



Meeting Summary

ICT Safe: A Regional Transportation Coalition

Wednesday, February 7, 2024, @ 9:30 AM

Online meeting

Meeting Duration: 59 minutes

Attendees		
Rick Backlund, FHWA	Markey Jonas, WAMPO	Heather Plaza, DUI Victims Center of Kansas
Doug Ballou, Blue Window	Alan Kailer, Bike Walk Wichita	Tia Raamot, Sedgwick County
Jack Brown, KUMC	Corey Kenney, Kansas Attorney General's Office	Dan Squires, Derby
Jane Byrnes	Ethan Kershaw, Wichita	Brian Turner, Wichita Sports Commission
Georgie Carter, Haysville	Daniel Kiser, KDOT LEL	Ingrid Vandervort, KDOT
Dylan Cossaart, WAMPO	Jenny Kramer, KDOT	James Wagner, Wichita
Nick Flanders, WAMPO	Dani Lasher, WAMPO	Jessica Warren, WAMPO
Lisa Frey Blume, KDHE	Aaron McGuire, KDOT LEL	Troy Wells, KDOT LEL
Dora Gallo, WAMPO	Robyn Meinholdt, KDOT	Bryan Wilson, Transition Council of South-Central Kansas
Jolene Graham, Andover	Patricia Middleton, KTSRO	
Tara Hanna, DUI Victims Center of Kansas	Peter Mohr, WAMPO	
Julia Hutchison, USD 259	Lizeth Ortega, Wichita	

I. Welcome

Dani Lasher, WAMPO, opened the meeting at 9:31 AM, welcoming everyone to the second ICT Safe: A Regional Transportation Coalition meeting.

II. November 1, 2023, Meeting Summary

ICT Safe Members reviewed the November 1, 2023, Meeting Summary. No concerns were raised.

III. Discussion Items

A. Introductions and Updates

Attendees introduced themselves and their agencies, noting any updates relevant to the ICT Safe mission and areas of interest.

B. Updates

Doug Ballou, Blue Window, shared that Blue Window administers twenty-five (25) sports marketing partnerships across the state including with the Wichita Wind Surge, Wichita Thunder, Open Golf Tournament, Wichita Festivals and Riverfest, 81 Speedway, Hartman Arena, Shocker Sports Properties, and the Wichita Sports Commission. Blue Window is a marketing contractor for KDOT that serves as their proxy for enlisting marketing partners and is primarily focused on impaired driving.

Mr. Ballou emphasized that these organizations are not just sports entities but that they are led by prominent civic and business leaders who are generally very well aligned with the goal of improving the quality of life in the region, including safety.

Mr. Ballou also noted a seeming improvement in law-enforcement officer morale, which helps forge closer collaboration in the community, and mentioned that in a recent conversation with Jay Miller, president of the Wichita Wind Surge baseball club, excitement was expressed about the most recent Riverfront and Delano development plan. The new Wind Surge ownership group, Silver Lake Investment Group, promotes itself as an ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) company, so there may be an intersection of interest with the ICT Safe Coalition goals.

C. Transition Council of South-Central Kansas

Bryan Wilson, Transition Council of South-Central Kansas, presented information about the organization's efforts to support individuals with disabilities transitioning to the adult world. He emphasized the importance of ensuring equal access to opportunities for all individuals, particularly focusing on transportation as a key factor in enabling community engagement and participation in daily activities, noting the important role transportation plays in living an independent, dignified, and fulfilled life. Mr. Wilson showcased the Council's website, highlighting features such as the hot asset map, which aims to provide comprehensive resources for individuals with disabilities and their families, including information on medical supports, job training, and community events. He emphasized the Council's commitment to collaboration with various stakeholders and agencies to ensure up-to-date and accessible information for the community. The presentation underscored the importance of inclusive transportation solutions in facilitating independence and participation for individuals with disabilities. For additional questions, more information, or to connect with the Transition Council of South-Central Kansas, please contact Bryan Wilson at bigbwilson45@gmail.com.

