

**Legislative Committee Meeting Agenda**

November 19, 2015 ~ 11:30 a.m.

Wichita Workforce Center

2021 N. Amidon, Suite 1100, Wichita

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1. Welcome: Mayor Terry Somers, Chair
  2. Approval of Minutes from October 22, 2015 Meeting: Keith Lawing (pg. 2-4)  
***Recommended action: approve the minutes from the October 22, 2015 meeting.***
  3. 2015 REAP Regional Policy Summit Recap: Marla Canfield (pg. 5)
  4. 2016 Legislative Agenda Planning: Keith Lawing (pg. 6-10)
    - A. Economic Lifelines
    - B. KDOT Project Search
    - C. Weekly Conference Call Updates
    - D. Presentations to SCKS Delegation
  5. Other Business: Legislative Committee Members
  6. Adjourn
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**2016 Meeting Dates**11:30 a.m., 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month

\*January 21, 2016

February 25, 2016

March 24, 2016

April 28, 2016

May 26, 2016

September 22, 2016

October 27, 2016

November 17, 2016 – or cancel for summit?

December 4, 2016 – or cancel for summit?

*\*Date of meetings adjusted due to holiday or conflicting meetings*

**REAP Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes**  
October 22, 2015 ~ Wichita Workforce Center  
Mayor Terry Somers, Chair

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**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Mayor Terry Somers (Mount Hope), Chair called the meeting to order and asked for self-introductions.

**2. Approval of Minutes from September 24, 2015**

Commissioner David Unruh, Sedgwick County, (City Council Member Carl Koster, Cheney) moved to approve the minutes from September 24, 2015. Motion adopted.

**3. 2015 Regional Policy Summit**

Lawing announced that this year's Regional Policy Summit is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2015 at the Rhatigan Student Center at Wichita State University; the Agenda was included in the meeting packet. Hosting partners for the event are Wichita State University, Kansas Global Trade Services, Blueprint for Regional Economic Growth (BREG) and the Greater Wichita Partnership.

Agenda Summary:

- 1) Present research on the South Central Kansas economy with a response panel of community leaders and question and answer from the audience
- 2) Highlight the role of exports in the regional economy and present grant awards
- 3) Learn about how Texas uses workforce development resources to support economic development strategies and the partnerships between the Texas Workforce Commission and local workforce boards
- 4) Economic impact of the healthcare industry / sector

Lawing reviewed the list of sponsors for last year's event and encouraged the committee members to assist in generating attendance and sponsorships.

**4. 2016 Legislative Agenda Planning**

2016 will be there first year since 2005 that the region has not requested state support for commercial air service. There is not an obvious and large scale regional legislative priority identified for the 2016 legislative session.

The Committee discussed:

- What are the basic goals for REAP in the area of policy advocacy and influencing state investments to support the regional economy?
- What is the best way to develop regional legislative priorities?

- How can REAP best work with other partners and stakeholders on regional legislative priorities?

Some of the possible legislative priorities discussed were:

- WATC-WSU Merger
- Innovation Act
- NIAR funding
- Regionalization
- Preservation and Protection of Water Supplies.
  - Support reasonable, scientifically-based regulations to protect the quality and quantity of water. Such regulations should take into account cost-benefit analyses and should not be unduly restrictive. Additionally, we support legislation and regulations to protect sensitive or important groundwater areas from possible contamination by humans, animals, or other sources. We also support efforts at all levels of government to protect and preserve water resources, including partnerships aimed at remedying sedimentation and other problems that affect public access to water
- Comprehensive Transportation Program
  - Support the continued funding of the Kansas T-Works comprehensive transportation program. We oppose any further use of these funds to balance the State's general fund budget. Any reduction in T-Works funding would jeopardize existing programs.
- Airport Funding
- Support the continued use of state economic development dollars (EDIF funds) to enhance airport facilities and services.
- Interlocal Cooperation
  - Support the principle of voluntary cooperation among all levels of government.
- Intergovernmental Dialogue
  - Communication between all levels of government is critical to the successful delivery of public services to the citizens of KS. Representatives from cities provide facts and information that are crucial to intergovernmental relations, and as such, should have the same rights and responsibilities as private interest lobbyists. REAP supports current law regarding the use of state and local public moneys to provide information and advocate on behalf of our cities and citizens. Any reporting system should not increase the administrative burden on local governments.
- Rail Service

- Support existing and enhanced passenger and freight rail services in Kansas.

