



Meeting Minutes

Transportation Policy Body (TPB) Meeting Minutes
 Tuesday, July 9, 2024, @ 3:00 PM
 Hybrid Meeting: *Online & 271 W. 3rd St, Rm. 203, Wichita, KS 67202*
 Meeting Duration: 96 minutes

Voting Members in Attendance		
Becky Tuttle, <i>TPB Chair</i> Ryan Baty, <i>Sedgwick County</i> Jim Benage, <i>Bel Aire</i> David Dennis, <i>Sedgwick County</i> Dalton Glasscock, <i>Wichita</i> Jim Howell, <i>Sedgwick County</i> J.V. Johnston, <i>Wichita</i> Russ Kessler, <i>Haysville</i>	George Liebe, <i>Goddard</i> Pete Meitzner, <i>Sedgwick County</i> Mike Moriarty, <i>KDOT</i> Terry Somers, <i>SCAC</i> Nick Squires, <i>KDOT</i> Burt Ussery, <i>Clearwater</i> Mike Warrington, <i>Andover</i>	Alternates Nick Gregory, <i>Maize (voting)</i> Warren Porter, <i>Rose Hill (voting)</i> J.B. Wilson, <i>KDOT (non-voting)</i>
Other Attendees		
Raven Alexander, <i>Wichita Transit</i> Rick Backlund, <i>FHWA</i> Kaylee Bates, <i>WAMPO</i> Craig Compton, <i>CEDBR</i> Dylan Cossaart, <i>WAMPO</i> Chaitanya Dodda, <i>WAMPO</i> Penny Feist, <i>Wichita Transit</i> Nick Flanders, <i>WAMPO</i> Dora Gallo, <i>WAMPO</i> Evan Hathaway, <i>Hite, Fanning & Honeyman L.L.P.</i>	Gary Janzen, <i>Wichita</i> Markey Jonas, <i>WAMPO</i> Alan Kailer, <i>Bike Walk Wichita</i> Brett Letkowski, <i>TranSystems</i> Mohamed Moawad, <i>MAPD</i> Peter Mohr, <i>WAMPO</i> ThaiBinh Mursch, <i>MAPD</i> Kim Neufeld, <i>WAMPO</i> Jonathan Norris, <i>CEDBR</i> Lynn Packer, <i>Sedgwick County</i> Chad Parasa, <i>WAMPO</i>	Kelly Rundell, <i>Hite, Fanning & Honeyman L.L.P.</i> Allison Smith, <i>KDOT</i> Todd Stennis, <i>Amtrak</i> Kyle Thomas, <i>WAMPO</i> Zara Thomas, <i>WAMPO</i> Bill Troe, <i>SRF</i> Tyler Voth, <i>WSP</i>

1. Chair Becky Tuttle called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

2. Regular Business

A. Approval of the July 9, 2024, Agenda

Discussion: None.

Action: Approve the July 9, 2024, agenda, as presented. (15-0)¹

Motion: David Dennis

Second: Russ Kessler

B. Approval of the June 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Discussion: None.

Action: Approve the June 11, 2024, meeting minutes, as presented. (15-0)²

¹ Two (2) voting TPB members did not arrive until after the vote to approve the July 2024 agenda.

² One (1) voting TPB member did not arrive until after the vote to approve the June 2024 minutes and one (1) voting TPB member abstained from the vote to approve the June 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.

Motion: Jim Benage

Second: Nick Gregory

C. Director's Report

i. Quarterly UPWP Task Chart

Chad Parasa, WAMPO, shared that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the primary budgeting document for planning activities in the calendar year and presented WAMPO's priority projects in the 2024 UPWP as well as the status of each. WAMPO staff completed a UPWP activity report for the second quarter of 2024 (April 1-June 30) to submit as part of WAMPO's quarterly reimbursement package to KDOT.

April – June 2024 UPWP Report – <https://bit.ly/3xJWbc9>

ii. 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 July 2024 was shared.

