



## Meeting Minutes

Transportation Policy Body (TPB) Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 10, 2024, @ 3:00 PM

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

Meeting Duration: 84 minutes

Voting Members in Attendance		
Russ Kessler, <i>Vice Chair</i> Ryan Baty, <i>Sedgwick County</i> Jim Benage, <i>Bel Aire</i> David Dennis, <i>Sedgwick County</i> Nick Engle, <i>Derby</i> Jim Howell, <i>Sedgwick County</i> George Liebe, <i>Goddard</i>	Pete Meitzner, <i>Sedgwick County</i> Terry Somers, <i>SCAC</i> Nick Squires, <i>KDOT</i> Jet Truman, <i>Valley Center</i> Burt Ussery, <i>Clearwater</i> Mike Warrington, <i>Andover</i>	<b>Alternates</b> Nick Gregory, <i>Maize (voting)</i> J.B. Wilson, <i>KDOT (non-voting)</i>
Other Attendees		
Raven Alexander, <i>Wichita Transit</i> Jane Byrnes Dylan Cossaart, <i>WAMPO</i> Steve Degenhardt, <i>Wichita</i> Penny Feist, <i>Wichita Transit</i> Nick Flanders, <i>WAMPO</i> Dora Gallo, <i>WAMPO</i> Michele Gifford, <i>Textron</i> Paul Gunzelman, <i>Wichita</i> Evan Hathaway, <i>Hite, Fanning &amp; Honeyman L.L.P.</i>	Markey Jonas, <i>WAMPO</i> Alan Kailer, <i>Bike Walk Wichita</i> Sruthi Kesa, <i>WAMPO</i> Brett Letkowski, <i>TranSystems</i> Mike Malone, <i>JEO</i> Peter Mohr, <i>WAMPO</i> ThaiBinh Mursch, <i>MAPD</i> Kim Negrete, <i>WAMPO</i> Lynn Packer, <i>Sedgwick County</i> Chad Parasa, <i>WAMPO</i> Deepu Poreddy, <i>WAMPO</i>	Pimnara Rodkul, <i>Wichita Transit</i> Kelly Rundell, <i>Hite, Fanning &amp; Honeyman L.L.P.</i> Kaylee Sands, <i>FTA</i> Riley Schmitz, <i>JEO</i> Will Sharp, <i>FHWA</i> Brad Shores, <i>JEO</i> Allison Smith, <i>KDOT</i> Kyle Thomas, <i>WAMPO</i> Tyler Voth, <i>WSP</i> Jim Weber, <i>JEO</i>

### 1. Vice Chair Russ Kessler called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

### 2. Regular Business

#### A. Approval of the December 10, 2024, Agenda

**Discussion:** None.

**Action:** Approve the December 10, 2024, agenda, as presented. (13-0)<sup>1</sup>

**Motion:** Jim Benage

**Second:** George Liebe

#### B. Approval of the November 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes

**Discussion:** None.

**Action:** Approve the November 12, 2024, meeting minutes, as presented. (13-0)

<sup>1</sup> One (1) voting TPB member did not arrive until after the votes to approve the December 2024 agenda and November 2024 minutes. WAMPO provides meeting minutes that 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](mailto:wampo@wampo.org).

**Motion:** George Liebe

**Second:** Nick Gregory

## C. Director's Report

### i. 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. The Transportation Safety Champions program will recruit organizations and individuals 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 roadways. 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.

### ii. FTA Section 5310 Program

Mr. Parasa 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 November 15, 2024, and submissions are due by January 17, 2025. Please visit [www.wampo.org/wampo-5310](http://www.wampo.org/wampo-5310) for more information.

### iii. Regional Active Transportation Plan

Mr. Parasa shared 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.

**iv. KDOT Passenger Rail Public Meeting – 12/11/2024 @ 1:00 PM via Zoom**

Markey Jonas, WAMPO, shared that the Kansas Department of Transportation is holding a live virtual meeting on December 11, 2024, at 1:00 PM to discuss the expansion of passenger rail in south-central Kansas. The proposed project would extend the Amtrak Heartland Flyer passenger rail service from Oklahoma City, OK, through Wichita, KS, to Newton, KS, where it would connect with the Southwest Chief, a national route on Amtrak’s passenger rail network. Following the live meeting, a virtual open house will be available until January 1, 2025. For more information, please visit [www.ksdot.gov/passrail/](http://www.ksdot.gov/passrail/).

