

Smart Moves Regional Transit Proposal

July 25th - Regional Summit

Attendees:

David Bower, Mayor, City of Raytown
Kathy Rose, Mayor, City of Riverside
Mark Revenaugh, Mayor, City of Gladstone
Ed Quick, Presiding Commissioner, Clay County
Carson Ross, Mayor, City of Blue Springs
Don Reimal, Mayor, City of Independence
Chuck Johnston, Alderman, City of Grain Valley
Jerry Bos, Mayor, City of Weatherby Lake
John Smedley, Mayor, Platte Woods
Bob Steinkamp, Mayor, City of Liberty
Larry Larson, Western District Commissioner, Clay County
Mark Funkhouser, Mayor, City of Kansas City, MO
Craig Porter, Commissioner, Eastern District, Clay County
Joe Bednar, Armstrong Teasdale
Daniel Erickson, Platte County Planning Director
Michael Collins, District Office Director, Sen. Bond's Office
Melissa Roe, Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Sam Graves' Office
David Peironnet, Clay County Representative

Traci Gleason, Russ Johnson's Office, Kansas City, MO
Matt Webster, Oppenheimer and Co.
Robbie Makinen, County Executive's Office, Jackson County
Ron McLinden, Regional Transit Alliance
Margie Richcreek, Regional Transit Alliance
Jared Gulbranson, KCATA
Kathy Dusenbery
Les Smith
Alexa Barton, Clay County
Danny Rotert, Communications Director, Office of U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II
Anna Coulson
Fred Logan, KC Business Journal
Meredith Hauck, City of Riverside
Danny O'Connor – KCATA
Jay Haden, Jackson County
Evelyn Childers, Regional Transit Alliance
Steve Chinn, Stinson, Morrison, Hecker, LLP
Russ Johnson, City Councilmember, Kansas City, MO

Bill Geary, Asst. City Attorney, Kansas City, MO
Alan McArther, The Landmark Newspaper
Marcy Smalley
David Pavlich, Kearney
Jeff Sales
Geoff Jolley, District Office Director, Office of U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II
Kendrick Blackwood, Asst. Director of Communications, Kansas City, MO
Briana Denzer, Mayor's Office, Kansas City, MO
Sabin Yanez

MARC Staff

Mell Henderson
Tom Gerend
Ron Achelpohl
Karen Clawson
Julie Wittman
Gerri Doyle

Meeting Summary

Mayor Bower opened the summit with a brief update of Steering Committee activity and read the consensus opinion statement to the audience.

Consensus Opinion Statement:

There are two very important and highly integrated transit initiatives underway in the Kansas City Region. They are not in competition with one another, rather they are completely complementary.

We are committed to developing and presenting a regional proposal to our voters in Platte, Clay, and Jackson counties that connects our counties with high-quality transit services. We will take the time necessary to deliver a sound proposal.

We are also committed to coordinating closely with Kansas City, Missouri in their efforts to plan and build a light-rail starter line as an integral piece of an expanded regional transit system.

Mr. Gerend presented detailed updates for each committee including Governance, Financial, Public Input, and Technical. A copy of the presentation is located at [here](#).

As part of the presentation, Mr. Gerend introduced the first service concepts. The [maps](#) include three phases:

1. Phase 1: Deploy Regional Rapid Bus Service
2. Phase 2: Deploy Regional Light Rail Spine
3. Phase 3: Deploy Regional Rail Extension

These service concept maps serve as a straw man proposal from which to carry out more detailed discussion with the public and committee members. It is expected that this concept will be modified.

Comments from Committee Members

- We need to keep focus more on multi-modal options.
- Rail will promote density in our region that a bus-only alternative will not. We need to consider this for environmental reasons.
- We need to invest in rail now and be thinking about future generations.
- Buses will help address immediate needs.
- People in Liberty want buses now – we do not have an in-road on commuter rail yet but are working to get answers.
- We need to get service running quickly and buses are the best option for that. In time, we can switch to rail when warranted. Bus rapid transit is the immediate focus.
- The public needs alternatives that can get them to work.

Public Comment

- Margie Richcreek of the Regional Transit Alliance noted that the RTA was very pleased by the amount of interest for regional transit. The RTA believes that the light rail spine project that the KCATA is preparing is complementary to the regional transit proposal. The RTA has concerns that there may be confusion among the public about whether these two efforts are separate and competing proposals. The RTA supports the following points:
 - A regional transit proposal is not feasible in November, 2008 due to the size of the project and number of issues to be addressed.
 - There are long-term transit needs in our region that must be addressed as well as near-term relief from high fuel prices and over-crowded buses.
 - Discussions will continue at a high level to work out financing, governance, and transit service issues in preparation for a regional election for transit in early 2009.

- The light rail spine as proposed by the KCATA is the regional spine and key component of the ultimate regional plan.
 - The region's elected officials will support the passage of the light rail proposal as it will lay the groundwork for the passage of the three-county transit measure.
- Kite Singleton of the Regional Transit Alliance suggested that the committee consider using Union Station as a rallying point to increase voter interest. Union station is an emotional icon and the public will make an extraordinary commitment to it.
- Janet Rogers of the Regional Transit Alliance noted that she is a Blue Springs resident who has ridden the I-70 route from Blue Springs into downtown and the Raytown to Lee's Summit route multiple times. She is concerned about the standing-room only situation on the I-70 route; it is a safety concern and prevents many people from making it to work on time. Ms. Rogers also presented concerns related to distribution of funds between counties, Kansas City, and the suburbs and acknowledged that fairness is the key and no one can expect that to be dollar for dollar. She also had concerns over the I-70 AA alignment for commuter and suggested that committee read the Blue Springs plan for commuter rail.
- Ron McLinden of the Regional Transit Alliance thanked the committee for their continued commitment to transit. He noted that the desire for transit is greater than our resources and the draft proposal may be reaching farther than what is the most efficient use of resources.
- John Ivey spoke in favor of a November 2008 ballot initiative.