



Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board

Minutes

August 8, 2022

The Wichita Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Board met in regular session.

*Indicates online

Board Members present: Alan Kailer, Marcia Schroeder, Jane Byrnes, Monte Shaw & Russell Fox

City Staff: Tia Raamot, Mike Armour, Mike Tann, Bob Layton & Madelyn Orton*

Guests: Daniel Mealiff, Vince Hancock, Rick Sroufe, Barry Carroll*, Kim Neufeld, Sharon and Dave Hewitt, Chase Billingham* and Robert Parnacott*, Jack Brown* Clayton Pearson, Kelly Wenz*, Robert Gibbs

1. **Call to order:** by Alan Kailer, Chair, at 5:30

Alan invited Mike Armour to give summary of the project tracking sheet – Mike spoke about the Amidon bridge coordination and that the closure could begin as early as October 1.

Jane asked what is happening at McClean. Mike answered it is underway. Shawn Mellies is the PM on that.

2. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Approval of previous meeting minutes. Monte Shaw moved to approve, and Russell Fox seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

3. **Public Comments**

None.

4. **Discussion Items**

- Tia Raamot – Update on 3 plans.

Downtown streets had a series of meetings and collected public comments. The TAC and Steering committee will determine the next steps. The downtown parking plan is about to kick off with a City Council workshop in August. The Bike Master plan has an agreement with KDOT.

- **Draft letter to City Council recommending Downtown Streets Plan – Alan Kailer**

Jane Byrne had a comment on the letter. She would like the last bullet to state “include street trees” rather than “consider including street trees”.

Monte Shaw offered a motion to approve the letter as amended. Marcia Schroeder seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

- **Wichita Transportation Advisory Board – Robert Layton, City Manager**

Mr. Layton gave the attached handout of the draft ordinance and presented the attached Power Point. The current structural model of operation silos issues. The City does not have a policy linkage or an overarching transportation plan. The slides in the PowerPoint describe the consolidated duties of the integrated transportation board.

He suggested the Transportation board would address needs and prioritize options for the city. He offered a possible question the unified board would handle – How would vision zero, which addresses injuries on city streets, regional bike connections, and West Street stack up against each other when setting priorities? He also mentioned sustainability and other topics of discussion.

Mr. Layton Invited input/discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of doing this.

Russell Fox asked if the functionality of boards played into this change. He sees the different boards as having different interests – those who serve on boards are committed to their modes (transit people are different than bike people). Russell Fox stated that he does not see a compelling argument for putting different facets of transportation on the same board.

Mr. Layton offered two responses – there is structural reason at the staff level. How to better organize staff in this way. We had a project – street project – bike lane was missed and too late to remedy missed connection. Too many departments are touching transportation and not coordinating as well as they could.

He also echoed the siloed level of interest in bike-ped. The combined board gives a citizen voice into the decision-making process. He is looking for a holistic approach to transportation dollar allocation.

Council Member Frye has had good conversation about appropriate representation on boards with City Manager. Council Member Frye added: We have had great representation on this board, more of a challenge on transit board. Blending of the two boards to include other interests as connected to it. Having 14 members we can have diverse voices and talents. This is like the design council where there are artists, engineers, and architects.

There will no longer be a dedicated group focused on transit. Frye responded that there could be a subcommittee about transit boards, for example.

Jane Byrne offered additional comment about it feeling like drivers vs. everyone else. Mr. Layton brought up parking – what does it do to the transit system? What impact does it have to bike-ped? If you address these things holistically it is not one against the other.

Mike Armour added that seeking input from all groups can get to be daunting when they design projects. This combined board is appealing to get input from one room.

Marcia offered an observation – WBPAB has a reputation as a strong board. The group is passionate about a topic, and they work well together. The new territory is kind of scary. Unless we get people with expertise in all areas.

Jane questioned how long it might take to receive a grant for planning and the transit plan. Money is appropriated in 2023 and will be spent into 2024 was the answer. Mike Tann explained the make-up of the transit board is not made up of users of the system. WSU and USD 259 are not currently represented. REAP and Access advisory board are also not currently represented. There to room to improve the system so more users are attracted to the system.

