

## **PUBLIC TRANSIT ENGAGEMENT**

**Oct. 11, 2007**

**Location: Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council**

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Facilitator: Airick West

Recorder: Alicia Deville

Staff: Karen Clawson, Liana Riesinger

Attendees:

### **Do you use the current transit system?**

- Yes, I think it's a wonderful idea.
- I am back on the bus service, it's good to expand.

### **Where do you go?**

- Independence.
- Overland Park.
- All over, but some places are time-limited.
- I don't use it, but it's important for teenage children for things like employment, and it gives them more freedom.
- I never rode the bus but once or twice, but now I am 73, I'd like to have it to use.

### **If you don't use public transit in Kansas City, why not?**

- I've used in the past, but now I'm north of the river and its hard to use. I formerly had a monthly pass and it was good.
- I grew up using the bus because my mother drove the bus, so I know the ins and outs.
- I used the bus 7 years ago trying to experience the city when I first moved here. It was horrible. I had to walk 1.5 miles to the bus stop and it took about 6 hours to get around. A horrible experience. I was coming from a big city where it was much easier.

### **What experiences have you had in other cities?**

- I've always tried to get a house near the bus line.
- I've been to New York, Chicago, Washington, California, the Bahamas, and there were a variety of resources for transit like in the video we watched.
- There was more bus service and ran more often. Still had to walk to the rail.
- New York, Chicago — we need to build this thing up. Better bus services. They just can't run one way and then stop.
- We keep fixing the streets in the same area, we are still paying taxes. If you're going to do right, just do right! Don't just fix one area and not the other.
- Chicago, San Diego — it was good for those cities. It was on time and electric with no drivers. You can get around without the expense of cars. They take you to the locations you want to go. In other cities it costs \$15 to park downtown. Kansas City is growing and we are going to need this.

### **Think about your daily transportation needs. What would you do if no access to a car? Where would you need to go?**

- Church, doctor, hospital, work, State building, library, retail stores, movies, activity center, post office, court house, Kansas City, Mo., city hall, barber/beauty shop, shopping, the "Boat," neighborhood center, restaurants and rehearsal.

### **What would you do if you had no vehicle?**

- Catch the bus.

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](http://www.onekcvoice.org)

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- Use the church van.
- Walk.
- Hitchhike.
- Bum rides.
- Carpool.
- Stay at home.
- Ride a bicycle.

### **Are your top destinations more of “have to’s” or “want to’s” (leisure or work)?**

- More of “have to’s.”

### **If the system went to the places discussed, would you use it?**

- Yes.
- I also chose my residences according to the bus route. I have a car, but when I shop I ride. I recently had to have a test done at Research, and I rode the bus.
- \$1.50 versus gas — I would use it.
- Yes, if it went where I needed it to go in a timely manner. Especially with my family lifestyle, it would have to be timely.
- It would be good for Kansas City to come into THIS century.
- My son was going to Florida and he was able to map out his entire route in Florida at a minimal cost.
- I lived in New York and those cities are closer.
- If the buses ran like the streetcars used to run, we could get places. You would pay about 15 cents and go anywhere you wanted to go. Also, everyone didn't have cars.

### **Where would you go to look to find other transportation?**

- Yellow Pages.
- The side of the bus.
- Go online to access route information. I do the same when I go out of town. I am 2.5 miles from the bus route and pay for parking downtown.

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

- It would be like the older street cars — run on tracks and fast and frequent. No waiting. We need to uncover the tracks! The tracks are already there.
- We have the technology now to not interfere with the regular traffic as the streetcars would.
- It would be elevated or submerged (even though submerged would be too expensive). It could be elevated like in Atlanta. It would be computerized and also go to the suburbs.
- Also need the buses running more often to get to the rail cars.
- Need choices for convenience.
- It would eliminate pollution by running to exit points near bridge areas.
- It would also have park-and-ride systems close.
- Free park-and-ride.
- It would have easy access for disabled persons. Open, but not to congested areas for transfer.

### **Where would it go?**

- All of the suburbs — Missouri and Kansas.
- Airport.

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- The Grandview triangle. It has a park-and-ride but nowhere to sit, no vending machines. It has to be a lit area to feel safe.
- It would go to the grocery store and the pharmacist.
- It would be a 15-minute walk at the most.
- It would go to the hospitals (all clinics too).
- Universities.

### **What roads would it take to get there?**

- It's not feasible for any one system to take folks to their door, so we would need shuttle systems.
- Would the route be a straight line or like a bicycle spoke?
- Troost, Brooklyn, Benton, Indiana, Swope.
- You have to really walk the north and south streets. Direct routes are faster — straight lines. Along all major streets.
- All highways and then shuttles for the other areas.

### **How long would you be willing to wait?**

- 5–10 minutes.
- 15 minutes.
- 20 minutes.
- 30 minutes (crowd fussed).
- They don't meet at the intersections like they used to (so you could easily transfer). Now you have to wait. It's terrible.

### **What amenities would be at the stops and in the vehicles?**

- Clean restrooms.
- Heat and air conditioning.
- Enclosed bus stop for comfort.
- Wi-Fi.
- Schedule information.
- Monitoring for safety (security).
- Vendors (coffee, sandwiches, etc.).
- Phones.
- Signage notifying of transit status like at airports (a kiosk?).

### **How would you pay for it?**

- People who litter — enforced the litter law. Fines.
- Tax drivers with a pollution tax.
- Federal grant.
- Liquor tax.
- Cigarette tax.
- Casino.
- Earnings tax on corporations to benefit from it.
- Something like a research grant — Federal Earmark.
- Corporations to sponsor a line.
- Advertising.

### **Would you use it?**

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- Yes.

**What prevents you from using it now?**

- Past experiences.
- Crime.

**What is the value of this transit system?**

- Will bring jobs, housing, tourism, help visitors get around easier, increase accessibility.
- It changes the view of the city from a “cow town” to a large city.
- More employment, economic growth, lots of money, big corporations coming here,
- Makes the city more attractive.

**What impact will it have on the economy?**

- It will help.
- Bigger sports and other attractions.
- Could go more green and eliminate three-quarters of the traffic.
- Spend less dollars on car repairs and road repairs.
- Increased parking garages.
- Large-scale infrastructure resulting in higher amounts of money spent in the community.

**What would be the impact on the low income?**

- Greater access to better-paying jobs.
- Help them to keep more money instead of having to spend it on cars and repairs, insurance etc.
- Increased educational resources and self-education. Increased self-sufficiency. Tax dollars will stay.
- Help with gas.
- Could get the younger and unemployed jobs to earn money to sustain something positive.
- Show the inner-city riff-raff that there is more that they don't even see.
- The younger generation would have a better chance in schools/education.
- It would allow the inner-city to see the beautiful things and see that we could also have it here in our neighborhood.
- Create a more diverse clientele who could also appreciate the urban core, build a diverse community.

**Who has been a leader in regional transit?**

- MARC.
- Clay Chastain.
- Mayor Funkhouser.

**As a result of this meeting are you more or less motivated to use the current transportation?**

- Less.
- Too long of a wait, not enough buses and locations.