

Regional Transit Public Input Committee

Meeting Summary – June 16, 2008

Attendees

Riverside – Kathy Rose

Raytown – David Bower

Independence – Don Reimal

Clay County – Craig Porter

Platte County – Tom Pryor

Weatherby Lake – Jerry Bos

Claycomo – Jeff Holman

KCATA – Jarred Gulbranson

MARC –Tom Gerend, Karen Clawson, Julie Wittman, Gerri Doyle, Daniel Cash

Regional Transit Alliance, Ron, McLinden

Major Issues Discussed

Committee Activity

Mr. Gerend reviewed activity that had taken place since the last public input meeting. Several of the committees have met so far. The committee reviewed the Committee Process Matrix showing principles and criteria.

The Technical Committee met last week to discuss service criteria and scenario development. Developing scenarios will take time and support of the Governance Committee.

The Governance Committee has been discussing possible governance structures as well as performing due diligence investigation of available enabling legislation. The committee also discussed legislative changes that could be appropriate in different circumstances.

The Finance Committee has discussed building contingencies into a transit proposal in case federal funding does not come through. Questions arose about how a regional transit proposal would interact with a Kansas City starter line proposal. It was noted that there are many questions like this that also need to be addressed.

The committee members also briefly discussed the need for ballot language that was not overly complicated.

Process

Mayor Reimal passed around a document about questions and concerns that should be considered by the committee. He noted that we need to be able to clearly define our goals and how this initiative will benefit the public.

Commissioner Porter suggested that an online poll or survey be created that could be linked to from each community's Website. Several polling questions were suggested. The committee agreed that

there are many questions yet to be answered in relation to other aspects of the proposal but early public engagements would still be productive.

The committee discussed possible ways to engage the public as a first phase. The members agreed that community-based meetings would be the best option. A standard presentation of educational content and questions was needed; PowerPoint could be used. There could be some customization of types of materials used but the same content and output was noted as very important.

There was discussion about second phase engagements in the form of regional workshops or forums that were more high-profile meetings focusing on equity and a technical plan.

Objectives

The committee set out some short-term objectives to focus on:

- Create a public engagement kit that could be used in each community for public engagements,
- Come up with a new name for this proposal that was simple but not overly generic,
- Develop educational material that would include benefits for all parts of the metro, service costs,
- Use Smart Moves as a basis for public input and technical plan development.

The Technical Committee is interested in putting together a few scenarios ranging from bus alternatives to more multi-modal alternatives.

The committee members discussed engaging other stakeholders such as local chambers of commerce. Most chambers are interested in transit in the regional context and need to be engaged early on. It was noted that the Northland Chamber already has a position statement on the issue. The local chambers may need more information before adopting a position statement, education on opportunities and different scenarios.

Schedule

The committee discussed a general timeline for activities that will take place as part of public involvement. The committee came to a consensus that enough time was needed to do the job right the first time and create a quality product. Mayor Reimal suggested six months for holding meetings across the counties, evaluation, and presenting findings to the other committees. Mayor Rose said she would need ninety days at most to engage residents in her county.

Discussion took place over meeting content. Mr. Gerend explained that local community meetings would be a first phase and focus on more general themes. The second phase would involve developed scenarios and getting more specific feedback on those.

Commissioner Porter suggested that feedback about support for different tax levels for different modes would be important to him. Generally it was decided that the committees would be looking for feedback that helped them craft scenarios.

Next meeting: Monday, June 23rd, 9:30 a.m., MARC