Transition Council of South-Central Kansas website - <https://www.transitioncouncil-scks.org/>

D. SS4A Demonstration and Implementation Grants

Ms. Lasher gave an in-depth presentation on the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP), which is meant to promote the safety of all users of the transportation system and aims to reduce and eliminate serious-injury and fatal crashes. The WAMPO CSAP was developed through a ten-month collaborative process with project consultants Burgess & Niple (B&N), TranSystems, and Vireo. During the plan development process, a group of transportation safety professionals in the region came together to establish the Transportation Safety Technical Advisors (TSTA) committee, which offered guidance, made plan development recommendations, and identified three major areas of emphasis, based on the data: intersections of concern, vulnerable road users, and speed-related crashes. The CSAP background information presented included the plan vision, goals, and targets, an overview of the planning process, the public and stakeholder engagement efforts, a review of transportation safety data and trends, and a discussion of implementation and next steps. ICT Safe: A Regional Transportation Coalition will meet regularly to carry out updates to the document and plan implementation. The CSAP was adopted by the TPB on December 12, 2023, and can be viewed at <https://www.wampo.org/safety>.

In mid-December 2023, notice was received that WAMPO was awarded a Federal Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) planning and demonstration grant in the amount of \$940,000, which can be used for supplemental planning and demonstration activities, such as educational campaigns and before-and-after studies. WAMPO staff are currently working closely with the FHWA to ensure full compliance with grant requirements and funding rules and will inform participating municipalities of additional information as it becomes available. Having adopted a CSAP, WAMPO is now eligible to apply for an SS4A implementation grant, which focuses on the execution of strategies identified in the CSAP and may involve major safety-related infrastructure improvements. These grants are anticipated to range from \$1 million to \$25 million and are highly competitive. WAMPO staff are developing an amendment to the 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that will reflect work tasks associated with the SS4A implementation grant application and program funding to hire a consultant to assist with the grant application. Amendment 1 to the 2024 UPWP will be brought to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for a recommendation on February 26, 2024, and to the Transportation Policy Body (TPB) for approval on March 12, 2024. Following approval of the amendment, WAMPO will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the SS4A consultant.

Discussion:

Jane Byrnes asked if any of the plans WAMPO is structuring focus on the safety of vulnerable road users and who is on the committee that will choose which projects to include.

Ms. Lasher said that some of the demonstration grant activities, such as before-and-after studies or temporary measures, could potentially focus on the safety of vulnerable road users. Since it is one of the major safety components identified in the CSAP, it would likely be a factor when choosing which projects to include in the implementation grant application when the time comes. Ms. Lasher shared that projects will be selected in cooperation with a consultant and Peter Mohr, WAMPO, explained that there will be discussions with the jurisdictions that participated in the initial grant application that was submitted in June 2023 to see what kinds of safety projects they might have.

Jack Brown, KUMC, clarified the projects will come from the WAMPO communities, which Mr. Mohr confirmed.

Dan Squires, Derby, asked if WAMPO will select which projects will be awarded the demonstration grant funding. Mr. Mohr said that WAMPO will work in collaboration with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), but the aim is to gather project ideas primarily from jurisdictions that participated in the initial grant application to ensure consistency with the grant's guidelines.

Ms. Byrnes asked if pre-existing plans are in place and Mr. Mohr replied that pre-existing plans are not required at this stage, but the eventual development of detailed plans will be necessary.

E. Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

Ms. Lasher presented on the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) initiative that strives to make it safer and easier for children to walk or ride bikes to school and gave an overview of the 174 public schools

distributed across 14 school districts in the WAMPO region. The majority of these schools and school districts lack Safe Routes to School plans that meet the Federal requirements necessary to qualify for Transportation Alternatives (TA) funding. WAMPO aims to address this gap by hiring a consultant to work with city and county governments, as well as schools and school districts to establish comprehensive SRTS plans that cover the entire WAMPO region.

WAMPO staff are preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire a consultant for the development of the plans and have a total of \$300,000 in Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) and Transportation Alternatives (TA) funds available in 2024, as well as \$200,000 in 2025. Once developed, these SRTS plans will show the specific needs of each school/school district, thereby increasing the likelihood of securing grants. WAMPO staff are working to make the 20% local match as attainable as possible for all jurisdictions.

Safe Routes to School - <https://www.saferoutesinfo.org/>
School District Tables - <https://bit.ly/SchoolDistrictTables>

Discussion:

Ms. Byrnes noted that some of the schools are more rural in their placement and raised concerns that SRTS focuses on active transportation (biking and walking), which is not feasible for remote schools, asking if ways to address this have been discussed.

