



Meeting Minutes

Transportation Policy Body (TPB) Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 9, 2024, @ 3:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting: *Online & 271 W. 3rd St, Rm. 203, Wichita, KS 67202*

Meeting Duration: *81 minutes*

Voting Members in Attendance		
Becky Tuttle, <i>TPB Chair</i> Ryan Baty, <i>Sedgwick County</i> Jim Benage, <i>Bel Aire</i> Ronald Colbert, <i>Valley Center</i> David Dennis, <i>Sedgwick County</i> Nick Engle, <i>Derby</i> Dalton Glasscock, <i>Wichita</i> Mike Hoheisel, <i>Wichita</i>	Jim Howell, <i>Sedgwick County</i> J.V. Johnston, <i>Wichita</i> Russ Kessler, <i>Haysville</i> George Liebe, <i>Goddard</i> Pete Meitzner, <i>Sedgwick County</i> Ben Saucedo, <i>Park City</i> Terry Somers, <i>SCAC</i> Burt Ussery, <i>Clearwater</i>	Mike Warrington, <i>Andover</i> Dan Woydziak, <i>Butler County</i> Alternates Nick Gregory, <i>Maize (voting)</i> J.B. Wilson, <i>KDOT (voting)</i>
Other Attendees		
Raven Alexander, <i>Wichita Transit</i> Lauren Bulcroft, <i>WAMPO</i> Dylan Cossaart, <i>WAMPO</i> Tyler Dehn, <i>Bel Aire</i> Chaitanya Dodda, <i>WAMPO</i> Penny Feist, <i>Wichita Transit</i> Nick Flanders, <i>WAMPO</i> Dora Gallo, <i>WAMPO</i>	Michael Gerber, <i>FORVIS</i> Debbie Haslam, <i>Wichita Documenters</i> Markey Jonas, <i>WAMPO</i> Alan Kailer, <i>Bike Walk Wichita</i> Peter Mohr, <i>WAMPO</i> ThaiBinh Mursch, <i>MAPD</i> Kim Neufeld, <i>WAMPO</i> Lynn Packer, <i>Sedgwick County</i>	Chad Parasa, <i>WAMPO</i> Marcela Quintanilla, <i>WAMPO</i> Kelly Rundell, <i>Hite, Fanning & Honeyman L.L.P.</i> Allison Smith, <i>KDOT</i> Kyle Thomas, <i>WAMPO</i> Bill Troe, <i>SRF</i> James Wagner, <i>Wichita</i>

1. Chair Becky Tuttle called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM.

Attendees introduced themselves and welcomed newly appointed members.

2. Regular Business

A. Approval of the April 9, 2024, Agenda

Discussion: None.

Action: Approve the April 9, 2024, agenda, as presented. (16-0)¹

Motion: Ben Saucedo

Second: David Dennis

B. Approval of the March 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Discussion: None.

¹ Four (4) voting TPB members did not arrive until after the vote to approve the April 2024 agenda.

WAMPO provides meeting minutes that are not verbatim. TAC and TPB meetings are recorded and hosted on YouTube [@WAMPO Kansas](https://www.youtube.com/@WAMPO_Kansas). To request assistance accessing meeting recordings call – (316) 779-1313 or email – wampo@wampo.org.

Action: Approve the March 12, 2024, meeting minutes, as presented. (13-0)²

Motion: Russ Kessler

Second: Terry Somers

C. Director's Report

i. Quarterly UPWP Task Chart

Chad Parasa, WAMPO, explained that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the primary budgeting document for the planning activities WAMPO intends to undertake during the calendar year and outlines priorities and tasks. The statuses of planned work tasks are updated and presented to the Transportation Policy Body (TPB) quarterly. The 2024 first-quarter (January 1 – March 30, 2024) UPWP activity report that will be submitted to KDOT was presented, highlighting the 2024 priority tasks, the quarters in which they are to be completed, and their current statuses.

January - March 2024 UPWP Report – <https://bit.ly/Q1-2024-UPWP-Report>

ii. MTP 2050/FFY2025-FFY2028 TIP: Project Selection Committee (PSC) Meetings

Peter Mohr, WAMPO, shared that from September 15, 2023, through February 2, 2024, WAMPO held a combined Call for Projects for Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2050 (MTP 2050) and the FFY2025-FFY2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). One hundred and two (102) projects from eleven (11) WAMPO member jurisdictions have been scored and ranked by WAMPO staff and consultants. These projects are being considered by the Project Selection Committee (PSC) at meetings in April 2024 for recommendations to the TAC and TPB on which projects to prioritize for funding. Information on the proposed projects can be viewed at <https://www.wampo.org/mtp2050>.