Suggestions were made to have individual REAP members that work with their own lobbyists to invite their lobbyist to Committee meetings and share information, research available subscriber services for legislative reporting from the Capital and make a provision in future meetings to share information REAP members might obtain through KAC and other leagues.

**5. Other Business**

Letter from Attorney General's office was discussed.

**6. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

**Attendance:**

Members/ Alternates

Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope, Chair  
Council Member Carl Koster, Cheney  
Commissioner David Unruh, Sedgwick County  
Bob Myers, City of Newton

Staff

Keith Lawing, REAP  
Marla Canfield, REAP

**2015 REAP Regional Policy Summit**

- There were approximately 143 total in attendance

Kansas State Legislators Registered:

- Representative John Carmichael
- Representative Will Carpenter
- Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau
- Senator Carolyn McGinn
- Representative Don Schroeder
- Representative Gene Suellentrop
- Senator Susan Wagle
- Representative Jim Ward
- Representative John Whitmer

Kansas State Legislators Attended:

- Senator Susan Wagle
- Representative Don Schroeder
- Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau
- Senator Carolyn McGinn

Not registered but attended:

- Representative Joe Siewert

We will be posting all of the presentations/handouts to the REAP website:  
<http://reap-ks.org/documents/>

### Proposed 2016 Legislative and Policy Priorities

*REAP advocates for state investments and encourages strategic public policies to create jobs and grow the economy in South Central Kansas.*

The members of REAP focus on issues of common concern that drive the regional economy including transportation, water, energy and workforce development.

- **Forty percent of manufacturing employment** in Kansas is located in the REAP region.
- Healthcare is a significant economic driver, **employing 38,800 Kansans** in the REAP region.
- There are **six state-supported post-secondary institutions** in the REAP region, including the KU School of Medicine-Wichita, Wichita State University, Butler Community College, Cowley College, Hutchinson Community College, and Wichita Area Technical College. These institutions enrolled **41,223 students** in the fall of 2015.
- There are **14 private colleges, universities and institutions** in the REAP region, with an additional **16,300** students enrolled in the fall of 2015.
- The REAP region hosts two of the three Kansas oil refineries, a large wind generator assembly plant, and four REAP counties contain wind farms.
- The region is home to McConnell Air Force Base which reports a **regional economic impact of \$551.6 million** in 2013, creating an estimated **2,625** indirect jobs at a value of **\$116.8 million**.

REAP supports state investments in technology, innovative research, education and skills training in the following areas.

- Research and development at the **National Institute for Aviation Research** (NIAR) at Wichita State University.
- **Career and Technical Education** and skills training at community/technical colleges designed to meet the needs of business and industry through the continuation of SB 155.
- Cutting edge technology at the National Center for Innovation for Bio Orthopedic Research (**CiBOR**), a joint venture of Wichita State University and Via Christi Health hosted at NIAR.
- Medical education and training programs at the **Kansas University School of Medicine-Wichita**.
- **Innovation ACT**
- **WATC – WSU affiliation/merger**

REAP supports policies and strategies to recognize the protection of water resources critical to the economy of South Central Kansas.

- Support the inclusion of the protection of the **Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)** initiative in the “50 year Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas” as a regional asset and critical economic growth tool, supplying water for **20%** of that Kansas Population.

REAP supports transportation projects and strategies to enhance the regional economy in South Central Kansas.

- Maintain funding for **Kansas T-Works** projects in the REAP region, discourage “raiding” transit funds to balance the budget.
- Support funding of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study needed to maintain and/or expand **passenger rail service** in Kansas.

REAP supports strategies and policies from the state that enhance regional job growth in South Central Kansas through economic development investments and targeted programs.

REAP supports the continuation and implementation of the Regional Export Plan, "Export Now", directed by Kansas Global Trade Services.

REAP recognizes the importance of energy to the regional economy, access to, and production of, a variety of energy sources from oil and natural gas to renewable resources such as wind and solar power.

REAP support regional sector strategies such as BREG (Blueprint for Regional Economic Growth).

Economic Lifelines

*Stimulating Economic Vitality*

*Through Leadership in Infrastructure Development*

**Economic Lifelines Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- November 9, 2015

CONTACT: Mandy Roe (620)0365-0562 or [economiclifelines@gmail.com](mailto:economiclifelines@gmail.com)

**Economic Lifelines warn additional transportation cuts will lead to "Road Closed" markings on projects and maintenance**

TOPEKA- Legislators serving on the state's budget committee were warned today that further transfers/cuts from the state's transportation department will result in scheduled projects not being completed and leave thousands of miles of roadway without maintenance.

