

METRO



planning NEWS



Vol. 5, Issue 1
Spring, 2008

Inside this issue:

The Buzz in Downtown Wichita.....1
47th-55th Street South Joint Area Plan..1
SMAB- Off to A Great Start!.....2
Central Library Relocation.....2
Park City in the News!.....2
WAMPO News3

- WAMPO & CTD-12 Coordinate on Regional Planning Effort
- KDOT's TE Site Visits
- "3-C" Planning Process

The Buzz in Downtown Wichita

By Scott Knebel

What's the "buzz" in downtown Wichita? Sure there's the sound of construction at the Intrust Bank Arena, along the Waterman Avenue streetscape, along the central rail corridor viaduct, and at WaterWalk. But there's so much more to the "buzz" in downtown. While Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita work feverishly to put the finishing touches on the Downtown Parking and Mobility Master Plan to guide the public infrastructure component of the Arena Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan, private sector interest in the redevelopment of downtown is at an all-time high. From Exchange Place to the Kelly Hotel and Conference Center to the Commerce Street Arts District to Real Development's major rehabilitation of seven office buildings. In addition, the C.O.R.E. CDC will be moving forward with plans to revitalize eight entire blocks. The "buzz" is that downtown is hot! Warm weather is right around the corner. Come downtown, take a walk, and experience the "buzz" for yourself.



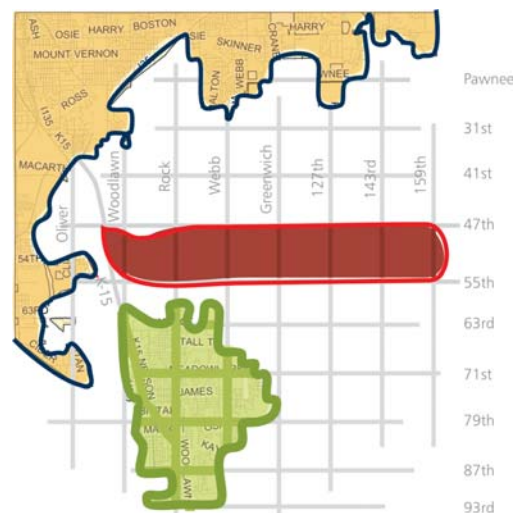
47th-55th Street South Joint Area Plan

By Christy Rodriguez

In mid-2007, the City of Derby, the City of Wichita, and Sedgwick County jointly agreed to develop a tri-jurisdictional land use plan for the unincorporated area located between 47th and 55th Street South, and K-15 to 159th Street East. It was determined that a plan with a 2030 planning horizon was needed to address issues related to the possible future extension of urban water and sewer services into portions of the plan area, and coordinate the long term 2030 urban growth areas for the cities of Derby and Wichita. A Steering Committee was formed to advise and direct the development of this plan.

The draft plan contains an existing conditions analysis of natural features, land uses and services, zoning and land use policies affecting the plan area, as well as, projections of future population and employment growth to the year 2030. The draft plan proposes an anticipated/desired future land use concept that reflects the efficient, future

(continued on next page)

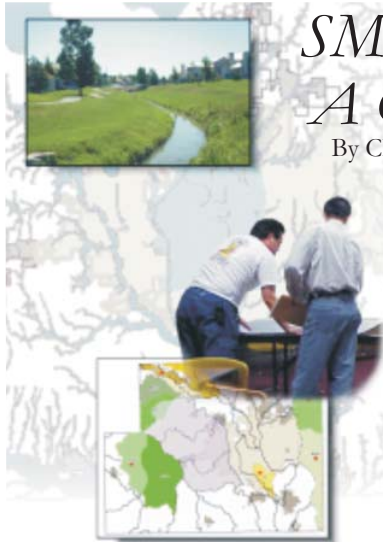


Wichita-Sedgwick County
Metropolitan Area Planning
Department (MAPD)
268-4421

Wichita Area
Metropolitan
Planning Organization
(WAMPO)
268-4391

Joint Area Plan *(from page 1)*

extension of various urban municipal services into portions of the plan area. It is anticipated that the plan will be jointly adopted by Sedgwick County and the Cities of Derby and Wichita as elements of their respective comprehensive plans. To review the plan, and to find out about upcoming public hearings and meetings, please visit the following web site: http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Planning/AP/Comprehensive/47th-55th_St_Joint_Area_Plan.htm or call Christy Rodriguez at 316-352-4856.



