VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:
Robert Nugent (Lawrence Transit Administrator)
Carrie Lindsey (Lawrence Housing Authority)
Danny Kaiser (KU on Wheels Manager)
Patty Gibbons (Independence Inc.)
Heather Thies (Cottonwood Inc.)
Tina Roberts (Douglas County Senior Services)
Tracy Kihm (Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:
Scott Lein (KDOT)

OTHER PRESENT
Connie Spencer (KDOT)
Carleen Roberts (Douglas County Senior Services)

STAFF PRESENT:
Todd Girdler (L-DC MPO Senior Transportation Planner)
Jessica Mortinger (L-DC MPO Transportation Planner)

Item 1: Call to Order – Ms. Mortinger called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM, a quorum was present.

Item 2: Welcome and Introductions – Ms. Mortinger welcomed everyone present to the RTAC meeting and introductions were made.

Item 3: Action Item: Discussion/Action Item: Election of a Chair and Vice Chair: MPO staff explained the need for the RTAC to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from among its voting members to serve a one year term. The Chair shall preside at RTAC meetings, appoint members to sub-committees, and recommend work assignments of RTAC members. The Vice-Chair shall conduct meetings in the absence of the Chair. Mr. Lein nominated Ms. Kihm to serve as chair, Ms. Kihm accepted, Ms. Gibbons seconded the motion, and the body agreed by unanimous consent. Ms. Kihm asked for nominations for vice chair. Ms. Lindsey offered to serve in this role, the body agreed by unanimous consent to appoint Ms. Lindsey as the Vice Chair.

Item 4: Action Item: Discussion Item: List of Douglas County Private Sector and Assisted Living Centers Transit Providers: MPO staff asked present RTAC members to list private sector and assisted living center providers to be contacted for membership on the RTAC. Ms. Mortinger shared the two taxi companies she had found. Members indicated that also a Private Medicaid provider should be on the list. Ms. Lindsey said she would send Ms. Mortinger the contact for Bailey’s Transportation. Ms. Roberts indicated the Douglas County Senior Center has a contact list of assisted living center providers that could be contacted to participate. The members agreed the list could be contacted alphabetically for voting membership. Ms. Mortinger will use the contacts collected to invite these providers to participate in the RTAC.

Item 5: Discussion Item: Draft Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP): Ms. Mortinger presented the current draft CPT-HSTP and asked members to comment on content from page 1 to 12. Ms. Roberts indicated that page three had funding category listings that were incorrect. Ms. Mortinger said the
information on that page was collected from the Transportation Research Center website and she would send the link to providers so they could update their information. It was determined that all providers should be listed as receiving state operating funds. No other comments were made about those pages. Members were asked to review this text before the next meeting and provide comments to Ms. Mortinger. The group then discussed the Vision and Goals Section of the plan.

Vision: Ms. Kihm read the vision. Ms. Roberts indicated the word need appears twice and the word options would replace the first need and another word would sound more appropriate.

Goal 1: Ms. Kihm read goal one and the strategies associated with it. The group agreed an additional strategy needed to be added to reflect how the Douglas County providers would meet Goal 1. Strategy 1.4 would read: Douglas County providers will match rider’s needs to best available services based on rider referral to best prevent ride denials. Each provider also noted that this would require each agency to know how riders were classified for each system. For example HUD defines a senior as near elderly at 50 and DCSS defines a senior at 60+. Ms. Roberts noted that often times multiple calls to agencies to find rides made acquiring services difficult, however other providers noted the desire to ensure the responsibility was left to the client. Ms. Lindsey noted that her agency has vehicles to use but is lacking funds to operate them. The group agreed that it would be beneficial to identify vehicles that are available and underutilized in the existing resources. Strategy 1.5 was added to address this concern. Strategy 1.5 reads: Identify vehicles that are available and/or underutilized.

Goal 2: Ms. Kihm read goal two and the strategies associated with it. Providers noted that Strategy 2.1 should not require them to participate specifically with the Mr. Goodcents Foundation. The group agreed that regardless of the involvement in their efforts, local information should be collected and updated in a locally shared online resource. The group discussed the money that might be required to participate in the Goodcents Foundation website and they didn’t want to price any providers out of participating. The group asked KDOT if the state planned on participating in the development of this resource or if they would consider funding to help providers participate in the resource. Ms. Spencer noted she would discuss this issue with KDOT staff. Ms. Thies noted that some information about local resources may already be collected in the community though the emergency preparedness plan, Teri Smith is the contact for that information. The group also discussed and noted the importance of ensuring that the dialogue would remain open between providers. Putting data on the web is fine, but it should not be the end of the communication. Providers can miss several items that can stop true coordination if they don’t continue to sit in the same room together. Ms. Spencer noted that CTD #12 Wichita would be a good resource to talk to. Mr. Nugent noted that KPTA would be held shortly and he could talk to the Wichita area providers who do more complex coordination. The group agreed Mr. Nugent should do so and report back. Ms. Spencer also noted that Rural Iowa may be a good model for this region. The group agreed that a rural example may be more representative of the Lawrence–Douglas County Area in relation to vehicle resources and density. The group reached consensus of the desire and need to change the expectation for services and better educate people about how to get where they need to go. The following two strategies were added as a result of the discussion. Strategy 2.3 would read: Offer tanning classes to train users ‘How to get where you need to go.’ Strategy 2.4 would read: Providers will develop a marketing campaign to share successful rider stories.

Goal 3: Ms. Kihm read goal three and the strategies associated with it. Ms. Lindsey asked about planning or development for a service from Lawrence to Topeka. Mr. Girdler noted
the issue has been identified for years as part of various studies in NE Kansas, but to date no detailed plans for how to operate or fund service connecting KC Metro, Lawrence, and Topeka with express bus service has been completed and found to be feasible. Providers noted the VA used to run a service for its members, however it is unknown if they still operate a service. Ms. Gibbons indicated that Independence, Inc. was driving to the VA.

The group concluded their discussion and committed to continuing it at the next meeting.

**Item 6: Other Business:** There was none.

**Item 7 Public Comments:** There was none.

**Item 8: Next Meeting:** RTAC decided to meet monthly until the completion of the CPT-HSTP. The next meeting will be held September 8th, 2011 from 1:30-3:00 at the Douglas County Senior Center Conference Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.