

## **TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC)**

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government  
Council Chamber - Second Floor  
200 East Main Street  
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

**Wednesday, April 23, 2014 – 2:30 P.M.**

### **MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE** – Mayor Russ Myers called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. TPC members in attendance were:

- Russ Meyer – Mayor of Nicholasville
- David Carlstedt – Representing Harold Rainwater – Mayor of Wilmore
- Neal Cassity – Jessamine Co. Judge Executive
- George Myers – UCG Council Representing Dist. 4, 7, 8
- Barry House – Representing Mike Hancock – Secretary Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
- Rocky Burke – Lextran
- Harry Clarke – UCG Council Representing Districts 9, 10, 12
- Derek Paulsen – Representing Jim Gray – Mayor of Lexington
- Chuck Ellinger – UCG Council At Large
- Steve Kay – UCG Council At Large
- Peggy Henson – UCG Council Representing Districts 3, 5, 11
- Jon Larson – Fayette Co. Judge Executive
- Bernadette Dupont – FHWA (Non-voting advisory member)

Members absent were:

- Shevawn Akers – UCG Council Representing Districts 1, 2, 6
- Linda Gorton – Urban County Government Vice-Mayor
- Pam Shepherd, Federated Transit Services of the Bluegrass (FTSB)
- Abigail Rivera – FTA (Non-voting advisory member)

### **Business items:**

1. **Approval Of Minutes** – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of March 26, 2014.
2. **Public Comment:** Liz Hobson resident of Jessamine County - Referring to the I-75 connector. Ms. Hobson said that she would like the committee to consider voting against the part of the 2040 MTP that includes the building of the connector road from Nicholasville, Ky. to Richmond, Ky. She also thanked the staff for the wonderful job they did on the MTP. The information in it will help the committee in making sound decisions. Ms. Hobson said that she did not think that the cost benefits justify building a thirteen mile road that will cost half a billion dollars for 64 commuters from Jessamine Co. to Madison Co. or 300 commuters from Madison to Jessamine Co. Also, a survey was done that asked what people in Jessamine County wanted and none of those who responded said they wanted a connector road from Jessamine County to Madison County. So, I come to you today and ask that you look at the MPO data, the cost benefit analysis, and public sentiment and vote to remove this from the 26 year plan now before we spend more millions of tax payer's money studying a very bad idea.

Nancy Stone coordinator for transportation issues in Jessamine County – Judge Cassity and I have been working on the I-75 connector project since 2005. It has been an on-going project and a long drawn out project and I am here to speak on behalf of it. Today the committee will make a decision that can have a significant impact on the future safety and the economy of this region. We believe the connector will make a positive impact on the area as we become more and more aware that we are a part of a region, not a single county and that we all need to work together and depend on each other. We ask that you consider the wonderful benefits that this road will bring to the area and we hear the concerns that people have; however, we have faith that the DOT who are Kentuckians and live in this area are committed to making sure that the roadway will be an environmental friendly and serviceable road that we can all live with.

Jay Overman – Representing Judge Wilson of Garrard County – We approve this project because it will allow us to have access to I-75 and help to bring economic growth to Garrard County.

John Lancaster resident of Fayette County – I think this project is financially irresponsible. I look at who we are and where we go and I don't know anybody who on a regular basis goes from Jessamine County to Madison County. I think that we need to fix the narrow two lane road that most people do drive on a regular basis if you are really worried about people's safety which is what we are being told this connector is being built for.

Gary Goldey resident of Jessamine County – I can see the benefits of having a connector built because I drive to Richmond a lot and the direct access to go to I-75 would be a wonderful thing to have.

Tim Cross resident of Jessamine County – I am excited about the I-75 connector for the economic growth and ease of access to I-75 if not for me then for my children so that they would not have to come only to Lexington to work but would have other opportunities. I would hope that the committee would vote to leave the project in the plan.

Mary Lancaster resident of Fayette County – I think that the committee should support the no build option for the connector. I do however, think that you should address the congestion on US-27 and it needs to be widened.

Claudia Eisenhower resident of Jessamine County – I think that we need to decide what we want our community to be like and think outside the box to make that happen because, if we open up the connector, people will just bypass us to get to the interstate. I think that this project is still in the study phase and should not be in the plan.

Judge Cassity said that I don't think that people see what a regional project this road would be for our community. We have lost factories because time was a factor and our roadway is just too congested so they left. People need to see that we are trying to get this connector for our future generations.

Tom Caukins resident of Jessamine County – I hope that you would keep the project in and see it to its conclusion.

## **Action Items:**

1. 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Summary of Public/Stakeholder Comments – Mrs. Gleason said the MTP addresses projects/programs, all transportation modes, and it has to be fiscally balanced. Even after the committee adopts the plan it is not written in stone. There is an amendment and modification process that goes on continuously.

Our public review was advertised with legal ads and articles in the paper. We have had two public meetings with about twenty-five people in attendance and we have addressed those that left comments in the plan. A summary of the comments was provided in the packet however, if you want to see the full comments you can ask the staff.

Mr. House said, it was a shame that the I-75 connector project had overshadowed the good planning work that the MPO staff had done. This is a well done plan and a meaningful plan that will serve as a useful guide over the next several years as we address transportation issues. As one representing the Transportation Cabinet, I think that it is important that we do adopt the plan in whole.

Mr. Kay asked what does the connector stand for in this plan. Mr. Conyers said it is just a place holder for the study. There is no money allocated for anything other than the study at this time.

