



**Environmental Management Commission  
Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2014**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Maria Coppock (by telephone), Jim Hansen, Marty Kraft, Ken Kramme, Robin Martinez

Commissioners Absent: Jensen Adams, Bob Berkebile, Tom Brink, Lance Conley, Caroline Davies, Julie Davis, Sal Madge, Jack Schrimsher, Tom Wyrsh

Staff: Jennifer Gunby – Institute for Market Transformation (IMT); Jerry Shechter - OEQ

Guests: Mark Huffer – KC Area Transportation Authority (ATA); Ron McLinden; Rachel Guthrie; Jim Turner – Sierra Club

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm; there was no quorum

- A. Welcome and Introductions - The Chair welcomed commissioners, staff and guests
- B. Minutes – No vote was taken without a quorum present. Action deferred to next meeting
- C. Transit Update and interface with the streetcar line – Mark Huffer, General Manager, KC ATA
  1. Background and Vision of KC ATA – In 2013, there were 16 million passenger trips averaging 55,000 trips per day annually. Kansas City, however, does not invest in transit like other cities do. KC has a dedicated tax for transportation related activities. The tax garners \$42-\$43 million per year of the \$80 million annual budget. Other cities have general fund dollars budgeted and, in addition, there is no regional funding mechanism – similarly to Cincinnati. St. Louis, on the other hand, has a bi-state tax. The ATA Board Chair is interested in a seamless connection among KCMO, Johnson County, Jackson County, Independence and the Unified Government.
  2. Regional Transit – Policy makers are studying both funding and service issues. The big step for the future is how ATA can be reconstituted to provide seamless service and central management.
  3. KC ATA is trying to become an economic development player modeled on the New York City Port Authority model which has direct taxing authority. ATA is looking at better uses for the property and facilities currently owned. In that regard, the fleet is being converted to CNG and the ATA is building its own high-speed fueling station. The expected return on investment is about 6 years. The Board policy is focused on creating and maintaining a 100% alternative fuel fleet.
  4. Streetcar – Initial and extended line – The initial line is 2.2 miles and is owned by the City with ATA technical assistance. KC ATA is not the direct operator of the system. KC ATA expects little ridership impact because the new streetcar system is designed to complement the existing bus system with common stops to accommodate both lines. With regard to an extension of the initial line, there are three lines being discussed. The greatest impact is expected to be on the Main Street MAX line with the extension expected by 2020.

**Questions**

- What is the perceived prospect for improved financial position? Given that tax revenues have been flat for two decades, prospects for much improvement are slim. It is imperative to consider regional funding. Possible legislation in Missouri could bring \$24 million to support transit.
- What is the status of the KCMO sales tax? The ½-cent sales tax for transportation does all go to the ATA.
- What about eastern extensions? Jackson County is negotiating with the Rock Island Line for access.
- A valet package on Main St after 6 pm is a problem for busses. ATA is looking at those lines and possible changes in routes with possible dedicated lanes.
- Alternative fuel sources now are focused on CNG as the interim fuel, with everything else also on the table.

- KC ATA owns the Brookside Trolley Trail and has always looked at it as future fixed guideway potential closely aligned with recreation.
- Rail or other service to KCI is a problem due to distance, crossing the river and lack of available north-south rail system.
- Metroflex routes are operating in the northland. There are seven low density areas where a resident can call in and ask to be picked up and dropped off at either a destination or a connector.
- The website has real-time information on arrivals and an active map of bus movements. The app is called "It's a Bus"

D. Sustainable and Beneficial Uses of Vacant Lots – Robin Martinez

The Task Force has completed its substantive sessions and has begun to prepare its report draft and has broken up into various working groups. The Task Force has been immeasurably aided by the work done by Dr. Jake Wagner's students and has received great input from the Economic Development Corp of KC, Cultivate KC, neighborhood representatives, and others. The current goal is to have a first draft in June, 2014, to then polish it for presentation to the EMC with the ultimate goal of presentation City Council and Mayor in September, 2014. The Task Force requests a place on the agenda in July, 2014 so that action can be taken at the September, 2014 meeting.

E. Office of Environmental Quality – Jerry Shechter

1. City Energy Project - The IMT has hired Jennifer Gunby as the CEP Project Manager. Jennifer was asked to give the CEP report.
  - a. The CEP is focusing on commercial and institutional buildings of 100,000 square feet and above.
  - b. There will be workshops on benchmarking for building owners and managers
  - c. Staff is working with the Mayor's Office on a Mayor's Energy Challenge which will be explained in more detail as it is available
  - d. A database is being developed beginning with detailing the large buildings, locations, ownership, management, etc
  - e. The current focus is on buildings in KCMO with potential regional focus later.
2. The 2014 KC Green Neighborhood Recognition application is available until June 3, 2014.
3. The Environmental Achievement Awards application is available until May 23, 2014.
4. The greenhouse gas inventory update is in process and moving forward well. The utility companies, including Water Services, are providing data quickly. It is expected that data collection will be complete by the end of May and a draft report submitted for review by the end of June, 2014. The Brendle Group will submit four reports: (1) Johnson County operations and (2) Johnson County-wide, (3) KCMO operations, and (4) KCMO community-wide. In KCMO, an employee commuting survey was just completed to better understand commuting and energy use. 1,064 of 4,427 employees (24%) actually participated.
5. Dennis Murphey is working with Bob Mann on a Shadowcliff class to be held August 10-14, 2014.
6. Dennis Murphey participated in the "Run for KC" event for City Council hopefuls which was put together by Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Circo. Dennis was on a panel on sustainability.

F. Liaison Updates –

1. City Energy Project – See OEQ Report Item E-1 above.
2. Air Quality Forum – None.
3. LEED – Eric Bosch has schedule a meeting.

G. Old Business – None

H. New Business – None

I. Remarks – There was general discussion about the new taxi business – LYFT.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for  
 June 11, 2014 at 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
 Mid-America Regional Council  
 600 Broadway – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor - Westview Room