

PUBLIC TRANSIT ENGAGEMENT

Nov. 27, 2007

Location: Parkville City Hall

Facilitator: Airick West

Recorder: Erik Bergrud

Staff: Julie Wittman, Stewart Nelson, Karen Clawson, Marge Gasnick, Gerri Doyle

Attendees: 20

Who uses public transit?

- “Occasionally, but the routes are not convenient.”
- “I use it sometimes to go into the city for some meetings and entertainment.”
- “My husband tried to take public transit, but the system was not conducive.”
- “We’ve used the special event transit service to the Chiefs games. I wish they would offer public transit to Sprint Center events.”
- Four of 20 (20 percent) indicated that they had used public transit in Kansas City.

What public transit experiences have you had in other locales?

- “I lived in the Netherlands and appreciated the transportation options.”
- “I lived in Denver, and we used light rail to ride into Downtown.”
- “In Chicago, the ‘L’ was not well-lit and seemed unsafe.”
- “We have had no problems with safety on the New York City subway.”
- “It’s so convenient and inexpensive to take public transit in other cities.”
- “Great train service in New Jersey.”

For those who don't, why not?

- “It comes down to price and convenience.”
- “I have no idea when and where the buses run.”

What area do you frequent most often? What are your top destinations?

- Midtown Kansas City (work).
- UMKC (school).
- Downtown Kansas City.
- Zona Rosa.
- Park Hill High School.
- N. Oak and Barry Road.
- KCI.
- Platte City.
- 119th and Nall.
- Grocery store.
- Community meetings at churches.

What would the perfect system look like?

- Front door service that lets you off at the door (not like “back door” Boardwalk Transit Center).
- Convenient/visible.
- Adequate seating at transit stops/comfortable/clean/safe.
- Must include KCI running south to at least downtown.
- Somewhat rapid with major nodes and connector bus lines.
- More frequent than current bus service.
- Well-lit parking areas.
- Multifaceted transit system.
- Bus lanes on the highway.

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

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- Nice parking spaces with small businesses near parking hubs.
- Park and ride system with safe seating and restrooms.
- Dedicated lanes for rapid transit.
- Demand-responsive transit systems (real-time routing).
- Safety.
- Alignment between transportation system and city center.
- Additional right-of-ways.

What hours/times would it run?

- Run till late at night.
- Earlier in the mornings (5:00 a.m.).

How long would you be willing to wait on the bus?

- 15 minutes.
- 15–20 minutes.

Where would it go?

- Plaza.
- Sprint Center.
- 18th and Vine.
- From other parts of the city to Northland jobs/shopping centers.

What would you like to see on the buses/rail systems/stops?

- Cleanliness.
- Safety officers.
- Closed-circuit video monitoring.
- Orientation system for new riders.
- Internet access.

What kind of information would you want to know?

- Access to monthly/annual passes (online).

How would you like to have route information provided to you?

- Well-publicized Web site.
- Print schedules in local neighborhood newspapers.
- Signs at the bus stops.
- Phone book.
- Colorful schedule mailed on a quarterly basis.
- At public libraries.

How should we pay for a public transit system?

- Federal grants.
- New taxes.
- Encourage major employers to purchase tickets for employees.
- Environmental impact fees.
- Transportation development districts.
- Impact fees.
- More flexible government regulations (e.g., planning and zoning).

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- Steer/shift highway and road funds to public transit projects.
- Congestion charge/tolls.
- Regional fuel tax.

What are some of the values of having a strong system?

- Effect on pollution levels.
- Reduce urban sprawl/promote infill development.
- Better connect the region.
- Less reliance on vehicles.
- Revitalize central business district.
- Bring community together/more culturally accepting.
- Makes region competitive.
- Attracts younger population/creative class.
- Reduce traffic accidents.
- Increased productivity for individuals.

What is the impact [of a public transit system] on special needs/low-income populations?

- Allow people the freedom not to have and maintain poor vehicles.
- Positive effect on household incomes.

Who or what group stands out in your mind as being a leader in regional transit planning?

- Clay Chastain.
- Mark Funkhouser.
- Sierra Club.

What is your role in the development of this system?

- Writing letters to *The Kansas City Star*.
- Commit to support financially the public transit system.
- Talking with City Council members and KCADC.
- Grassroots discussions.

Miscellaneous concerns?

- “The City of Riverside pays a \$35,000 annual subsidy for its bus service. The City of Parkville cannot afford such a fee.”
- “Park University has a significant population of international students who need and would be interested in public transit.”