



## Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization

2805 Claflin Rd. Ste. 100 | Manhattan, KS | 66502  
785.620.3070 | FHMPO@FlintHillsMPO.org  
www.FlintHillsMPO.org

### Policy Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 20, 2025  
3:30 pm

#### In Person:

Auditorium  
Manhattan Public Library  
629 Poyntz Ave  
Manhattan, KS 66502

#### Virtual:

Zoom meeting  
Meeting ID: 919 154 6755  
Passcode: 1488 13

#### **VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

|                                   |                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| x                                 | Keith Ascher      | Geary County Commission     |
| x                                 | Mike Moriarty     | KS Dept of Transportation   |
| x                                 | Peter Oppelt      | Manhattan City Commission   |
|                                   | Dee McKee         | Pottawatomie Co. Commission |
| x                                 | Ronna Larson      | Junction City Commission    |
| x                                 | John Ford         | Riley County Commission     |
|                                   | Clifford Baughman | Wamego City Commission      |
| <b>NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT</b> |                   |                             |
| x                                 | Javier Ahumada    | Federal Highway Admin.      |
|                                   | Kelley Paskow     | Fort Riley Representative   |
|                                   | Eva Steinman      | Federal Transit Admin.      |
|                                   | Anne Smith        | Flint Hills ATA             |

#### **Staff Present**

|   |                |     |
|---|----------------|-----|
| x | Jared Tremblay | MPO |
| x | Abigail Danner | MPO |

#### **Guests Present**

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1. Welcome
  - Meeting called to order at 3:32p.
2. Public Comment Opportunity (for items not on the agenda)
  - No public comment.
3. Financial Update
  - Jared Tremblay gave an overview of the accounts and monthly statements, including credits and debits for June and July 2025 and the money market account. He stated that Q2 reimbursement has been submitted to KDOT, and that FHMPO will be using carry-over funds from previous years due to KDOT's error in calculating CPG funding earlier this year.
    - John Ford asked whether the MPO can "shop around" for an auditor due to the increase in this year's price.
      - Jared Tremblay responded that despite the price increase, the current auditor is still the least expensive option.

**Special Accommodations:** Please notify the MPO at (785) 620-3070 or FHMPO@FlintHillsMPO.org at least 72 hours in advance if you require special accommodations to attend this meeting. We will make every effort to meet reasonable requests. The MPO does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, or national origin, according to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, visit the MPO office at the address above or www.FlintHillsMPO.org.

4. Staff Updates

- Jared Tremblay provided an update on the MPO's current projects. The financials and project lists for Connect 2050 are almost ready, and the MPO will be conducting a second round of public outreach in Fall 2025. He also stated that the MPO is waiting on a signed contract from Benesch for the US-24 2<sup>nd</sup> Connection Cost-Benefit Analysis.
  - Peter Oppelt asked how long the study would take.
    - Jared Tremblay answered that the study will be concluding next year, with public outreach in February/March 2026, paralleling the US-24 corridor study update.
  - Peter Oppelt asked if the CBA would tie into the City's East Manhattan Gateway Plan. He stated that conversations about developing US-24 should not take place without referencing the CBA and the Gateway Plan.
    - Jared Tremblay answered that the East MHK Gateway Plan does not heavily involve transportation, but it does reference the TDM and will reference the upcoming plan. He offered to meet with Mr. Oppelt to discuss potential interactions between the two plans.
- Jared Tremblay introduced the US-24 Cost-Benefit Analysis public information page on the MPO's website, which will go live after the Benesch contract is signed. The page is interactive and allows users to estimate travel times between Manhattan and the Green Valley area.
  - John Ford commented that it would be helpful to see school precinct areas and plan for school traffic during pickup/dropoff times.
  - Peter Oppelt commented that a public transportation option should be included.

5. KDOT Update:

- Mike Moriarty stated that KDOT has a new Assistant Director and three new Assistant Bureau Chiefs. KDOT will be introducing these new personnel in the coming months.

6. ACTION ITEM: Approval of the June 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes

- Peter Oppelt moved to approve the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Keith Ascher seconded. The motion passed.

7. ACTION ITEM: Approve Transportation Emissions Reduction Strategy (TERS) Project

- Jared Tremblay introduced the TERS submission. Junction City was the sole applicant; their project included a pedestrian crossing and bus pullouts for E Chestnut St.
  - Keith Ascher moved to approve the TERS project, noting that business owners along Chestnut St have mentioned the need for a crossing. Peter Oppelt seconded. The motion passed.

8. ACTION ITEM: Approve Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment #2

- Jared Tremblay introduced the amendment, which includes cost adjustments and the creation of a line item for the US- 24 Cost Benefit Analysis.
  - Peter Oppelt moved to approve UPW P Amendment #2. Ronna Larson seconded. The motion passed.
- 9. ACTION ITEM: Approve Public Participation Plan (PPP)
  - Jared Tremblay introduced the amendment, which changes some of the language in the PPP to comply with new federal requirements.
    - Ronna Larson moved to approve the PPP. Keith Ascher seconded. The motion passed.
- 10. ACTION ITEM: Approve Title VI Program
  - Jared Tremblay introduced the amendment, which changes some of the language in FHMPO's Title VI program to comply with new federal requirements.
    - Javier Ahumada pointed out that the table of contents contains missing links.
    - Peter Oppelt moved to approve the Title VI program amendments once the links are fixed. Keith Ascher seconded. The motion passed.
- 11. ACTION ITEM: Approve Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP)
  - Jared Tremblay introduced the amendment, which changes some language in the LEP to comply with new federal requirements.
    - Javier Ahumada stated that a new executive order may further impact the LEP. Board members requested that the MPO follow up with federal agencies to confirm.
    - Ronna Larson moved to approve the changes to the LEP. Keith Ascher seconded.
- 12. ACTION ITEM: Approve 2024 Audit Report
  - Jared Tremblay presented the findings of the independent audit by Adams Brown, which reviewed FHMPO's accounting records for the year 2024. He included comments attached to the audit by FHMPO's bookkeeper, Strawn & Associates.
    - Keith Ascher noted that there will be a 27<sup>th</sup> pay period in 2026 and recommended the MPO discuss this in advance with Strawn & Associates.
    - Ronna Larson moved to approve the audit report. Peter Oppelt seconded.
- 13. DISCUSSION ITEM: Transportation Emissions Reduction Strategy (TERS) – 2<sup>nd</sup> call for projects
  - Jared Tremblay stated that there are leftover TERS funds after approving Junction City's project for Chestnut Street. FHMPO will be issuing a second call for TERS projects in October/November 2025.
    - Peter Oppelt inquired about which projects are eligible for TERS funding.

- Jared Tremblay provided a brief overview of the requirements for TERS projects. Eligible projects include active transportation (walking and biking), ITS improvements, and projects to improve traffic flow. He noted that TERS funds can only pay for construction, not engineering.

14. DISCUSSION ITEM: Planning Manager Annual Review

- As in previous years, there will be an Executive Session at the September Policy Board meeting to review the Planning Manager. Jared Tremblay will send out evaluation materials to the Board.

15. Motion for Adjournment

- John Ford noted that he will be traveling during the October 15<sup>th</sup> Policy Board meeting and requested that the meeting be rescheduled. Ronna Larson noted that she will likely be unable to attend and plans to meet with Junction City's City Manager to determine an alternate.
  - Jared Tremblay will send out a survey to reschedule for the week of October 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Peter Oppelt moved to adjourn the meeting. Ronna Larson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:24p.

Next Meeting October (date TBD), Manhattan Public Library