



Meeting Summary

Regional Transit Coordination Committee (RTCC)

Wednesday, October 8, 2026 @ 10:30 AM

Hybrid Meeting

Meeting Duration: 62 minutes

Attendees

Raven Alexander, *Wichita Transit*
 Marcy Aycock, *REAP*
 Nick Bishop, *City of Bel Aire*
 Tammi Bradley, *Greater Wichita Partnership*
 Jason Cauly, *City of Goddard*
 Guillermo Chamorro, *Sedgwick County Transportation*

Lily Cherry, *Wichita Transit*
 Ashley Cory, *City of Derby*
 Linda Gieseman
 Rene Hart, *Kansas Department of Transportation*
 Markey Jonas, *WAMPO*
 Crystal Noles, *Butler County Department on Aging*

Keith Lawing, *Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas*
 Kristen McDaniel, *City of Haysville*
 Kim Negrete, *WAMPO*
 Ryan Schrack, *City of Goddard*
 Anne Smith, *Kansas Public Transit Association*
 Laura VanBurkleo, *WAMPO*

I. Welcome and Committee Purpose

Laura VanBurkleo, WAMPO, welcomed attendees to the October Regional Transit Coordination Committee (RTCC) meeting and thanked the City of Goddard for hosting. She provided an overview of the agenda, which included member introductions and updates, a presentation on the City of Goddard's new senior transportation program, a statewide transit update from the Kansas Public Transit Association (KPTA), and a discussion to identify priority focus areas for RTCC meetings in 2027.

II. Member Introductions and Transit Updates

Committee members introduced themselves and shared current transit-related initiatives, interests, and challenges.

- Members discussed recent vehicle additions, service expansions, workforce transportation needs, regional coordination, transit marketing and branding, transportation data analysis, and upcoming technology updates.
- The City of Haysville reported that it recently obtained a second vehicle for its senior transportation program, improving operational reliability and providing a backup vehicle.
- Butler County Department on Aging shared that it is operating a second vehicle in Andover through December to collect data and assess the feasibility of sustaining additional local service.
- The Greater Wichita Partnership and Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas emphasized transportation as a continuing barrier to employment and expressed interest in improved connections between workers and employment centers throughout the region.
- Wichita Transit staff shared updates regarding transit planning, performance analysis, demand-response operations, and the planned launch of new paratransit software on November 7, 2026.
- KDOT shared that its annual application round had opened and that staff are updating the Transit Asset Management Plan and completing National Transit Database reporting.

III. Goddard GO Presentation

Ryan Schrack, Deputy City Manager for the City of Goddard, presented an overview of the City's new senior transportation program, Goddard Go. The program was developed after the City received Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 funding in 2025 for enhanced mobility services for seniors and individuals with disabilities. The grant provided funding for the vehicle and initial operating expenses through mid-2027.

Mr. Schrack explained that the City established a local fund through the Central Kansas Community Foundation to raise the required local match, which totaled just under \$29,000. The Goddard Senior Center held fundraising events, including bingo events, to support the local match. The City also received a donated vehicle wrap from Mel Hamilton Ford.

Goddard Go received its accessible van in August 2026. The program serves Goddard residents age 60 and older and individuals with disabilities. Riders must complete a registration form and agree to program guidelines and a rider code of ethics. The service currently operates within Goddard city limits, with rides available for purposes such as medical appointments, pharmacy visits, grocery shopping, and other local trips. Riders purchase brass tokens at a cost of \$2 per one-way trip. The vehicle may also be used for Senior Center group activities and field trips.

The service is initially operating on a part-time basis. Hours of operation are Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The City has hired a part-time driver and will monitor ridership, demand, and trip denials to determine whether expanded service hours may be needed in the future. At the time of the meeting, approximately 15 individuals had registered for the service. Mr. Schrack noted that Goddard has more than 800 Senior Center members, although some members reside outside the city limits.

Committee members congratulated the City on the launch of the program and discussed the value of collecting ridership and demand data over time. Members also noted the benefit of learning from other local senior transportation programs, including those in Derby and Haysville.

Anne Smith, Kansas Public Transit Association, provided a virtual presentation summarizing the 2026 KPTA annual conference, held in Hutchinson in August. The conference included management training, a vehicle-ordering meeting, federal and state updates, leadership presentations, and discussions regarding transit's economic impact and strategies for strengthening local support.

IV. Kansas Public Transit Association Update

Anne Smith, Kansas Public Transit Association, provided a virtual presentation summarizing the 2026 KPTA annual conference, held in Hutchinson in August. The conference included management training, a vehicle-ordering meeting, federal and state updates, leadership presentations, and discussions regarding transit's economic impact and strategies for strengthening local support.

Ms. Smith shared highlights from KPTA's economic impact study, prepared in partnership with the University of Kansas. The study found that Kansas transit systems directly support approximately 913 jobs and \$65.9 million in labor income. It also estimated that every \$100 in direct transit spending generates an additional \$48 in labor income within Kansas. Kansas transit providers

collectively delivered approximately 7.65 million rides through 47 agencies and 140 transit systems. The study further identified the importance of transit access for workers, noting that more than 100,000 Kansas workers live in households with fewer vehicles than workers.

Ms. Smith emphasized that transit providers should communicate the broader value of transit beyond ridership totals. She encouraged agencies to highlight transit's role in supporting employment, access to health care, independence, economic activity, and quality of life. She also discussed opportunities to pursue local matching funds and partnerships through service contracts with employers, educational institutions, housing providers, local governments, and other community organizations.

Additional conference topics included the updated Transit Manager Handbook, opportunities to coordinate transit with programs funded through Medicaid, HUD, and Community Development Block Grants, civil rights updates, and leadership development. Ms. Smith encouraged RTCC members to attend future KPTA conferences to access training, network with peer agencies, and meet directly with state and federal partners.

Ms. Smith also reported that KPTA is advocating for increased state transit funding through KDOT's next Long-Range Transportation Plan. She noted that annual state transit funding has remained at approximately \$11 million for nearly 20 years.

V. 2027 RTCC Focus Areas

Laura VanBurkleo facilitated a discussion to identify priority topics for RTCC meetings in 2027. Members reviewed focus areas identified during the July meeting and were asked to prioritize one or two topics using sticky notes. The initial focus areas included:

- Addressing access to employment and exploring partnerships with employers;
- Seeking funding options to expand transit services;
- Mapping regional transit options;
- Connecting with other agencies to maximize resources;
- Increasing access to health care in Wichita from rural areas; and
- Exploring whether a regional public transit authority should be created.

Members also discussed the importance of understanding available state and federal funding, including how funding is distributed among providers and what resources may be available for service expansion. Participants expressed interest in learning how communities such as Goddard, Derby, and Haysville assess local demand and build support for new transportation services.

WAMPO staff noted that the Regional Transit Implementation Plan includes community-specific information from outreach conducted throughout the region, including findings related to transit needs and interests in Bel Aire and other jurisdictions. Committee members suggested that future

meetings revisit the plan's findings, available regional and statewide transit studies, and examples of coordination models used elsewhere in Kansas.

WAMPO will compile the priority responses and use the feedback to guide future agendas, research, and potential speakers. Members were encouraged to share ideas for future discussion topics, studies, resources, or presenters with WAMPO staff.

VI. Next Steps and Scheduling

The next RTCC meeting is anticipated to be held in January 2027. WAMPO is seeking a host location for the next meeting.