Discussion:

Chair Tuttle emphasized the importance of the work that goes into the plan and project-selection process, commending WAMPO staff for their efforts. Mr. Parasa gave a brief overview of the short-range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

iii. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Updates

Kim Neufeld, WAMPO, explained that in December 2023, WAMPO was awarded a Federal Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) demonstration grant in the amount of \$940,000, and WAMPO staff are working with the FHWA to start the process of using those funds.

Having completed the prerequisite adoption of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP), WAMPO intends to apply for an SS4A implementation grant. SS4A implementation grants focus on the execution of strategies in the CSAP, which may involve major safety-

² Two (2) voting TPB members did not arrive until after the vote to approve the March 2024 minutes, and five (5) voting TPB members abstained but were present.

related infrastructure improvements. WAMPO staff will prepare an application for the 2024 round of implementation-grant funding, the deadline for which is May 16, 2024. For the 2025 round of SS4A implementation-grant funding, WAMPO will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant to assist with preparing an application.

Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) - <https://bit.ly/WAMPO-CSAP>

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) website - <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>

iv. Upcoming Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

Mr. Mohr announced that WAMPO is preparing to issue several Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for consultants to assist with the region's Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) architecture, Travel Demand Model (TDM) update (phase 2), Safe Routes to School (SRTS) planning assistance, and a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) implementation-grant application (in 2025). Responses to earlier RFPs for financial & single audit services and for the procurement of automated bicycle/pedestrian counters are under evaluation. Requests for Proposals will be posted online at <https://www.wampo.org/wampo-is-hiring> and RFP submissions can be emailed to wampo@wampo.org.

v. Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) Grant Opportunity

Ms. Neufeld shared that on March 19, 2024, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the new Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP), which makes up to \$44.5 million available for projects that will strengthen safety and improve bicycling, walking, and access to public transit in communities across the country. WAMPO staff attended a webinar about the program on April 9, 2024, and will keep member jurisdictions informed as information becomes available.

ATIIP website – https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/atiip/

vi. K-96 Improvements Project Open House 04/11/2024, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Mr. Parasa shared that the K-96 Improvements Project is holding an open house on Thursday, April 11, 2024, from 5:00 – 7:00 PM, at the WSU Metropolitan Complex (5015 E. 29th Street N., Room 180, Wichita KS 67220). The project team will share how the project will enhance safety, improve capacity, provide travel time reliability, and relieve congestion. Improvements include upgrading K-96 between the I-135 and I-35 interchanges, expanding it from four lanes to six lanes, and improving seven interchanges (with Hillside Street, Oliver Street, Woodlawn Boulevard, Rock Road, Webb Road, Greenwich Road, and 21st Street).

K-96 Improvements Project website – <https://k96improvements.ksdot.gov/>

vii. FFY2023-FFY2026 TIP Amendment 8 Call for Changes Open 04/08/2024 – 04/19/2024

Mr. Mohr discussed the amendment schedule for the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which covers Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2023-2026 (October

1, 2022, through September 30, 2026). The Call for Changes period for regularly scheduled TIP Amendment 8 is April 8, 2024, through April 19, 2024. The timeline for TIP Amendment 8 includes a Public Comment Period (05/03/24 – 5/17/24), TAC Recommendation (05/20/24), TPB Approval, (06/11/24), and KDOT STIP Amendment (07/05/24). The FFY2023-FFY2026 TIP and amendment schedule can be viewed at <https://www.wampo.org/transportation-improvement-program>.

viii. **Population-Projections Update**

Mr. Mohr gave an update on the population projections that WAMPO is developing, out to the year 2050. A new methodology for the projections is being developed in collaboration with the Center for Economic Development and Business Research (CEDBR), which will be presented to the TAC on April 22, 2024, and to the TPB on May 14, 2024.

Discussion:

Chair Tuttle expressed appreciation for staff going back to reevaluate the development process for the population projections.

