

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
Minutes for Tuesday, August 5, 2008 Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott McCullough (Lawrence-Douglas County Planning)
Christy Lane (KDOT)
Byron Low (FHWA)
Greg Moore (MPO)
Wendy Koerner for Cliff Galante (Lawrence Public Transit)
Todd Girdler (Senior Transportation Planner)
Charles Soules (Lawrence PW)
Keith Browning (Douglas County PW)

OTHERS PRESENT: Shoeb Uddin (Lawrence PW)

Bart Rudolph (Transportation Planner)
Norbert Munoz (FHWA)
Mark Huffhines (FHWA)
Becky Crawford (KDOT)
Kim Qualls (KDOT)
Lisa Koch (KDOT)

Item 1: Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Moore at 1:33 PM. A quorum was present.

Item 2: Introduction of New MPO Staff – welcome for Bart Rudolf

Todd Girdler introduced the MPO's new Transportation Planner, Bart Rudolph. Todd told the TAC that Bart comes to the L-DC MPO from the Mid-America Regional Council in Kansas City and just started his new job here in Lawrence yesterday.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes – July 8, 2008

Meeting minutes of the July 8, 2008 TAC was reviewed with no further discussion. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Scott McCullough, seconded by Charles Soules and passed unanimously.

Item 4: US Highway 56 Corridor Study - MPO funding for 2009 and review of draft partnership agreement

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that he had attended meetings of KDOT, county, city and MPO officials working on this project recently. This study will be 50% paid for and administered by KDOT with the other half of the funding paid for by the local governments along the corridor. At this point the study is planned for a total cost of \$300,000 with the Douglas County partners paying a total of 50,000 of this cost which is now being discussed as a \$20,000 contribution from both the L-DC MPO and Douglas County and a \$10,000 contribution from Baldwin City. This funding arrangement will be finalized later when the project agreement is drafted and signed. What is needed now is for the TAC to review and approve the partnership agreement and pass it along to the MPO for approval. This partnership agreement basically says that all of the partners will work together to complete this study and create a regional vision for this corridor's future. This is the first of three agreements planned for this project. The second will be

the project agreement that will specify funding and other responsibilities of each partner, and the third agreement is the implementation agreement that will state that each partner will enact local decisions to protect the operational integrity of the highway and implement the access management plan for this corridor. There was some discussion about why this partnership agreement is needed and the opinion of some TAC members that this agreement doesn't do much was expressed. Todd Girdler explained that this first agreement sets the "tone" for the regional cooperation and facilitates the creation of a shared regional vision for how this corridor will look and operate in the future. This is also the way that KDOT is now handling these corridor studies now and this is similar to the process being used for the US 24 study in Shawnee County. A motion to approve this partnership agreement and move it to the MPO for consideration was moved by Scot McCullough, seconded by Keith Browning, and passed unanimously.

Item 5: Designation of a new MPO for the Lawrence-Douglas County Region

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that he had reviewed the draft designation agreement and made a few more changes based on comments received from Byron Low-FHWA, Christy Lane-KDOT, and Evan Ice-Douglas County. He then handed out the latest version of this draft agreement including these changes and explained that he sent the draft out to several local officials asking for comments by August 1st and only received comments from Evan Ice the Douglas County Counselor. He described the comments from Evan and asked the TAC if they had any further comments. The TAC then discussed the next steps for this agreement. Christy Lane informed the group that this draft agreement had not yet been reviewed by KDOT legal staff and that KDOT wanted that to happen before it was posted for public review. She said once the TAC was satisfied with the draft she can send it to KDOT legal for review. Once the KDOT attorneys review and revise it then it should be posted for public inspection. The KDOT legal review should only take about a week. The TAC then discussed the one major remaining issue not yet settled by the TAC and that is the name for the new MPO. Some comments had been received that the Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization was too bureaucratic sounding and did not have much "flair." The TAC discussed this name issue but did not settle on a new name. The TAC discussed whether the name could be decided by the new MPO, but the group agreed that the designation agreement needs a name for this new MPO. A motion was moved by Todd Girdler to have the TAC look over this latest version of the draft agreement for one more week, make comments back to Todd to be incorporated into the draft, suggest names, and then agree that the resulting draft will be the version sent to KDOT for this legal review. This could be done via email between the MPO staff and TAC members. This motion was seconded by Scott McCullough and approved unanimously. The TAC members agreed that they needed to end their review of this draft agreement soon and move it along toward approval and the designation of the new MPO by year's end.

Item 6: Draft 2008 Bicycle Facilities Map – follow up and expansion of changes discussed recently involving the bike route on Massachusetts

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that he had met with the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) recently and they had recommended several changes to the Bicycle Facilities Map in addition to the Massachusetts bike route that the TAC had discussed previously. He then handed out a draft resolution to make those changes and adopt a new 2008

bikeway map. The TAC members then reviewed the draft map from the BAC. TAC members noted that several more changes were needed to bring this map up to date. Sections of pathway along Peterson and Kasold that were noted as future paths are now done and should be designated as existing pathways. Likewise, sections of Monterey Way need to be changed from future bike lanes to existing bike lanes. There are also paths in the Bauer Farms area that do not show up on this map and need to be added. Todd told the TAC that he would check the status of these segments and revise the map as appropriate. The TAC then suggested that a brief description of each bikeway term used be included on the map so that the public will understand the difference between bike routes, lanes and paths. The TAC also noted that the term multi-use path is used in the engineering standards instead of shared use path, and the TAC would like those to be consistent. Todd Girdler suggested and the TAC agreed that with these suggested map changes need to be made and that the map should go back to the BAC for another review before it goes onto the TAC for its approval and to the MPO for adoption. The next BAC meeting will be on August 19th and Todd informed the TAC that he would bring these changes to the attention of BAC members. The TAC asked Todd to put this back on the TAC agenda for September. A motion to defer TAC action on this map update until the September TAC meeting was moved by Scott McCullough, seconded by Christy Lane and passed unanimously.

