

**Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Board Meeting Minutes- Thursday, February 23, 2017**

**Attendance:**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Voting Members</b>		
Lawrence City Commission	Lisa Larsen	<b>X</b>
Lawrence City Commission	Matthew Herbert	
Douglas County Commission	Michelle Derusseau	<b>X</b>
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Eric Struckhoff	
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Bryan Culver	<b>X</b>
City of Baldwin City	Christi Darnell	
Kansas Department of Transportation	Cory Davis	<b>X</b>
<b>Non-Voting Members</b>		
Federal Highway Administration	Paul Foundoukis	
Federal Transit Administration	Daniel Nguyen	
University of Kansas	Paul Graves	
City of Lecompton	Jimmy Wilkins	
City of Eudora	Tim Reazin	
<b>Staff</b>		
Lawrence - Douglas County MPO	Jessica Mortinger, AICP	<b>X</b>
Lawrence - Douglas County MPO	Ashley Myers, AICP	
Lawrence-Douglas County Planning & Development Services Dept.	Scott McCullough, AICP	<b>X</b>
<b>Others</b>		
KDOT	Allison Smith	<b>X</b>
Lawrence Transit	Bob Nugent	<b>X</b>
Lawrence Landscape	Frank Male	<b>X</b>
Brook Creek Neighborhood	Michael Almon	<b>X</b>
Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department	Chris Tilden	<b>X</b>
Lawrence - Douglas County MPO	Margaret Campbell	<b>X</b>

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

Bryan Culver called the meeting to order at 3:33pm. Introductions were made.

**2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2016**

Bryan Culver asked the MPO Policy Board members present who had attended the November 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting, none had. Jessica Mortinger let Mr. Culver know that it was unlikely the MPO would be able to approve the minutes as the turnover of membership changed enough members of the Policy Board to prevent members from approving minutes. Staff would proceed to post the minutes as notes from the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Policy Board members agreed.

**3. Discussion Item: Old Business and Correspondence**

Jessica Mortinger presented the old business, correspondence and TAC minutes and asked MPO members if they had any questions. She clarified that the February 14<sup>th</sup> TAC minutes hadn't yet been posted online. There were no questions.

#### **4. Action Item: Election of MPO Policy Board Officers for 2017**

Bryan Culver asked if there was any interest in serving as Chair or Vice Chair of the Policy Board. Members agreed that Mr. Davis and Mr. Culver would be best suited to serve in these roles since they have experience on the Policy Board. A motion was made by Bryan Culver to appoint Cory Davis as Chair; the motion was seconded by Michelle Derusseau and passed, 4-0. Cory Davis made a motion to nominate Bryan Culver for Vice-Chair; the motion was seconded by Michelle Derusseau and passed 4-0.

#### **5. Action Item: Review and Approve the 2017 Unified Planning Work Plan (UPWP) Amendment 1 - <https://lawrenceks.org/mpo/upwp>**

Jessica Mortinger presented the UPWP Amendment 1. She explained that the UPWP amendment programmed funding that was unspent from the previous three years that was not originally programmed into the UPWP. At the end of every three years (2017 is the end of the 3 year cycle); MPOs may only keep 20% of unspent funds. The Consolidated Planning Grant funding must be matched by 20% local funding. This amendment adds three special studies to the MPO work plan. These projects are the Lawrence Loop alternative alignment, a Safety Analysis, and a Transit Center location analysis. The amendment also adds City staff as part time staff to the MPO and reimburses their hours for work on MPO projects. She also mentioned that the MPO will be working with Flint Hills and Topeka MPO to purchase bicycle & pedestrian counter technology.

Michelle Derusseau wanted clarification on the previous Lawrence Loop route and if an analysis had already been done. Jessica Mortinger explained that the segments drawn were not necessarily ones that had been studied for feasibility, there were bikeways identified on the Countywide Bikeway Plan that were drawn to connect a Shared Use Path facility by the Health department and Parks & Recreation staff. Currently not enough alignment work has been conducted and the City of Lawrence received feedback on their previous grants to KDOT for federal funding, that additional alignment analysis was needed, which is why the alternative alignment study is being done. There are many community questions on what route would be best especially when dealing with right-of-way, tree removal, and accessibility and other community preferences.

Lisa Larsen asked about where funding for "additional staff" would come from. Jessica Mortinger explained that these are already staff at the City of Lawrence that do work for the MPO and this is a cost savings measure for the City, because the UPWP amendment provides 80% grant funding for their staff time.

Michelle Derusseau inquired about the cost of the previous transit center location study and why a second study was warranted. Bob Nugent explained that it previously cost \$60,000 with no federal funding. The previous study resulted in seven preferred sites, which were narrowed down to three. The three locations were presented to the City Commission where a site was chosen originally and then as the discussion proceeded the owner backed out. The other six were reexamined and only one remained suitable but the Commission would not vote yes or no on the new site at 21<sup>st</sup> and Stewart Ave. Mr. Nugent has had a year to rethink the approach for the transit center location; whether another study would provide opportunity to establish criteria and goals for a transit center with stakeholders before the analysis begins. Mr. Nugent noted that the final decision about a transit center location will need to be considered and approved by the Lawrence City Commission. A motion to approve the proposed UPWP Amendment 1 was made by Lisa Larson and seconded by Michelle Derusseau, the motion passed 4-0.