Mr. Clarke asked at what point does this group say yes or no to the connector. Mr. Nunley said that the money in the MTP and the TIP at this time is for the completion of the study. When the study is complete it will better inform everyone about the needs, costs, impacts, and etc. of the proposed project. With this information, the committee and stakeholders can make a better informed decision in the future about the connector project.

Mr. Myers said that he would support keeping the I-75 connector in the MTP so that he can get enough information to make the right decision at the end of the day.

Mr. Larson said that he would like to keep the study in the plan until it is completed.

Mr. Carlstedt said that there is clearly opposition and every good public project should have both. But, there is also huge support from many for this study and should be allowed to continue through the process beyond today.

Mr. Conyers said, if you would like to view the draft 2040 MTP document you can at [www.lexareampo.org](http://www.lexareampo.org).

Request for Approval of the draft 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

2. Request Approval of the FY-2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Mr. Conyers said this is our annual work program document where we lay out, by element, what our staff is going to do with the funds that we are provided from the Federal and State Governments, and the LFUCG. The 2015 UPWP will start on July 1, 2014 and go through June 30, 2015. We have received and addressed many comments from the FTA and FHWA and are now satisfied that it is a better document now. If you would like to view this document you can at [www.lexareampo.org](http://www.lexareampo.org).

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the FY-2015 Unified Planning Work Program.

3. Request Approval of a Resolution for Designating Lextran as the Recipient of transit funding for the Metropolitan Area and Fund# 5339 - Mr. Burke said this a purely an administrative issue. The FTA office in Atlanta discovered they did not have a resolution on file designating Lextran as the recipient of the transit funding for the Metropolitan Area and Fund# 5339. This is something that we normal do however, we overlooked it this time and for us to receive our funding they have to have this letter. We are asking that the TPC approve the resolution so that we can send it to the FTA office for their file.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Resolution for Designating Lextran as the Recipient of transit funding for the Metropolitan Area and Fund# 5339.

### **Information / Discussion Items:**

1. Changes regarding Handicap Parking Violations – Kristina Stambaugh of the LFUCG Mayors Committee for Citizens with Disabilities – Ms. Stambaugh gave a brief a presentation on the newest changes regarding handicap parking violations in Fayette County. Ms. Stambaugh said that currently Lexington only charges \$15 for the violations which is not much so people park in the spaces and pay the fines. The Commission decided to go to the council and asked them to increase the fines as a deterrent to people and if the fines were high enough maybe people would think twice about parking in the handicap spaces. The council discussed it and decided that they would increase the fines from \$15 to \$250 and that went into effect on April 21, 2014. The other issue was “where not to park” and the access lane that some of the handicap parking spaces have for vehicles with lifts. So the commission has put together a sign ordinance, will paint the access lanes a different color, and will create an awareness campaign regarding handicap parking spaces. If you would like to know more you can contact Ms. Stambaugh.
2. Administrative Modifications #4 to the FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and #35 to the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

#### Modification #4

This action updates the previously published documents and tables. The changes to the TIP are:

- Table 1 - Clays Mill Road Section 1 - increase D funding to \$750,000 and shift to FY 2015; increase R funding to \$1,500,000 and shift to FY 2016; shift U and C phase to future;
- Table 1 - Clays Mill Road Section 2C - add \$50,000 for D in FY 2014; reduce C funding to \$3,700,000;
- Table 1 – Liberty/Todds Road Section 2A and 2B - add \$100,000 for D in FY 2014; increase C funding to \$11,200,000 and shift to FY 2015;
- Table 1 - Various Continuing Programs - increase to \$945,000 in FY 2015 and FY 2016 to cover increased costs of ITS/traffic signals program;
- Table 1 - Rose Street - add \$5,000 for D in FY 2014; reduce U funding to \$30,000 and shift to FY 2014; reduce C funding to \$180,000 and shift to FY 2015;
- Table 1 - Polo Club Boulevard - increase funding for R to \$263,000 and shift to FY 2014; add \$75,000 for U phase in FY 2015; shift C phase to FY 2015

- Table 1 • Man O' War Boulevard at Pink Pigeon Parkway - add project identification (7-426.00) and increase design funds to \$59,500;
- Table 1 - Man O' War Boulevard at Alumni Drive - add project identification (7-427.00) and increase design funds to \$125,900;
- Table 1 - Man O' War Boulevard at Richmond Road - add project (identification # 7-428.00) to construct turn lanes.

These administrative modifications are for the committee's information only and do not require any action from the Committee. If anyone would like to see the details of these modifications and tables, they can be viewed on our website at [www.lexareampo.org](http://www.lexareampo.org).

### 3. Other MPO Items:

- Lextran Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) – Future Transit System Analysis – The consultants will look at the operations from top to bottom to see how we are doing things and see if we are being efficient and then they will make recommendations based on data that they have received. This time we took a little different approach and are also looking at Lextran's future. We hope to have the full report completed sometime in November.
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Architecture Update – Mr. Conyers said ITS is a regional framework for insuring institutional agreement and technical integration for implementation of intelligent transportation systems projects or groups of projects. This controls all the cameras, detection systems, signals, and more that we have and will have not the future. This will ensure that they communicate and integrate with one another. We are now in the process of updating the ITS architecture since the last one was updated in 2004.

### **New / Other Business:**

- Any TPC Members Questions / Concerns –

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

The next meeting of the TPC will be on June 25, 2014 in the Fayette County Council Chambers.