Economic Lifelines, the state's leading transportation coalition, said those dire predictions stem from discussions with Kansas Department of Transportation Secretary Mike King at meetings during the 2015 legislative session. Friday's announcement of an additional \$50 million in KDOT cuts only make this fear more pronounced, according to coalition leaders.

"Since this highway program was launched in 2011, KDOT has seen \$2.1 billion taken from its budget," stated Economic Lifelines Chief Executive Officer Michael Johnston. "That's nearly one fourth of the entire program diverted for other purposes. What has been used as a short-term fix to the state general fund deficit is turning into a long-term disaster for our state highways. Clearly, taking an additional \$50 million is making a bad situation even worse and as such, we're asking lawmakers to reject the cuts." T-WORKS, the state's 10 year, \$8 billion transportation plan, is funded primarily by a 4/10 cent sales tax and is set to deliver major new improvement projects throughout the state which includes an \$8 million minimum investment in every Kansas county. According to KDOT, transfers out of the highway fund include \$1.394 billion in extraordinary transfers and \$730 million defined as historical transfers.

"The Department of Transportation has been asked to do the impossible-- find ways to operate without 25 percent of its budget while still delivering all of the components of the T-WORKS program and maintaining our roads and bridges," said Johnston. "These transfers are unsustainable and further cuts will result in dire consequences to public safety and jeopardize the investment Kansas taxpayers have made to the state's infrastructure."

Budget cuts have already resulted in nearly \$300 million in maintenance projects postponed and Secretary King stated last year; further cuts or transfers would result in projects not being completed. During Friday's announcement, Secretary of Revenue Shawn Sullivan noted that these cuts would cause a delay in preservation programs intended to prevent major repairs in the future.

"We urge all policymakers to reject proposals to further raid transportation coffers in an effort to fund other state agencies," said Johnston.



Johnston, a former KDOT Secretary, said the equivalent of \$1 million per day has been taken from the state's transportation agency for the past several years and that preliminary budget submissions show this trend continuing in both FY 2016 and FY 2017.

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**Economic Lifelines Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- October 20, 2015

CONTACT: Mandy Roe (620-365-0562) or economiclifelines@gmail.com

**Economic Lifelines announces new Chief Executive**

TOPEKA-- Economic Lifelines, the state's leading transportation coalition, today announced Michael Johnston has been selected as their new Chief Executive Officer.

A former state senator from Parsons, Michael Johnston served 14 years in the Kansas Senate, including service as a legislative leader. He went on to serve as a cabinet secretary, leading the Kansas Department of Transportation. He also served as President and CEO of the Kansas Turnpike from 1995-2013.

"I'm excited about being chosen to lead the effort and equally pleased Capitol Strategies will continue to work with our lobbying effort and Strategic Communications of Kansas will continue to manage our communication needs," said Johnston. "For decades, Economic Lifelines has led efforts to support the implementation and funding of our state's comprehensive transportation programs. Now more than ever, it is vital that we protect the commitments made to Kansas communities and help them grow through the economic impact of T-WORKS and all transportation programs."

T-WORKS, the state's 10 year, \$8 billion transportation plan, has proven to be a vital program for all areas of the state, creating needed jobs, spurring economic development and ensuring safety on Kansas roads. Since its passage, over \$2.1 billion has been diverted from transportation to fund other areas of the budget. The transfers have resulted in nearly \$300 million in postponed maintenance projects.

"As the state continues to face budget challenges, Michael's expertise and stature will help us as we fight to protect T-WORKS and transportation dollars," said Johnnie Koger, Economic Lifelines Co-Chair. "His background in both the legislative and executive branches of government gives him an important perspective in preserving the important investment in our state's transportation infrastructure."

KDOT – PROJECT SEARCH

Project Types: Preservation, Modernization, Expansion, Local Parts, Public Transit, Aviation, NRAIL,  
Bicycle and Pedestrian

<b>County</b>	<b>TBD Project #'s</b>	<b>2016 and Future Projects</b>
Butler	17	5
Cowley	8	9
Harper	4	5
Harvey	7	4
Kingman	2	2
McPherson	16	8
Reno	10	10
Sedgwick	29	29
Sumner	8	8