

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
Minutes for Tuesday, July 8, 2008 Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott McCullough (Lawrence-Douglas County Planning)
Christy Lane (KDOT)
Mark Huffhines (FHWA) for Byron Low
Brad Finkeldei (MPO)
Greg Moore (MPO)
Cliff Galante (Lawrence Public Transit)
Todd Girdler (Senior Transportation Planner)
Charles Soules (Lawrence PW)
Daniel Nguyen (FTA)

OTHERS PRESENT: Allison Smith (KDOT)
Shoeb Uddin (Lawrence PW)

Item 1: Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Moore at 1:30 PM. A quorum was present.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes – June 3, 2008

Meeting minutes of the June 3, 2008 TAC was reviewed with no further discussion. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Scott McCullough, seconded by Christy Lane and passed unanimously.

Item 3: US Highway 56 Corridor Study and possible MPO funding for 2009

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that he had attended a meeting 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. This corridor stretches from I-435 on the east to US 59 on the west. The study will be in two phases with Phase 1 being the identification of issues along the corridor and the charting of a vision for the corridor's future. Phase 2 will follow later and be more project-specific. KDOT expects to send out an RFP for Phase 1 very soon and anticipates the Phase 1 study to cost about \$200,000. The TAC discussed the need for the MPO to be involved since this is a regionally significant route in the MPO planning area. The TAC also discussed the possible MPO contribution to funding this study, but with uncertainties about future federal funding for the MPO no funding commitment was suggested by the TAC.

Item 4: Action Item: 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 including placing all three small city representatives on the MPO Policy Board with one serving as a voting member and the other two as non-voting members. He also added a clause that mentions SAFETEA-LU to the first page. Todd informed the TAC that he had met with the Lecompton city Council last night and informed them about the proposed new MPO. The Lecompton elected officials seemed enthused and interested about their new role in the MPO. Todd told the TAC that he has

not yet heard back from the other small cities or KU about giving them briefings on this MPO creation. The TAC then discussed the draft timeline for creation of the new MPO which has the agreement execution scheduled for October. Todd asked TAC members if they had any final comments on the draft agreement. Mark Huffhines of the FHWA said they had some revisions to the citations and that he would send those to Todd soon. The TAC agreed that final comments would be sent to Todd soon and that we would work toward having the new MPO designated in October.

Item 5: Action Item: Amendment for the 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add Job Access-Reverse Commute (JARC) funding for the Lawrence Transit System, add Transportation Enhancement (TE) funding for trail development, advertise the approval of the Program of Projects (POP) for Lawrence Transit, add a map showing the locations of TIP projects, make minor revisions/corrections to the text and tables, and update project information as needed

Todd Girdler presented this amendment to the TAC and briefly described the things being added to the TIP. He also handed out a draft map and public announcement for this TIP amendment. The need to have this amendment clearly state that it is approving not only the TIP but also the Program of Projects for Lawrence Transit was discussed. The TAC then discussed the fiscal constraint table in the text. This table did not balance estimated project costs and revenues, and the TIP was not fiscally constrained. The FHWA and FTA representatives noted that they could not approve this TIP until fiscal constraint was shown in this table. Todd Girdler explained that he had worked from the original document approved by the MPO in April to revise this table, but he was not sure about some of the figures. He asked the TAC members if they knew more about this table and could explain the difference. TAC members then discussed how this table could be fixed soon in order to move this amendment forward in time for the MPO to approve it in August so that the JARC funding for Lawrence Transit would not be in jeopardy. Greg Moore made a motion to direct staff to correct this fiscal constraint section of the TIP as soon as possible and send it back out to the TAC via email for an approval vote, and if that was not possible to revise the amendment to only include the JARC funding addition so that it could be approved at the August MPO meeting. This motion was seconded by Christy Lane and passed unanimously. Todd Girdler informed the TAC that he was confident that he could check with project sponsors in the next week and fix this text soon to keep this amendment on track for an August approval. The TAC directed Todd to place this amendment on the web, at the Lawrence Public Library, and at the MPO Office for public review after the TAC approves it. This was followed up by the TAC clarifying that they were instructing Todd to follow the Public Involvement Plan in posting this document for public notice and review. The TAC also asked Todd to send it to the MPO members when posted publicly.

