

**REGIONAL TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC)
Minutes for Thursday November 6, 2014 Meeting**

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Nugent (Lawrence Transit Administrator)
Danny Kaiser (KU on Wheels Administrator)
Heather Thies (Cottonwood Inc.)
Terry Berner (Douglas County Senior Services)
Tracy Kihm (Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Todd Girdler (L-DC MPO Senior Transportation Planner)

OTHER:

None

1. Call to Order and Introductions – Tracy Kihm called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM, a quorum was present and introductions were made.

2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from the May 29, 2014 Meeting

Tracy Kihm asked if anyone had any changes to the minutes, no changes were requested. Heather Thies made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Danny Kaiser, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion Item: Future of CTD #1

Robert Nugent started this discussion by telling the group that he had met with Josh Powers of KDOT earlier in the day, and that Josh made it clear that the 14 existing CTD's would be replaced with 10 Regions by July 2015. There would also be a Mobility Manager for each region. Heather this asked if KDOT had decided what to do with the urban region following I-70 between Kansas City and Topeka. The group discussed several issues about this urban region including what its name might be, where will it meet, how will the members of the regional group be selected, how will the RTAC relate to this new region, will their be multiple mobility managers for this region, and how will this urban region coordinate services with the surrounding regions that have traffic coming into the KC-Lawrence-Topeka zone for services. The group suggested that some formal representation or communication between the urban region and the surrounding regions be established so that the more rural counties nearby would know what is happening with transit in the urban region. Robert Nugent noted that this urban region has many small providers with a few buses and then it has the largest transit operators in Kansas, and the perspectives of those large and small providers are very different. He was concerned that the issues facing the small providers could get lost in the discussion of the large fleet urban transit operations. The group noted that concern and suggested that the RTAC could help make sure the needs of small providers are considered and not lost in the discussion. The group next discussed the ongoing talk of creating a transit service between Lawrence and Topeka. It was noted that Topeka Transit is interested in running that service and could do so under their regional authority legislation while the Lawrence Transit as a city service could not do that. It may be possible for some T-Works funds to be used to buy some buses for that service, but the funding of labor and supplies would still have to be secured to start it up. So far all the funding needed for Topeka-Lawrence transit has not been secured. Todd Girdler asked if KDOT was going to create model bylaws for these new regions and help local groups in getting organized into the new structure. Robert Nugent and Danny Kaiser

thought that such questions should be raised at the December CTD #1 meeting and at upcoming KPTA meetings.

4. Discussion Item: Provider Updates

Heather Thies informed the group that Cottonwood has a mini-bus that has been nothing but a serious maintenance problem since they got it. She wants to replace it, but KDOT has told her that she cannot do that since it doesn't have enough miles on it yet. However, she is afraid to take it out of town since it is so unreliable. She told the group that KDOT inspected it earlier this year and passed it even though there were serious issues with it. The group suggested that maybe another agency could inspect it and provide that information to KDOT. Both Terry Berner of the Douglas County Senior Services and Robert Nugent of the Lawrence Transit offered to loan a bus to Cottonwood or take the trips that this broken bus should be providing. Everyone in attendance agreed that the bus needs to be taken out of service and replaced. RTAC members agreed to look into the details for solutions to this bus problem and help Cottonwood handle this situation.

Tracy Kihm asked what was happening with the Lawrence Transit Center issues. Robert Nugent told the group that the center is still in discussion by the City Commission and may get back on the agenda soon or it may be next year. Todd Girdler asked if the work by Olsson Associates was done. Robert Nugent told the group that the consultants have completed the site location analysis, the traffic study, and the traffic mitigation charette. They have a small amount of their contract left unpaid to retain them in case more work from them is needed.

Robert Nugent informed the group that some lift maintenance training is being offered locally and handed out information for registering for that training.

5. Other Business

There was none.

6. Public Comments - No public comments.

7. Next Meeting - The next meeting will be scheduled as requested by RTAC members. The members present suggested that we have a January or February meeting to see if any news about the Lawrence Transit Center is available and to discuss the new KDOT Regions. It was also suggested that we invite representatives from the other urban region counties (Wyandotte, Johnson, and Shawnee) to come to that meeting and join the discussion. The November RTAC meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.