July 2024 TIP Project Statuses - <https://bit.ly/July2024-TIP-Project-Statuses>

iii. Wichita Bicycle Master Plan Update

Kim Neufeld, WAMPO, shared that the City of Wichita is developing a new bicycle plan that will update the 2013 Wichita Bicycle Master Plan. It is expected to be completed by Fall 2024 and will establish a new vision and goals for bicycling in Wichita. The plan will include a city-wide bicycle network, priority locations for bicycle infrastructure improvements, bicycle parking improvements, programs and policies to support bicycling, an action plan and funding strategies, and conceptual bicycle improvements for several priority locations. To learn more or provide input, visit www.wichitabicycleplan.com.

Discussion: David Dennis asked if the plan includes areas outside of city limits. Ms. Neufeld said that this plan focuses on the City of Wichita, but that WAMPO's upcoming Regional Active Transportation Plan will include regional connections and will extend across the entire WAMPO region.

Jim Benage asked if regional maps have been proposed. Ms. Neufeld explained that WAMPO is waiting for the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan to wrap up before developing the Regional Active Transportation Plan, which will map regional connections.

iv. **Safety Updates**

Ms. Neufeld stated that WAMPO places safety at the forefront of transportation planning and provided an update on recent safety-related initiatives, including a Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire a consultant to assist with the development of Safe Routes to School (SRTS) plans, the WAMPO/KDOT Behavioral Safety Grant Opportunity, and the status of the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Planning and Demonstration grant.

Discussion: Chair Tuttle asked which jurisdictions will be conducting the demonstration grant activities. Ms. Neufeld said she would need to check the list, but that the participating jurisdictions are aware of their involvement.

v. **MTP 2050 Public Engagement Round 3**

Markey Jonas, WAMPO, shared that the third round of public engagement for Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050 (MTP 2050) was conducted from May 20 through June 30, 2024. A survey was available online and WAMPO staff attended community events to engage with the public and collect responses to the survey on paper. A total of 474 surveys were received and results are being analyzed. TPB members were thanked for their participation in the survey and for helping extend WAMPO's reach.

vi. **Video: KTA Cashless Tolling**

Ms. Jonas announced that the Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA) has rolled out cashless tolling operations and shared a video with more details about cashless tolling. For more information, please visit <https://driveks.com>.

KTA Trips vs Transactions Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMbdA_fvSjU

Discussion: Chair Tuttle shared that the Kansas Turnpike Authority is looking for opportunities for community engagement and recommended reaching out to them.

vii. **Grants and Opportunities: U.S. EPA Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program NOFO open through July 25, 2024**

Mr. Mohr shared that a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program is open through 11:59 PM ET on July 25, 2024. This competitive grant program is open to states, territories, municipalities, school districts, Indian tribes, and nonprofit school transportation associations and funds the replacement of non-zero-emission Class 6/7 heavy-duty vehicles with zero-emission Class 6/7 heavy duty vehicles. The NOFO, detailed eligibility information, application instructions, and links to information on other funding programs may be found at <https://www.epa.gov/clean-heavy-duty-vehicles-program/clean-heavy-duty-vehicles-grant-program>.

viii. **Requests for Proposals (RFPs)**

Mr. Mohr announced that WAMPO has issued or is preparing to issue several Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for consultants to assist with the region's Intelligent Transportation

Systems (ITS) architecture, Travel Demand Model (TDM) update (phase 2), Safe Routes to School (SRTS) planning assistance, and a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) implementation-grant application (in 2025). Active Requests for Proposals can be viewed at <https://www.wampo.org/wampo-is-hiring> and RFP submissions can be emailed to wampo@wampo.org.

ix. August Funding Redistribution

Mr. Parasa, Mr. Mohr, and Rick Backlund, FHWA, explained that August Redistribution is an opportunity to assign federal funds to local projects before the end of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY), if there is an available balance. There is a short time window to program funding to projects, and the projects selected must be in a position where they can obligate funding within a short time frame, so identifying projects to absorb the funding can be challenging. WAMPO is working with member jurisdictions to find opportunities to utilize additional FFY2024 funding.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Action

No action items were presented for TPB approval.