Online – the following users asked to be sent the ordinance and slides from the presentation.

sroufer@prodigy.net, robertwparnacott@icloud.com, jbrown4@kumc.edu

Several ideas concerning the membership of the Transportation Board were discussed, including that the Board should have input from important institutions representing user groups; that although the Board may be limited to 15 members, it could have ad hoc or ex officio members; and that council members could coordinate their appointments to the Board to assure appropriate representation.

Alan Kailer invited comments from the room –

Robert Gibbs asked will new board review development around transit development. Answer: Group will not be limited – it is possible.

Clayton – What are the risks? Clayton Pearson answered his own question. It could become like a WAMPO department. Opportunity – not about the bike – good opportunity to be looking at how we put the system together.

Kim Neufeld had researched how this is done in other cities. Is concerned with special interests taking up appointee slots. WBPAB are system users – she thinks that is a strength of the group. She wants resident users to continue serving on the group. She also favors evening meetings to allow for people to participate.

Russell Fox echoed this is why representation is such an important issue - making sure there is a voice for the users.

Vincent Hancock asked if there would be possible subcommittees for various stakeholders. He mentioned Intra-city bussing and scooters – how do we integrate (including passenger rail). He shares previous concerns about stakeholders naming seats on board by bringing money.

Robert Gibbs asked will TAB include some goals for the board itself. Might be too unfocused. Mission statement. The example goal was offered: to unify the transportation policy mission statement in Wichita. Lead city toward sustainable development.

Barry Carroll said he is generally in favor of the two boards coming together. Does not see a downside of it.

Jack Brown said on chat – he can see benefits to the change. He wants to make sure a voice from the bike/ped community would be part of the board. Sharon Hewitt seconded what Jack said.

Alan had questions. How would the transportation board operate with respect to bike-ped issues? Answer – the board would determine for itself. Would not impose any preconceptions on it.

Alan said the draft ordinance is a starting point. He asked: what are the transit board responsibilities?

Mike answered, the transit is heavily regulated. Board used to be users, and in 2018 it became a stakeholder board. The Transit Board is mostly used as an advocacy group to expand the system and improve communications.

Russell added the nature of advocacy changed with shift of stakeholders on board.

Mike added that there is not going to be a change unless the funding model changes.

Jane – Hates to sound negative. She said that although the term “multi modal” is used with respect to the new transit center, it is a big parking lot with bus activity.

Alan Kailer said that although the WBPAB currently coordinated with transportation department, it currently spends most of its time interacting with public works and engineering. What is the relationship between public works and transportation? Mr. Layton responded, as drafted the organizational model has hardline functions and dotted line functions. Bike ped issues are in the room as they are staffing the transportation department. Will have access to planners and engineers as part of this.

Alan Kailer asked budget process is going on. Description of transportation department in the budget book.

Robert Gibb said he would feel more comfortable if the board did not incorporate special interests as stakeholders.

Jane Byrne asked if the multimodal building has solar panels – Mike answered there is a grant to fund those.

Alan Kailer asked the City Manager what he needed from the group. The answer was he is looking for general direction.

Russell Fox urged the team to get together with this board to workshop the section about appointments and membership. City Manager added If this group (WBPAB) could self-identify who would be in that workshop – he invited nominations.

Jane Byrne suggested clear mission statement.

5. Board Governance

None

6. Staff Reports and Updates

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Board Comments

Alan invited Dr. Russell Fox to present part 2 of Rethinking Wichita. The conference last October at Friends University. The premise was Strong Towns movement. Kate Nance – works at KU Med Ctr. Recreation in Wichita presented on Placemaking/Public art.

Chase Billingham asked how art relates to alternative forms of transportation. Russell Fox answered art needs people to get to it to experience it – how to make that happen.

He cited the complex around the Keeper is an example. Another is art is integrated in redbud trail. Or Art integrated in bus shelters.

Alternative transportation is also people focused. The better the place – the more people will be there – one reinforces the other.

In other comments from the Board, Jane noted that WAMPO staff is doing safety analysis using CDC guidelines and applying for a grant relating to vision zero.

Next month – the parking plan will be on the agenda. More discussion time about the transportation board.

Alan invited representation from the WBPAB to the workshop about the next advisory group. Russell Fox volunteered.

10. **Adjournment**

Alan Kailer proposed to adjourn the meeting, The meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.

The next meeting of the board will be held on **September 12, 2022 @5:30pm.**