

REAP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wichita Workforce Center
2021 N Amidon Ave #1100
Wichita, KS 67203
April 14, 2022 ~ 11:30 am

1. **Welcome, Introductions and Approval of Agenda:** Mayor Tom Brown, Chair
REAP Chair, Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes**
Approval of Minutes from Executive Committee Meeting from March 10, 2022.

ACTION TAKEN: Council Member Toyia Bulla (Bentley) made a motion to approve the March 10, 2022 REAP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes. Mayor Pat Stivers (Maize) seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Amtrak Heartland Flyer Extension Update: Cory Davis, Assistant Chief, Bureau of Transportation Planning, Kansas Department of Transportation**
State Rail Plan Update
- Required to be updated every four years
 - Draft Rail Plan under KDOT staff review
 - Developed with input from key stakeholders, industry partners, and other state agencies
 - Will be released in the coming month for 30-day public comment review
 - Addresses both passenger and freight rail
 - Analyzes the current state of rail activities in Kansas
 - Examines opportunities for future investments
 - Outlines recommendations for how Kansas should advance rail initiatives statewide
 - Key is the inclusion of the Heartland Flyer extension from Newton to Oklahoma City
 - Inclusion of this project in the rail plan makes the extension eligible for future federal funding
 - Next step in that effort is the update of the 2011 Service Development Plan (SDP)
 - Outline a roadmap for implementing Heartland Flyer extension
 - Service and operations analysis will outline the optimal level of service and confirm connections to existing rail service such as the Southwest Chief in Kansas
 - The capital investment analysis will outline the necessary track improvements, local station improvements, and capital acquisitions needed for the service to operate successfully
 - Ridership and revenue assessments will help identify the cost to the states for operating the service long term
 - The implementation plan will outline every step, both near and long term to advance the project

- Service Development Plan Team
 - DB Engineering - Lead consultant firm
 - HNTB - Public Involvement Lead
 - Steer - Revenue and Ridership Forecasting
 - Kimley Horn - Planning and Design
- Service Development Plan Timeline
 - Spring 2022: Service and Operations Analysis - The planning process is underway and results are forthcoming
 - Summer 2022: Updated costs for the service
 - Capital investments needed
 - Operating costs
 - Ridership estimates
 - January 2023: Final implementation of SDP
- Next steps following SDP
 - Formalize Partnerships
 - Kansas DOT
 - Oklahoma DOT
 - Amtrak
 - BNSF
 - Local Communities
 - Pursue Capital and Operating Funds
 - Local Station Improvements
 - Track Improvements
 - Capital Acquisition
- Multiple funding opportunities
 - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
 - Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Grants (CRISI) - \$1 Billion Annually (Infrastructure Improvements)
 - Restoration and Enhancement Grants - \$50 Million Annually (Five years of phased operating assistance)
 - Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grants - \$1.5 Billion Annually (Infrastructure Improvements and Capital Acquisition)
 - State Support
 - KDOT Cost-Share Program and Economic Development Program for local community station improvements
 - KDOT Grant Writer – newly hired

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Corridor Program

- The timing of the SDP will align with FRA's application for projects
- KDOT/ODOT has been in coordination with Amtrak and BNSF
- KDOT submitted comments on the FRA's RFI for the program in coordination with the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission
- Spring of 2023 due date for submittal to FRA

4. SCKEDD Housing Resurgence & Weatherization Programs (pg. 7): Marc Howell, Executive Director, and Bill Lampe, Program Director, SCKEDD

