

PUBLIC TRANSIT ENGAGEMENT

Oct. 2, 2007

Location: Blue Valley Library

Facilitator: Margie Richcreek

Recorder: Debra Wilson

Staff: Stephanie Williams, Julie Wittman

Attendees: 4

Do you use public transit in Kansas City?

- Once for a Chiefs game.
- Used to before but not recently. Buses don't go far enough south.
- One attendee sells real estate, so she needs a private car for business. When she was younger she used buses and trains. The buses used to come about every 20 minutes.
- The public transit system opportunities were better-marked and easier to locate in north of Kansas City and downtown. "If we have things here in the south area perhaps they aren't publicized well enough or well enough marked."

Do you have friends, family or other people you know who use public transit in our region? How does the system work for them?

- One person works with people who use the bus system each day – she thinks government agencies require access to public transit for their locations.
- One person knows other people who use the Chiefs shuttle often.
- Another person stated that in New Jersey, people riding mass transit read books or do work from the office because they are freed from driving. This would increase quality of life at home since they could do other things.

Have you used public transit in other cities?

- One person has a daughter in college in St. Louis. They give out train passes and it "opens up the whole city" for the kids.
- Another person mentioned riding the transit systems in Seattle; Portland, Ore.; and Washington, DC.

What differences did you note between our transportation systems and those of other cities?

- Kansas City is very "spread out;" it's hard to get from one place to another on our bus system in a "reasonable time."
- Easier to drive by car.
- One person used to use public transit when she was little – took the trolley. She had a very developed plan in mind: a 10-mile "loop" around the city. Some places she mentioned were Union Station; Spring Hill; Olathe; Lenexa; Shawnee; Kansas City, Kan.; 63rd Street; and Swope Park — all with feeder line buses.

Think about your daily transportation needs. How do you usually get around? If you typically use a private vehicle, what would you do if you didn't have access to it?

- Doctor's office.
- Work.
- Office. If she didn't have car, she would rent one.
- Grocery store. If she didn't have car, she could use her son's car or borrow a friend's car.

Where else do you need to go that hasn't been mentioned? Where do you want to go?

- Theater or other entertainment.

Public transit engagements hosted by One KC Voice, a program of the Mid-America Regional Council, with a grant from the Federal Transit Administration.

600 Broadway, Ste. 200 | Kansas City, MO | 64105 | 816/474-4240 | www.onekcvoice.org

PUBLIC TRANSIT ENGAGEMENT

Oct. 2, 2007

Location: Blue Valley Library

- One person had recently bought a home. One primary reason for the home she decided on was the possibility of walking to work and other locations.
- One person said she would have to move if she couldn't drive.
- One said that some choices were available from bus services for special needs, but she thought there was a distance limit.

Where would you look for transit information?

- KCMO public transit. The Jo, call a taxi, limo services, airport shuttles from hotels in Johnson County.

If you could design the perfect public transit system, what would it look like?

- One attendee would like system to be a big wheel with Union Station at the center and spokes to airport and other locations off from it – sort of like 50 years ago with buses moving people to and from.
- One person said it should be quiet if it's close to her home.
- Some discussion on how far to walk. Participants thought they would be willing to walk further to a train than a bus. "Bus not far – but train one mile."
- **Why do people feel different about buses than trains?**
- People are used to driving cars and they just don't ride buses. The connection times and location of buses just don't seem "feasible;" they're waste too much time to use in reality.
- Right now one participant said that it is 4 to 5 blocks for buses right now.
- One person thought a rail system should use buses.
- In Princeton and New York, people drive cars then park and use transit system.
- East Coast people walk more and use bicycles, and they have more biking trails.
- One person said they would like a mass transit system to include various locations in Johnson County so she could get from place to place. She is concerned that it would be a one-stop thing for Johnson County just to get on to go other locations in the city. She would love "a stop at every library."

When would it start running?

- 24 hours a day 7 days a week – but participants said they would expect it more often during work hours and less often during the night. Transit should run every 15 to 20 minutes during the busiest times.

Comments:

- Sprint Center might help, but roads and parking are still a problem.
- Our downtown could be wonderful when we restore it, but the streets are pretty narrow.
- Participants would go downtown if they have theater tickets.
- Johnson County has more and more things to offer, so some destinations could be here. Some in Independence and some downtown.
- St. Louis is a nice example.

What would we pay and who and how to pay?

- Regional, territorial in-fights could happen. A bi-state tax is needed.
- One participant asked how it was funded when Kansas City had a more complete mass transit system. Was it from ridership?

What is the value of a strong public transportation system, even if you don't use it?

- Jobs.

Public transit engagements hosted by One KC Voice, a program of the Mid-America Regional Council, with a grant from the Federal Transit Administration.

600 Broadway, Ste. 200 | Kansas City, MO | 64105 | 816/474-4240 | www.onekcvoice.org

PUBLIC TRANSIT ENGAGEMENT

Oct. 2, 2007

Location: Blue Valley Library

- Growth.
- Negative fact right now: People spend more money on cars than houses.
- Would use sometimes, perhaps on weekends.
- Tourists could use it.
- Senior citizens could get around better improve quality of life.
- Improve job market.
- Might spur more grocery stores and other small neighborhood businesses – as people walk to and from the train or bus stop.
- Some might not support mass transit expenditures till crime is under control because that might affect who would use mass transit. This could be improved.
- High crime rate could discourage use of mass transit system.
- Neighborhood schools are coming back – so we may be moving back to stronger neighborhoods.
- A new shuttle system that is showing some surprising success moves from JCCC to Lawrence – lots of people using it.

Who stands out as being a leader in the mass transit discussion?

- MARC – logical connection.
- Funkhouser and Gerlock.
- Counties – five counties instead of just cities.
- Kansas City, Mo., and Overland Park – if they were on board the smaller cities would join.
- Citizens need to voice concerns.
- Large companies make a difference.

Do you feel more or less inclined to use mass transit after this meeting?

- More inclined to find information about what is available.
- Only three people are here – is this an indication of the amount of interest in this subject in Overland Park?