

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
Minutes for Tuesday, October 7, 2008 Meeting

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott McCullough (Lawrence-Douglas County Planning)
Christy Lane (KDOT)
Greg Moore (MPO)
Todd Girdler (Senior Transportation Planner)
Casey Toomay (Lawrence Transit)
Cynthia Boecker (Assistant City Manager)

OTHERS PRESENT: Shoeb Uddin (Lawrence PW)
Bart Rudolph (Transportation Planner)
Mark Huffhines (FHWA)
Byron Low (FHWA)
Davonna Moore (KDOT)
Brad Finkeldei (MPO)

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 – September 7, 2008

Meeting minutes of the September 7, 2008 TAC was reviewed with one correction noting that Casey Toomay is the Budget Manager and not the Budget Director. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Scott McCullough, seconded by Casey Toomay and passed unanimously.

Item 3: Designation of a new MPO for the Lawrence-Douglas County Region

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that the Re-designation Agreement is out on the web for public review which will end on October 11th. After that date the agreement will be routed to the City Commission, County Commission and KDOT for signatures and execution. Scott McCullough asked about the schedule planned for MPO designation and the approval of the 2009 UPWP. Todd Girdler informed the TAC that the staff's plan was to have the 2009 UPWP become the last MPO document approved by the outgoing MPO at their November 19th meeting, and the new MPO would start off approving the new Public Participation Plan and bikeway system map in early 2009. The re-designation agreement will need to be routed for KDOT signatures after the 2009 UPWP is approved because the new MPO will be designated as soon as Secretary Miller signs the agreement.

Item 4: US Highway 56 Corridor Study

Todd Girdler told the TAC that he attended a meeting recently to discuss the status of this project and the scope being negotiated between KDOT and the consultant. TransSystems is the preferred consultant and a scope and contract with them is expected to be signed soon. The partnership agreement original which all eight planning partners will sign is being routed around for signatures and when it reaches the MPO staff it will be sent to Brad Finkeldei for his signature. The MPO has already approved this agreement on September 24th.

Item 5: Draft 2008 Bicycle Facilities Map

Bart Rudolph told the TAC that the MPO staff is still field checking the information on the bikeway map and that this would be done soon. The Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) will then review the new draft map and approve it as a recommended map for MPO approval. It is planned to have the new MPO approve this bikeway map in early 2009. Shoeb Uddin informed the TAC that the BAC is now meeting in City Hall at the Public Works Conference Room instead of at fire Station #5.

Item 6: Draft 2009 Unified Planning Work Program

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that the 2009 UPWP is now drafted and was sent out to TAC members yesterday. The major work items for 2009 will include MPO Education, Public Participation Plan, Access Management Guidelines & Standards, Bikeway System Planning, US 56 Corridor Study, 5-County Regional Transportation Plan, and Transit Planning with Lawrence and the University of Kansas. Because of the desire to have this UPWP approved by the current MPO and the altered MPO meeting schedule for November the MPO staff is asking the TAC to complete their review of this draft and get comments back to staff by October 17th and approve the staff action to post this draft on the web for a 30-day public review period on October 20th. This will allow the current MPO to approve this document at its scheduled November 19th meeting and allow the new MPO to be designated in November. Christy Lane expressed her concern with such a short time period for review, but she said that KDOT and MPO staff can meet next week to revise this draft. Brad Finkeldei mentioned that this document can be revised and sent back out to the TAC via email for final review and approval. Mark Huffhines noted that it would be better to have TAC comments come back to staff on October 15th so staff would have a couple of days to incorporate them before the TAC approved it and it was posted on the web. A motion to have TAC comments back to Todd Girdler by October 15th and have the revised draft sent out to TAC members for approval on October 16th and then have the draft posted for public comments on October 20th was made by Scott McCullough. This motion was seconded by Christy Lane and passed unanimously. Todd Girdler asked if KDOT staff had any news about the federal funding for MPO operations in 2009. Christy Lane told the TAC that this was still uncertain with the three funding scenarios in the UPWP budget as the best estimates at this point. Todd Girdler told the TAC that even with the worst case scenario of a 40% cut in 2009 the MPO would have enough funding to cover its costs for 2009.

Item 7: Quick Updates:

a. Public Participation Plan (PPP) development

Bart Rudolph informed the TAC that he is working on this document and will have a survey out on the web soon to get input about how the MPO should involve the public in the regional transportation planning process. He will be asking the TAC members to take this survey soon.

b. 31st Street Extension Project

Shoeb Uddin told the TAC that there was an open house public meeting for this project on September 29th and about 100 people attended. Byron Low asked about the FHWA funding involved in this project. Shoeb said that the FHWA funded part is the City project for the section from Haskell to O'Connel. A separate contract with County funds only is for the part

from o'connel to County Road 1057. Shoeb also noted that at the start of this project it was not anticipated that major environmental studies would be needed, but recently there has been more discussion about this issue and talks between the City and KDOT staffs are planned on this topic.

c. On-Call Traffic Demand Modeling Contract

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that this contract is now signed and that he will be contacting Everett Bacon at LSA soon to discuss work to do for 2009. Davonna Moore asked about how much this contract is for. Todd Girdler told the TAC that this item has \$15,000 budgeted in 2008 and the same for 2009. However, this is a time and materials type of contract so the MPO only pays for the time they use, and that could be less than the budgeted amount. It is likely that little of the budget amount for 2008 will be used so the federal dollars for that will be carried over to 2009.

d. 5-County Regional Transportation Study

Todd Girdler told the TAC that he is continuing to meet with KDOT staff about this study and that currently the consultant team is creating a list of stakeholders to interview and put on work groups.

e. Transit Routes Planning Study

Todd Girdler told the TAC that he has budgeted \$20,000 in the draft 2009 UPWP for this study, but he has not heard of any other specific funding commitments yet. The MPO staff is meeting weekly with the City and KU transit managers to set a timeline for things that need to be done to create a seamless consolidated transit system to serve Lawrence by next July, however, this effort is becoming rather difficult. KU wants to get money for this study and use their on-call consultant to do it, but it is still uncertain if this can be done if MPO funds are used. The City and MPO staffs have put in calls to Lisa Koch to get some answers to that question, but so far no answers have been received. Christy Lane told the TAC that Lisa is very busy with T-Link work so the TAC can contact her with these questions. The TAC then discussed the RFP process that would need to be used for such a study. The City process for federal aid jobs was discussed and it appeared that this process would work using MPO funds, but that process will take three months and KU wants to move faster than that with hiring a consultant. Todd Girdler told the TAC that the KU Legal Staff was asked last week to call KDOT to clarify this and that he might find out more about this at tomorrow's meeting with KU and T transit managers.

f. Transit Meetings with KU

Todd Girdler and Casey Toomay told the TAC that they are meeting weekly with KU transit staff. Casey noted that they are working on a timeline for all of the things that need to be done to get a consolidated service running by next July. A key component of that is the consultant work to develop routes and schedules that work with available resources.

Item 8: Other Business

Davonna Moore informed the TAC that Dennis Slimmer was named as the new KDOT Transportation Planning Bureau Chief.

Item 9: Next Meeting

Todd Girdler told the TAC that he has been told that November 11th is a paid holiday for some TAC members. He suggested that the TAC meet on November 4th which is the regularly scheduled date even though it is Election Day. The TAC members agreed and instructed staff to hold the meeting on November 4th.

Item 10: Adjournment of TAC Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM

The next TAC meeting will be held on November 4, 2008.