

PUBLIC TRANSIT ENGAGEMENT

Nov. 28, 2007

Location: Liveable Neighborhoods, Kansas City, Kan.

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Recorder: Airick West

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Attendees:

Do you use public transportation now? Where do you go?

- Johnson County.
- Anywhere I can go.

Does it meet your expectations? Why or why not?

- Doesn't run late Saturdays or Saturday nights.
- Doesn't run on Sundays or holidays.

Do you have friends and family that use the bus system? What were their experiences?

- Same
- "I can't even go out and get a meal because I don't have a car."
- "A lot of people can't afford a car."
- If the church van doesn't pick us up, we can't make it.
- "I had to change where I go to church" I go to a place where I can walk to.
- "I don't use public transit here but I do when I travel."
- There are tons of cities where I don't need to rent a car.
- You can count on a safe bus every 15 minutes in San Francisco.
- I use public transit in other cities for entertainment; for business, I rent a car.

Has anyone else traveled to other cities and used public transportation?

- San Diego.
- New York City.

What are your daily transportation needs? What are the top three places you need to go?

- School.
- Four people said church.
- Two people said work.
- Home.
- Laundry.
- Visit my kids.
- Getting to Kansas on Sundays is a big problem
- Hospital.
- Two people said grocery shopping..
- Visiting.
- Nursing home.
- Entertainment.
- Bank.

If you didn't have a car, how would you get to the places you need to go?

- "I would bum a ride."
- I would try to live on or near a bus line.

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

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with a grant from the Federal Transit Administration.

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- It would use a bus. One on Minnesota, and one on State. It would run all night.
- It cost \$35 cab ride to get back from the Legends.
- I-70 from 10th and Main.
- Wyandotte County needs to get their own; we need to not rely on Kansas City, Mo., for transportation.
- Stick to basic places — Indian Springs, Legends, 77th and State, something on Parallel.
- An age 60 and over only bus.
- More than just medical trips for seniors.

How long are you willing to wait for a bus?

- Once an hour late at nights and on the weekends.
- Fifteen minutes during the week.

What type of information should be at the bus stops? What would the shelters look like?

- Clean.
- Ample.
- I need one in front of my business so the people will stay.
- They have nice shelters up north but not here.
- Phones.
- Security phones that go straight to 911.

What modes of transportation do you want?

- I'd like to see the rail come back.
- Old people are afraid to ride the bus, but they'd ride the rail.
- I'm not sure rail is what we need.
- Rail would be an economic engine.
- Bring the rail to where the businesses are at.
- You need to get the rail and buses together.
- Can you have officers on the bus?
- "You can have a security program on the rail."
- Most of the buses have cameras on it.
- "Cameras aren't gonna stop you from hitting me on the head."
- The bus driver can push a button and tell their security what the problem is.

Now that we've developed the ideal transportation system, would you ride it?

- Sure.

What do you think is the value of a strong public transportation system?

- "Looks good for visitors to your area."
- Tourists depend a lot on public transportation.
- They don't have a bus going to Argosy but one goes to Ameristar.
- The buses in Johnson County are always empty.
- For years, the jobs were in Johnson County but the workers were in Wyandotte County but there were no bus lines between the two.
- Getting students to college.

How would it impact property value or crime?

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- "Crime is everywhere. I can't just picture it with transportation."
- Property value isn't a good word. Let's say "quality of life."
- If I had an effective public transportation system, we would go down to one car.
- We'd move to be closer to an effective public transportation system.
- You better keep one car; there are so many places you can't go without one.
- For entertainment, I have to pick day games or I couldn't get home because the last bus leaves at 10.
- I can't go to games at Arrowhead because they get out too late; I'd have to take a cab downtown
- If you miss the bus at 6:04 p.m. on Saturday, you're [downtown] till Monday.
- Walking is OK if you're not old.
- More buses, more often and more money.
- We need an effective bus system; light rail would take money away from that.
- Some businesses pay for private buses to pick people up.

How would you see paying for a system like this?

- Besides raising fees?
- Government grants.
- TDD/sales tax around transportation hubs.
- HUD senior transportation dollars.
- Where does the city get the rest of their money from for the bus system?
- **Mil levy half-cent for transportation only; don't let them use it for anything else.**
- Car gas sales tax (not semi's and school buses); double for Johnson County SUVs .
- Cigarette tax.
- Doesn't MARC have money for this?
- In other cities, I buy a pass for the time I'm there but I never use it all up. That's a profit for the transportation system. Pass packages.

Who stands out in your mind as a leader in public transportation?

- "It should be MARC, but I don't know if it is."
- You could say Chastain.
- By doing these listening sessions, you [MARC] are emerging as a leader in this conversation.
- [Wyandotte County] needs to get its own transit system separate from Kansas City, Mo.
- The outskirts don't have any transportation at all: Piper, Bonner

What is your role in this?

- I stay pretty active in my neighborhood group.
- Tell people what I've found out.
- I don't think we know enough about it.
- You need to go to inner city neighborhood groups and ask them what they think.
- MARC needs to go to the inner city neighborhood groups.
- Are you going to give me a job to do and pay me? I ain't gonna give you my ideas for free.
- People who need jobs need to be listening to.
- Make all the buses no eating, drinking or smoking.

Are there any other ideas or comments?

- I think you guys have done a wonderful job with these discussions.
- Are you tying this in with the sessions the Unified Government is hosting?
- Why don't all of you groups get together and have one meeting?
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