Item 6: Discussion Item: Comparison of the latest 2003 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) approved Function Classification Map for Roadways and the recently MPO approved Major Thoroughfares Map from the T2030 Plan

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that he has noticed some differences in the classification of roadways on these two maps and believes a review of the FHWA approved classification map from 2003 needs to be done now since the T2030 Plan was adopted.

He noted that the differences he has noticed are in the urban fringe areas where area planning is being done. Todd told the TAC that he planned on completing this map review in 2008 or early 2009 and returning it to the TAC for review before it goes onto the MPO, KDOT or FHWA for approval. Keith Browning noted that these two maps do not need to be exactly the same especially in the rural areas with major rural collectors. Todd Girdler agreed that they do not have to be exactly the same but should be close especially in the urban area where he has noticed some discrepancies.

Item 7: Quick Updates:

a. Bicycle Facilities Map Revision

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that he is working on a resolution for the MPO to approve that will make this change as well as approve a new Bicycle Facilities Map.

b. Minimum Maintenance Roads – recent changes

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that he recently presented four MM road changes for Marion Township to the Planning Commission and all four were approved.

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

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that he was attending meetings about this study and that KDOT is administering it.

d. Public Participation Plan (PPP) development

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that he has reviewed the federal regulations about new PPP development and will soon start work on this new plan for the L-DC MPO. Christy Lane said she had some information on the PPP and visualization techniques that she would send to Todd for use in creating this new plan.

e. FTA Audit of the Lawrence Transit System

Cliff Galante informed the TAC that the FTA had recently audited Lawrence Transit and found a few small things to correct. One of those items concerning security was already corrected by posting signs on the buses to tell riders to report unattended bags and suspicious behavior. The major finding for Lawrence Transit is that they rely heavily on discretionary federal grants for bus replacements and they do not have a financials plan showing a predictable funding source for capital needs. Cliff explained to the TAC that this is common for small transit operations. These comments lead to a TAC discussion about the T's future financial picture and the November ballot issue to fund the T with a dedicated sales tax.

f. 31st Street Extension Project

Shoeb Uddin told the TAC that KDOT has been very helpful with supplying traffic model data in support of this study. Chuck Soules informed the TAC that the next steering committee meeting would be this Friday morning.

g. 2009 Rescission and the 2009 UPWP Budget

Christy Lane informed the TAC that KDOT is now hearing about a major rescission for 2009 that may drop the federal money for the MPO from about \$150,000 to about \$90,000 for next year. Todd Girdler told the TAC

that even with this reduction the MPO funding should be fine for 2009, but 2010 and beyond is uncertain. Todd and Christy said that they are meeting this week to discuss the 2009 UPWP and the funding account for the MPO.

h. Air Quality Issues for the L-DC MPO

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that our region could become non-attainment in the next few years and that this would have a major impact on the MPO operations. Allison Smith told the TAC that KDHE is working on determining what Kansas counties will be non-attainment and they will send recommendations for this status to the EPA in March 2009. KDOT and the MPO staffs will discuss this in the coming months to monitor these discussions and see what is happening with monitoring air quality in Douglas County and determining if our area will be in or out of attainment.

Item 8: Other Business

Scott McCullough informed the TAC that Todd Girdler is now serving on the Climate Protection Task Force-Transportation Working Group. Scott also announced that the MPO has hired Bart Rudolf to fill the transportation planner position and that Bart would be starting work on August 4th.

Item 9: Adjournment of TAC Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 PM

The next TAC meeting will be held on August 5, 2008.