



Meeting Minutes

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 25, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

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

Meeting Duration: *57 minutes*

Voting Members in Attendance		
Russ Kessler, <i>TAC Chair</i> Marcy Aycock, <i>REAP</i> Craig Crossette, <i>Regional Pathways</i> Duane Flug, <i>KDOT</i> Danielle Gabor, <i>SCAC</i> Paul Gunzelman, <i>Wichita</i>	Gary Janzen, <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>	Alternates Emily Jensen, <i>CTD #9 (voting)</i> James Wagner, <i>Wichita (non-voting)</i>
Other Attendees		
Kaylee Bates, <i>WAMPO</i> Jane Byrnes Mitch Coffman, <i>Toole Design</i> Craig Compton, <i>WSU CEDBR</i> Nick Flanders, <i>WAMPO</i> Dora Gallo, <i>WAMPO</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> Kim Negrete, <i>WAMPO</i> Chad Parasa, <i>WAMPO</i> Marcela Quintanilla	Kaylee Sands, <i>FTA</i> Will Sharp, <i>FHWA</i> Kyle Thomas, <i>WAMPO</i> Bill Troe, <i>SRF</i> Tyler Voth, <i>WSP</i>

1. Chair Russ Kessler called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

2. Regular Business

A. Approval of November 25, 2024, Agenda¹

Discussion: None.

Action: Approve the November 25, 2024, agenda, as proposed. (12-0)

Motion: Paul Gunzelman

Second: Danielle Gabor

B. Approval of October 28, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Discussion: None.

Action: Approve the October 28, 2024, meeting minutes, as proposed. (12-0)

Motion: Lynn Packer

Second: Shawn Mellies

¹ A quorum was not present when the meeting was called to order, so the votes to approve the November agenda and October minutes were held following the Director’s Report, once the quorum was met.

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C. Director's Report

i. Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050 (MTP 2050) Update

Nick Flanders, WAMPO, shared that WAMPO is developing long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050 (MTP 2050) and provided an update on plan-development progress. On November 12, 2024, the TPB approved the Project Selection Committee's recommendations for MTP 2050 priority transportation projects for the period 2025-2050. Draft sections of MTP 2050 have been, and continue to be, posted incrementally, with individual chapters and appendices available on the WAMPO website for public review. Following review by the Plan Advisory Committee (PAC), the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), and federal planning partners, a 30-day public-comment period is planned during March and April 2025.

MTP 2050 webpage, with draft sections uploaded as available: www.wampo.org/mtp2050

ii. FTA Section 5310 Program

Dora Gallo, WAMPO, explained that the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program, also known as the Section 5310 Program, provides funding to support the transportation needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities. The program aims to reduce transportation barriers and enhance mobility for these populations through funding allocated to states, local transit organizations, and nonprofits. WAMPO is accepting applications for this competitive grant program, inviting eligible organizations to apply for funding to improve transit accessibility, safety, and inclusion for seniors and individuals with disabilities in the region. The application period opened on November 15, 2024, and submissions are due January 17, 2025. Please visit www.wampo.org/wampo-5310 for more information.

iii. Draft 2025 WAMPO Meeting Schedule

Markey Jonas, WAMPO, presented the draft 2025 WAMPO meeting schedule. All meetings currently on the 2025 calendar follow established meeting frequency patterns (e.g., TAC meetings are on the fourth Monday of each month), with the exception of the May 2025 TAC meeting, which has been scheduled a week early due to Memorial Day, and the November 2025 TPB meeting, which has been scheduled a week late due to Veterans Day. Please visit www.wampo.org/events for WAMPO's full schedule and updates.

WAMPO board and committee members should have received a calendar invitation serving as a placeholder for 2025 meetings; meeting-specific information and Zoom links will be sent as each meeting date approaches. The meeting schedule will be considered for formal approval by the TPB on December 10, 2024.

iv. Transportation Safety Champions

Chad Parasa, WAMPO, shared that WAMPO is launching a new program that will engage local organizations and individuals in promoting transportation safety.

Kim Negrete, WAMPO, explained that the Transportation Safety Champions program will recruit organizations and individuals who are passionate about improving safety for all road users. The purpose of this initiative is to further reach WAMPO residents with transportation safety messages and activities that will help create more awareness and improve driving behaviors with the ultimate goal of reducing and eliminating serious injuries and fatalities on our roadways.

Ms. Gallo shared that WAMPO will connect with jurisdictions for help identifying safety champions and creating clubs/groups. In addition to partnering with existing organizations, stand-alone groups and individual champions will be welcomed.

WAMPO anticipates that the Transportation Safety Champions program will be resident-led and will grow and evolve organically, with WAMPO staff serving in a support role for meeting facilitation. Those involved may be provided with conversation topics, after which they can elect to host a small gathering to discuss the topic and provide feedback, share their related stories, or share safety messaging on social media and within their circles of influence. This community-based initiative aims to improve traffic safety by recognizing and involving every individual.

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Action

None.