SMAB – Off to A Great Start!

By Christy Rodriguez

Congratulations to all recently appointed Stormwater Management Advisory Board (SMAB) members! This is an exciting time for all those interested in stormwater management. The SMAB held its first meeting on February 27, 2008 and is off to a great start!

In October 2007, the Sedgwick County Board of County Commissioners officially created a Stormwater Management Advisory Board to protect lives and property by promoting better stormwater management and by providing financial, technical and other assistance to all entities within Sedgwick County that are concerned with stormwater management.

Last November, the Board of County Commissioners requested all municipalities, watershed districts, and drainage districts within Sedgwick County interested in participating on the SMAB, to nominate one representative to serve on the SMAB. Appointments thus far include:

Commission District #1	George Sherman
Commission District #2	Clement Dickerson
Commission District #3	Mitch Mitchell
Commission District #4	Steve Jackson
Commission District #5	Clark A. Sholts
City of Cheney	Randy Oliver
City of Derby	Kathy Sexton
City of Kechi	Lyle Powers
City of Mulvane	Kent Hixson
City of Park City	Jack Whitson
City of Valley Center	Cheryl Nordstedt
City of Wichita	Chris Carrier
Eagle Drainage District	Bob Seiler
Spring Creek Watershed	Terrell Black
Whitewater River Watershed	Harry Clayton

It is anticipated that interest will continue to grow; and therefore, this board will continue to grow over time. If any entity interested in participating would like a seat at the table, please submit your nomination to Lisa Corr by phone at 316-660-9300, by e-mail at lcarr@sedgwick.gov or by mail at the County Commissioners Office, 525 N. Main, Wichita, KS 67203. If you have any questions regarding the SMAB, feel free to call Christy Rodriguez, Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Department, at 316-352-4856.

Central Library Relocation

By Jennifer Heinicke

The adopted vision for the Wichita Public Library facilities includes the creation of a new 135,000 square foot Central Library in the core area of the City. Since the master plan's adoption in August 2006, the Library Board has endorsed the Watkins property at Second and McLean as a site that meets all of the site requirements in the master plan. It sits at the entrance of the cultural corridor and the core business district, has easy access from all directions, high visibility, and is easy to find. This potential site is compatible with the neighborhood improvement plan for Delano and the City's improvement plan for the River Corridor. The City Council has taken the recommendation of the Library Board under advisement. The City Council also suggested properties already owned by the City, at Maple and McLean and McLean and Seneca, as other potential sites for a new facility.

While the master plan proposed completion of a new facility by 2011, funding in the City Capital Improvement Program budget provides the majority of the \$30,000,000 identified for this project as being available in 2011 and 2012. The Library Board awaits direction from the Council, and continues to encourage staff to remain alert to information from other cities concerning Central Library construction and remodeling as a useful source for identifying ideas for discussion as plans for a building program become appropriate.

Park City In the News!

By Jack Whitson and Christy Rodriguez

News Bulletin #1: Developer, Wink Hartman, revives plans to build a 5,000-seat arena in Park City, at the northwest corner of 77th Street and I-135! Last November, Hartman scratched the project after construction costs continued to rise, but the arena architect Law/Kingdon made some key changes to the original plans—reducing the construction cost by \$7M. As a result, plans to construct an \$18M arena are moving forward!

In fact, the first staff member has already been hired. Jacquie Wedel began serving as Hartman Arena's new Sales and Marketing Manager on February 11, 2008—previously serving as the Sales and Marketing Manager for the Kansas Coliseum for more than nine years.



(continued on back page)

Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization News

Articles by Scott Dunakey
For more information regarding the Wichita
Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
contact Nancy Harvieux at 268-4391

WAMPO and CTD-12 Coordinate on Regional Planning Effort

KDOT created Coordinated Transit Districts (CTDs) to improve coordination of public transportation to low-income, special needs, and elderly citizens. CTD-12 serves our region and includes representatives from Sedgwick, Harvey, and Butler Counties. CTD-12 is working together with WAMPO to create a regional Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan, which is required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) before any Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedoms program funding can be administered. (JARC funding is directed at improving access to employment for low-income individuals. Meanwhile, New Freedoms funding addresses the transportation needs of persons with disabilities that go beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.)

The FTA requires that the plan be “developed through a process that includes representatives of public, private, and non-profit transportation and human services providers.” Therefore, WAMPO and CTD-12 are reaching out to an extensive group of stakeholders to provide input. This coordinated plan will identify strategies to minimize duplication of coverage, identify gaps in coverage, and use JARC and New Freedom projects to bridge those gaps. The public involvement phase of plan development will be complete in March and plan adoption is scheduled for April.

