

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) Minutes for Tuesday, March 7, 2017 Meeting

Voting Members

Allison Smith (KDOT)
Keith Browning (Douglas County Public Works Director)
Zach Baker representing Charles Soules (City of Lawrence Public Works Director)
Leslie Herring (City of Eudora)
Robert Nugent (Lawrence Transit Administrator)
Scott McCullough (Lawrence-Douglas County Planning & Development)
Danny Kaiser (KU on Wheels Administrator)

Non-Voting Members

None

Staff

Jessica Mortinger (Senior Transportation Planner)
Ashley Myers (Transportation Planner)
Kenna Davis (Transportation Planning Intern)

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Danny Kaiser called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. A quorum was present and introductions were made.

2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from the February 14, 2017

Danny Kaiser asked if anyone had changes to the attached minutes. There were none. Allison Smith moved to approve the February minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Scott McCullough and passed unanimously, 6-0.

3. Action Item: Review and Recommend Approval of the Transit Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA)

<http://assets.lawrenceks.org/assets/mpo/COA/COAOverview2016.pdf>

Robert Nugent presented the Transit Comprehensive Operations Analysis. Mr. Nugent stated the study analyzed each route and their respective needs. The data will be utilized if the service needs to be redesigned to accommodate a transit center. It will also provide justification for which stops receive amenities, like shelters or benches.

Keith Browning arrived at 1:35.

Scott McCullough asked if the current transit system is the best way to operate in Lawrence. Mr. Nugent responded that the current system does work best for the City and a transfer hub would best serve the needs of the community. A motion was made to recommend approval of the Transit Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) by Scott McCullough, seconded by Leslie Herring and passed unanimously, 7-0.

4. Action Item: Review and Recommend Approval of the Lawrence Bike Share Feasibility Study -

<http://assets.lawrenceks.org/assets/mpo/bicycle/FinalBikeSharePresentation.pdf>

Ashley Myers presented the Lawrence Bike Share Feasibility Study. The study found that a Bike Share system would be feasible in Lawrence. Allison Smith asked to clarify who would be responsible in running a bike share system in Lawrence. Jessica Mortinger responded that the study found that the bike share would be best facilitated by KU due to student interest. Conversations between the KU Center for Sustainability and Student Senate are

occurring. Ms. Mortinger noted that the City would work with KU in implementing the bike share system throughout Lawrence. The viability of electric bikes or smart bikes are unknown due to capital costs. KU Endowment is another funding source that could be looked at. Keith Browning asked what liability is provided with the bike share system. Ms. Mortinger said that a user waiver is typically required. Operating expenses are incorporated in the study, which covers cleaning and replacing batteries. Some bike share systems also use trailers to re-locate bikes to high-demand docking stations. A motion was made to recommend approval of the Lawrence Bike Share Feasibility Study by Leslie Herring, seconded by Robert Nugent and passed unanimously, 7-0.

5. Discussion Item: Designation of Critical Rural Freight Corridors (CRFC) and Critical Urban Freight Corridors (CUFC)

<http://assets.lawrenceks.org/assets/mpo/freight/CUFCpresentationMPOs.pdf>

Allison Smith presented the Critical Rural Freight Corridors and Critical Urban Freight Corridors and the MPO's role in the Kansas Classification of the CRFC and CUFC. Ms. Smith noted that the state of Kansas has 75 miles of Critical Urban Freight Corridors and 150 miles of Critical Rural Freight Corridors. The deadline for a list of possible projects that could qualify as CRFC or CUFC projects is May 15th. Jessica Mortinger said pertinent members of TAC will meet to provide a recommendation of projects to send to KDOT prior to the April TAC meeting and will bring a draft recommendation to the April meeting.

Keith Browning suggested that Highway 59 could qualify due to the requirements given and asked why the MPOs are responsible for presenting qualifying projects on state routes instead of KDOT. Ms. Smith clarified that KDOT is responsible for areas outside of MPO areas, and MPOs are responsible for their given areas. She also added that the 75 miles CUFC and 150 mile CRFC limitations are federal regulations. Scott McCullough asked if these proposals were projects or roads. Ms. Mortinger explained that these will be projects on qualifying roads that need improvement. Mr. McCullough asked if Venture Park would qualify. Ms. Smith said it would need to explain its relation to freight and if future access is planned. Mr. Browning also suggested that Highway 56 and its connection to Gardner might also be a possibility. Ms. Smith suggested that the 5-County Regional Transportation Study be utilized to help chose projects. Mr. McCullough asked if railroads could count. Ms. Smith said they possibly could.

Leslie Herring asked if any projects in Eudora would be considered. Keith Browning suggested that possibly a bypass or route connecting K-10 and I-70 might be justified with the freight needs for a connection. Ms. Mortinger indicated that a connection was considered as part of the 5 County Transportation Study. Ms. Smith added that KDOT can reassign designation of CUFCs and CRFCs, so continue to look at new opportunities and land uses that could be used in the future. Members agreed that they would meet prior to the next TAC meeting to discuss the issue and give staff time to draft a proposal to be considered in April.

6. Quick Updates

T2040 Update – Jessica Mortinger updated the committee on the Public Participation Plan for the T2040 Update, including public events and open houses scheduled for March and April. She noted that the survey ends at the end of April.

7. Other Business

There was none.

8. Next Meeting: April 4, 2017 or another date set by the TAC

The meeting adjourned at 2:48 PM.