5. Discussion/Updates

A. Project Cost-Benefit Analysis

Craig Compton, WSU CEDBR, shared that WAMPO has partnered with the Wichita State University (WSU) Center for Economic Development and Business Research (CEDBR) and JEO Consulting Group to create a model for conducting cost-benefit analyses of transportation projects. As a component of this analysis, CEDBR has employed advanced modeling software to detail how specific infrastructure investments benefit the local economy. Mr. Compton explained the concept of direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts and introduced IMPLAN, a software tool used to calculate these impacts. IMPLAN analyzes the economic impact of investments by considering the flow of money through various sectors of the economy. The software provides detailed outputs, such as employment, wages, value added, and tax revenue. The presentation concluded by demonstrating an example of the tool's capabilities.

Peter Mohr, WAMPO, provided background details about the value of an economic analysis approach for projects and discussed using IMPLAN to estimate the economic impact of future WAMPO projects, providing valuable insights for decision-making and project prioritization.

Project Cost-Benefit Analysis Presentation Slides: <https://bit.ly/CEDBR-Project-Impact-Slides>

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Discussion:

Gary Janzen asked if this analysis process is being applied to all projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and whether the data would be made available. Mr. Mohr said that the plan is to eventually use the software to generate economic data for all projects.

Chair Kessler asked about the timing of the analysis, and whether it would be applied before or after project completion. Mr. Mohr explained that the analysis could be conducted before project initiation, given basic scope information, and that the accuracy of the model would improve with more detailed information.

Lynn Packer inquired about the applicability of the analysis to all types of transportation projects. Mr. Compton said that the analysis is primarily focused on the construction phase of projects. Mr. Parasa shared that there are various approaches to analyzing different types of projects and noted that further analysis would still be needed to quantify the broader economic benefit of a transportation project.

B. Wichita Bicycle Plan

Paul Gunzelman, Wichita, explained that the draft Wichita Bicycle Plan is available for public review and comment. It expands upon the 2013 Wichita Bicycle Master Plan to improve bicycle safety, comfort, and accessibility. The plan features updated goals, a long-term bikeway network, and prioritized routes, addressing current barriers and guiding city decisions on bicycle policies and infrastructure.

Mitch Coffman, Toole Design, provided details about the contents of the plan, emphasizing safety, comfort, and convenience as key priorities. The plan aims to create a low-stress network of bikeways by separating bike lanes from motor vehicle traffic and utilizing quiet residential streets. It includes a variety of strategies, such as infrastructure improvements, policy changes, and educational initiatives. Key elements of the plan involve identifying priority bikeways, exploring opportunities for opportunistic implementation, and considering different facility types to accommodate various bicycle-rider needs.

The draft plan was presented to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board (BPAB) on November 18, 2024, and will be presented to the Wichita City Council in December. For more information and to view the draft plan, please visit www.wichitabicycleplan.com/.

Discussion:

Chair Kessler asked if the plan is only for Wichita or for surrounding areas as well. Mr. Gunzelman said that it is just for Wichita but that the project team is interested in opportunities to connect the plan to those of surrounding communities.

Mr. Janzen asked if projects completed since 2013 were evaluated to help inform the development of the draft plan. Mr. Gunzelman and Mr. Coffman said that existing projects were considered and that there is forthcoming guidance from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) for the development of bikeways, including design guidance.

C. Regional Active Transportation Plan

Ms. Gallo announced that WAMPO is in the early stages of developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Regional Active Transportation Plan, with the aim of creating a more connected, safe, and accessible network for nonmotorized transportation across the region. The RFP will prioritize infrastructure, policy, and program improvements and will incorporate public input to identify barriers to and opportunities for active transportation. A recent meeting of the WAMPO Active Transportation Committee highlighted the importance of enhancing wheelchair accessibility, addressing regulatory gaps for motorized bicycles and scooters, and identifying obstacles to smooth travel. The committee also emphasized the need for bike lanes to reach popular destinations, thorough public engagement, and clear policy recommendations.

Mr. Parasa provided more details about aspects WAMPO may like the final plan to include, such as the identification of “catalyst projects” that foster connectivity and improve quality of life as well as cost estimates for the development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Discussion:

Craig Crossette asked if there would be a call for projects for the plan. Mr. Parasa shared that the plan-development process will involve general discussions rather than a call for projects.

D. Regional Transit Implementation Plan

Bill Troe, SRF, provided an update on the development of the Regional Transit Implementation Plan, sharing that key parts of the draft plan have been compiled after considering various factors, including jurisdictional perspectives, funding capabilities, and service needs. A matrix outlining potential transit alternatives and the applicability of these alternatives to different jurisdictions was highlighted. The plan focuses on collaboration across the region, as well as with major employers, to implement transit solutions and aims to identify easily implementable alternatives, such as vanpooling, to improve access to employment opportunities. The draft partial Regional Transit Implementation Plan is available for review at <https://bit.ly/Draft-Partial-Report-Regional-Transit-Implementation-Plan>.

6. Committee & Partnership Updates

None.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Meeting adjourned at 10:59 AM

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, January 27, 2024, at 10:00 AM.