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WAMPO Launches Public Engagement for a Regional Active Transportation Plan, Invites Public Input

WICHITA, Kan. — The Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO) has launched public engagement, including a website, for a regional active transportation plan, known as the STAR (Strengthening Transportation Alternatives for the Region) Plan. The site gives residents across the WAMPO region a central place to learn about the plan, see details about upcoming community meetings, and share input through an online survey and interactive map.

What if walking, biking, and rolling between communities was easier, safer, and more connected? That's the focus of the WAMPO Strengthening Transportation Alternatives for the Region (STAR) Plan. This effort will improve regional active transportation by evaluating existing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, identifying opportunities to improve connectivity between communities, and updating a regional map. The plan is being developed by WAMPO in partnership with RDG Planning & Design and Shockey Consulting, with guidance from a regional Active Transportation Advisory Group (ATAG) made up of community members, advocacy groups, and local jurisdiction representatives.

"We can't build a better-connected region without hearing from the people who live in it," stated Kim Negrete, WAMPO Multimodal Transportation Safety Planner. "Community engagement is where that starts."

Residents can visit the site to learn about the project timeline and events, explore background information, complete a short survey about their transportation habits, priorities, and destinations, and add comments to an interactive map. Input gathered will directly shape the recommendations in the final plan.

The STAR Plan will also host a series of in-person public workshops this fall. Open house events are scheduled in Bel Aire (Monday, Sept. 28, 4:30–6:30 PM, Bel Aire City Hall), Goddard (Tuesday, Sept. 29, 4:30–6:30 PM, Pathway Church Goddard), Maize (Wednesday, Sept. 30, 4:30–6:30 PM, Maize Community Building), Wichita (Thursday, Oct. 1, 10:00–11:30 AM, Bike Walk Wichita), and Derby (Thursday, Oct. 1, 4:30–6:30 PM, Derby Public Library). A virtual open house will also be held on Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 12:00 PM via Zoom. Full details, including the virtual meeting link, are available on the project website.

Visit www.wampo.org/star-plan to learn more and take the survey.

About WAMPO

The Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO) is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Wichita region, serving as the lead independent agency for coordinating regionally significant transportation investments in roads, highways, transit, rail, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities across 22 cities and 3 counties in South Central Kansas. Working with its member communities and state and federal partners, WAMPO supports the region's economic and transportation goals.

WAMPO fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information or to obtain a Title VI Discrimination Complaint Form, see www.wampo.org/title-vi or call 316.779.1313.

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