REGIONAL TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC)
Minutes for Thursday October 1, 2015 Meeting

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:
Robert Nugent (Lawrence Transit Administrator)
Danny Kaiser (KU on Wheels Administrator)
Heather Thies (Cottonwood Inc.)
Heidi Briery (Douglas County Senior Services)
Tracy Kihm (Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center)
LaNeece Jardon (Independence Inc.)
Ben Brest (Midland Care Connection- Transportation)

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

1. Call to Order and Introductions – Tracy Kihm called the meeting to order at 1:33 PM, a quorum was present and introductions were made.

2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from the November 6, 2014 Meeting
Tracy Kihm asked if anyone had any changes to the minutes, no changes were requested. Danny Kaiser made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Heather Thies, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion Item: Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan review and discussion
Jessica Mortinger shared the history of developing the existing CPT-HSTP and asked providers to comment on the value of their involvement in the process and the need to update the plan based on improvements that have been made and/or evolving conditions. Jessica also mentioned that KDOT had recently asked staff what the plan was to update the existing CPT-HSTP as they are exploring the possibility of a statewide contract to create and/or update the existing CPT-HSTP. Members agreed that having the MPO staff update the CPT-HSTP would be preferable, although they would also be interested in participating in a CTD wide planning process if KDOT pursues that option. Bob Nugent indicated that the RTAC was created from the desire from providers to do more than create a plan that would sit on the shelf. Tracy Kihm agreed and indicated that the value of the group was the contacts and development of working relationships of all the providers. Members agreed that there have been enough changes to the local environment and successes from coordination that the plan should be updated. Providers read through the pages of the plan noting where updates should be made. Jessica Mortinger indicated she will track changes and mark up a Word version of the plan to provide to the members before the next meeting as the committee continues to make updates.

4. Discussion/Action Item: State Vehicle Contract
Bob Nugent indicated that he and LaNeece Jardon attended the State Vehicle Contract meeting. Traditionally the state has issued contracts with cutaways and minivans; however, providers have other vehicle needs. As a result of the meeting, KDOT will be adding a new vehicle type to the contract this year, like a Ford Transit, with flexible flooring and the ability to move seats to allow for the securement of wheelchairs. Providers thanked Bob and LaNeece for their participation and were interested in finding out more about the new vehicle type and how it might meet their needs.

5. Discussion Item: Transit Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA)
Jessica Mortinger informed providers that the MPO was successful in competing for Consolidated Planning Grant funding to pursue a Transit COA. The COA will be an in-depth
study to provide detailed review of the existing transit system service to enhance service quality for existing and new customers, and increase the value of the system for the community it serves. The study will include extensive data collection and analysis that will paint a picture of commuting patterns, latent demand, financial planning needs, operational deficiencies, how best to close those deficiencies given existing resources, and explore the feasibility of fare free. Bob Nugent noted this would be a great regional coordination opportunity to identify where duplication of service is occurring and help determine which providers should be operators vs resources.

6. Discussion Item: State Bus Roadeo
Bob Nugent indicated that MV transit sent two Lawrence drivers to compete in the State Bus Roadeo. Bus roadeos are safety and skills competitions designed to improve drivers’ awareness of their surroundings, equipment and passengers. An obstacle course is set up to simulate turns, obstacles in the roadway and stopping ability. The competition had opportunities for 35-40 ft buses and cutaways. The competition in 2016 will be hosted in Lawrence.

7. Discussion Item: Provider Updates
Jessica Mortinger asked providers to notify MPO staff ASAP with the details of their grant applications to KDOT to provide time for the MPO to write Letters of Support.

Jessica Mortinger asked the new provider representatives to share their initial feedback about group/plan update process and encouraged them to reach out to each other and other providers as a resource. New providers indicated that they thought the conversation was valuable and they were interested in participating. Jessica Mortinger mentioned that the committee had an opening for a Private Sector Provider and she had invited Ben Brest from Midland Care Connection to attend based on his participation in CTD #1. Ben Brest indicated he would be interested in filling that role. Jessica Mortinger indicated Ben Brest would be added to the roster and welcomed him in his role on the committee.

Providers discussed the Vehicle Maintenance contract that Lawrence Transit offers for special vehicle repair (ramps, lifts, air conditioning), KDOT inspections, and driver shortages.

8. Other Business
Heidi Briery asked if there were additional funding suggestions or a possibility to ask the State to change their redistribution. Bob Nugent indicated that funding was a constant challenge and KDOT distributes $11 million to transit providers and has funding formulas for urban and rural providers. Providers suggested other local grants, and possible changes to the proposed budget that was provided to KDOT as options to fund services.

9. Public Comments - No public comments.

10. Next Meeting - The next meeting will be scheduled in November. The October RTAC meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.