- SCKEDD's 50th year in business
- What we do
 - Business loans: Favorable loan programs designed to meet the unique funding needs of entrepreneurs and emerging companies
 - Community grants: Grants writing and administration team works with local communities to attain important grants to improve the quality of life, attract new businesses, accelerate job growth, and encourage new private development
 - Community Housing Resurgence Program: SCKEDD's housing specialists partner with communities to renovate existing available housing to attract new residents, a skilled workforce, private investment, and economic growth
 - Rehab existing housing stock and sell at market value
 - Properties can be donated or purchased at a reduced rate to allow for extensive repairs
 - Homes may be in land banks, under tax foreclosure, loan foreclosure, abandoned or neglected
 - Provide down payment assistance to buyers
 - Will be owner-occupied
 - Remodeled homes add value to neighborhood
 - Increase in tax revenue from new assessed value
 - Owner-occupied buyers often show pride of ownership in their long-term care of the home
 - Weatherization Assistance Program
 - Highly successful: Helps eligible low-income households improve their residential energy efficiency and increase their energy savings
 - Located in 41 southern Kansas counties
 - Ensures home holds in heat and air conditioning
 - No charge to the client
 - Income-eligible families receive a comprehensive home assessment which may include repair or replacement of heating/cooling systems, insulation and caulking
- Competitive grants are usually due in October – start working on applications now

5. 2022 State Legislative Update: Josh Svaty, Gencur Svaty Public Affairs

- Legislature adjourned for three-week break – Veto session still to come
- Mega House Water bill (HB 2686) was gutted – Came out of committee, but never made it above the line for a vote
- SB 548 and SB549: Hearing in the Senate Ag Committee – Senate leadership may approve interim committee to look at water issues over the summer

- Tim Boese reported on the new GMD2 Board Representation Policy – 2nd reading was held on April 13, 2022, to add two more GMD2 Board positions for municipal representatives. Will be voted on at GMD2 Annual meeting on April 26, 2022, at 7PM, at Halstead High School. If approved, election will immediately follow

6. REAP Executive Board Treasurer Appointment: Mayor Tom Brown

Derby Council Member and REAP Executive Board Treasurer, Tom Keil, resigned from the Derby City Council and the REAP Executive Committee, effective March 23, 2022.

According to REAP bylaws, adopted March 3, 2021:

5.1.C: Treasurer. The Treasurer shall exercise the administration of and the adherence to the fiscal policy of REAP. In addition, the Treasurer shall perform such other duties as assigned by the Chair. The Treasurer is selected through the Nomination and Election process details in section 3.

5.2: Term. The term of office for Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer shall be for a period of one year, or until such officer's successor is elected.

5.3: Any vacancy occurring in any office, except the Chair, shall be filled by the Chair for the unexpired term of office. In the event of a vacancy in the position of Chair, the Vice Chair shall assume the position of Chair.

REAP Chair, Mayor Tom Brown, recommended Park City Council Member, Tom Jones, to fulfill the unexpired term of REAP Board Treasurer.

ACTION TAKEN: Commissioner Chip Westfall (Harvey County) motioned to approve REAP Chair, Mayor Tom Brown, recommendation to appoint Council Member Tom Jones (Park City), to fulfill the remainder of the term of REAP Board Treasurer. Council Member Toyia Bulla (Bentley) seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Committee Reports

A. Airport Advisory Board: Randy Frazer (Arkansas City), provided the following written report:

DIRECTORS REPORT

- The Airport has applied to the state for ARPA (SPARK and BASE) grant funding for the cargo ramp expansion at ICT, extension for taxiway to the North at AAO, and for Air Service Development incentive funding.
- The Wichita Chamber applied for a County ARPA grant for funds to be used for minimum revenue guarantees to attract new air service. It appears the grant was not successful.
- Airspace issues were discussed. FAA informed us of changes to the instrument approaches at both airports due to obstructions nearby.

PROJECT UPDATES:

- Matt Jacobs & Chris Flageolle with Lochner provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the runway rehab project and the awards that were received.
- This five-phase project began with numerous coordination meetings with all involved partners – FAA, commercial airlines, general aviation tenants, U. S. Customs and Border Protection and cargo airlines.
- The main elements of the work included:
 - Runway 1L-19R pavement rehabilitation and keel (center) section replacement, pavement markings, electrical system and signage improvements.
 - Runway 1R-19L pavement rehabilitation, pavement markings, electrical system and signage improvements.
 - TWY D-3 removal to eliminate a hot spot and improve airfield safety.
 - TWY B-1 (partial) removal to eliminate a hot spot and improve airfield safety.
- The project implemented sustainable development.
 - Asphalt millings were utilized for haul road improvements, reducing off-site waste.
 - Hard rock aggregates such as crushed granite, quartzite, and trap rock were used as they are less susceptible to D-cracking which causes pavement deterioration from freeze/thaw.
 - LED light fixtures replaced edge, centerline, and touchdown zone lights while reusing existing runway edge light bases and conduit. The LEDs will greatly minimize airport maintenance and power costs.

