

## **PUBLIC TRANSIT ENGAGEMENT**

**Oct. 4, 2007**

**Location: Olathe Library**

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Facilitator: Tristan Cook

Recorder: Dola Myers

Staff: Karen Clawson, Stephanie Williams, Julie Wittman

Attendees: 5

### **Do you use public transit?**

- One person rides three days a week because work schedule matches the bus schedule.
- One used to ride but no longer does because a change in their schedule does not match the bus schedule.
- Three do not.

### **Does Kansas City's transit system meet your expectations?**

- Would like for the bus to run all days instead of stopping mid-afternoon.
- Jo buses run, but not on the west side where low-income and elderly live.
- Bus routes have changed and the times are not conducive to work schedules.

### **What would you change about Kansas City's transit system?**

- The Jo does not accommodate people with disabilities.
- Drivers aren't trained to assist those with disabilities.
- People in wheelchairs can't wait for a bus in the winter.
- Olathe has a large population of mentally disabled residents.
- Community works through other organizations to provide rides for disabled.
- Library has become the next place for people to come after they have been discharged from the county jail. They end up spending most of their day in the library because there is no bus service.

### **What are your daily transportation needs?**

- Work.
- School.
- Church.
- Bank.
- Shopping.
- Medical appointments.
- Entertainment.
- If public transportation was available, all in attendance would use it to get to the above places.
- The stops are currently too far apart, especially for those who are disabled.
- The Jo can be flagged down if you see them on a scheduled street. This does not mess up the schedule because they build time in.
- Income should be considered in regards to the fare.
- If there were not public transportation participants would use their cars or ask friends for a ride.

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

- Transportation would be available from 5 a.m. to midnight.
- It would run in all directions.
- No more than a mile between stops.
- Provisions would be made for elderly and handicapped, such as special schedules and shorter distances between stops.
- All connecting counties should have access.
- Transportation should be available to the airport.

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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- Elected officials should be lobbied for change to occur.
- There should be a “feeder system” to light rail.
- Olathe should have a public transit “spine” that would include connections to Johnson County.
- Park-and-rides should be placed in Gardner, Edgerton and Olathe.
- All outlying areas should be accessible, including Topeka, Lawrence, Atchison, St. Joseph, Lee’s Summit and Wyandotte County.
- Union Station should be used as a hub (that’s what it was built for); but probably couldn’t be because of politics involved.
- The wait for a bus should be a maximum of 20 minutes.
- The route should go back and forth instead of looping.
- The schedule should be consistent to minimize the wait.
- Amenities would include benches; printed schedules; route maps; posted arrival times; bicycle racks; wheelchair accommodations; and well-trained, kind staff. Announcements or recordings should indicate where the next stop is.
- Wi-Fi, surveillance and phones would also be nice.
- All participants said they would use this system daily.

### **What affect would public transit have on the community?**

- Increase disabled and elderly populations.
- The mark of a community is the way they treat their most “in need.”
- Olathe is a great resource for handicapped children.
- Increased mobility for teenagers. If it were safe, younger children could also ride.
- It would also increase economic growth.
- Tourist would be able to get around.
- Ecologically sound.
- Increase affordability of this area.
- Lessen road maintenance.
- Increase safety in bad weather conditions.
- Increase property values.
- Families may not need a second car.
- Help with road rage (fewer drivers and lighter traffic).
- Decrease in carjacking.
- Safety because there are fewer cars on the road.

### **Who are community leaders in transit planning?**

- MARC.
- The Jo.
- Cay Chastain.
- The Good Cents Foundation.

### **What part do you play in this issue?**

- Participants’ part in the transit planning includes attending forums, providing a voice for others who can’t or won’t speak, and voting.

### **Other comments:**

- Encourage more people to attend meetings by contacting churches, high-rises, assisted living facilities and local groups/organizations.
- Possible more would have been in attendance if the bus were running.

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- The buses will have to come before the people will ride, but eventually they will ride.