**D. Consent Agenda**

Peter Mohr, WAMPO, presented the consent agenda items.

**i. 2025 TPB and TAC Meeting Dates**

The TPB was asked to take action on the proposed 2025 Transportation Policy Body (TPB) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting schedules. In 2025, the TPB is proposed to continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 3:00 PM, and the TAC is proposed to continue to meet on the fourth Monday of each month at 10:00 AM, with no December meeting. All but two proposed meeting dates adhere to the established frequency pattern; the TAC meeting on May 19, 2025, is one week early, to not conflict with Memorial Day, and the TPB meeting on November 18, 2025, is one week late, to not conflict with Veterans Day.

**ii. Regional Transit Implementation Plan Contract Extension**

The TPB was asked to take action on a proposed contract extension with SRF Consulting Group, Inc., to continue to provide regional transit planning services through June 30, 2025. The extension includes an additional \$24,902.87 in services, bringing the new contract total to an amount not to exceed \$174,826.98, up from the current contract limit of \$149,922.11. The recommended extension will allow the consultant group and subcontractors to further engage large employers and local governments in the development of the Regional Transit Implementation Plan.

**Discussion:**

Jim Benage asked why the contract was being extended and expressed disappointment in the work presented to the TPB about the plan so far. Mr. Mohr and Mr. Parasa explained that stakeholders and the steering committee have expressed interest in more employer engagement and exploring public-private partnerships.

**Action:** Remove the Regional Transit Implementation Plan Contract Extension from the consent agenda. (14-0)

**Motion:** Jim Benage

**Second:** George Liebe

**Action:** Approve the modified consent agenda, including the 2025 TPB and TAC Meeting Dates, but not the Regional Transit Implementation Plan. (14-0)

**Motion:** Jim Benage

**Second:** Nick Engle

**Action:** Rejected motion to not approve the Regional Transit Implementation Plan Contract Extension. (3-6)<sup>2</sup>

**Motion:** Jim Benage

**Second:** George Liebe

**Discussion:**

Nick Gregory questioned the implications of not approving the extension, noting that the plan might remain incomplete, and Mr. Parasa explained that the extension is proposed to finalize additional elements recommended by the steering committee. Without a contract extension, the plan's progress and seamless continuity of work may be jeopardized. Mike Warrington suggested requesting a more detailed presentation from the consultant to address past deficiencies in project progression that were discussed, potentially deferring the decision.

David Dennis asked about the feasibility of delaying approval by one month. Mr. Parasa noted that a time limit existed due to pending invoices and ongoing work commitments. Burt Ussery inquired if there were existing contract provisions for missed deadlines and about the reasons behind the contract-extension request. Mr. Parasa clarified that new elements had been added to the scope of work, which necessitated the extension.

Allison Smith highlighted concerns regarding additional costs and compliance with Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation goals, noting a decline in the percentage allocated to DBEs, despite the contract's general proposed cost increase. Mr. Parasa and Mr. Mohr shared that WAMPO would review DBE allocations further.

Ms. Smith suggested a no-cost time extension to allow further discussion. Kelly Rundell affirmed this approach, noting that the contract could be amended after its December 31, 2024, expiration, or could be amended now and then again once an agreement on how best to proceed is reached.

Mr. Mohr commented on the importance of approving aspects of the extension to maintain invoice compliance and ensure progress. Mr. Dennis proposed extending the contract duration while approving subconsultant adjustments to facilitate reimbursement processes. The discussion concluded with a general consensus on extending the contract timeframe for two months with the possibility of revisiting additional work and budget amendments at a later date.

**Action:** Approve extending the Regional Transit Implementation Plan contract to February 28, 2025, with the only other proposed contract change adopted at this time being to include the revised labor-hours allocations between primary consultant SRF and subconsultant Nelson

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<sup>2</sup> Five (5) voting TPB members abstained from the vote on the motion to not approve the Regional Transit Implementation Plan Contract Extension.