Item 7: Transit Route Planning Study – possible addition to the 2008 and/or 2009 Unified Planning Work Program

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that the MPO and KDOT staffs have been discussing the possibility of conducting some route planning for the Lawrence Transit System to prepare for changes that are planned to come with the future merger of the T public system and the KU On Wheels operations in 2009. Lisa Koch told the TAC that some of this work could be done by the transit contractor MV that has one week of route planning service built into their contract with Lawrence. For more work on route planning the federal planning funds allocated to the MPO could be used. This would involve amending the 2008 Unified Planning Work Program or putting this activity in the 2009 UPWP. Wendy Koerner told the TAC that the T has no funds for any local match for this study in 2008. Lisa Koch noted that the local match does not have to come from the T budget. Other TAC members expressed the opinion that there would not be enough time to get any sort of transit routes study done before the November election which is likely to determine if we have local support and funding to run a transit system in 2009. Lisa Koch told the TAC that KDOT wants a study done to see what a future transit system will look like in Lawrence after the November sales tax issue passes and the KU-T merger takes place. KDOT has a significant investment in the Lawrence T and wants to protect its investment. Lisa Koch and Todd Girdler told the TAC that a meeting between City, MPO, KDOT, T and KU officials is scheduled for August 15th to discuss these issues. Wendy Koerner and others at the meeting expressed the opinion that starting a route study before the November election seems premature since if that ballot measure fails there will be not be any 2009 operating money for transit operations in Lawrence. Todd Girdler told the TAC members that he would update them on this discussion again at their September meeting.

Item 8: Draft 2009 Unified Planning Work Program – discussion of funding estimates and possible work tasks

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that it was time to start work on developing the UPWP for next year. At this point the KDOT and MPO staffs have met and believe that transit planning and MPO education will be two major work items in 2009. Other items will include: further work on bikeway planning, making any needed TIP amendments, and monitoring the work in Congress at creating a new surface transportation act to replace SAFETEA-LU. The TAC was then asked for their suggestions. The TAC agreed that transit will be a major topic of discussion regardless of whether the sales tax passes or not, and the work involved at getting the new MPO organized and functional will take much of the staff's time. Greg Moore suggested that the MPO staff follow the discussion of peak oil and how that will impact energy prices and travel patterns. Todd Girdler asked the TAC to send any suggestions about 2009 work task to him in the next month and that a draft 2009 UPWP should be ready for TAC review in October. Christy Lane and Todd Girdler then discussed the current financial situation for the MPO. They informed the TAC that even with drastic 40% cuts in the 2009 allocation of Consolidated Planning Grant money to the Lawrence MPO it will have enough money to fund operations in 2009. Todd Girdler told the TAC that Christy had been very helpful at translating the accounting spreadsheet used at KDOT into a simple sheet outlining the MPO funding. This draft funding estimate sheet was handed out to TAC members. Todd noted that now it looks like the MPO will have about \$185,000 available for its 2009 program. Keith Browning asked if this included the funds the MPO may spend on the US 56 Study. Todd said yes it does and any US 56 contribution from the MPO would come out of that \$185,000.

Item 9: Quick Updates:

a. 5-County KDOT Transportation Plan for Johnson, Leavenworth, Wyandotte, Miami, and Douglas Counties

Todd Girdler told the TAC that he had met with KDOT staff and the consultant on this study.

b. Public Participation Plan (PPP) development

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that now with Bart hired and the TIP updated the staff will work on the PPP and have a draft ready by the end of 2008.

c. 31st Street Extension Project

Todd Girdler told the TAC that this study is progressing and that several TAC members are involved with this project and working to keep it moving.

d. Air Quality Issues for the L-DC MPO

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that he had not had time yet to investigate this issue but would do that soon. Greg Moore asked Todd to contact the Douglas County Health Department and KDHE to check on the issue of placing a monitor in Lawrence and report back to the TAC next month. Todd told the TAC he will do that.

e. On-Call Traffic Demand Modeling Contract

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that this draft contract is in legal review now and should be sent to the City Administrator soon.

f. Bicycle Friendly City application

Todd Girdler told the TAC that Eric Struckhoff on the Bicycle Advisory Committee is working on completing this application and he is helping Eric. The application is due to the League of American Bicyclists by August 18th.

g. Transportation Improvement Program – Amendment #1

Todd Girdler told the TAC that this major TIP amendment is out for public review and is scheduled for MPO approval at their August 27th meeting.

Item 10: Other Business

The TAC members reviewed their calendars and suggested that with September 1st being Labor Day the regularly scheduled day of September 2nd would not work well for the next meeting. The Chairman, Greg Moore, set the date for the next TAC meeting at September 9th at 1:30 PM.

Item 9: Adjournment of TAC Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 PM

The next TAC meeting will be held on September 9, 2008.