5. Discussion/Updates

A. FFY2025-FFY2028 TIP Public Comment Period

Mr. Mohr presented details about the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2025-2028, which is available for public comment June 12, 2024, through July 11, 2024. Public comments received during this 30-day period will be reported to and considered by the WAMPO Technical Advisory Committee for a recommendation on July 22, 2024, and to the WAMPO Transportation Policy Body, which will decide whether to revise the document prior to final approval on August 13, 2024. For more information and to view the draft document and executive summary, please visit www.wampo.org/transportation-improvement-program.

B. Heartland Flyer Update

Pete Meitzner, Sedgwick County, explained that in December 2023, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) selected the Heartland Flyer Extension between Oklahoma City, OK, and Newton, KS (through Wichita, KS) as a possible future intercity passenger rail route in the Corridor Identification and Development Program and shared details about a recent celebration in Oklahoma City regarding the Heartland Flyer and Amtrak. During the event, Amtrak provided a comprehensive update on the Heartland Flyer extension, including an outline and confirmation of related developments. Mr. Meitzner noted the importance of the project in the WAMPO region and introduced Todd Stennis, Amtrak Director of Government Affairs.

Mr. Stennis highlighted the ongoing efforts to extend the Heartland Flyer service to Newton, KS, and emphasized the importance of champions at all levels for passenger rail expansion projects. A brief history of Amtrak was provided, detailing its creation in 1970, in response to financial

struggles faced by railroads. Amtrak, established under the Rail Passenger Services Act, began operations in 1971, operating a vast network with significant ridership and energy efficiency. The preference and access agreements that allow Amtrak trains priority over freight trains were explained, though enforcement is needed. State-supported lines were discussed, noting that a significant portion of Amtrak's ridership comes from these routes, which have evolved under federal legislation. Misconceptions about the \$66 billion investment from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) were clarified, explaining that the funds are distributed through competitive grants, rather than directly to Amtrak. The Corridor ID program, which received numerous applications, aims to expand passenger rail services. KDOT is laying the groundwork for the Heartland Flyer extension, supported by letters from Oklahoma and Texas. The need for matching funds at the state and local levels to leverage federal funding was underscored, using Louisiana as an example of successful state-led initiatives. The conclusion encouraged decision-makers to secure legislative support for matching funds to advance rail service expansion projects.

Heartland Flyer Amtrak Presentation - <https://bit.ly/Heartland-Flyer-Amtrak-Slides>

C. Wichita Transit Network Plan

Raven Alexander, Wichita Transit, gave an update on the Wichita Transit Network Plan, sharing that the project team is in the process of reviewing comments and responding to engagement received during a recent survey and stakeholder meetings. The team is also beginning to segue into additional items listed in the project scope, such as looking at future growth. More information is expected soon, including on a menu of anticipated costs, expanding routes, adjusting frequencies, and the various capital and infrastructure needs required to support growth. Other updates mentioned include that there have been more than 518,000 trips on Wichita Transit so far in 2024 and that the Veterans Ride Free program will continue through July 2026.

Discussion: Chair Tuttle commended United Way of the Plains and the VA for their support and funding to extend Veterans Ride Free. More information on the program is available at <https://unitedwayplains.org/basic-needs/veterans-ride-free/>

D. Regional Transit Implementation Plan Update

Bill Troe, SRF, provided an update on the Regional Transit Implementation Plan, focusing on the need for input from each jurisdiction regarding the service alternative concepts. Representatives were asked to review a recent email from WAMPO, seeking community perspectives on various transit alternatives. The importance of discussing these alternatives within communities was emphasized, with a focus on identifying which ones are supported and which do not apply to their needs. The feedback is crucial for developing an efficient transit system and governance structure for the region. Mr. Troe offered to assist jurisdictions in reviewing the alternatives and encouraged them to contact BTroe@srfconsulting.com with any questions or to schedule a session for further discussion.

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

E. Population Projections

Jonathan Norris, CEDBR, explained that, in collaboration with Wichita State University's Center for Economic Development and Business Research (CEDBR), WAMPO recently developed population projections to the year 2050, incorporating projections calculated by/for WAMPO's individual member jurisdictions. Though this approach provided a more inclusive representation of the assumptions employed by WAMPO member jurisdictions to reflect their individual circumstances, subsequent feedback has indicated that these projections may not accurately capture the internal growth patterns of the metropolitan area and may exceed reasonable expectations for the future regional population. To address this feedback, WAMPO staff and consultants have worked together to develop a new methodology for creating projections, the details of which were presented. The new methodology was applied to project WAMPO-region population growth and the most recent draft of the revised projections, which incorporate building-permit data from 20 of 22 municipalities, was presented.

