

City of Topeka
CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 3, 2021
6:45 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Call to order: Susan McClacherty,

Introductions: ADA Advisory Council and CAC members in the Conference Room and participating on Zoom

Presentations

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update on Futures 2045 – Jim Tobaben, Consultant, Carlton Scoggins, Transportation Planning Manager

The Futures 2045 update is a continuation of the Futures 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and will expand on the evolution of the plan's goals and objectives, with a focus on active transportation projects and preservation of existing systems.

The 1st stage was talking to stakeholders and were asking for comments from the CAC Committee members for the 2045 project. Comments and suggestions included:

- Improve the Transit Metro by be user friendly for Deaf riders at the bus stops
- Becoming more environmental aware by using less gas and focusing on the use of electricity
- It is becoming troublesome for people to charge their electric transportation (i.e. cars, wheelchairs, scooters, bikes etc.) especially those who reside in apartments.
- Like to see an increase in rail service. Such as options to travel by rail to Kansas City to shop, work and for entertainment. Also offer the option to travel by rail to Wichita.
- Like to see more direct routes for east and west travel across Topeka.
- Lift service needs to be more affordable. Current cost is \$4 one way. It's too expensive. Able bodied individuals ride for \$2.00 one way.

The long range goals for the 2045 plan include:

- Maintaining existing infrastructure
- Improve mobility and access
- Increase safety for all modes of transportation
- Enhance quality of life, and promote economic development

Also several in the room asked that NIA's be included in this planning stage and work together as a team. They improve communication, share their plans with the public and to follow through with the plans.

Goals were discussed with the committee in attendance.

- It was mentioned that groups want to use bicycles but safety is an issue so definitely need to focus on that.
- Maintaining the infrastructure and look at it more closely to be more cost effective
- Need solutions for emergences that occur afterhours. There needs to be service available day and night. Transit on demand service.

You can go to their website to answer their survey and offer any additional comments:

<https://www.topeka.org/planning/transportation>

<http://www.topekampo.org/>

City Departmental Recommendations on the DREAMS Program – Bill Flanders, Director of Planning and Development

Bill began explaining the SORT program and how it has benefited the neighborhood once a year. Discussion was also held concerning the fact NIA's health numbers dropped in SORT neighborhoods. Currently 76% of the NIA's have approved plans for SORT. Dedicated SORT funds can be distributed among more neighborhoods if a bigger impact is needed.

Flanders offered recommendations for SORT Program – Do a hybrid SORT Program

1st year offer funds to just one neighborhood

2nd year offer funds to multiple neighborhoods

3rd year alternate

Dreams Program

Dreams 1 – one neighborhood

Dreams 2 – several neighborhoods

Budget would be the same for both programs and consolidate applications every other year. Selections for the upcoming years would all be done at one time. Neighborhoods would be prioritized by need.

This plan will be submitted to City Manager on December 21st at City Council with discussion. Probably won't be approved.

Questions:

- How will the budget be split for these projects
- Housing and Infrastructure: will these still be in Dreams 1 and 2
- Need examples for what is expected for this project
- Will Health Maps still play an important part
- Community gardens in at-risk neighborhoods

Staff Updates

- **NIA Support Funds Policy – Monique Glaude**
Proposal is to give NIA's \$1,000 twice a year. Monies would be dispersed in March and July. Update on the remaining monies in NIA's account approximately \$36,000. November 30th will be the deadline for suggestions and ideas about the \$1,000 proposal.

Comments:

- NIA's do newsletters, they would need more than \$1,000
- Some NIA's are small and some are large - \$1,000 wouldn't work. The cost of newsletters.

Community Engagement Monthly Report – LaToya Burnett

- Dates to remember:
 - November 19 – encumbering any purchases
 - December 17 – P-card purchases deadline
 - December 1 – CAC Holiday Gala, catered meal, at 6:45 p.m. in lieu of a regular meeting
 - December 15 – CAC Planning meeting, catered meal, at 6:45 p.m.

Action Items – Susan McClacherty, CAC Chair

- Vote – Proposal for use of remaining 2021 CAC fund, approximately \$25,000. Top three suggestions to spend monies after discussion included:
 1. Administrative fees
 2. Incentives for members
 3. Thank you gift for outside presenters

Vote on spending funds: Moved Dave and Margo second
Motion passed

- Vote – Approval of all minutes from 2021
 - All minutes will approved at the December meeting.

Annual Election of Officers – LaToya Burnett

- Reading of CAC Bylaws
- Election of 2022 CAC Chair and Co-Chair – nominees names can be placed in the Zoom Chat or paper by those in the room
- Nominees include Susan McClacherty for 2022 Chair and Kim Thompson for 2022 Vice Chair motion made to close nominations
- CAC election will be done by voice roll and call vote
- Nominees were elected: Susan McClacherty, 2022 CAC Chair and Kim Thompson, 2022 Vice Chair

Motion made to use the remaining \$36,000

- The motion: That the remaining \$36,000 be used to pay next year’s 501 C3 expenditures
Motion – Laura
Seconded – David
Motion passed

ADJOURNMENT

- A. CAC presents DREAMS Recommendation to City Council on Tuesday, November 9, with City Council taking action on Tuesday, November 16th
- B. NIAs provide photos and stories of their 2021 successes by end of day Friday, November 19.
- C. The CAC Holiday Gala is December 1, 2021, at 6:45 p.m., in lieu of a regular meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Torrez Anderson
Community Engagement Coordinator