KDOT’s TE Site Visits

Last February, representatives from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) conducted site-visits throughout Sedgwick County reviewing Transportation Enhancement (TE) applications for potential funding. Each applicant had an opportunity to discuss their project with KDOT and to take KDOT staff on tours of the project sites. KDOT will continue to conduct site-visits throughout the Kansas over the next few months. It is anticipated that KDOT will announce the awards in May 2008.



“3-C” Planning Process

Federal transportation legislation requires all transportation plans and programs carried out by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to be developed through a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (3-C) planning process. What exactly does this mean?

Continuing refers to an ongoing process. In other words, each new plan and program builds from the previous one, improving upon it as needed. Furthermore, the planning and programming horizons are either adjacent or overlap, providing seamless transitions. This aspect of the 3-C planning process ensures the region’s transportation system remains stable over time.

Cooperative indicates that planning initiatives and programs undertaken by an MPO are developed in close coordination and consultation with a wide array of stakeholders. Local, state, and federal governmental agencies are just a few transportation stakeholders. Public participation is also vital. MPOs seek input from individuals in their communities and organizations, such as major employers, advocacy organizations, and organizations involved in community development. This helps bring a broad spectrum of viewpoints and interests into the planning process.

There are two primary components of the *comprehensive* aspect of the 3-C planning process. First, all modes of transportation should be included in plans and programs. People travel by bus, automobile, bicycle, on foot, and by air. Good transportation planning includes each of these vital transportation modes. Second, all transportation plans and programs should be developed through consideration of a long list of factors that includes demographics, land use patterns, travel patterns, social issues, and many others. This ensures that plans and programs are comprehensive and thorough, which is critical to the decision-making process.

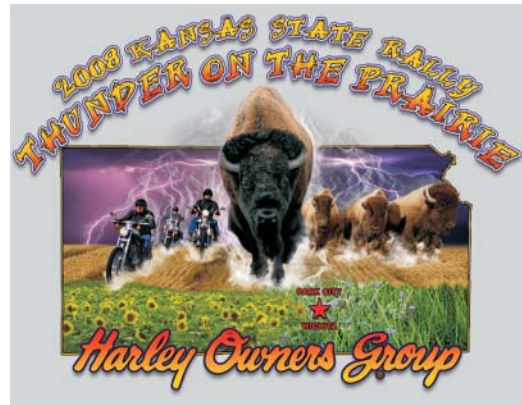
Park City *(from page 2)*

Hartman’s main tenant will be the Wichita Wild Indoor Football team (UIF) and is looking to potentially start a minor league professional basketball team. Arena capacity is 5,000 seats for indoor football, approximately 5,500 seats for family shows and up to 7,000 seats for concerts and includes more than 1,600 on-site parking spots. Groundbreaking is anticipated for March, with projected completion by mid-April 2009. For more information contact Jacque Wedel, Hartman Arena at 316-744-8880.

News Bulletin #2: Foley Equipment recently purchased the Optima Bus building, located at 1601 E. 77th St. North, to implement plans to rebuild Cumming engines—bringing approximately 70 new employees to the Park City area! Foley Equipment is a Caterpillar dealership in central and southwestern Kansas with four full-service locations in Dodge City, Great Bend, Salina and Wichita, as well as, a truck shop in Liberal. According to Jack Whitson, the Park City Administrator, “It is exciting to see plans for this building after the Optima Bus Corp.’s closure last August. The North American Bus Industries, Inc. acquired Optima Bus Corp, and consolidated its transit bus manufacturing facilities in Anniston, Alabama—affecting 217 area-wide employees.

News Bulletin #3: Portable on Demand Storage (PODS) will be moving their headquarters to Park City, which is a \$1.6M project. PODS will construct a 32,000 SF facility and is anticipated to hire approximately 5 people.

News Bulletin #4: Park City will be hosting the Kansas Hog Rally May 29-31, 2008. This motorcycle rally, for National H.O.G. Members only, is expected to bring approximately 1,000 bike riders from across the nation as well as a few International riders.



**Wichita-Sedgwick County
Metropolitan Area Planning Dept.**
455 N. Main, 10th Floor
Wichita, KS 67202

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Planning/



PLANNING GREAT COMMUNITIES