Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization
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Policy Board Meeting

Wednesday, Sept 16, 2026
3:30 pm

In Person:
Groesbeck Room
Manhattan Public Library
629 Poyntz Ave
Manhattan, KS 66502

Virtual:
Zoom meeting
Meeting ID: 919 154 6755
Passcode: 148813

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT		
X	Keith Ascher	Geary County Commission
X	Mike Moriarty	KS Dept of Transportation
X	Andrew Von Lintel	Manhattan City Commission
X	Dee McKee	Pottawatomie Co. Commission
	Sam Yoskowitz	Junction City Commission
X	John Ford	Riley County Commission
X	Dwight Faulkner	Wamego City Commission
NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT		
	Javier Ahumada	Federal Highway Admin.
	Owen Washburn	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	
Desree Pettera	
Randy Pettera	

1. Welcome
    - Meeting called to order at 3:31p.
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 revenue and major expenses. The largest expense was the invoice from Lyft for the Fort Riley Safe Passage program, as well as annual software renewals. As of 9.9.2026, FHMPO's checking account totaled $181,848.08.

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 updated the Board on the Fort Riley Safe Passage program. FHMPO has recently presented to the Junction City Commission on program costs and ridership and will be speaking to the Manhattan City Commission soon. The program is averaging 800 rides a month, with 6,400 soldiers now signed up. He noted that September 2026 has seen an increase in ridership, with 800 rides in the first two weeks alone.
    - Desree Pettera asked how drivers are found for Fort Riley Safe Passage.
        - Jared Tremblay responded that the drivers are independent contractors with Lyft.
    - Andrew Von Lintel asked whether there has been a reduction in DUIs following the introduction of the program.
        - Jared Tremblay answered that DUI statistics have not been assessed yet since the program is still in its early stages, but that FHMPO has spoken with Junction City Police Department about acquiring their data in the future.
        - Keith Ascher and John Ford both recommended that FHMPO speak to the Geary County Sherriff's Department and the Fort Riley Police as well.
    - Dee McKee inquired whether rides can be used for other purposes, such as medical appointment access for residents of rural Pottawatomie County.
        - Jared Tremblay answered that the FRSP vouchers are strictly for Fort Riley soldiers living on post and are limited to certain hours and locations to prevent impaired driving. He noted that Lyft rides are available at the normal market rate for other users and purposes.
- Jared Tremblay also stated that FHMPO has been conducting a safety analysis for the City of Manhattan. This analysis will be more detailed than the region-wide safety report released annually by FHMPO and will focus on crash and speed data for specific roads and intersections.

5. KDOT Updates

- Mike Moriarty stated that KDOT had no updates at this time and welcomed questions from Policy Board members.
    - John Ford asked for a progress update on the traffic signal on K-113 in Ogden. The City of Ogden has requested an ITS component for the signal but has not yet received permission from KDOT. Mr. Ford also stated that misinformation has been circulating in the community about KDOT needing to completely restart construction on the two roundabouts on US-24 and K-13/K-113.
        - Mike Moriarty responded that he would inquire with KDOT Traffic Engineering for an update on the signal. He and Jared Tremblay confirmed that the roundabouts will not need to be restarted, and that the reason for continued construction work is to expand truck aprons for oversized truck traffic.
    - Several Policy Board members had questions and concerns about road maintenance schedules and responsibilities.
        - Dee McKee asked about the mowing schedule for US-24 in Pottawatomie County, noting that grass is overgrown in several places along the highway and medians.
            a. John Ford suggested that the overgrown grass is likely due to recent rainy weather constraining the mowing schedules.
            b. Mike Moriarty answered that he would consult the maintenance agreements between KDOT and the jurisdictions to determine the mowing schedule. He will share his findings with the Board.
        - Andrew Von Lintel also asked who is responsible for mowing and removing debris from the medians near the meeting of Tuttle Creek Blvd and Fort Riley Blvd in Manhattan.
            a. Mike Moriarty replied that he believes the City of Manhattan is responsible for those medians and will check in the maintenance agreement to confirm.

- Keith Ascher asked to clarify who is responsible for maintaining a portion of 6th St in Junction City east of the sale barn, noting that the pavement quality has become degraded. He believes the road is state owned.

    a. Mike Moriarty answered that he will check the maintenance agreement and report back.

6. **ACTION ITEM:** Approval of the July 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes
    - Keith Ascher moved to approve the July 15, 2026 Policy Board meeting minutes. Andrew Von Lintel seconded. The motion passed.

7. **ACTION ITEM:** Approve the 2025 Audit Report
    - Jared Tremblay shared the results of the 2025 FHMPO audit, including the audit report and comments from both the auditor and FHMPO's bookkeeper. The only significant issue found by the auditor was attributed to a QuickBooks error that has since been fixed by FHMPO's bookkeeper. Mr. Tremblay stated that in addition to the annual audit, all of FHMPO's transactions and receipts are reviewed by KDOT as part of reimbursement requests. He asked the Board if they wished to conduct any further review of FHMPO's financials.
        - John Ford suggested that Policy Board could also review FHMPO's receipts if needed, but he added that he believes additional review is unnecessary so long as audits continue to find no red flags.
        - Dee McKee moved to approve the 2025 Audit Report. Andrew Von Lintel seconded. The motion passed.

8. **DISCUSSION ITEM:** Future Audits
    - Jared Tremblay stated that FHMPO currently does not require a full audit, instead operating under agreed-upon procedures. He explained that FHMPO's reimbursements are viewed as revenues and that when revenues exceed $500,000 annually, a full audit is required. Since the Fort Riley Safe Passage Program is seeing growing ridership, it is likely that FHMPO's on-paper "revenues" will exceed $500,000 in future years, thus requiring a full audit. The full audit would be more detailed and costlier than the current audit under agreed-upon procedures.
        - Dee McKee asked whether Fort Riley Safe Passage has safeguards in place to prevent someone from requesting a ride, then changing their destination to receive a longer ride for a lower cost.

- Jared Tremblay answered that this is not a concern, since the program only provides ride vouchers within a limited geographic area and Lyft calculates prices upfront when the ride is ordered.

- Andrew Von Lintel asked how Fort Riley Safe Passage is funded.

    - Jared Tremblay replied that the program is federally funded through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, with funds administered to KDOT and then FHMPO as a "pass-through" entity. FHMPO's administration of the program is funded by grant money from the Flint Hills Wellness Coalition through a Pathways grant. He noted that there is no MPO or local money involved in the program.

9. **DISCUSSION ITEM:** 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Updates
    - Jared Tremblay provided an update on the 2027 UPWP. Since the Fort Riley Safe Passage Program administration is funded by a grant, the local match amount required from FHMPO member jurisdictions has decreased by 2.6%.

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Director Evaluation
    - Keith Ascher moved to enter a 10-minute executive session to evaluate the FHMPO Director at 4:11 p. Dee McKee seconded. The motion passed.

    - At 4:24p, Andrew Von Lintel moved to conclude the executive session. Dee McKee seconded. The motion passed.

    - Dee McKee moved to increase the FHMPO Director's salary by 2% for FY 2027. Keith Ascher seconded. The motion passed.

11. Motion for Adjournment
    - Andrew Von Lintel moved to adjourn the meeting. Keith Ascher seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:27p.

Next Meeting October 21, 2026, Manhattan Public Library