

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

Minutes for Tuesday, September 6, 2016 Meeting

Voting Members

Allison Smith (KDOT) - Phone
Robert Nugent (Lawrence Transit Administrator)
Danny Kaiser (KU on Wheels Administrator)
Leslie Herring (City of Eudora)
Ed Courton (City of Baldwin City)
Keith Browning (Douglas County Public Works Director)
Chuck Soules (City of Lawrence Public Works Director)

Non-Voting Members

Paul Foundoukis (Federal Highway Administration)
Charlie Bryan (Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department)

Staff

Jessica Mortinger (Senior Transportation Planner)
Ashley Myers (Transportation Planner)
Jeff Crick (Long Range Planner)

Public

Michael Almon (Sustainability Action Network)

1. Call Meeting to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Chuck Soules called the meeting to order at 1:28 PM. A quorum was present and introductions were made.

2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from the July 5, 2016 Meetings

Chuck Soules asked if anyone had any changes to the attached minutes. There were none. Danny Kaiser moved to approve the July 5 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Bob Nugent and passed unanimously, 5-0.

3. Action Item: Review and Approval of the Regional Pedestrian Plan-

www.lawrenceks.org/mpo/PedPlan

Jessica Mortinger presented the draft Regional Pedestrian Plan. She said we received a lot of comments through the Tell Us portal and through email. The plan was two years in the making and it is a starting point for pedestrian planning.

Paul Foundoukis asked if there were any comments worth highlighting. Ms. Mortinger said one commenter wanted a system of linear parks to connect pedestrian access. However, that wasn't included as a recommendation from the Pedestrian-Bicycle Issues Task Force (PBITF), as we wanted to have a uniform approach that reflects the PBITF recommendations, we did not make that adjustment. Another comment was about noting that the PBITF recommendations hadn't yet been implemented. However staff knows that Lawrence Public Works is working on bringing an implementation plan back to the City Commission. Staff worked to accommodate as many of the comments and suggestions that fit within the scope of the plan.

Ed Courton arrived.

We are waiting on two pieces of information from KU, which they let us know we needed late last week: final capital improvement numbers and their curb ramp inventory. These will be added before the final MPO approval if they are received in time.

A motion was made to recommend approval of the Regional Pedestrian Plan to the MPO Policy Board by Ed Courton, seconded by Bob Nugent and passed unanimously, 6-0.

4. Action Item: Establish the T2040 Steering Committee

Jessica Mortinger presented the draft list. She said it is essentially TAC and others to tie into the regional planning process. There is a placeholder for the future Transportation Commission. She is anticipating one steering committee meeting to occur in the fall/winter. The MTP process should take 18 months.

Keith Browning arrived.

Ms. Mortinger said the steering committee is to act as a sounding board for staff and work with the modeling consultant. Paul Foundoukis asked if someone from the KDOT district staff should be on the committee. Allison Smith said not on the steering committee. They could be involved with the planning function with the public meetings, but she will verify it with Cory. Danny Kaiser asked if KU DCM should be included. It was decided they should be. Keith Browning asked what the Transportation Commission is. Ms. Mortinger said it was a recommendation from the PBITF. It is a consolidated board for transportation issues to be reviewed before they go before the Lawrence City Commission. Lawrence Public Works staff is working on the creation of this new Commission.

A motion was made to recommend approval of the T2040 Steering Committee to the MPO Policy Board with the inclusion of KU DCM by Danny Kaiser, seconded by Leslie Herring and passed unanimously, 7-0.

5. Discussion Item: Review the FY2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) EJ Criteria

Ashley Myers stated that Environmental Justice or EJ is a federal requirement. EJ requires MPOs to identify and address disproportionate impacts on low income or minority people; however, there is not a federally mandated standard for identifying EJ populations. Prior to developing the FY17 TIP, which is currently out for public comment, MPO staff reviewed best practices from other MPOs. It was determined that the 150% minority threshold seemed arbitrary. The Flint Hills MPO uses 20% or greater than the average as its minority threshold. Furthermore, the low income and minority geographies are currently different: low income is in census tracts, while minority is shown in block groups.

TAC reviewed maps and the table showing how EJ would look by tracts, block groups, and the 150% and 20% threshold. Keith Browning asked why 20%. The map shows almost all of Lawrence is EJ with the 20% threshold. Allison Smith said she thought 20% was too low.

Charlie Bryan arrived.

Paul Foundoukis asked what members of TAC think is EJ in Lawrence. Keith Browning said East Lawrence. Charlie Bryan asked if the income and minority are separated out. Is the "or" key? Ms. Myers said the "or" is necessary. Leslie Herring said that there could be some KU professors that are minority that make a great deal of money that would be considered EJ because of their race, correct? Ms. Myers answered yes.

It was determined both the minority and the low income would use census tracts. MPO staff will look at using median rather than an average and email TAC members a couple of maps based on 2-3 thresholds. The EJ thresholds will be part of the TIP when it is considered for approval in October.

6. Quick Updates

Transit COA – Ashley Myers said there has been a lot of work on the Transit COA. We have received route profiles for six of the total routes. Each of the profiles tells ridership by trip and by stop, along with a lot of other data. We have received two tech memos and a survey will be closing on October 1st. The study will be wrapping up by the end of December.

Bike Share Feasibility Study – Ashley Myers said the bike share consultant got us the first couple chapters of the study. A survey is underway and we are hoping to get a lot more student involvement by putting posters on the KU on Wheels buses. We are currently setting up a meeting with KU Student Senate and KU Endowment to see if students would be interested in funding the program. We will receive the final feasibility report by the end of December.

Functional Classification – Jessica Mortinger said KDOT is requesting a change to our functional classification map to reflect the Kasold changes. KDOT also suggested rebalancing the functional classifications. Staff is working to rebalance the network with public works staff and will bring a revised classification to the TAC later this year.

7. Other Business

Leslie Herring asked about the Bike/Ped Counts. Are there enough volunteers? Ashley Myers responded that there are enough in Lawrence, except for a couple of spots on Saturdays and in Eudora and Baldwin City. Ms. Herring said they have tried all the ways they can think to get the word out.

Allison Smith said that Jerry Younger's last day is Friday. Catherine Patrick will be the new State Transportation Engineer.

Michael Almon asked why the functional classification map is being altered. Is it always done prior to updating T2040? Ms. Mortinger said KDOT requested the change and yes, typically the functional classification map is updated prior to the MTP. The K10/Kasold road intersection will no longer be a through road, so that needs to be updated on the map. Mr. Almon asked if there can be other changes beside the K10/Kasold change. Ms. Mortinger said yes, because we need to rebalance the roads. Mr. Almon asked what that public process for it? How do we participate? Ms. Mortinger said participation will be through attendance of TAC and MPO Policy Board meetings.

8. Next Meeting: October 4, 2016 or another date set by the TAC

The meeting adjourned at 2:13 PM.