numbers to include in the resolution. Mr. Culver indicated to Mr. Graves that he was grateful of the comprehensive proposal that KU had provided to the Board. Mr. Schumm asked if the percent match impacted

the likelihood of being awarded a project. Ms. Smith indicated that local project sponsors have to match 20%, everything above that is looked upon favorably because it helps KDOT do more with their available funding. Mr. Soules noted that the final costs for the City of Lawrence's proposed project could change at the February 4th City Commission meeting and that MPO approval today with final changes to be added by staff allowed would also be helpful to the City's application. Ms. Smith noted that project sponsors from Baldwin City and Eudora were working with KDOT staff to strengthen their applications for 2014. A motion was made by Mr. Schumm to approve the four support resolutions allowing MPO staff to finalize funding estimates on the KU and Lawrence project before application submittal to KDOT. That motion was seconded by Mr. Dever and passed unanimously.

9. Other Business

Ms. Mortinger asked Policy Board members to consider a request from a citizen to hold meetings outside of the 8-5pm work day. The request was received in response to a php agenda announcement. Ms. Mortinger indicated that she followed up with the citizen's comments and provided additional education about items on the agenda. Ms. Mortinger also noted that the requester indicated he is working on an openstreetsmap.org website. Mr. Culver asked if this is the only request that the MPO has received. Ms. Mortinger indicated it was based on her time with the MPO. Ms. Mortinger mentioned that all the MPO public involvement events are hosted in the evening hours to solicit input and feedback about MPO planning projects. Mr. Dever indicated he had heard positive feedback from the community about the MPO process. Members discussed the times that would work for them to meet and agreed that this time was really the best option for the group considering the number of other evening commitments members had. Mr. Culver thanked staff for sharing this request and asked that any future requests of this nature also be shared with the Policy Board members. He indicated that based on everyone's feedback the MPO members choose to not change their meeting time.

Ms. Terwilliger informed the MPO that Joni Rosler had retired after 36 years of service to FTA Region 7. She took the opportunity to note that Jeremiah Shuler would be available to the MPO and TAC and we could expect to see him more in attendance. If there are any questions about MAP-21 regulations and rule making ask Mr. Shuler. MAP-21 changes to circulars and programs and notices of proposed rulemaking are expected out in September. Federal budgets are pending for FY2014 transit funds, this is an optimistic outlook compared to the previous funding year.

10. Public Comments

There was none.

11. Adjournment

Next Meeting: The MPO Policy Board will meet next for its regularly scheduled meeting on February 20, 2014 or another date set by the MPO if needed.