AIR SERVICE:

- Passengers flying out of Wichita Eisenhower National Airport increased 73% in February over the previous year, with 43,695 enplanements. This compares to 25,216 in February 2021. A total of 87,545 passengers flew in and out of ICT, an increase of 76% over the previous year.
- Capacity increased over last year as well. February had 99 more flights and 19,609 more seats than in February 2021, when the pandemic was severely hurting passenger demand. With passengers increasing 73% and seats only increasing 45%, additional seats are needed.
- Outgoing cargo tonnage increased 9% and incoming cargo increased 2%. Food and gift receipts were up 87%, rental car receipts increased 63%, and parking revenue increased 84%.
- The airline industry continues to face challenges with pilot shortages and now fuel prices are at an all-time high. Expect fares to increase.
- Passenger traffic is increasing. According to the TSA on March 6, 2022, there were 21 oversold flights with a 98% load factor.

- The airlines are slowly adding capacity. Compared to 2nd quarter 2021, 2nd quarter 2022 will have 2% more flights and 14% more seats.
- Frontier Airlines has given notice that they will be discontinuing service at Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport. Frontier was serving the Las Vegas market. Nonstop service to Las Vegas continues to be served by Southwest Airlines on Saturdays, and Allegiant Air on Sundays and Thursdays.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- In January the Airport issued an RFP for Marketing Services for the Airport. That selection process was finalized and Greteman Group was chosen. The agreement went to City Council on April 5 but was tabled.
Some Board Member Terms are expiring. Board members were encouraged to reach out to respective appointee or council member to discuss reappointment.

- B. Transit Advisory Committee: Council Member Troy Tabor (Andover), provided the following written report:

Report from the February 16, 2022 Wichita Transit Advisory Board

Discussion Items:

Staff provided an update regarding the revised building concept. There will be a few additional adjustments to the concept for IT purposes. The cost estimate will be updated once the final adjustments have been made. An update will be provided soon regarding the cost and concept.

Director's Report:

Director Tann provided the Director's Report. In his report, he shared that Wichita Transit received City Council approval to purchase 17 out of the 24 paratransit vans needing to be replaced. Due to the price increases and the limited supply of vehicles, only 17 vehicles were able to be procured.

Avail is currently onsite upgrading the modems on the vehicles. At the end of the month, ATT will shut off the 3G services. Modem upgrades will eliminate connectivity issues when the service ends.

There have been questions concerning Wichita Transit bus stops. There have been bus stop removals for inactive stops or safety concerns. Director Tann advised that Wichita Transit has installed more bus stops since the 2016 service reductions. There also been improvements to amenities such as concrete pads being added to support benches or shelters that were installed. If the board members have or receives any questions, please direct them to Wichita Transit staff.

Wichita Transit is still needing to hire at least nine more drivers to be able to run efficient service. Transloc pilot has still been on hold due to driver shortage. Once hiring needs have been met, Wichita Transit will be able to start pilot projects that have been placed on hold.