Ms. Lasher shared that the overarching goal of SRTS is to connect as many of the nearby communities to the schools as possible, however that may be, mentioning that there have been discussions about strategies other than biking or walking and said that the SRTS partnership does a lot of work trying to tackle those issues.

Lisa Frey Blume, KDHE, commented that part of the question is school location siting and how school districts and local governments can be encouraged to think ahead about transportation issues before designating school locations. Ms. Frey Blume also noted that she attended the online Safe Routes to School Partnership national summit conference last year, which was very inspiring, and recommended that WAMPO staff, as well as interested school districts/jurisdictions, look into attending in the fall.

Safe Routes to School National Conference - <https://www.saferoutespartnership.org/SRTSConf24>

F. WAMPO/KDOT Behavioral Safety Grant Opportunity

Ms. Lasher announced that in March-April 2024, the Behavioral Safety Office of the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and WAMPO will jointly conduct a Call for Projects for Behavioral Safety Grants in the WAMPO region. This is a reimbursement grant. Funding for the grants comes from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and will be administered by KDOT. The total amount available for all projects in 2024 is \$50,000. Grant applications need to address the concerns of ICT Safe: A Regional Transportation Coalition, the Drive to Zero (Kansas Traffic Deaths) Coalition/Drive Safe Sedgwick, the WAMPO Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP), and/or the

Kansas Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Projects should fall under the Safer People element of the USDOT Safe System Approach and all grants under this program must focus on improving road-user behavior; construction projects are not eligible expenses.

Grant applications will be accepted March-April 2024, reviewed by KDOT, and awarded on October 1, 2024. Recipients will be expected to present status updates on their projects to the ICT Safe Coalition quarterly. Robyn Meinholdt (robyn.meinholdt@ks.gov), KDOT, can be contacted with media/communications purchasing questions, and Noel Schneider (noel.schneider@ks.gov), KDOT, can be contacted for equipment purchasing questions.

ICT Safe – <https://www.wampo.org/ict-safe>

Drive to Zero Coalition/Drive Safe Sedgwick – <https://kansasdrivetozero.com/drivesafesedgwick/>

WAMPO Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) – <https://bit.ly/WAMPO-CSAP>

Kansas Strategic Highway Safety Plan - <https://bit.ly/KansasStrategicHighwaySafetyPlan>

Discussion:

Alan Kailer, Bike Walk Wichita, asked what the grant amounts would be and who could apply for these grants. Ms. Lasher said that the suggested grant amount is \$1,000-\$30,000, with a total of \$50,000 being available for all projects. Troy Wells and Ingrid Vandervort, KDOT, replied that there are no restrictions to who is eligible to apply for these grants so long as the application thoroughly documents how the materials or monies awarded would be used to support the Safer People element of the Safe System Approach.

G. Open Discussion

Ms. Vandervort shared that the KDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety and the Drive to Zero Coalition invite all interested transportation safety advocates to attend the upcoming Transportation Safety Conference in Topeka from April 15-17, 2024. Members of WAMPO staff will attend. For details and to register please visit <https://hospitality.ku.edu/transportation-safety>.

Ms. Byrnes expressed her appreciation for the Coalition and WAMPO's safety efforts, noting the importance of measurability in safety goals.

Ms. Frey Blume shared that registration is now open for the upcoming free University of Kansas Transportation Center/KDOT Road Safety Assessment trainings focused on active transportation needs. The training is designed for city and county representatives, transportation professionals, advocates, and community members and there are six training locations across the state. For details and to register please visit <https://bit.ly/Road-Safety-Assessment-Trainings>.

Members of WAMPO staff will attend the training session on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, which will be held at the WAMPO offices at 271 W 3rd St, Room 203, Wichita KS, 67202.

III. Adjournment

Ms. Lasher adjourned the meeting at 10:30 AM.

The next ICT Safe meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 1, 2024, at 9:30 AM.

WAMPO's meeting minutes are not verbatim. TAC and TPB meetings are recorded and hosted on YouTube [@WAMPO Kansas](#). To request assistance accessing meeting recordings call (316) 779-1313 or email wampo@wampo.org.