## **6. Action Item: Review and Approve the FFY17-20 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 1**

Jessica Mortinger presented the TIP and provided a summary of changes to the TIP. She noted that one comment during the public comment period was received from Frank Male and an additional comment outside of the public comment period was received by Michael Almon. Ms. Mortinger passed out copies of the comments and the MPO responses (<https://lawrenceks.org/mpo/tip/comments/>). Ms. Mortinger explained that the TIP does not determine the design of the projects being included in the TIP, but includes project based on requests from our planning partners that either have federal funding or are regionally significant. The MPO does not decide project design with the TIP; this just makes sure there will be money available through a fiscal constraint analysis. Scott McCullough explained design is done by the project sponsor and goes through the local process to meet the development code and approval by the governing body. Cory Davis opened up the table for comments from Frank Male and Michael Almon. Mr. Male said he submitted comments during the public comment period that included an alternative design option for the Wakarusa Drive Extension project (# 106). He wished to be included in the discussion of interchange location and connecting alignments. Ms. Mortinger noted that Mr. Male's comments were discussed at TAC and Mr. Male was encouraged to participate in the Transportation 2040 update and in the KDOT Environmental Impact Statement process for the west leg design. Allison Smith also noted that Mr. Male's comments were provided to the KDOT project engineer for the West Leg Study.

Michael Almon indicated that he sent comments to the Policy Board on behalf of the Brook Creek Neighborhood. The comments addressed concern for a project in the TIP and functional classifications of roadways proposed on the Functional Classification Map. He said the Brook Creek Neighborhood has been in opposition to the O'Connell and 19<sup>th</sup> St. linkage since 2011, and he expressed his frustration with the process. They have adopted a unanimous position against project 229 and have corresponded with other neighborhoods along 19<sup>th</sup> Street that will be impacted. The neighborhood coalition is unified. The comments provided today were in response to the MPO's response to previous comments submitted on the Transportation Improvement Program, where the project was justified because it was included in the functional classification. In this case, each document is being used to justify the decision and there is no apparent way to make changes in the circular process. The neighborhood wants to start the process now to remove the project from the TIP and prevent the building of a second exit from Venture Business Park. The neighborhood does not think it is necessary and does not want an arterial through the neighborhood. His suggestion to begin the process is to change the road on the Functional Classification Map. The neighborhood also believes the region should reclassify Naismith Drive and have more traffic directed south from campus onto 23<sup>rd</sup> Street or back to the west to Iowa Street.

Mr. Almon disagreed with the MPO staff's justification for including the 19<sup>th</sup> Street & O'Connell connection to the network and encouraged MPO Policy Board members to vote against the staff recommendation.

Cory Davis thanked Mr. Male and Mr. Almon for their comments and asked MPO Policy Board members if they had any questions or discussion of the TIP amendment. Bryan Culver asked if the alignment was finalized on project 106 Wakarusa Drive Extension. Jessica Mortinger indicated that the project has not yet been designed and that KDOT is currently working on an EIS process for the West Leg Study, that process will explore alignments and environmental impacts. Following final KDOT design decisions, there will need to be a local process between project sponsors to design the connecting links to the interchange. For this project, that coordination will have to happen between the City and County as they are

going to have to fund the local connections. For now, MPO staff added a comment to the TIP to note that the Alignment had not been determined.

Bryan Culver motioned for approval and the motion was seconded by Michelle Derusseau, and passed 4-0.

#### **7. Action Item: Review and Approve the Functional Classification Map Revision**

Jessica Mortinger explained the process for reclassification roadways on the Functional Classification Map. This map is governed by federal guidelines. The changes being proposed today are being made to the map to reflect the need to balance the number of Minor Arterials versus Major and Minor Collectors according to the requirements since the previous amendment downgraded a large portion of Major Arterials to Minor Arterials. The proposed changes were discussed and amended based on Mr. Male's comment before they were approved by TAC at their February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to be sent to the MPO Policy Board for consideration.

Jessica Mortinger explained the region has two maps that classify roadways. The Functional Classification map is one of them and the other is the T2040 Major Thoroughfare Map, which is used to for development. Scott McCullough reiterated the maps are different and the T2040 Major Thoroughfare Map doesn't follow federal requirements for percentages of classified roadways and ranges. The T2040 Major Thoroughfare Map is the map that governs roadway design and is more important in planning for development.

MPO Policy Board members asked if the Functional Classification Map could be amended at a later time. Jessica Mortinger indicated that the MPO can pursue another amendment to the Functional Classification Map. She also noted that the T2040 Major Thoroughfare Map will be updated as part of the Transportation 2040 Plan update. Bryan Culver motioned to approve the revision and this was seconded by Michelle Derusseau, it passed 4-0.

#### **8. Action Item: Review and Approve the Lawrence Bicycle Parking and Amenities Policy Review with Citywide and Downtown Recommendations**

Item 8 was tabled for the March meeting.

#### **9. Action Item: Review and Approve the amended TAC Bylaws (attached)**

Item 9 was tabled for the March meeting.

#### **10. Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **11. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **12. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:05pm. The MPO Policy Board will meet next for its regularly scheduled meeting on March 16, 2017 or another date set by the MPO if needed.