Mike Warrington asked if the methodology would be shared with the jurisdictions for review. Mr. Mohr and Mr. Parasa confirmed that CEDBR will first present the methodology and gather feedback before they come back with the population projections.

D. Consent Agenda

i. Contract for Legal Services with Hinkle Law Firm

Markey Jonas, WAMPO, presented a contract for legal services between the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO) and Hinkle Law Firm LLC. The agreement allows WAMPO to contract with the law firm to provide legal assistance in revisiting and updating, as necessary, WAMPO's 457(b) plan and its Employee Welfare Benefit Plan. The agreement's effective date is December 1, 2023, and has a duration of three (3) years, until November 30, 2026. The amount invoiced or paid under the agreement is not exceed \$4,999.00.

Legal Services Contract with Hinkle Law Firm – <https://bit.ly/Hinkle-Legal-Contract>

Discussion: None.

Action: Approve entering the Contract for Legal Services with Hinkle Law Firm LLC., as presented. (19-0)³

Motion: Ben Saucedo

Second: Nick Gregory

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

³ One (1) voting TPB member left before the votes to approve the consent agenda and action items.

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4. Action

A. Year 2023 Audit Reports

Michael Gerber, FORVIS, presented the results of WAMPO's Year 2023 Independent Auditor's Report & Financial Statements. Highlights mentioned include a clean opinion in the independent auditor's report and the management discussion and analysis, which provides a high-level overview of changes year over year. Page 11 details WAMPO's activity for the year, showing an increase in revenue of approximately \$700,000 due to increased federal funding. Expenses also increased, primarily due to funding projects, but remained within budget. Page 19 details the federal funds received during the year, with no findings in the compliance audit, which ensures funds were used appropriately. The management letter indicates that no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses were found in the accounting processes and overall presents a positive report of the organization's financial activities.

Final Year 2023 Audit Report – <https://bit.ly/Year-2023-Audit-Report-Final>

Discussion:

Chair Tuttle and David Dennis congratulated WAMPO staff, the TPB, and especially Executive Committee members on a clean audit, noting that it is a testament to hard work.

Action: Receive and File - Independent Auditor's Report & Financial Statements. (19-0)

Motion: Ben Saucedo

Second: Jim Benage

B. FFY2023-FFY2026 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #7

Mr. Mohr asked the TPB to take action on proposed Amendment 7 to the WAMPO FFY2023 – FFY2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Amendment 7 is a regularly scheduled amendment for which the Public Comment period was held from March 8, 2024, through March 22, 2024; no comments were received. TIP Amendment 7 adds five (5) new projects and modifies four (4) projects. There is also an administrative adjustment to one (1) additional project, which does not require approval.

Mr. Mohr listed the projects modified/added, discussed the changes in local, state, and federal funding, and explained the Federal requirements met by TIP Amendment 7: it is consistent with the current Metropolitan Transportation Plan, *REIMAGINED MOVE 2040*, and is fiscally constrained. The financial impact is an additional cost of \$70.9 million, with no changes in WAMPO-suballocated funds. Following approval by the TPB, the amendment will be sent to the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) to be included in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for review and consideration by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Federal approval is expected in May 2024.

FFY2023-FFY2026 TIP Amendment #7 Summary – <https://bit.ly/TIP-Amendment-7-Summary>

Discussion: None.

Action: Approve FFY2023-FFY2026 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #7, as presented. (19-0)

Motion: Nick Engle

Second: Russ Kessler / Ronald Colbert

5. Discussion/Updates

A. WAMPO Electric Vehicle Network Plan

Dora Gallo, WAMPO, shared that WAMPO's recently completed Electric Vehicle (EV) Network Plan addresses the region's growing demand for electric vehicles by providing a comprehensive strategy for EV charging infrastructure. Emphasizing immediate actions and longer-term planning, the plan aims to position the WAMPO region as an EV destination, corridor, and gateway. It aligns with existing plans for economic development and improved air quality. The plan categorizes charging infrastructure into Level 1, Level 2, and Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC), which have different charging speeds and appropriate applications. Community input was gathered through a survey, showcasing WAMPO's commitment to inclusivity. The plan recommends strategically placing EV charging stations in key locations to support EV owners, promote sustainability, and stimulate market growth. Overall, the plan aims to create a robust and interconnected EV charging network to meet the evolving needs of the growing electric-vehicle market.

