

SUBJECT: 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program—Aug 19, 2016 Draft

TO: Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard. These views are my own and are not vetted by any other individual or group.

**Administrative comments:** Please refer to page iii, Definitions. Inconsistent form is used to refer to the three federal public laws cited. Suggest the following format be used for accuracy, consistency and avoidance of the appearance of partisanship.

Change “ADA-Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990” to “ADA-Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-336) and ADA Amendment Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-325)”

Change Fast Act definition to “Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (P.L. 114-94)”

Change MAP-21 definition to “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (P.L. 112-141)”

**Administrative comment:** There remain a number of undefined acronyms throughout the document. Suggest any identified here be defined at the first instance, spelled out if only used once in the text, or added to the definitions section

<u><b>Acronym</b></u>	<u><b>Page</b></u>	<u><b>Possible Definition</b></u>
FFY	Front Cover	Future Fiscal Years
CFR	ii	Code of Federal Regulations
USC	ii	United States Code
LMCMS	I-19	Liberty Memorial Central Middle School
WES	I-19	Woodlawn Elementary School
RRFBs	I-19	Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons

Please refer to **page 4**: The term “Legislative Requirement” is misleading. Public Law 114-94 is no longer mere legislation, rather, it is the law of the land. Suggest the following change immediately following “Programming Process” to remove any hint of

hagiography and for accuracy: “Mandate of Public Law 114-96--Signed December 4, 2015, the current federal surface transportation authorization is called Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The FAST Act governs transportation programs for fiscal years 2016 through 2020. Accordingly, MPOs are required to develop a TIP that is fiscally constrained and contain all capital and non-capital surface transportation projects within the MPO area planned to receive federal funding, as well as other regionally significant transportation projects.<sup>2</sup> “

Please refer to **page 9, State Funds section**. The discussion of the K-10/Bob Billings Parkway new interchange funding is inaccurate. Lawrence contributed \$1,000,000 for pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements to this interchange project per staff briefings provided to the Pedestrian-Bicycle Issues Task Force established by Lawrence Ordinance 7106. One million dollars certainly is a significant impact on the City of Lawrence budget. Suggest this paragraph be revised accordingly for historical accuracy.

Please refer to **page 10, Douglas County section**. As the County has recently set its mill levy and budget for next year it would be more accurate to add the actual budget for the CIP in fiscal year 2016-2017 rather than use “has been approximately \$4 million.”

Please refer to **page 9 text following Table 3 and page 12 text following Table 5**. If these are indeed the same revenue source (sales tax and transit tax) then consistent language and identical expiration dates should be used in both instances.

Please refer to the section “**Demonstration of Fiscal Constraint**” on **pages 13 and 14**. At least two crucial analytical assumptions need to be stated in more fulsome manner. First, a statement as to the need for Lawrence voters to approve a sales tax renewal referendum dedicated to transit programs similar to the 2008 action is assumed in all fiscal constraint calculations. Second, actual inflation rates far above the 1.5% assumed annual rate, should they occur, invalidate the fiscal constraint analysis provided here. Also, these assumptions should be restated in the text in Appendix G.

Please refer to **page A-1**. There is no reference to Public Law 101-336 or Public Law 110-325 (ADA) compliance. There should be.

**RE Appendix D MPO #500 entry:** The “Santa Fe Depot” is used every day by northeast Kansas residents and by out-of-state visitors to our region. AMTRAK operates passenger rail service 365 days per year from this facility. The project description should indicate this is an active passenger facility and not merely a historical preservation project. “AMTRAK” should appear in the project title to denote the current active use of this facility. This comment also applies to TIP #500 description on page I-18.

**RE page I-10, TIP # 226 Description:** My understanding is that this is a two lane, rather than a single lane, roundabout project at Harvard and Wakarusa. Please correct the entry accordingly, if necessary.

**RE page I-12 TIP # 230:** Due to the upcoming large visitor event (Junior Olympics in July 2017 at Rock Chalk Park) and the proximity of this project site, the city of Lawrence should accelerate planned construction improvements to the intersection of Queens Road and Overland Drive to eliminate the gravel road surface, open ditches, and poor sightlines.

**RE page I-14 TIP # 237:** My understanding is the description of this project has changed in that the Kasold Drive Intersection is now planned to be right-in and right-out only rather than closed. Please correct the entry accordingly, if necessary.

My thanks go to all MPO staff members for drafting this document.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "MK Kelly". The letters are stylized and cursive, with the first name "MK" being more compact and the last name "Kelly" written in a flowing script.

Michael K. Kelly