Meeting Minutes

Transportation Policy Body (TPB) Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 10, 2025, @ 3:00 PM
Hybrid Meeting: *Online & 271 W 3rd St., Room 203, Wichita, KS 67202*
Meeting Duration: *66 minutes*

Voting Members in Attendance		
Russ Kessler, *Chair*	Mike Moriarty, *KDOT*	**Alternates**
Jim Benage, *Bel Aire*	Charles Schwanke, *Park City*	Sean Fox, *Park City (non-voting)*
Dalton Glasscock, *Wichita*	Terry Somers, *SCAC*	Nick Gregory, *Maize (voting)*
Mike Hoheisel, *Wichita*	Becky Tuttle, *Wichita*	Warren Porter, *Rose Hill (voting)*
Jim Howell, *Sedgwick County*	Mike Warrington, *Andover*	J.B. Wilson, *KDOT (voting)*
George Liebe, *Goddard*	Dan Woydziak, *Butler County*	
Other Attendees		
Marcy Aycock, *REAP*	Dora Gallo, *WAMPO*	Lynn Packer, *Sedgwick County*
Chris Brown, *SRF*	Markey Jonas, *WAMPO*	Chad Parasa, *WAMPO*
Brent Clark, *Valley Center*	Alan Kailer, *Bike Walk Wichita*	Ksusha Peeples, *WAMPO*
Samuel Deetz, *MAPD*	Mike Malone, *JEO*	Tia Raamot, *Sedgwick County*
Tyler Dehn, *Bel Aire*	Mohamed Moawad, *MAPD*	Riley Schmitz, *JEO*
Kyle Fiedler, *Valley Center*	Peter Mohr, *WAMPO*	Allison Smith, *KDOT*
Nick Flanders, *WAMPO*	Kim Negrete, *WAMPO*	Chris Sweeney, *WAMPO*

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

2. Regular Business

A. Approval of the June 10, 2025, Agenda

Discussion: None.
Action: Approve the June 10, 2025, agenda, as presented. (13-0)[1]
Motion: George Liebe
Second: Mike Warrington

B. Approval of the May 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Discussion: None.
Action: Approve the May 13, 2025, meeting minutes, as presented. (14-0)[2]
Motion: Jim Benage
Second: George Liebe

[1] Two (2) voting TPB members did not arrive until after the vote to approve the June 2025 agenda.
[2] One (1) voting TPB member did not arrive until after the vote to approve the May 2025 meeting 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.

C. Director's Report

i. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Application Deadline: June 26, 2025

Kim Negrete, WAMPO, shared that the U.S. Department of Transportation released the FFY2025 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). SS4A grants are awarded on a competitive basis to support planning, infrastructure, and behavioral and operational initiatives to prevent fatalities and serious injuries among all road users, including pedestrians, bicycle riders, public-transportation users, motorists, and commercial vehicle operators. WAMPO encourages member jurisdictions to consider submitting individual SS4A implementation-grant applications. WAMPO staff are available to assist jurisdictions in identifying projects, developing grant-application narratives, assembling necessary data, and providing letters of support. Applications must be submitted online by 5:00 PM (EDT) on June 26, 2025.

Federal Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) website, including links to the NOFO and the online application – www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A

ii. KDOT Behavioral Safety Grants Update

Ms. Negrete announced that the Behavioral Safety Office of the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and WAMPO will conduct another call for projects for Behavioral Safety Grants in the Wichita metropolitan area this year, having done so for the first time in 2024. Funding comes from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and will be administered by KDOT. All grants under this program must focus on improving road-user behavior. More information and the 2025 Behavioral Safety Grant application will be released soon.

Discussion:

Chair Kessler asked about the timeline for the grant opportunity. Ms. Negrete said that dates have not yet been finalized, but that more information will likely be announced by late summer or early fall.

iii. Household Travel Survey Consultant RFP Development

Peter Mohr, WAMPO, shared that WAMPO staff are developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant to prepare and implement a Household Travel Survey (HTS) for the region. The last WAMPO-region HTS was completed in 2011. Properly collected, weighted, and analyzed HTS data are essential to the performance of accurate updates to the WAMPO Travel Demand Model (TDM).

Chad Parasa, WAMPO, added that MPOs typically only perform an HTS once every ten years, because they are expensive, with a typical budget of $1 million-$2 million. The upcoming WAMPO HTS will capture the travel patterns of various individuals and households in the region. From the HTS are derived parameters that are foundational to travel demand forecasting.

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Discussion:

Jim Benage asked if the overall cost of the project could be reduced through the use of cellphone and GPS data, which were not as available in 2011. Mr. Mohr responded that WAMPO has looked into such data sources and they will complement the project, but a survey of WAMPO households is still needed because it captures critical information on trip purposes and provides a more representative sample than would data purchased from a data-aggregation service.

iv. FTA Section 5310 Program: Awarded Projects

Markey Jonas, 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 agencies, and nonprofit organizations. WAMPO partners with Wichita Transit to facilitate the application and selection process. Funding awards for programs to be implemented from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027, have been announced by Wichita Transit and were shared with the TPB.

v. 2025 UPWP Amendment 1 Public Comment Period: June 6- June 20, 2025

Ms. Jonas shared that a proposed amendment to the 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is available for public comment June 6-June 20, 2025. The UPWP outlines WAMPO's transportation planning activities and tasks to be undertaken throughout the year. Proposed 2025 UPWP Amendment 1 would remove two tasks, update the 2025 budget for five existing tasks, and add one new task. Minor language adjustments to reflect updated federal guidance and the approval of MTP 2050 are included as well.

The draft amendment is available on the WAMPO website at www.wampo.org/upwp.

3. Public Comment Opportunity

No comments.

