

**Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Board Meeting Minutes- Thursday, January 18, 2018**

**Attendance:**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Voting Members</b>		
Lawrence City Commission	Lisa Larsen	X
Lawrence City Commission	Matthew Herbert	
Douglas County Commission	Michelle Derusseau	X
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Eric Struckhoff	
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Bryan Culver	X
City of Eudora	Tim Reazin	
Kansas Department of Transportation	Cory Davis	X
<b>Non-Voting Members</b>		
Federal Highway Administration	Paul Foundoukis	
Federal Transit Administration	Daniel Nguyen	
University of Kansas	Jeff Severin	X
City of Leocompton	Jimmy Wilkins	
City of Baldwin City	Brian Cramer	
<b>Staff</b>		
Lawrence - Douglas County MPO	Jessica Mortinger, AICP	X
Lawrence - Douglas County MPO	Ashley Myers, AICP	X
Lawrence-Douglas County Planning & Development Services Dept.	Scott McCullough, AICP	X
<b>Others</b>		
Kansas Department of Transportation	Allison Smith	X

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

Cory Davis called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM.

**2. Public Comments**

No public comment was made.

**3. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from December 14**

Cory Davis presented the minutes from December 14<sup>th</sup> and asked if there was any discussion. There was none. Lisa Larsen motioned to approve the minutes, Bryan Culver seconded, and passed unanimously, 4-0.

**4. 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. Lisa Larsen asked about the progress on the bus transfer location analysis. Ms. Mortinger said the report needs to be finalized and that the process of drafting a final report is underway. Jeff Severin asked if Ms. Mortinger would be able to say whether which of the potential locations are still being considered. Ms. Mortinger indicated that the report was not ready to be released publicly.

**5. Action Item: Election of MPO Policy Board Officers for 2018**

Cory Davis asked the Policy Board members for nominations to elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson to serve during calendar year 2018. A motion was made by Lisa Larsen to appoint Cory Davis as Chair and Michelle Derusseau as Vice-Chair, Bryan Culver seconded, and passed unanimously, 4-0.

## **6. Action Item: Approval of the Lawrence Loop Alignment Study**

Jessica Mortinger presented the process of the Lawrence Loop alignment study, Ms. Mortinger outlined the next steps to follow through with the priority routes. Michelle Derusseau asked whether the priority proposed alignment would run adjacent to the railroad. Ms. Mortinger said it would be adjacent and follow rail to trail best practices to ensure safety. Lisa Larsen asked how difficult it would be to persuade BNSF to approve any alignment that involves the railroad. Ms. Mortinger said it might be challenging because BNSF traditionally does not want development to occur within 100 feet of the rail line, but there are existing safety concerns that could be mitigated if an appropriately designed trail and fence could be constructed. Ms. Mortinger noted that BNSF would not formally respond to a proposal unless design plans were submitted. Ms. Mortinger outlined the next steps: Incorporate preferred route in bikeway plan, seek opportunities for easements, explore grant opportunities, and continue discussion with BNSF and KTA for design and negotiation. Ms. Mortinger reiterated the importance of creating strong connections to entry points along the Lawrence Loop to connect to the bikeway network. Lisa Larsen motioned to approve the Lawrence Loop Alignment Study, Bryan Culver seconded, and passed unanimously, 4-0.

## **7. Action Item: Transportation 2040 Plan Update and Release Draft for 30-Day Public Comment Period**

Ashley Myers presented an overview of the T2040 update process. Jessica Mortinger noted that the 26 performance measures require an annual performance report instead of a 5 year review, so additional attention has been put to developing the performance measures. Cory Davis motioned to approve the release of the draft document for a 30-day public comment period, Lisa Larsen seconded, and passed unanimously, 4-0.

## **8. Discussion Item: Safety Target Setting**

Ashley Myers said that the MPO is deciding whether to adopt the safety targets set by KDOT or to create MPO specific targets. Jessica Mortinger voiced the need to demonstrate how upcoming projects validate targets and the importance of setting county specific targets because they would tell a better story of the local data. Ms. Mortinger voiced a concern in that many of the target values wouldn't align between the state and county because there is too much variance in population, multimodal trip making, land use trends, and road miles. Allison Smith raised the question of whether the targets should gravitate towards being more realistic or aspirational. Ms. Mortinger indicated that MPO staff believe it will be more effective to set reasonable targets that are achievable rather than aspirational targets. Ms. Smith mentioned that it would be good to have a target for reducing fatalities, particularly non-motorized. Ms. Mortinger noted that a target for reducing non-motorized fatalities is difficult because small, incremental changes prevent observable reductions on a yearly basis and it is also particularly challenging because the region has proposed policies to promote non-motorized trips and there is a correlation between the increased trips and projected increasing vehicle miles traveled. Ms. Mortinger acknowledged the importance of communicating targets effectively. Ms. Mortinger said this was a discussion item today. However, safety target setting will come back to the Policy Board in February for action.

## **9. Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **10. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 PM. The MPO Policy Board will meet next for its regularly scheduled meeting on February 15, 2018 or another date set by the MPO if needed.