

Issues Paper on Transportation

Priorities

1. Improve Existing System

- Convenient and reliable transit service with more frequent headways and extended routes on a grid system.
- Expanded door-to-door paratransit program for seniors and disabled.
- Ridesharing match for carpooling.

2. Offer Other Transportation Options

- Special event or “spot” transit services.
- Park-and-Ride lots.
- Network of elevated mobile walkways.
- Commuter rail (heavy or light rail) service to suburbs and other communities.
- Bus Rapid Transit on select corridors.
- Regional airfares and airline service.
- Amtrak station in Wichita.

3. Provide Better Connections

- Sidewalks required in new developments for pedestrians and children to walk to school.
- Interconnected bicycle paths/lanes.
- More paved shoulders.
- Incorporate a mix of land uses and complete streets in developments to create a vibrant, walkable community.
- Provide regional connections for recreation and commuter use.

4. Public Education.

- More widely disseminated information about resources available, such as carpooling and bus routes.
- Partnerships with employers and neighborhood groups to offer “Travel Training” for potential transit riders.
- Benchmarking other cities and states to see what is being done.

Barriers

1. Funding and Incentives

- Implement a regional transit taxing authority.
- No incentives for employee participation.

2. Infrastructure

- Missing sidewalk links, no ordinance requirements. Lack of connections.
- Inexpensive parking.
- No on-street bicycle lanes, paths are not interconnected.
- Sprawl.

3. Public Education and Behaviors

- Make public aware of alternatives to private automobiles.
- Congestion is not too bad, easy to get around by vehicle.
- Community is designed for cars.
- Educate elected officials and the community on the value of alternative modes of transportation – lack of political will.
- Low frequency of buses and routes not conducive for many commuters.

4. Safety

- Unsafe intersections and pedestrian crossings.
- Perception of transit as being unsafe and unreliable.

Opportunities

1. More Multi-Modal and Alternative Mode Services

- Increased transit headways and routes, utilize existing programs in place.
- Ridesharing/carpooling.
- Better bicycle and sidewalk connections.
- Park-and-Ride lots.
- Use of hybrid vehicles/buses and better accommodations for alternative fuel vehicles.
- Paratransit routes.

2. Funding

- Make funding for transit and other modes of transportation a priority.
- Use the current system to encourage future funding and improvements.

3. Collaboration and Education

- Regional partnerships, involvement of smaller communities.
- Community education on sustainable transportation practices, transit routes, bicycle/pedestrian accommodations, and programs in place.
- Encourage fewer single-occupant vehicles, decreased idle times, and vehicle emissions improvements for air quality benefits.

Evaluating Success

1. Measurable Factors

- Increased ridership and transit trips.
- Reduced vehicle miles traveled.
- Citizen satisfaction survey.
- Improved air quality.
- More regional partnerships for multiple modes of transportation.
- More miles of interconnected bicycle paths/trails and sidewalks.