

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
Minutes for Tuesday, November 4, 2008 Meeting

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott McCullough (Lawrence-Douglas County Planning)
Christy Lane (KDOT)
Greg Moore (MPO)
Todd Girdler (Senior Transportation Planner)
Cynthia Boecker (Assistant City Manager)
Keith Browning (Douglas County Public Works)
Chuck Soules (Lawrence Public Works)

OTHERS PRESENT: Shoeb Uddin (Lawrence PW)
Bart Rudolph (Transportation Planner)
Mark Huffhines (FHWA)
Byron Low (FHWA)

Item 1: Call to Order

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

Item 2: Approval of Minutes – October 7, 2008

A motion to approve the minutes as presented was moved by Scott McCullough, seconded by Cynthia Boecker and passed unanimously.

Item 3: Discussion Item: Re-Designation of the MPO for the Lawrence-Douglas County Region – discuss the schedule for execution of the re-designation agreement and the selection of new MPO members

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that the Lawrence City Commission approved the MPO Re-designation Agreement on October 28th, but the Douglas County Commission did not approve it on October 29th. The comments received from County Commissioners in deciding not to approve it last week centered on the equity of having fewer voting members from the County Commission than from the City Commission. Todd Girdler told the TAC that he explained to the County Commission that the composition of the MPO Policy Board with one County Commissioner and two Lawrence Commissioners was not a new thing and had been discussed for months and reviewed extensively by the County Counselor as well as Lawrence and KDOT legal staffs. He explained that having more than one County Commissioner on the MPO would make all MPO meetings also become County Commission meetings since there are only three County Commissioners. He also told the County Commission that the composition of the new MPO Policy Board had been set to give the large city, small city, and the unincorporated parts of Douglas County specific representation on the board and for it to be composed so that Lawrence would not have a majority of votes. The County Commissioners understood this, but they still voted to not act on this agreement at their meeting last week. They did tell Todd Girdler that they would forward him suggested changes to the agreement or reschedule it for action soon. Todd also informed the TAC that the required 30-day public review period for this agreement has ended and if the County approves it then it will go to KDOT for approval and execution. It is hoped that this will occur soon and that the current MPO will be replaced soon after they approve the 2009 Unified Planning

Work Program on November 19th. The MPO staff and TAC will have to wait and see what the County Commission does with this agreement next.

Item 4: Discussion Item: Draft Public Participation Plan – the MPO staff will lead a discussion of goals and objectives for this plan

Bart Rudolph presented a draft set of Public Participation Plan Goals to the TAC and asked them to discuss it. The TAC members reviewed the following five proposed goals and made the suggestion that possibly the overall goal of the PPP could be to increase public support of the MPO process and its plans while these five goals could be objectives under that overall goal.

- Educate and promote understanding of regional needs
- Engage the public and encourage continued participation
- Provide ample opportunity for participation
- Encourage effective communication among stakeholders
- Incorporate public comments and recommendations into the decision-making process

Bart told the TAC that he would use that suggestion and re-work these draft goals or possibly use the suggestion to form a mission statement for the PPP. Bart then told the TAC that the proposed five goals were going to be used in the outline of the new PPP document and explained how the ideas to educate, engage, provide, encourage and incorporate would be used to structure the PPP document.

Bart then discussed the PPP survey that he is going to get onto the website soon. He told the TAC that he would send email notices to specific groups to notify them about this survey. Those groups are the ones called out in the SAFETEA-LU planning regulations for MPOs to consult with and include users of pedestrian facilities, bicycle facilities, and transit.

Item 5: Discussion Item: Draft 2009 Unified Planning Work Program – discuss funding estimates, any public comments received and scheduled MPO approval date

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that the 2009 UPWP is now drafted, approved by the TAC, posted for public comments and moving towards MPO approval on November 19th. He did tell the TAC that some minor formatting and wording changes suggested by the FHEW staff since this document was approved by the TAC have been made and copies of the UPWP with those revisions were handed out to TAC members.

Item 6: Quick Updates:

a. Public Participation Plan (PPP) development

Update for this item was covered under Item 4.

b. 31st Street Extension Project

Chuck Soules told the TAC that the environmental review for this project between Haskell and O'Connell would be done for the FHWA funded portion and that this section would be built sooner. The section between O'Connell and County Road 1057 would be built later and at this point is planned for local funding. Keith Browning and Chuck Soules informed the group that a study session with the Lawrence City Commission and

the County Commission is being planned soon to inform them of the issues and progress on these road plans.

c. 5-County KDOT Transportation Plan

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that an advisory committee and working groups for this study are being formed and that Chuck and Keith from the TAC will be invited to participate in these groups. Lisa Harris from the Planning Commission and Eric Struckhoff from the Bicycle Advisory Committee will also be invited to participate in these groups.

d. US Highway 56 Corridor Study

Todd Girdler told the TAC that the MPO staff is continuing to attend meeting for this study and work with the consultants to locate needed data.

e. Transit Routes Planning Study

Todd Girdler told the TAC that it is the MPO staff's intention to use \$20,000 of federal planning funds to help fund this study. This amount is now programmed in the draft UPWP for 2009. KDOT recently worked with the MPO to allow the use of in-kind KDOT match from the US 56 Study to be used by the L-DC MPO and some of that will be used to match the federal funds for this study so the Lawrence-Douglas County Planning Department does not have to provide a cash match for the expenditure of those federal funds. The City and KU staffs are still having discussions with the FTA and KDOT staff to figure out how the RFP process for this study will work. The intent of the KU/City Transit Planning Committee is to use an on-call consultant from KU to study how this consolidation of transit systems can be implemented.

f. Transit Meetings with KU

Todd Girdler told the TAC that he is attending weekly meetings about the consolidation of the Lawrence T and the KU on Wheels systems. He is sitting on a work group discussing governance issues related to a consolidated system and Wendy Koerner is sitting on a work group discussing the RFP preparation to hire a consultant.

g. Bikeway System Map

Bart Rudolph informed the TAC that the existing Bicycle Facilities Map has been checked and updated, and it will be ready for the new MPO Policy Board to review and approve in early 2009. The MPO staff has a question about whether the City Commission should also approve this map after the MPO does and before the City Public Works staff moves bike route signs. This seems reasonable since the Bicycle Advisory Committee that is working on this map update along with MPO staff is a City advisory group and the Lawrence Public Works Department is the group that maintains bike route signs. Todd Girdler will work with Shoeb Uddin, Scott McCullough and Eric Struckhoff from the BAC to determine how this approval will be handled.

Item 7: Other Business

Chuck Soules informed the TAC that he is working on a 5-Year Plan of road and bridge projects to send to KDOT by December 1st. He has talked to Todd about this and found that most of the projects on this list are not in the Transportation Improvement

Program. A TIP amendment to add those projects will need to be processed in early 2009. Chuck and Todd will work on drafting the amendment in December.

Item 9: Next Meeting

The TAC members agreed that the next TAC meeting would be on December 2nd at 1:30 PM in the Planning Conference Room at the Lawrence City Hall.

Item 10: Adjournment of TAC Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM

The next TAC meeting will be held on December 2, 2008.