4. Action

None.

5. Discussion/Updates

A. Core-Document Amendments in Response to New USDOT Guidance

Mr. Mohr explained that the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) recently distributed new guidance to federal transportation funding recipients, including WAMPO, pertaining especially to the interpretation of federal nondiscrimination laws, with implications for the contents of MPOs' planning documents. In response, WAMPO is working with its state and federal planning partners to prepare any necessary amendments or administrative adjustments to its planning documents, which will be brought to the TAC and TPB in the coming months, in accordance with the processes laid out in the WAMPO Public Participation Plan.

Discussion:

Mike Hoheisel asked if it is suspected that the new USDOT guidance will prompt any programming changes or just changes in terminology. Mr. Mohr responded that, so far, only terminology changes are required, based on communications with KDOT.

B. Regional Active Transportation Plan Consultant RFP Objectives

Mr. Mohr shared that WAMPO released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant to complete a Regional Active Transportation Plan on June 5, 2025. The purpose of the plan is to assess existing conditions, identify gaps in the nonmotorized-travel network, and recommend strategies for improving active transportation options, including bicycling, walking, and other forms of nonmotorized transportation within the region. The plan will guide future policies and infrastructure investments and support efforts to create a more connected, safe, inviting, and accessible active transportation network for all travelers in the region. Proposals are due by July 3, 2025.

The presentation shared the primary objectives and outcomes for the project, noting that there will be a focus on connectivity between jurisdictions and across the region, along with more individualized plans for each community. Additionally, the project will highlight 'catalyst projects' that encourage active transportation in the region. Mr. Mohr noted the differences between the objectives, outcomes, and geographic scope of the Regional Active Transportation Plan and those of the Safe Routes to School planning initiative.

Active RFPs are available at www.wampo.org/wampo-is-hiring.

C. Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Update

Ms. Negrete shared that WAMPO is working with SRF Consulting Group on a regional Safe Routes to School (SRTS) planning initiative to assist local governments and K-12 schools (both public and private) with the development of at least sixty (60) school-specific SRTS plans in the region; so far, fifty (50) schools have confirmed their participation.

Chris Brown, SRF, presented additional details about the status of the two main project deliverables: a Best Practices Guide and 60+ school-specific SRTS action plans, and provided details about the thorough public engagement effort planned for this fall.

June 2025 Safe Routes to School update slides – https://bit.ly/June-2025-SRTS-Slides

Discussion:

Chair Kessler asked if the term "caregivers," as used during the presentation, referred to daycare providers. Mr. Brown explained that it refers to a student's parents or any non-parent caregiver who is responsible for the student. To encompass students whose primary caregivers are not their parents, the term "caregiver survey" is used instead of "parent survey."

Mr. Hoheisel noted upcoming school consolidation in Wichita, and asked how that is being taken into account during the planning process. Mr. Brown said that it is on WAMPO's radar, but that

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school closure or consolidation situations often need to be handled on a case-by-case basis since they have such unique circumstances. Ms. Negrete shared that the best practices guide will also help prepare the region to be able to create additional SRTS plans in the future.

Nick Gregory asked what the ultimate outcome will be. Mr. Brown said that this is a planning project that will not include conceptual designs or any engineering but will result in recommendations. Once the plans are finished, schools, school districts, and local governments will be in a good position to prioritize next steps and improvements and will be set up to pursue grant opportunities. The complete SRTS plans will show readiness for improvements and provide a guide for implementing solutions.

Mr. Benage noted that many communities will have fall public events and asked if those were something the project team might consider attending. Ms. Negrete shared that WAMPO is working to put together a calendar of fall engagement events and opportunities to promote the SRTS planning process.

D. Regional Connections Presentation: Valley Center

Kyle Fiedler, Community Development Director for the City of Valley Center, presented an overview of the city's recent planning and development efforts as part of WAMPO's "Regional Connections" presentation series. Valley Center's newly adopted 10-year comprehensive plan outlines a projected 25% population increase, with expansion of the planning area to reflect anticipated growth. To accommodate this, seven active housing developments are underway, supported by a range of incentive programs, including city tax rebates and special assessment rebates.

Mr. Fiedler also highlighted major infrastructure projects aimed at improving regional connectivity, including the reconstruction of Meridian Avenue and upcoming improvements to Seneca Street. These projects include new multiuse paths that enhance access to schools and residential areas. Additionally, the city recently opened a 40,000-square-foot recreation center and is incorporating a regional detention basin and future park into its growing multimodal network. The presentation emphasized Valley Center's coordinated approach to managing growth while strengthening local and regional transportation and community connections.

Valley Center Regional Connections Presentation – https://bit.ly/Regional-Connections-Valley-Center

Discussion:

Mike Warrington asked about the difference between adopted WAMPO population projections and those included in the Valley Center Regional Connections presentation. Mr. Mohr shared that WAMPO updates its population projections as part of regular Metropolitan Transportation Plan updates, which occur every five years. There are various comprehensive plans and projections developed by each jurisdiction on differing timelines, so WAMPO generally reserves its updates to population projections to the occasions of long-range plan updates.

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6. Committee & Partnership Updates

Chair Kessler announced that the next Executive Committee meeting will be at 11:00 AM on August 7, 2025, in the MAPD Conference Room in the Ronald Reagan Building (271 W 3rd St., Room 237, Wichita, KS 67202) and via Zoom.

Mike Moriarty, KDOT, shared that there has been a rise in fraudulent text messages claiming to be from KDOT and demanding payment for unpaid tolls. These are not real messages from KDOT. Notices about unpaid tolls are not sent by text message and they come from the KTA, not KDOT.

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

7. Other Business

None.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 3:00 PM.

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