



Flint Hills Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Policy Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 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: 148813

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	Ricardo Guterrez	Junction City Commission
x	John Ford	Riley County Commission
	Clifford Baughman	Wamego City Commission
NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT		
	Javier Ahumada	Federal Highway Admin.
	Kelley Paskow	Fort Riley Representative
	Eva Steinman	Federal Transit Admin.
x	Anne Smith	Flint Hills ATA

Staff Present

x	Jared Tremblay	MPO
x	Abigail Danner	MPO

Guests Present

Ryne Dowling – KS Dept of Transportation	
Desree Pettera	
Randy Pettera	

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 revenue and major expenses. He stated that FHMPO has submitted a supplemental agreement to KDOT; upon approval, the agreement will allow FHMPO to access carry-over funds from previous years to make up for the CPG funding shortage.
 - Ricardo Guterrez inquired about the major expenses for the year.
 - Jared Tremblay replied that consultants have been the largest expense in 2025 and showed the Board the annual costs listed in the UPWP.

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 contract for the US-24 Big Blue River 2nd Connection Cost Benefit Analysis has been signed by Benesch, and the project will kick off soon. In addition, the project lists and financials for *Connect 2050*, FHMP's long-range plan, are nearly complete. *Connect 2050* open houses will be held in Fall 2025.
 - Peter Oppelt asked if the long-range plan lays out infrastructure costs for the next 25 years.
 - Jared Tremblay answered that it does. He showed the Board the previous plan, *Connect 2040*, to demonstrate what information goes into the long-range plan.

5. KDOT Update:

- Ryne Dowling stated that the supplemental agreement has been received by KDOT and its approval is in motion.

6. **ACTION ITEM:** Approval of the August 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

- Ricardo Guterrez abstained from voting as he was not present at the August 20th meeting. Without his vote, there were insufficient votes to reach quorum.
 - Peter Oppelt moved to table the approval of the minutes to the October Policy Board meeting. John Ford seconded.

7. **ACTION ITEM:** Approve 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- Jared Tremblay introduced the new TIP. Completed projects were removed from the new TIP, with four new projects added.
 - Ricardo Gutterrez asked if ATA Bus projects are included in the TIP.
 - Jared Tremblay answered that yes, the ATA finance team is consulted whenever a relevant project needs to be added or modified, and that grant funds for ATA operations are also in the TIP.
 - Keith Ascher moved to approve the 2026-2029 TIP. Ricardo Gutierrez seconded. The motion passed.

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Planning Manager Evaluation

- John Ford moved to enter a 10-minute executive session at 3:55. Peter Oppelt seconded. Non-voting members, MPO staff, and guests were required to leave the room.
- John Ford moved to exit the executive session at 4:07. Keith Ascher seconded.
- John Ford moved to recommend that no action be taken. Peter Oppelt seconded.

9. **DISCUSSION ITEM:** Evergy Fleet Advisory Team

- Jared Tremblay provided a brief overview of the program. At no cost, Evergy will provide cost estimates and recommendations for replacing all or part of a municipality or small business's fleet with electric vehicles.

- Ricardo Gutierrez asked if there is any grant funding associated with the Fleet Advisory Team.
 - Jared Tremblay answered that there is no funding available through his specific project, but that Evergy does offer fleet rebates.
- John Ford asked if the current grid is able to accommodate EV fleet adoption.
 - Jared Tremblay answered that as found in the EV Readiness Plan, the grid should be capable of handling EVs based on the current rate of EV adoption in the Flint Hills.
- John Ford recommended bringing in an Evergy employee to present more information about this and similar programs.
 - Jared Tremblay responded that he is willing to reach out.

10. Motion for Adjournment

- Peter Oppelt moved to adjourn the meeting. Keith Ascher seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:17p.

Next Meeting October 20, Manhattan Public Library