



Meeting Minutes

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 26, 2024, @ 10:00 AM

Hybrid Meeting: *Online & 271 W. 3rd St, Room 203, Wichita, KS 67202*

Meeting Duration: *47 minutes*

Voting Members in Attendance		
Russ Kessler, <i>TAC Chair</i> Marcy Aycock, <i>REAP</i> Jack Brown, <i>Public Health</i> Brent Clark, <i>Freight Movement</i> Duane Flug, <i>KDOT</i> Danielle Gabor, <i>SCAC</i>	Jolene Graham, <i>Economist</i> Paul Gunzelman, <i>Wichita</i> Les Mangus, <i>Butler/Sumner Counties</i> Shawn Mellies, <i>Wichita</i> Lynn Packer, <i>Sedgwick County</i>	Allison Smith, <i>KDOT</i> Dan Squires, <i>SCAC</i> Alternates Tonja Howard, <i>Wichita Transit (voting)</i> Emily Jensen, <i>CTD #9 (voting)</i>
Other Attendees		
Troy Anderson, <i>Wichita</i> Steve Degenhardt, <i>Wichita</i> Nick Flanders, <i>WAMPO</i> Wess Galyon, <i>Wichita Area Builders Association</i> Angeline Johnson, <i>Greater Wichita Partnership</i> Markey Jonas, <i>WAMPO</i>	Sruthi Kesa, <i>WAMPO</i> Stephanie Knebel, <i>Wichita</i> Mohamed Moawad, <i>MAPD</i> Peter Mohr, <i>WAMPO</i> Kim Negrete, <i>WAMPO</i> Ron Nuessen, <i>Benesch</i> Chad Parasa, <i>WAMPO</i> Riley Schmitz, <i>Wichita</i>	Will Sharp, <i>FHWA</i> Holly Terrill, <i>Bike Walk Wichita</i> Kyle Thomas, <i>WAMPO</i> Bill Troe, <i>SRF</i> James Wagner, <i>Wichita</i> Judy Winters, <i>Wichita Documenters</i>

1. Chair Russ Kessler called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

2. Regular Business

A. Approval of August 26, 2024, Agenda

Discussion: None.

Action: Approve the August 26, 2024, agenda, as proposed. (13-0)¹

Motion: Dan Squires

Second: Brent Clark

B. Approval of July 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Discussion: None.

Action: Approve the July 22, 2024, meeting minutes, as proposed. (13-0)

Motion: Danielle Gabor

Second: Lynn Packer

¹ Two (2) voting TAC members did not arrive until after the votes to approve the August 2024 agenda and July 2024 minutes. WAMPO provides meeting minutes that are not verbatim. TAC and TPB meetings are recorded and hosted on YouTube [@WAMPO Kansas](https://www.youtube.com/@WAMPO_Kansas). To request assistance accessing meeting recordings call – (316) 779-1313 or email – wampo@wampo.org.

C. Director's Report

i. Bimonthly TIP Project Statuses

Peter Mohr, WAMPO explained that the WAMPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) includes a Reasonable Progress Policy, under which projects programmed to receive WAMPO-suballocated funding that are scheduled to start in the current Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) or that have started but not finished (including projects that started in prior FFYs) are to have progress reports every two months. The TIP Project Statuses report for August 2024 was shared.

August 2024 TIP Project Statuses - <https://bit.ly/August2024-TIP-Project-Statuses>

ii. ITS Architecture Kickoff Meeting

Mr. Mohr shared that the contract for a consultant to develop a Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Architecture was approved by the Transportation Policy Body (TPB) at their meeting on August 13, 2024. WAMPO staff and consultants have begun coordinating and plan to schedule an ITS Architecture kickoff meeting in September 2024.

iii. Upcoming Project Selection Committee (PSC) Meetings

Mr. Mohr shared that from September 15, 2023, through February 2, 2024, WAMPO held a combined Call for Projects for Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050 (MTP 2050) and the FFY2025-FFY2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). On August 13, 2024, the TPB adopted the FFY2025-FFY2028 TIP. In October 2024, the Project Selection Committee (PSC) will convene to recommend a fiscally constrained list of priority projects for MTP 2050.

iv. Annual Bicycle and Pedestrian Count

Kim Negrete, WAMPO, explained that every year, WAMPO coordinates an annual count of bicycle and pedestrian activity across the region. The data collected during this count help to estimate the number of people who bicycle, walk, and run, and the locations where they do so. To gather this information, WAMPO relies on a team of volunteers to spend a short period of time counting pedestrians and bicycle riders at designated locations. The 2024 dates and times available to volunteer are Wednesday, September 11, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM and/or 5:00 PM-7:00 PM; Thursday, September 12, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM and/or 5:00 PM-7:00 PM; and Saturday, September 14, 12:00 PM-2:00 PM. For more information and volunteer registration, please visit www.wampo.org/bicycle-pedestrian.

Discussion:

Chair Kessler asked how many more volunteers are needed. Ms. Negrete said that about half of the count locations have volunteers for all necessary dates and times. WAMPO still needs about a dozen volunteers to fill the remaining time slots at the other count locations.

v. Safety Updates

Ms. Negrete said that safety is at the forefront of transportation planning and provided an update on recent safety-related initiatives. WAMPO staff are currently developing a contract with the selected Safe Routes to School (SRTS) planning-assistance consultant

and anticipate work to begin soon. For the joint WAMPO/KDOT Behavioral Safety Grants, one applicant, Bike Walk Wichita, has been awarded a grant to conduct a media campaign geared toward the safety of non-motorists. WAMPO was awarded an SS4A Planning and Demonstration grant in December 2023, in the amount of \$940,000; staff are working with the FHWA and member jurisdictions to get eligible projects lined up and the grant agreement executed.

