TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
Minutes for Tuesday, January 5, 2016 Meeting

Voting Members
Allison Smith (KDOT)
Robert Nugent (Lawrence Transit Administrator)
Danny Kaiser (KU on Wheels Administrator)
Scott McCullough (Lawrence-Douglas County Planning & Development)
Barack Matite (City of Eudora)
Keith Browning (Douglas County Public Works Director)
Chuck Soules (Lawrence Public Works Director)

Non-Voting Members
Charlie Bryan (Lawrence - Douglas County Health Department)
Chris Tilden (Lawrence - Douglas County Health Department)

Others
Marilyn Hull (Pedestrian – Bicycle Issues Taskforce)
Dave Cronin (Lawrence Public Works)

Staff
Jessica Mortinger (Senior Transportation Planner)
Ashley Myers (Transportation Planner)
Adam Weigel (Transportation Planning Intern)

Item 1: Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions
Scott McCullough called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. A quorum was present and introductions were made.

Item 2: Action Item: Approval of Minutes from the November 3, 2015 Regular Meeting
Scott McCullough asked if anyone had any changes to the minutes. There were none. Chuck Soules moved to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Danny Kaiser and passed unanimously.

Item 3: Action Item: Election of TAC Officers for 2016
A motion was made by Keith Browning to appoint Chuck Soules as Chair and Danny Kaiser as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Scott McCullough and passed (6-0). Chuck Soules took over as Chair of the meeting.

Item 4: Action Item: Review and Approval of the 2015-2019 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #3
Jessica Mortinger presented the 2015-2019 TIP Amendment #3. She noted that KDOT had submitted a project change for MPO project number #205 after it went out for public comment, the project could be amended as part of this amendment because it technically met the definition of an administrative change that could be done without a public comment period. This draft TIP amendment will be out for public comments from December 29th to January 14th. Chuck Soules asked if there were any questions about the projects included in the amendment. There were none. A motion was made by Keith Browning to approve the TIP amendment with project changes to #205, seconded by Scott McCullough and passed unanimously (6-0).

Item 5: Action Item: Functional Classification Map Update
Jessica Mortinger shared the changes that the MPO, Lawrence, and Douglas County Public Works staff developed. The list included two additional changes since the TAC agenda had been sent out based on feedback from KDOT staff. The changes included: 1) downgrading
McDonald Drive from Principal Arterial to Minor Arterial and 2) 22nd street from Kentucky to Tennessee from Minor Arterial to no classification as is already shown on the map. A motion was made by Scott McCullough to approve the TIP amendment with two additions noted above, seconded by Keith Browning and passed unanimously (6-0).

**Item 6: Discussion Item: Pedestrian Bicycle Issues Taskforce Advisory Committee Recommendations**

Marilyn Hull, Chair of the City Commission appointed Pedestrian and Bicycle Issues Taskforce shared the draft recommendations the taskforce was working on in response to their charge to assess the advisory structure for bicycle and pedestrian issues. One of the draft recommendations is to consolidate some of the decision making around transportation. She is at the meeting today to get input from the TAC before the draft recommendations are released for community input. Jessica Mortinger indicated that the taskforce discussed these recommendations with the Lawrence - Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) and received some concerns from members. Particularly members are concerned about the elimination of the county and other cities in the currently regional perspective of the BAC. Ms. Mortinger indicated this could be a concern for the MPO if it lost its regional bicycle advisory voice. The TAC/MPO might need to consider a subcommittee that meets biannually or quarterly to engage in regional discussions. Ms. Mortinger reminded TAC members that the BAC had been asked prior to 2009 if they wanted to be a subcommittee to the MPO and they choose to remain a city/county committee.