Old Business Discussion:

- Transit Advisory Board elections are next month. Chair LeAnn Beat will be stepping down as chair.
- Please provide your Council Member with a names of individuals that would be interested in filling vacant seats on the board.
- Chair Beat expressed her concerns regarding the information being shared with the public regarding Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) locations and public education regarding transit overall. The AA project was previously approved by the board and to date there has been limited to no progress made.
- Staff shared that there needs to be a common idea of focus. Also, it is best to direct organizations to the Wichita Transit website due to the ongoing changes and adjustments.
- Chair Beat had a conversation with law department representative, Jay Hinkel, regarding the lack of progress on the project, the project being labeled as a niche market and the confusion that free rides were being requested. It is now clear that Chair Beat is requesting that route information is to be shared in public places for individuals needing to use transit. She is also requesting for groups to be educated on how to ride the bus.
- Chair Beat continued to express frustrations regarding the lack of board member discussions during the meetings and the feelings that suggested projects aren't being moved forward.
- Member Kirksey shared that she understands the struggles Wichita Transit experiences as she has similar struggles while running the Sedgwick County Transportation services. "Staff is doing all they can do to stay above water." She feels that the horizon is beginning to look good and the public definitely needs to be educated. Negative connotation needs to be removed from the public's mind in regards to public transportation.
- Member Gregory would like to see a formal approach or plan being put in place. A plan to have overarching goals or a strategic direction. We need to be able to measure success of objectives. The board has previously given the directive to move forward with projects or marketing initiatives so there should be progress that has been made, however he does agree that it has been a tough time on staff trying to maintain operations. It is time for staff to create a timeline and strategy that is to be presented to the board.
- For the next meeting, staff will work on a plan and board members will come prepared with ideas, in order to have a discussion on developing an initiative to start educating people more on bus ridership.

8. Community Updates

- Mayor Russ Kessler (Haysville): Party in the 060
 - April 23, 2022, 11AM-9PM, Riggs Park
 - Live music
 - Car show
 - Food trucks
 - Beer Fest & Chili Cook-off
 - Cornhole tournament
- Commissioner Chip Westfall (Harvey County)
 - Bunting Magnetics expansion
 - Distribution center for Ben Franklin
 - Midwest Electric Transformer expansion
- Mayor Tom Brown (McPherson)
 - Pfizer expansion
 - Candlewood Suites Hotel
 - Johns Manville expansion
 - Thermal Design expansion – metal building insulation systems
- Murray McGee (Moundridge)
 - BASE Grant award - \$409,914 to expand gas line for future economic development growth
- Council Member Mike Hoheisel (Wichita)
 - BASE Grant award - \$5 million for Riverfront District improvement
- Mike Zamrzla (Senator Moran's Office)
 - Thank you to all who joined the senator at last night's reception at the Kansas Cosmosphere for Dr. Janet Kavandi, Sierra Space President, and former astronaut
 - Space X reception, originally scheduled for April 28th, has been postponed

9. Meeting adjourned at 12: 36 p.m.

ACTION TAKEN: Council Member Tom Jones (Park City) motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mayor Pat Stivers (Maize) seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

REAP Executive Committee

May 12, 2022

Submitted by Laura Rainwater

Item #2

Attendees:

Name	City	In Person	Zoom
Mayor Tom Brown, Chair	McPherson	X	
Andrew Wiens	Wichita Chamber	X	
Anthony Swartzendruber	Harvey County	X	
Bill Lampe	SCKEDD	X	
Chad Parasa	WAMPO	X	
Chip Westfall	Harvey County	X	
Cory Davis	KDOT	X	
Diane Tinker Hurst	WSU Tech		X
Gary Schmidt	Pratt		X
Josh Svaty	REAP		X
Justin Henry	Goddard USD	X	
Kamme Sroufe	Kechi		X
Kimberly Svaty	REAP		X
Laura Rainwater	REAP	X	
Leslie Schrag	Kingman Co EDC	X	
Lucas Neece	Lindsborg		X
Marc Howell	SCKEDD	X	
Mike Hoheisel	Wichita	X	
Mike Moriarty	KDOT	X	
Mike Zamrzla	Sen. Moran's Office	X	
Murray McGee	Moundridge	X	
Nick Engle	Derby	X	
Pat Stivers	Maize	X	
Pete Meitzner	SG County	X	
Russ Kessler	Haysville	X	
Sean Fox	Park City	X	
Tim Boese	GMD2		X
Tom Jones	Park City	X	
Toyia Bulla	Bentley	X	
Will Black	Haysville		X