

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
Minutes for Tuesday, September 9, 2008 Meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott McCullough (Lawrence-Douglas County Planning)
Christy Lane (KDOT)
Greg Moore (MPO)
Todd Girdler (Senior Transportation Planner)
Charles Soules (Lawrence PW)
Keith Browning (Douglas County PW)
Casey Toomay (Lawrence Transit)

OTHERS PRESENT: Shoeb Uddin (Lawrence PW)
Bart Rudolph (Transportation Planner)
Mark Huffhines (FHWA – alternate for Byron Low)
Daniel Nguyen (FTA)

Item 1: Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Moore at 1:31 PM. A quorum was present.

Item 2: Introduction of New TAC Member – Casey Toomay

Todd Girdler told the TAC that Casey Toomay is the TAC's newest member. Casey Toomay introduced herself as the new Interim-Lawrence Public Transit Administrator, and she told the TAC that she also is the City's Budget Manager.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes – August 5, 2008

Meeting minutes of the August 5, 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 4: Designation of a new MPO for the Lawrence-Douglas County Region

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that the KDOT Legal Staff had made the final staff changes to this agreement and sent it back to the MPO Staff as approved and ready for signatures. Todd handed out copies of this agreement. He also said that he planned on getting this agreement out on the web for public comment tomorrow and plans on it being signed in October. Scott McCullough moved that the TAC accept this latest KDOT approved version of the agreement as complete and instruct the staff to post it for a 30-day public comment period. The motion was seconded by Charles Soules and passed unanimously.

Item 5: US Highway 56 Corridor Study

Todd Girdler told the TAC that he attended a series of consultant interviews for this study last week and that consensus was reached to choose Trans Systems as the first firm to negotiate with. This was a qualifications based selection. KDOT now has to negotiate scope of work and cost details with the consultant. That is expected within two months. Todd also informed the TAC that the partnership agreement for this study is being scheduled for signatures from the MPO and the County soon. This item is on the MPO agenda for September 24th. Keith Browning said the County Commission would

sign it soon. The TAC then discussed the funding for this study. Todd Girdler and Keith Browning informed the TAC that the plan still is to have the MPO and County contribute \$20,000 each towards this study and to have Baldwin City contribute \$10,000. Todd told the TAC that the MPO funding is being planned for inclusion in the 2009 UPWP to be paid to KDOT during the first quarter. Christy Lane told the TAC that KDOT is not too concerned about when the payments are made as long as the local funding commitments are firm. KDOT is paying for half of this project's cost.

Item 6: Draft 2008 Bicycle Facilities Map

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that he and Bart Rudolph are continuing to work with the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) to check this map and verify that facilities marked as existing really do exist as depicted on the map. Some discrepancies have been found, and the MPO staff is now systematically touring the region to check all existing bikeways shown on the map. Todd told the TAC that he expects to have the field check work done by the end of the year and complete a list of changes for the TAC to approve. He also informed the TAC that MPO staff has decided to propose a name change for this map to Bikeway System Map. This name is more consistent with terminology used for bikeway planning.

Item 7: Draft 2009 Unified Planning Work Program

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that it was time to draft 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 for work items for next year and asked to get those suggestions to Todd within the next three weeks. The TAC should see a draft of the 2009 UPWP at their October meeting. Todd told the TAC that staff is still working on budgeting details for the UPWP with City accounting staff. One interesting thing found recently is that it appears that budget transfers from the federal MPO fund to the City health insurance fund to pay for MPO staff health insurance coverage has not been made. This needs to be corrected for 2009 and will impact the federal fund total we have for next year. At this point the MPO staff is still planning on funding the US 56 Study with \$20,000 in federal funds. It is uncertain how much more MPO funding will be available for other studies, and the level of rescission for 2009 is still unknown. The MPO staff is creating a budget with three rescission scenarios.

Item 8: 5-County KDOT Transportation Plan for Johnson, Leavenworth, Wyandotte, Miami, and Douglas Counties

Todd Girdler told the TAC that this study is progressing and in the data collection phase now. Soon the consultant team will begin the process of creating a travel demand model for the area. As part of that they will need to obtain socioeconomic data for Douglas County so they might be contacting some TAC members to help them find the data they need to build this model. The study team is also working on completing their stakeholders list. Charles Soules asked if Haskell or Baker Universities were on the list. Todd told the TAC that Bart had sent the consultant a list last month that had KU on it since KU is a special and large traffic generator, but the list did not have Haskell or Baker on it. The MPO staff said they can discuss this with the consultant at the next

meeting to see if Baker and/or Haskell should be added to the stakeholders list for this study.

Item 9: Air Quality Issues for the L-DC MPO

Bart Rudolph told the TAC that the MPO staff is learning more about these issues and monitoring the process for designating counties as non-attainment for air quality standards. Draft designations for the air quality boundaries are expected to be announced in October. Todd Girdler told the TAC that if Douglas County does go into the non-attainment category in 2009 then the MPO will have to alter the way they draft and approve required documents like the transportation plan and transportation improvement program. Those documents would have to complete a conformity analysis to determine and document their impact of air quality. This could have a serious impact on the MPO budget in some years and reduce the MPO's ability to fund other studies.

Item 10: Quick Updates:

a. Public Participation Plan (PPP) development

Bart Rudolph informed the TAC that he is currently working on this document and developing a strategy to engage stakeholders. The draft document is expected to be available for TAC review later this year.

b. 31st Street Extension Project

Charles Soules and Keith Browning informed the TAC that a separate contract is now being completed for design work on the County portion of this road project since it was not possible to expand the City contract with Wilson & Company. The County will now have a separate contract with that firm.

c. On-Call Traffic Demand Modeling Contract

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that this contract is now being processed by the City for signatures and execution. It should be on the City Commission consent agenda soon. This contract will allow the MPO staff to obtain training and begin the process of creating in-house abilities to update its traffic model.

d. Transit Routes Planning Study

Todd Girdler told the TAC that he is trying to keep \$20,000 in the 2009 UPWP budget for this study, but with all the uncertainties still about the MPO funding this might change. The MPO staff is becoming involved in this issue and will act to support a balanced multi-modal transportation system for the metropolitan planning area.

e. Transportation Improvement Program – Amendment #1

Todd Girdler told the TAC that this major TIP amendment is approved. He is waiting to receive the approval letter from the USDOT before he posts the approved version on the website.

Item 11: Other Business

Scott McCullough told the TAC that he was interviewed recently by HNTB staff about the freight study being conducted by KDOT and how freight issues impact Lawrence. The TAC then discussed how the KDOT Statewide Freight Study is being coordinated with the 5-County Study and the US 56 Study.

Todd Girdler informed the TAC that Lawrence and Douglas County have developed a joint resolution in support of a new statewide transportation improvement program like the CTP and in support of funding consideration for several projects in our region. Charles Soules said this resolution includes bicycle and transit projects as well as highway/street projects. This resolution is being heard for approval by the City Commission tonight.

Todd Girdler told the TAC that he had recently received emails stating that the FHWA may only pay 70% of their normal amounts for road and bridge projects due to shortfalls in the highway trust fund. Douglas County will be funded as planned.

Item 12: Adjournment of TAC Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM

The next TAC meeting will be held on October 7, 2008.