

Wichita-Sedgwick County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meeting

MAPC Large Conference Room, 10th Floor, City Hall

4:00-6:00 p.m., November 19, 2014

Discussion Highlights & Points of Agreement:

Attendance - Plan Steering Committee:

Stacy Christie, Mitch Coffman, David Foster, Bryan Frye, Ken Lee, Joe Johnson, Matt Goolsby, John McKay, Cindy Miles, Bill Ramsey, Richard Ranzau, James Roseboro, Gary Schmitt, Debra Miller Stevens

Attendance - Project Staff:

Stephen Banks, Dave Barber, Scott Knebel, John Schlegel, Scott Wadle

1. Welcome -

The meeting was called to order by Cindy Miles.

2. Presentation and Discussion on MOVE 2040 Future Transportation Priorities -

Gloria Jeff, Principal Planner with WAMPO gave a presentation to the Committee on the current status of the MOVE 2040 Long-Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Jeff reviewed the Plan vision statement and associated investment strategy, goals and project selection criteria. The MTP is being developed with an emphasis on maintaining and preserving the existing regional system – it is in good shape and has excess system capacity. Future WAMPO funding sources (federal, state and local levels) are projected to remain flat over the long-term. Jeff advised the Committee that WAMPO funding cannot be used to help fund Wichita's deteriorating local road system since these streets are not considered part of the regional system for WAMPO funding purposes..

3. Presentation and Discussion on Wichita and Sedgwick County Long-term Transportation Priorities -

Steve Spade, Director of Wichita Transit; Alan King, Director of Public Works and Utilities with the City of Wichita; and, Jim Weber, Deputy Director of Public Works with Sedgwick County each gave presentations to the Committee on their respective transportation infrastructure priorities.

Steve Spade covered three themes in his presentation - why invest in transit, current transit issues, and the key transit priorities for the future. Spade indicated that decades of local underfunding in Wichita Transit combined with federal funding reductions has resulted in an unstable fiscal situation for Transit operationally, minimal service levels and a current system that only serves the transit-dependent. Wichita Transit's goals are to continue to exist, provide efficient/effective operations, and establish a vision for the system. The current system averages approximately 8,000 trips per day. It is difficult to determine the actual number of individual transit users per day (Spade estimates this to be around 4,000). The Committee members asked Spade to provide MAPD staff and the Committee with the current number of transit passes issued.

Alan King indicated that deferred maintenance decisions going back several decades have resulted in the current deficient condition of Wichita's local road infrastructure assets. King provided an overview of the City's new 40-year enhanced road maintenance strategy/deferred maintenance response plan. He explained how the new maintenance approach to lane miles treated better utilizes and maximizes the impact of City road maintenance dollars. The City has responsibility to maintain roughly 5,300 lane-miles of local roads. A key element of this maintenance plan is extending the lane mile life-cycle of roads that are currently in good condition, while patching deteriorated roads until such time as resources are available to properly rebuild them. King indicated that the City is allocating roughly \$8 million a year for road maintenance. Despite the new approach now being used for local road maintenance, additional funding

allocations will be necessary if the City hopes to recapture/restore its current road system network service value life (measured in lane mile years). King also mentioned how moving to synchronized traffic signal systems will be a more cost-effective way of improving traffic flows in bottleneck areas than adding lanes or widening existing lanes.

Jim Weber provided the Committee with an overview of the County's long-term road and bridge project priorities. The County's road infrastructure is roughly 1,200 lane-miles, with the majority of roads in pavement (362 miles of two-lane paved with permanent improvements; 42 miles of four-lane paved). The County also maintains a total of 583 bridges. Weber indicated that the County takes over 5 miles of township roads every other year. The County's road and bridge system is in good condition supported by a 5-year recurring maintenance cycle. Weber indicated that the County continues to help fund right-of-way for the Northwest Bypass, and is also currently beginning design work on the 95th Street South bridge crossing over the Arkansas River as part of the long-term South Area Parkway System.

Committee members were surprised to learn that Wichita spends \$8 million a year to maintain 5,300 lane-miles of road while the County spends \$10 million a year to maintain 1,200 lanes miles of road (underscoring the fact that the City needs additional funding allocations for road maintenance).

4. Committee Worksheet Discussion on Transportation Plan Goals and Strategies -

Staff took the Committee through an exercise where each Committee member wrote possible transportation goal and strategy ideas on cards which were then posted on the wall. Using sticky dots, Committee members individually voted for their top plan goal and strategy ideas (the results of this exercise are summarized under separate attachment). Staff will utilize this input in developing a set of transportation plan goals and strategies for consideration at the December 3rd Committee meeting.

5. Committee Review of Draft Water, Sewer and Stormwater Plan Element -

Following a brief review and discussion of the material presented, the Committee asked staff to revise the Draft Water, Sewer and Stormwater Goals and Strategies to include the following items which will be reviewed at the December 3rd Committee meeting:

- Add a strategy that addresses issues associated with future urban development and expansion into the rural water service areas surrounding Wichita
- Add a strategy that addresses self-contained, independent water and sewer infrastructure systems

6. Next Committee Meeting - December 3, 2014

7. Comments from Public Attendees - The City and County are fortunate to have Alan King and David Spears respectively helping our community as they lead and manage their respective public works departments.

8. Adjourned - 6:10 p.m.