Ms. Gallo gave background details about the plan development process; explained the different types of EVs and EV chargers, barriers to adoption, and industry trends; and shared an overview of the development process and plan contents. The WAMPO EV Network Plan is open for public comment through April 11, 2024, and comments can be posted online at <https://www.wampo.org/electric-vehicles> or emailed to wampo@wampo.org.

WAMPO Electric Vehicle (EV) Network Plan – <https://bit.ly/3TxjoGw>

Discussion:

Jim Benage asked if the EV Network Plan determines where to locate charging stations or how else it will be used. Ms. Gallo said that right now the plan is just a starting point but will be updated as EV adoption expands, as more infrastructure is added, and as regulations begin being put into place. Mr. Benage expressed concerns about the lack of equipment to put out EV fires, which Chair Tuttle echoed. Ms. Gallo agreed with the concerns but said that technology to put out EV fires is advancing and will be an ongoing consideration for plan updates.

David Dennis expressed reservations about EV adoption in the region but acknowledged and shared appreciation for the work that WAMPO staff have put into the plan development.

Chair Tuttle asked about the survey data and which organization is responsible for monitoring EV infrastructure and adoption trends. Ms. Gallo shared that the survey results are in the plan and

can be viewed on the WAMPO website (<https://www.wampo.org/electric-vehicles>), as well as that the goal was reached for how many survey responses are collected. Allison Smith shared that EV charger locations and other data are available on the Alternative Fuels Data Center (AFDC) website (<https://afdc.energy.gov/>), and announced that KDOT will be releasing a round-two call for proposals for National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) funding within the next week or two, with one priority location being in the Augusta-Andover area.

Nick Gregory asked how it is determined whether a public charger is free or metered and who is responsible for the cost. Ms. Gallo said that it depends on who is installing the EV infrastructure, but there is typically an agreement between them and the electric company for metered charging.

B. Regional Transit Implementation Plan

Bill Troe, SRF, gave a progress report for the Regional Transit Implementation Plan, sharing its status, development details, and tentative scheduling of the next public meeting. The plan's deliverables include, among other things, a History Technical Report, a Regional Transit Feasibility Report, a Future Conditions and Scenarios Report, Steps to Establishing a Regional Transit Authority, and an Implementation Plan. The plan is currently in the phase of evaluating options and identifying alternatives that address the region's transit needs and gaps. Various service options were discussed, including possible providers and funding sources (federal, state, local, or self-funded programs like vanpooling). The analysis of current service and demand, which helps estimate the need for transit service in different areas, was highlighted along with the importance of development density, travel flows, and proximity in determining transit service viability. Potential themes for transit service development as well as detailed alternatives within each theme were discussed, including key assumptions, cost estimates, ridership potential, and implementation timelines. The importance of public involvement in identifying service priorities for different communities and jurisdictions was emphasized, and a plan for distributing information and gathering valuable feedback from stakeholders and the public was outlined.

The next series of public meetings will be held on June 5, 2024. Transportation Policy Body members were asked to help spread the word about the meetings to increase public awareness and participation. More information about the meeting locations and times, as well as distribution materials and a press release, will be shared as the date approaches.

Regional Transit Implementation Plan Presentation Slides – <https://bit.ly/April-TPB-RTIP-Slides>

Discussion:

Chair Tuttle thanked Mr. Troe and WAMPO staff and reiterated the need for a more formalized plan for transit in the region.

George Liebe noted his appreciation for having more notice before the next public meeting, saying it provides more of an opportunity to reach out to the community and generate activity and interest.

6. Committee & Partnership Updates

Chair Tuttle announced that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be at 3:00 PM on May 2, in the MAPD Director's Conference room in the Ronald Reagan Building (271 W 3rd St. N, Room 237, Wichita, KS 67202). It will be an open meeting; anyone is welcome to attend.

J.B. Wilson, KDOT Wichita Metro Division, shared the four upcoming I-135/US 54 bridge closure phases. Southbound I-135 to westbound US 54 will be closed from April to mid-May; northbound I-135 to westbound US 54 will be closed from May to late June; eastbound US 54 to northbound I-135 will be closed from late June to early September; and westbound US 54 to southbound I-135 will be closed from early September to November.

7. Other Business

None.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 PM.

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 3:00 PM.