Discussion:

Paul Gunzelman asked which consultant was selected for the development of Safe Routes to School (SRTS) plans. Ms. Negrete said that the contract is under development and until it is ready to be awarded, the selection will not be made public.

vi. Kansas Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Survey, available through August 30, 2024

Ms. Negrete shared that the Kansas Safe Routes to Schools program is expanding and in the process of developing a strategic plan. Please help ensure the program is reflective of and useful to communities throughout Kansas by taking the survey by August 30, 2024.

Kansas SRTS Survey – <https://tinyurl.com/KDOT-SRTS-survey>

vii. Grants and Opportunities: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program NOFO open through September 30, 2024

Ms. Negrete made an announcement regarding the USDOT Reconnecting Communities Pilot grant program, which focuses on projects that reconnect communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating transportation facilities that create barriers to connectivity. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is open through September 30, 2024. More information about the grant opportunity is available at www.transportation.gov/reconnecting.

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Action

No action items were presented for TAC recommendation.

5. Discussion/Updates

A. 2024 Major State Corridors Daily VMT/AADT Report

Mr. Mohr explained that daily Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) are widely used data elements in transportation planning and traffic engineering. Using KDOT data, WAMPO staff have developed a 2024 Daily VMT and AADT Report detailing these metrics for seven (7) major corridors in the WAMPO region: I-35, I-135, I-235, US-54, K-15, K-96, and K-254. These roadways are vital for commuters, commerce, and emergency services, serving as conduits for economic activity and regional development. They also constitute the majority of the state and interstate highway system in the region. The presentation included an overview of the report. Going forward, WAMPO staff intend to make this an annual report, posted online. Figures and data

from the 2024 report will be incorporated into Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050 (MTP 2050), in Chapter 3: Existing Conditions.

WAMPO Major State Corridors Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) Report - https://bit.ly/Draft_2024DVMTandAADTReport

B. MTP 2050 Public Engagement Round 3 Summary

Markey Jonas, WAMPO, shared that the third round of public engagement for Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050 (MTP 2050) was conducted from May 20, 2024, through June 30, 2024. WAMPO staff utilized several strategies, including a survey, to engage with the public about the development of MTP 2050 and how it will help shape the transportation network. 474 survey responses were recorded and analyzed. The purpose of this round of public engagement was to gather opinions on transportation issues & policy alternatives and to document transportation-mode usage trends within the WAMPO region. The survey was an engagement tool for collecting feedback from the public and is not intended to provide a scientific, statistically valid representation of all the region's residents, but will be considered during the development of MTP 2050 and other long-range planning efforts. Ms. Jonas provided an overview of the non-demographic questions from the MTP 2050 Public Engagement Round 3 survey, the most common response to each question, and the frequency with which that response was chosen. All engagement efforts and survey responses will also be discussed in the MTP 2050 public-engagement appendix. Draft chapters of MTP 2050 are being uploaded, as available, to www.wampo.org/mtp2050 for public review and feedback. Comments can be sent to wampo@wampo.org.

MTP 2050 Public Engagement Round 3 Summary: <https://bit.ly/MTP2050-Round3-Engagement-Summary>

C. Wichita Downtown Parking Plan

Troy Anderson, City of Wichita, provided an overview of the City of Wichita's Downtown Parking Plan. The presentation highlighted the complexities of parking management, emphasizing that "free" parking is never truly free, and drew from established experts in the field. Mr. Anderson highlighted the impact of excessive surface parking on downtown density and vibrancy, comparing Wichita's situation to other cities. Tracing the history of Wichita's parking policies, many recommendations from past studies, like the 2009 Downtown Parking and Mobility Master Plan, remain unimplemented. Recent efforts, including extensive community engagement and a 2023 City Council endorsement, aim to address these gaps. The current parking fund struggles to cover basic operations, with insufficient revenue to support operations and maintenance. The plan recommends rebalancing parking utilization and implementing new technologies to enhance the downtown area's vibrancy. Lastly, the presentation stressed that while financial sustainability is crucial, the broader goals of improving downtown density and vibrancy are equally important. More information about the plan and the Paid Parking presentation are available at <https://www.wichita.gov/1559/Park-Wichita>

D. Regional Transit Implementation Plan Update

Bill Troe, SRF, provided an update on the Regional Transit Implementation Plan, emphasizing the final phase of narrowing down transit service alternatives based on community interest and participation. Recent efforts have been focused on identifying which of the regional transit service alternatives might be most viable based on the community perspective of each WAMPO jurisdiction. Feedback has been received from about half of the jurisdictions. The project team is working to refine concepts, which will be divided into short-term recommendations, based on immediate needs and community interest, and aspirational alternatives, which aim to address broader regional goals, including improved commuter access and enhanced transit services within communities. Additionally, a new focus on employer coordination was introduced, with ongoing discussions involving key regional employers to explore potential partnerships and funding opportunities. The goal is to have a draft document by mid-October. There will be an employer focus group meeting on Monday, September 16, 2024, from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM at the Wichita Workforce Center, 2021 N. Amidon #1100, Wichita, KS 67203.

Regional Transit Implementation Plan webpage: www.wampo.org/regional-transit

Discussion:

Chair Kessler reiterated the Employer Focus Group meeting date and time. Marcy Aycock shared that the Workforce Alliance and the Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) have begun distributing the Employer Focus Group invitation.

6. Committee & Partnership Updates

None.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Meeting adjourned at 10:47 AM

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, September 23, 2024, at 10:00 AM.