

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
Minutes for Tuesday, June 3, 2008 Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott McCullough (Lawrence-Douglas County Planning)
Shoeb Uddin (Lawrence PW)
Christy Lane (KDOT)
Mark Huffhines (FHWA) for Byron Low
Brad Finkeldei (MPO)
Greg Moore (MPO)
Cynthia Boecker (Assistant City Manager)
Cliff Galante (Lawrence Public Transit)
Todd Girdler (Senior Transportation Planner)

OTHERS PRESENT: Davonna Moore (KDOT)

Item 1: Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Finkeldei at 1:32 PM. A quorum was present.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes – April 17, 2008 and Selection of a New TAC Chairman

Meeting minutes of the April 17, 2008 TAC was reviewed with no further discussion. The committee unanimously approved the April meeting minutes.

Brad Finkeldei explained to the TAC that Greg Moore, who has been attending TAC meetings as the non-voting MPO member, will now be moved to the voting member position and take over the role of TAC Chairman. This has been discussed at previous TAC meetings. Brad made a motion to approve Greg as the new TAC Chairman. This motion was seconded by Cliff Galante and unanimously supported by all members in attendance. Greg Moore began his duties as TAC Chairman immediately.

Item 3: Action Item: Bicycle Facilities Map Revision to change the Bike Route now located on Vermont and Kentucky Streets to Massachusetts Street from 11th Street to Indian Avenue

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that the Bicycle Advisory Committee had discussed this issue in 2006; but that it appeared that the change was not yet approved by the MPO and the latest approved Bike Facilities Map from 2004 does not reflect this change. City PW officials are waiting for the map to be officially changed before they move the signs on this route to Massachusetts Street. Shoeb Uddin mentioned that this bike route change could be coordinated with a repaving project scheduled for this part of Massachusetts and that with that project it may be possible to restripe the street to provide more room on the curb lane which would be favorable to the bike route.

MOTION: A motion was made by Scott McCullough and seconded by Christy Lane to approve this change to the Bicycle Facilities Map and forward a TAC recommendation to the MPO Policy Board to approve this map change. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 4: Discussion Item: 5-County KDOT Transportation Plan for Johnson, Leavenworth, Wyandotte, Miami, and Douglas Counties

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that KDOT is starting this study which is designed to identify mobility needs in the 5-county region. KDOT is asking for assistance and information from the counties and cities in the region, but KDOT is funding this study alone. Public participation and land use analysis will be important parts of this study which should take about 18 months to complete. Davonna Moore noted that KDOT has recently selected their consultant for this study and that the cost of the study is approximately \$1M. The TAC then discussed the timing of this study which appears to have a completion date that roughly coincides with the end of the federal SAFETEA-LU (Safe-Accountable-Flexible-Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users) and the state CTP (Comprehensive Transportation Program) transportation funding programs. The TAC also discussed how KDOT might use this study in the development of a new comprehensive transportation program to be debated in the 2009 and 2010 legislative sessions. Todd Girdler informed the TAC that he would keep them posted as new developments on this study occur.

Item 5: Discussion Item: Development of a new Public Participation Plan (PPP) to replace the current 2004 Public Involvement Plan (PIP)

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that this is the last required MPO document that needs to be brought up to date and into compliance with SAFETEA-LU planning regulations. Those regulations ask MPOs to improve coordination with historic preservation and environmental groups and other non-transportation planning bodies. It also encourages MPOs to improve the visualization techniques used to engage the public in the regional transportation planning process. Brad Finkeldei asked when this document would be done, and Todd responded that a draft would be ready for MPO consideration by the end of this year. Mark Huffhines noted that the St. Joseph MPO just completed their PPP update, and he supplied a copy of that to Todd.

Item 6: Discussion 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 that the TAC had seen in April and the comments that have been received since then. He is discussing those comments and that draft with Scott. Scott McCullough informed the TAC that the MPO has approved the draft and the staff will move this item forward for state and governing body approval soon. The TAC then discussed the procedure for incorporating the final comments into the draft agreement, discussing this agreement with county and city officials in the region, and moving this agreement through the approval and signature process. The TAC agreed that this draft needs to be finalized soon and that a public discussion on it needs to take place. The small cities in the region also need to be briefed individually about this agreement since they will now have a formal role in the MPO. Scott told the TAC that he would work with Todd to get this done. A comment was made that the two small cities that are not currently represented by a voting member on the MPO be listed as ex-officio members. This comment was received favorably by the TAC and Scott said that can be incorporated into the draft with the other final comments.

Item 7: Quick Updates:**a. Upcoming STP safety submissions from Lawrence to KDOT**

Lawrence Public Works staff is working on these applications and when they are approved the projects will be added to the TIP.

b. 2009 Rescissions and MPO funding

The latest information from the FHWA is that the Lawrence MPO will not be significantly impacted by this change in federal funding.

c. Air Quality Standard changes

Davonna Moore informed the TAC that the Lawrence Area is on the edge of this new standard, but it is uncertain what will happen to impact Lawrence. The monitor used for Lawrence is actually in Leavenworth and a new replacement monitor for Lawrence might be needed. Todd Girdler informed the TAC that if Lawrence falls into non-compliance for air quality this will be a major change for the MPO and that the TAC will hear much more about air quality conformity analysis.

Item 8: Other Business

Cliff Galante gave the TAC quick updates on the following transit related items:

- Carpool Connection – The St. Joseph MPO may join with the Lawrence and Kansas City MPOs in this service.
- Job Access – Reverse Commute Grant from the FTA – Lawrence Transit has been awarded \$500,000 to replace two buses and discussions about the specific buses that will be ordered are ongoing.
- Sales Tax for Transit – This funding source for the maintenance and improvement of T service in Lawrence is continuing.
- Lawrence Transit and KU Transit services coordination and merger – Discussions about the consolidation of the general public and KU transit services in the area are continuing and both transit operators are working on renewing a service and staffing contract with the same vendor.

Item 9: Adjournment of TAC Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 PM

The next TAC meeting will be held on July 8, 2008.