Charlie Bryan, who served on the advisory issue taskforce subcommittee, said there are over 40 citizen advisory groups to the city, and 9 of those touch on bike/ped issues. The task force met with chairs and staff of those committees and city commissioners to better understand each committee/commission’s role in the process as well as what was perceived as an effective committee. Based on this input and review of other cities and regions across the country the recommendation is to consolidate the BAC and the Traffic Safety Commission (TSC) because they have clear roles with bike/ped issues that would benefit from integrated decision making and could provide more system wide recommendations. He indicated that the taskforce envisioned a consolidated group as being similar to the Planning Commission role to the City Commission. The committee discussed including other committees, like the Public Transit Advisory Committee, but decided against it at this time, recognizing that the transit advisory role is important to not dilute for recommendations to transit service. They also considered committees like the Historic Resources Commission which has responsibilities for addressing brick sidewalks, recognizing that by law these responsibilities belong to the HRC.

Scott McCullough suggested that there should be a conversation with the MPO Policy Board about how an MPO subcommittee could pick up the slack if the BAC is consolidated and what their role might be. Allison Smith said it will be important to determine how the TAC/MPO Policy Board would interact with the new consolidated group. Particularly what if there is a conflicting idea between the boards. She asked how it would change the role of the MPO. Mr. McCullough indicated that conflicting ideas could happen under the status quo and they would have to be addressed on a case by case basis. Mr. Bryan indicated that the recommendations drafted by the Taskforce set the staff up to implement and it would be beneficial when staff implemented the changes that there is clear language to clarify how the new group would interact and who would be represented.

Keith Browning asked if the new group could serve the MPO, City and County Commissions. Chuck Soules indicated it would depend what needs the County would have addressed. The City of Lawrence is looking for a group that can help make decisions about roadway designs that is best for the entire community rather than having each special interest group request
their particular element and leaving it up for staff to make a recommendation to the City Commission. Mr. Soules also mentioned that the City doesn’t have an official advisory structure for pedestrians, so including this in the new group would be beneficial. Mr. Browning agreed that the regional need for advisory role looks different. Marilyn Hull noted that the desired change in structure also comes from the public desiring a way to be included in the transportation planning and design earlier in the process.

Barack Matite indicated that the new structure might be helpful for Lawrence, however to the County and other cities there is a value to participating in a coordinating committee and having the support and work of the MPO staff. Ms. Mortinger noted that there were some current BAC work items not included in recommended scope of the new group, for example: helmet giveaways, educational events, and bike/ped counts. Ms. Mortinger also noted that it could be possible for the MPO to have a subcommittee to serve regional bike/ped issues. Ms. Smith noted that looking at the MARC and Manhattan MPO might be good examples of regional bike/ped committees.

Danny Kaiser indicated that a new consolidated board would require people have more expertise. Mr. Bryan said there will be a learning curve and he expects the board to have mid-month meets to education similar to Planning Commission. Mr. Browning suggested making the recommendations more specific rather than the current level of vagueness. Ms. Hull said that is exactly the type of specific input they needed. Mr. Bryan said that the taskforce recommendation, if approved, would be implemented by staff. Ms. Mortinger noted that the taskforce plans to release the draft of their entire recommendations on January 25th and collect public comments in writing and at their meeting on Wednesday February 3rd from 5:45-6:45. She also noted that the topic would be added to the MPO agenda for a discussion.

7. Quick Updates
   a. Regional Pedestrian Plan – Jessica Mortinger shared that the MPO was working on the pedestrian plan and hoping to hear the final recommendations from the Pedestrian and Bicycle Issues Taskforce as they finalized the regional recommendations.
   b. Public Participation Plan – Ashley Myers passed out the proposed timeline and plan for updating the public participation plan. Jessica Mortinger let the TAC know that they could expect a discussion about the results of the survey and the pedestrian plan revisions at a future meeting.
   c. Bike/Ped Counts Report – Ashley Myers passed out the 2015 Bicycle & Pedestrian Count data and updated Lawrence Count maps. Jessica Mortinger indicated that the Bike/Ped counts had been posted and submitted to the National Documentation Project. TAC members could expect a City Managers memo item to go to the Commission soon.
   d. Competitive CPG Studies Update – Jessica Mortinger announced that the RFPs were being posted for both the Transit Comprehensive Operations Analysis and the Bike Share Feasibility Study.

Item 7: Other Business
There was none.

Item 8: Next Meeting-February 2, 2016 or another date set by the TAC
The meeting adjourned at 2:44 PM.