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Nygaard, without Nelson Nygaard receiving any additional funds for this adjustment, and not approving at this time the other proposed contract changes that would have expanded the scope and increased the cost. (13-0)<sup>3</sup>

**Motion:** David Dennis

**Second:** Nick Gregory

### 3. Public Comment Opportunity

Jane Byrnes spoke on the importance of prioritizing the safety and health of pedestrians and bicycle riders in transportation planning. The comment highlighted concerns about the increasing size of vehicles and their impact on pedestrian safety, noting recent local incidents involving pedestrians struck by cars in Wichita, stressed the limitations of addressing these issues solely as police matters, given officer shortages, and advocated for improved road design, with features such as marked crosswalks and reduced vehicle speeds. Ms. Byrnes referenced WAMPO's annual bicycle and pedestrian count as evidence of the community's interest in active transportation and called for the incorporation of safer infrastructure to support individuals walking, biking, and otherwise commuting outside of vehicles and concluded by urging the adoption of science-based approaches to transportation planning that prioritize safety and public health.

### 4. Action

None.

### 5. Discussion/Updates

#### A. 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. The presentation 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 include identifying priority bikeways, exploring opportunities for opportunistic implementation, and considering different facility types to accommodate various bicycle-rider needs. The draft plan will be presented to the Wichita City Council in January 2025. For more information and to view the draft plan, please visit [www.wichitabicycleplan.com/](http://www.wichitabicycleplan.com/).

#### **Discussion:**

Mr. Warrington raised several questions regarding the costs associated with different types of bicycle facilities and asked if cost-per-mile estimates had been developed for the different scenarios. Mr. Warrington also expressed concerns about road widening, lane reductions, and the overall financial implications for taxpayers.

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<sup>3</sup> One (1) voting TPB member left before the vote to approve the modified extension of the Regional Transit Implementation Plan contract. 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](mailto:wampo@wampo.org).

Mr. Gunzelman said that the cost estimates are complex and vary between projects, providing examples of recent and ongoing bicycle-facility projects. The City of Wichita is issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for designing improvements on 127th Street, between Douglas and 13th Street, which will involve evaluating options like separated cycle tracks or buffered bike lanes to create safer conditions. While these measures add costs, they also enhance safety and usability.

Mr. Warrington brought up the legal aspects of bicycle usage on roads, drawing parallels to motor vehicle regulations that require licenses and inspections. Mr. Gunzelman indicated that he would need to review the current ordinances to provide a definitive answer and mentioned that educational initiatives would be part of the implementation strategy.

Mr. Warrington emphasized the importance of involving law enforcement to ensure safety as bicycle usage increases. Vice Chair Kessler noted that bicycle ordinances vary by city. Mr. Parasa concluded the discussion by reiterating that WAMPO's Regional Active Transportation Plan will aim to connect all cities and jurisdictions within the area.

## **B. Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050 (MTP 2050) Update**

Ms. Jonas shared that WAMPO is developing long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050 (MTP 2050) and provided an update on plan-development progress as well as an overview of the plan contents. Draft chapters and appendices of MTP 2050 have been, and continue to be, posted incrementally to 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.

Nick Flanders, Dora Gallo, Mr. Mohr, and Dylan Cossaart, WAMPO, provided additional details about each of MTP 2050's appendices.

MTP 2050 webpage, with draft sections uploaded as available – [www.wampo.org/mtp2050](http://www.wampo.org/mtp2050)

## **6. Committee & Partnership Updates**

Vice Chair Kessler announced that the next Executive Committee meeting will be at 11:00 AM on February 6, 2025, in the MAPD Conference Room in the Ronald Reagan Building (271 W 3<sup>rd</sup> St. N, Room 237, Wichita, KS 67202) and via Zoom. It will be an open meeting; anyone is welcome to attend.

J.B. Wilson, KDOT Wichita Metro, provided construction updates in the WAMPO region.

## **7. Other Business**

Vice Chair Kessler recognized the leadership and contributions of Sedgwick County Commissioner and TPB Ex Officio Chair David Dennis.

Mr. Parasa and Kim Negrete, WAMPO, invited attendees to stay after the meeting for a year-end TPB networking event celebrating WAMPO regional collaboration.

## **8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 PM.**

**The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 3:00 PM.**

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