Key components of the new model include community net migration, employment forecasts, and building permits. Mr. Norris explained that this approach allows for dynamic projections at the community level, constrained by overall regional forecasts. The revised model also adjusts the weighting of migration and employment factors to stabilize estimates and reduce volatility and incorporates building-permit data to further refine the projections to ensure they reflect actual development investments. The population projections will be presented to the TAC for a formal recommendation on July 22, 2024, and to the TPB for approval on August 13, 2024.

Methodology, Growth Rates, and Population Projections Update Presentation - <https://bit.ly/CEDBR-Population-Projections-Presentation-JulyTPB>

Discussion:

Mike Warrington asked what starting point was used for the data and when the projections would next be revised. Mr. Norris said that the decennial census from 2020 was used because it is deemed most accurate. Mr. Mohr explained that population projections are updated with the development of each new Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which is every five years. Mr. Warrington asked for clarification about the projected numbers for Eastborough. Mr. Norris explained that although the geographic size of Eastborough and number of residences are unlikely to change, the number of people per household is projected to decrease.

Nick Gregory asked for more details about the regional constraint. Mr. Norris shared that, based on statewide projections, the annualized state growth rate would be 0.67%. The rate projected for the WAMPO region currently stands at 0.71%, which is more optimistic but within the margin of confidence.

Burt Ussery asked about the intent of these projections and whether funding distribution is tied to the projected population. Mr. Dennis expressed concerns that funding will be tied to the population, rather than to connectivity. Mr. Parasa and Mr. Mohr shared that population is one of many criteria considered by the Project Selection Committee, and there is not a direct relationship between the projected population and how funding is allocated. For example, the

percentage of the WAMPO-region population within a given jurisdiction does not mean that the jurisdiction will receive that percentage of the overall funding. Rather, funding is distributed based on usage and need. The population projections will be used to run the Travel Demand Model (TDM) to calculate expected traffic patterns, growth, and demand on the existing system and will be incorporated into WAMPO's long-range planning document.

Mr. Benage asked if CEDBR looked at the projected Census data from 2023. Mr. Norris said that the team opted not to use it because the methodology used was not clear.

Mr. Warrington commented that the current Andover population may already be higher than the projected 2030 population. Mr. Norris said he would be interested in learning more about the basis for the current estimated population.

George Liebe asked about the commuter flows and how they tie into the population projections. Mr. Norris explained that CEDBR also developed an employment forecast which was one of the factors in the migration estimate within the methodology.

6. Committee & Partnership Updates

Chair Tuttle announced that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be at 11:00 AM on August 15, 2024, in the MAPD Conference Room in the Ronald Reagan Building (271 W 3rd St. N, Room 237, Wichita, KS 67202) and on Zoom. It will be an open meeting; anyone is welcome to attend.

Mike Moriarty, KDOT, shared that the K-15 corridor planning process is officially kicking off on Friday, July 12, 2024. Early reports are expected within a few months.

J.B. Wilson, KDOT Wichita Metro, provided notice of upcoming construction: on Friday, July 12, 2024, northbound I-135 from 2nd to 9th St. will have the right and center lane closed until 5:00 AM Monday, at which point the center lane will be reopened. The on-ramp from 2nd Street will be closed while this section of the right lane is receiving maintenance. The bridge from westbound US 54 to the Eisenhower Airport Parkway rehabilitation has been completed as phase one of a three-phase project; north and southbound Eisenhower Parkway will have center and left lanes closed for maintenance until August. On I-135, the northbound ramp to westbound US 54 is currently undergoing milling, patching, and overlay, which is currently set to be concluded in August 2024.

Mr. Parasa shared that the FHWA recently hired a Community Planner. The new FHWA Kansas Division Office planner will be Mr. Wiley (Will) Sharp, who will start on Monday, July 15, 2024.

7. Other Business

None.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 PM.

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 3:00 PM.