

REGIONAL TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC)
Minutes for Thursday September 8, 2011 Meeting

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 CTD #1 Program Coordinator)
Shawn Strate (Johnson County Transit)

OTHER PRESENT:

Anthony Prideaux (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 – Tracy Kihm called the meeting to order at 1:38 PM, a quorum was present.

Item 2: Action Item: of Minutes from the August 11th, 2011 Regular Meeting Tracy Kihm asked if anyone had any changes to the minutes and no one did. Patty Gibbons made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Tina Roberts. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 3: Discussion Item: Assisted Living Centers Transit Voting Membership: Ms. Mortinger used the contacts collected from Carrie Lindsey and Tina Roberts to invite providers to participate in the RTAC. One provider responded to clarify why they were receiving the invitation, and no other response was received. MPO staff will continue to invite these providers to meetings and keep them on all RTAC mailings unless they request to be removed.

Item 4: Discussion Item: Draft CPT-HSTP: RTAC members will continue the discussion of goals and strategies.

Goal 4:

Ms. Kihm read goal four and the strategies associated with it. Ms Mortinger indicated that MPO staff is working on strategy 4.1 by applying for additional Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) funding through a competitive process with KDOT. CPG money is the main source of funding for the MPO staff. This extra funding would be used for a study that identifies sidewalk gaps that hinder access to transit stops. Additional progress will be dependent upon that funding being awarded.

Mr. Nugent indicated that strategy 4.2 is an ongoing process in which he currently works with other city staff to provide transit related input on projects. Mr. Girdler indicated that the creation of the RTAC was the first step to creating a more effective communication

process where the transit and paratransit concerns are heard clearly by the roadway engineers and local leaders.

The RTAC links to the MPO Policy Board which sets regional transportation goals and the Technical Advisory Committee that makes recommendations for transportation plan updates. RTAC also has the ability to make specific comments to either of those MPO groups.

Goal 5:

Ms. Kihm read goal five and the strategies associated with it. The committee discussed how MPO and Lawrence Transit staffs were involved in the planning review process and made comments to Planning and Development Services and Public Works staffs, when appropriate. Mr. Girdler also explained how the RTAC could approach planning staff about development code changes in the future.

Mr. Strate indicated that Johnson County Transit was working with local developers to provide them design guidance for transit stops to help them acquire LEED points for LEED certification. The committee members discussed information that could be provided to developers to encourage this type of development. Mr. Strate said that Johnson County Transit had not produced materials yet, however they responded after being approached by the developer. The committee unanimously agreed to add developers to strategy 5.1. MPO staff explained how strategy 5.2 would be met by the nature of the CPT-HSTP. The plan will feed into the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the City/County Comprehensive plans. Other specific concerns could be addressed in area/sector plans and/or on a case by case basis with staff.

Goal 6 & 7:

Ms. Kihm read goal six and seven. Mr. Girdler indicated that the schedule for updating the CPT-HSTP would be every 4-5 years, this would fall prior to MTP updates, other amendments can be made based on system changes. The committee agreed to reflect this in a strategy. The committee agreed it might not be necessary to have both of these as goals and that one might serve as a strategy to the other. MPO staff said they would review this content and committee members can view the changes at the next meeting.

Committee members discussed how to incorporate the goals and strategies into action steps in a timeline. MPO staff agreed to reflect this discussion into text that can be reviewed at the next meeting.

One of the main action steps discussed was trainings. Mr. Nugent indicated that he provides rider information at trainings and would be happy to share other systems information if it was available in a printed fashion. Ms. Lindsey indicated that the Emergency and Other Resources in Lawrence and Douglas County Map, overlaying the transit routes would be a good handout. The map and guide can be found online at <http://www2.ljworld.com/documents/2011/jan/09/douglas-county-emergency-resource-map/> and <http://www2.ljworld.com/documents/2011/jan/09/list-emergency-resources-douglas-county/>. Mr. Nugent and Mr. Kaiser were unaware of this map and indicated that it had not been produced in their offices. Ms. Lindsey provided copies of the map to everyone present. Other providers indicated that they would be interested in either having Mr. Nugent come present to their clients or have their service information incorporated into the trainings provided by the T staff.

Carrie Lindsey asked if Housing Authority fleet information should be included on the tables for operator service details and contact information, regardless of their lack of funding under the federal transit programs. Jessica Mortinger indicated it would be appropriate to add them because of their participation in the process. She also mentioned not all of the providers received FTA funding. Ms Mortinger mentioned that prior to finishing this plan, 2010 ridership numbers should also be added to the tables from each provider. An email request will be made for this information.

Members agreed they would respond to the additions made by MPO staff that reflects the discussion. The group concluded their discussion and committed to continuing it at the next meeting.

Item 5: Other Business

Shawn Strate reported that Johnson County Transit ridership for the K-10 Connector is exploding. The highest capacity of their vehicles is 55 headcount and often buses are almost reaching capacity. With limited resources, Johnson County Transit is discussing ways to ensure trip reliability.

Item 6: Public Comments: There was none.

Item 7: Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held October 27th, 2011 from 1:30-3:00 at the Douglas County Senior Center Conference Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.