

**Lawrence-Douglas County  
Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
Policy Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, January 22, 2009

**Attendance:**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Voting Members</b>		
Lawrence City Commission	Michael Dever, Mayor	<b>X</b>
Lawrence City Commission	Robert Chestnut, Vice-Mayor	<b>X</b>
Douglas County Commission	Charles Jones	<b>X</b>
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Lisa Harris	<b>X</b>
L-DC Metropolitan Planning Commission	Stanley Rasmussen	<b>X</b>
City of Eudora	Maria Nelson	<b>X</b>
Kansas Department of Transportation	Davonna Moore	<b>X</b>
<b>Non-Voting Members</b>		
Federal Highway Administration	Byron Low	
Federal Transit Administration	Joni Roeseler	
University of Kansas	Margaret (Peg) Livingood, ASLA	<b>X</b>
City of Baldwin City	Gary Walbridge, Mayor	<b>X</b>
City of LeCompton	Christina M. Mallonee	
<b>Staff</b>		
Lawrence - Douglas County MPO	Todd Girdler, AICP	<b>X</b>
Lawrence - Douglas County MPO	Bart Rudolph	<b>X</b>
City of Lawrence-Douglas County Planning & Development Services Dept.	Scott McCullough, AICP	<b>X</b>
<b>Others in Attendance</b>		
City of Lawrence-Douglas County Planning & Development Services Dept.	Sheila Stogsdill	<b>X</b>
City of Baldwin City	Jeff Dingman	<b>X</b>
City of Lawrence	Cynthia Boecker	<b>X</b>
City of Lawrence	David Corliss	<b>X</b>
City of Lawrence, Public Works	Charles Soules	<b>X</b>
City of Lawrence, Public Works	Shoeb Uddin	<b>X</b>
Douglas County Public Works	Keith Browning	<b>X</b>
Kansas Department of Transportation	Christy H. Lane	<b>X</b>
Kansas Department of Transportation	Thomas Dow	<b>X</b>
Douglas County	Linda Finger	<b>X</b>
Federal Highway Administration	Steve Foust (For Byron Low)	<b>X</b>

### **1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chairwoman Davonna Moore called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM and a quorum was assured.

### **2. Introductions**

Ms. Moore welcomed all attendees and introductions followed.

### **3. Discussion Item: MPO 101 Presentation**

Todd Girdler and Christy Lane presented an educational slide show entitled *Metropolitan Transportation Planning: An Overview*. The presentation highlighted the value of regional transportation planning, the functions and purpose of an MPO, the roles and responsibilities of an MPO board member, and key products and federal requirements of the metropolitan transportation planning process.

Lisa Harris and Charles Jones requested that the presentation be e-mailed to all the members. Mr. Girdler replied that it would not be a problem to send copies to each member.

### **4. Discussion Item: 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #2**

Mr. Girdler distributed copies of the Draft 2008-12 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #2 including a Resolution explaining what has been amended. Lawrence and KDOT projects have been added to the document and the FFY 2008 List of Obligated Federal Aid Projects has been added to the text. The original TIP was approved in April 2008 and the first amendment was in August. Mr. Girdler informed the board that this was presented for their information only at this time, but they will be asked to approve the amendment at their next meeting. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is scheduled to approve the amendment on February 3, 2009.

There was some discussion about the purpose of the TIP and whether or not jurisdictions were committed to build projects that were listed in the TIP. Thomas Dow explained that funds have only been obligated for 2008. The projects in the remaining years are not committed to be built and priorities and resources can be changed in future years.

Mr. Jones asked if the resolution could include a more detailed description of each item that has changed in the TIP. Mr. Girdler replied that he would create a separate sheet to accompany the resolution describing the changes.

Mr. Jones also requested that the funding be broken down to show the revenue sources from the city, county, and KDOT. Mr. Girdler said that he would partner with the IT department, who maintains the TIP database, and look into producing that information.

### **5. Discussion Item: Economic Stimulus Package**

Mr. Dow updated the board on the latest information about the proposed stimulus package from the federal government and how it may impact the Lawrence-Douglas County MPO. He mentioned that at this point in time there are more questions than answers, but KDOT is following the issue closely. The bill presented in the U.S. House of Representatives set aside approximately \$30 billion nationally for transportation related projects. Mr. Dow explained that if funding was distributed to the states using the same formula that has been used in the past, Kansas would receive about \$300 million statewide. It is still unclear whether or not the funds will be distributed to the state, MPO, or local agencies. Mr. Dow also stated that the bill calls for a quick timeline to award funds and projects would need to

be “shovel ready”. It may be the case that contractors would need to be under contract within 120 days of the bill being passed.

Mr. Girdler mentioned that the TAC has already begun addressing the issue of the possible need to act quickly to include such projects in the TIP and/or Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). To be eligible to receive federal funds, projects must be included in both the TIP and MTP. Currently there is a 15 day comment period to amend the TIP and a 30 day comment period to amend the MTP. Mr. Girdler mentioned that the TAC may call special meetings if needed to speed up the process.

Mr. Dow mentioned that KDOT leaders have identified projects that could be let for bids and under contract within 180 days and 1 year of a federal economic stimulus bill. The list of projects that could be ready within 1 year includes one Douglas County project: a new interchange at 15th Street and K-10 (South Lawrence Traffic way). Both lists are currently posted on KDOT's Web site.

Mr. Chestnut asked which local projects identified in the TIP were “shovel ready” and Mr. Jones added a request to create a Web site that could be used to gather projects from all jurisdictions that they believe to be “shovel ready”. Mr. Jones called for transparency in the process of collecting this information. Mr. McCullough suggested that MPO staff work on creating a web page that the local jurisdictions could add projects to once their governing bodies approve such projects. The board also requested that the TAC examine the list and TIP to help determine which projects are “shovel ready” as determined by federal regulations. Mr. Girdler responded that the MPO staff would begin on this work and have something put together for the next MPO meeting.

#### **6. Discussion Item: MPO Bylaws**

Mr. Girdler distributed copies of the draft MPO Policy Board Bylaws. Bylaws must be approved by the board within six-months (by June 8, 2009) of the execution of the MPO Re-Designation Agreement. Mr. Girdler asked that the board review the draft bylaws and send any comments to him before February 3, 2009. He also stated that once the bylaws are adopted, the board can then review and approve the TAC bylaws.

#### **7. Discussion Item: MPO Meeting Dates and Times**

The MPO Policy Board members discussed possible times to hold regularly scheduled MPO meetings. It was mentioned that consistent dates, such as the third Thursday, would be preferred. It was also decided that the next meeting would be February 19, 2009 from 4 PM to 5:30 PM at Lawrence City Hall. MPO staff mentioned that they would put together a calendar of proposed meeting dates and times for the Board's consideration in February.

#### **8. Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **9. Adjournment**

The MPO Policy Board meeting was adjourned at 3:08 PM.