

Meeting Summary
Mid-America Regional Council
TIP Taskforce
Kansas City, Missouri
August 13, 2003

Rosie Ingram, Chief of Program Management with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), was invited to talk at the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) TIP task force meeting regarding progress on the review of the Kansas highway priority formulas, which are used to select major highway improvement projects. The taskforce also indicated that they were interested in learning how MARC's regional goals are being met through the project selection process. Ms. Ingram used this time to discuss the Priority Formula Review project as well as to provide information about the KDOT Partnership Project. A member of the consultant accompanied Ms. Ingram. A summary of the meeting is provided below.

Attendees:

Ron Achelpohl	MARC
Todd Ashby	MARC
Aaron Bartlett	MARC
Molly Fitzgerald	MARC
Marc Hansen	MARC
Tom Jacobs	MARC
Dale Crawford	Olathe
Lee Ann Kell	MoDOT
Doug Brown	Overland Park
Marjie Norton	KDOT
Rene Hart	KDOT
Rosie Ingram	KDOT
Julie Lorenz	HNTB

Following a brief overview of Priority Formula Review project and the KDOT Partnership Project, attendees were divided into small groups and were asked to comment on interactions between MARC and KDOT. Their responses included:

Issue 1: The State Highway System – projects programmed by KDOT

- How does KDOT account for other “users” in evaluation of projects – commerce, non-vehicle – KDOT needs get outside input on these issues earlier.
- Urban area issues – non- highway users in developed areas. Economic development and environmental issues should be considered in project selection.
- Better links are needed between the KDOT program and local/regional priorities.
- MARC and the cities are asked to provide input on spending on the state systems with a short notice. For example, “preservation of area system.”
- KDOT design standards imposed on the cities for state system roads within the cities are sometimes not matched well to the needs within the cities.
- Lack of multi-modal considerations.
- Safety enhancement application. Encouragement and support locally (MPO) for projects.

Issue 2: KDOT/Federally allocated funds – programmed by MARC/counties

- MPOs should have some representation on KDOT evaluation committee for Transportation Enhancement program.

Issue 3: Federal requirements (air quality, LRTP, TIP)

- KDOT staff has been very responsive regarding CMAQ; have helped MARC staff identify and solve problems.
- It would be helpful if KDOT kept their CMAQ list of projects posted on the Internet.

Issue 4: General

- Transit funding goes to United Government of Wyandotte and Johnson County; maybe funding should go to the regional group (ATA) instead of individual units of government.
- Invest in native vegetation along highway right of ways to reduce maintenance costs, improve water quality, enhance aesthetics.
- Consider developing/adopting/implementing environmental operating principles similar to those adapted by the Corps of Engineers
- For new capacity projects, use new regional natural resources inventory info to guide alignment decisions, mitigate environmental impacts, seek opportunities for environmental restoration.
- Adopt new metro stormwater/water quality standards, specifications, and best management practices.
- Where does context-sensitive design fit? How do project evaluation criteria address local land use needs? Relate to broader community development objectives?
- There needs to be recognition of context sensitive design.
- There needs to be recognition of other modes using state highways.
- A statewide modal committee made up of MPO/Local/State organizations should be developed to shape decisions.
- Coordination with local needs for intermodal uses.
- Clearer explanation of project selection criteria/review process/award determination is needed.
- Higher priority should be placed on non-motorized transportation.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Ms. Ingram agreed to provide updated information on the KDOT Partnership Project once survey data is collected and recommendations for improvement are available.