

Public Comments and MPO Staff Response 2021 Unified Planning Work Program

Public Comments Received	Staff Response	Action
<p>Para 1.3, page 5, line 6: replace “public health best practices” with “public health orders.” The current order in force is Emergency Public Health Order issued on this 4th day of September, 2020, to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic in Douglas County, Kansas, pursuant to the authority provided in K.S.A. 65-119 and K.S.A. 65-129b and other applicable laws or regulations.</p>	<p>The MPO will follow the public health orders, however in this context the MPO will use best practices as they relate to conducting public engagement.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>Para 2.2, page 7: Apparently, MPO does not currently address transportation planning matters under the purview of the Lawrence Aviation Advisory Board. Suggest staff revise and expand the following language accordingly. “Activity: Coordinate with the City of Lawrence Multimodal Transportation Commission and Lawrence - Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Commission to maintain multimodal engagement and coordination with MPO planning in the region. (as needed)”</p>	<p>While 23 US CFR 134 provides airport operations as one of many topical areas the MPO can coordinate with regarding long range plan development, the role of Lawrence’s general aviation airport has not reached a level of regional significance to require regional coordination with surface transportation. The MPO also does not have staffing capacity to coordinate and track higher level airport operations related to the Lawrence airport.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>Para 3.1, page 8: Expand the second activity bullet: to address changes in demand for general and commercial air transportation services and to changes in passenger rail transportation services</p>	<p>The MPOs travel demand model is for surface transportation. At this point in time, it doesn’t have component for mode choice. The next most likely mode to be expanded for regional significance will be public transit.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>Para 3.2 page 9, 5th activity bullet: Include language to show MPO consideration of passenger rail, general aviation, and commercial aviation plans and proposals</p>	<p>If requested, and appropriate to the scope of the MPO, the MPO would review “other” relevant plans that interact with surface transportation. These do not need to be explicitly stated as they would account for an incidental amount of MPO staff time.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>Para 3.3, page 9: Objectives and Background: Include language calling for pedestrian planning with KU, HINU, USD 437, private school operators and the USDs for Lecompton, Eudora, and Baldwin City. All of the listed entities should be fully involved in SRTS work with the MPO and not all are listed in the SRTS discussion on page 10.</p>	<p>SRTS is a National Program for K-8 schools. During the 2019-20 SRTS planning process private schools were invited to participate in the SRTS plan development, none opted to participate.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>Para 3.3, page 10: There is no mention of the city of Lawrence’s plan to comply with the ADA for pedestrian routes. Many sidewalks and crosswalks in the city do not meet ADA design standards and legal action for ADA shortfalls was taken against the city in the decade of the 1990s. No mention of this compliance plan is evident in the draft text but it should be mentioned.</p>	<p>The City of Lawrence has an ongoing process to update the ADA Transition Plan and has ongoing implementation for ADA compliance as budgeted for in the City of Lawrence e CIP.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>Para 3.4, page 11: Air quality changes due to transportation activities are the appropriate purview of the MPO and not air quality changes caused by energy generation, wildland fires, or agricultural production activities. Suggest the language be revised to a narrower purview accordingly.</p>	<p>The overall air quality designation is of concern to the MPO to monitor due to regulations that impact the transportation planning process if the region is in Non-Attainment. The source of these activities does not matter.</p>	<p>No change.</p>