

**Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**

**August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019**

# **Title VI Annual Report**



## Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

The Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Wichita metropolitan region. As the MPO, WAMPO works to recognize the critical links between transportation and other societal goals such as economic health, air quality, social equity, environmental resource consumption, and overall quality of life.

The local 24-member Transportation Policy Body (TPB) guides and coordinates the transportation investment of the WAMPO area. In addition to the TPB, elected officials, transportation professionals, advocates, and citizens have an opportunity to share their expertise with the TPB by serving on the following advisory committees:

- Executive Committee
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan-Project Advisory Committee (PAC)

## Commitment to Nondiscrimination

It is the policy of the WAMPO organization to assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice (EJ), Executive Order 13166 on Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities regardless of funding source.

WAMPO strives to create and maintain a transparent and inclusive planning process by intentionally integrating Title VI, EJ, and LEP principles into the WAMPO transportation planning process and intentionally reaching out to traditionally underserved populations in the WAMPO region.

## Title VI Program Requirement

FTA requires that all direct and primary recipients document their compliance with the Department of Transportation's Title VI regulations by submitting a Title VI Program to their FTA regional civil rights officer once every three years or as otherwise directed by FTA.

### 2019 Update:

WAMPO is not currently an FTA direct/primary recipient and is no longer required to update every 3 years. The current program, associated notices, practices, and plans, will remain online and available to the public at [www.wampo.org/Pages/Legal.aspx](http://www.wampo.org/Pages/Legal.aspx).

### Future Focus:

In the coming months staff will be working to develop a new website that will include the above referenced program and documents on its own page with updated labeling and detail to help web visitors more easily and intuitively locate information and materials.

## Public Participation Plan (PPP)

The WAMPO Participation Plan (PPP) continues to reflect the process by which WAMPO will operationalize the commitments of the Title VI program. Considerations of this plan include:

- Inclusion of the full Title VI notification to the public.

- Procedural considerations related to accessibility of meetings and information (including language translation and interpretation).
- Engagement and strategy considerations of traditionally underserved populations including populations with characteristics that would include environmental justice considerations.

2019 Update:

As part of the implementation activities of the updated PPP, WAMPO staff began engaging the public through outreach interventions that were designed to take the conversation to “where the community is.” One of the major enhancements of the PPP strategy was to eliminate the overreliance on traditional “public hearings” as a source of public feedback. This resulted in staff and committee members working together to “take the show on the road” using our stakeholders and community partners as gatekeeping nodes to specific populations.

Below is a list of partners and stakeholders that confirmed coordination with (audience/group/meeting) during this review period. Attached is a sample quick view strategy used for a recent outreach intervention. This quick view strategy was designed to help the steering committee organized the approaches by audience and ultimately resulted in the below stratified list.

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Aging Network (Sedgwick County)    | 29. Haysville City Council                    |
| 2. Alzheimer’s Association            | 30. Health Alliance                           |
| 3. Amerigroup Kansas                  | 31. Health and Wellness Coalition             |
| 4. Andale City Council                | 32. Health ICT                                |
| 5. Andover City Council               | 33. Hugo Wall School (WSU)                    |
| 6. Bel Aire City Council              | 34. Hunter Health                             |
| 7. Bel Aire Planning Commission       | 35. Independent Living Resource Center        |
| 8. Bike Walk Wichita (BWW)            | 36. Kansas Infant Death & SIDS Network        |
| 9. Butler County Commission           | 37. Kansas Motor Carriers Association         |
| 10. Chamber Gov’t Relations Committee | 38. KS Academy of Family Physicians           |
| 11. Cheney City Council               | 39. KS Eye Bank                               |
| 12. City of Derby                     | 40. KS Motor Carriers                         |
| 13. City of Kechi                     | 41. Maize City Council                        |
| 14. Clearwater City Council           | 42. Medical Service Bureau                    |
| 15. Clearwater Planning Commission    | 43. Metropolitan Area Planning Commission     |
| 16. Climate Lobby                     | 44. National Alliance on Mental Illness       |
| 17. Coordinated Transit District #9   | 45. Paratransit Council                       |
| 18. Cornejo Corp.                     | 46. Park City Council                         |
| 19. Derby City Council                | 47. Pedestrian Committee (BWW)                |
| 20. Derby Health Collaborative        | 48. Public Works Directors Meeting (regional) |
| 21. Derby Rec. Community              | 49. Realtor Group (regional)                  |
| 22. Disabilities Advocates 4 Action   | 50. REAP Executive Committee                  |
| 23. Dondlinger Construction           | 51. Rose Hill City Council                    |
| 24. East Front Neigh. Assoc.          | 52. Sedgwick County Aging Advisory Council    |
| 25. Envision                          | 53. Sedgwick County Association of Cities     |
| 26. Garden Plain City Council         | 54. Sedgwick County Commission                |
| 27. Goddard City Council              | 55. Sedgwick County Dept. of Aging            |
| 28. Goddard Planning Commission       |   |

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|--|---|
| 56. Sedgwick County Developmental Disability<br>Affiliate Director's | 67. Wichita Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board               |
| 57. Sedgwick County Developmental Disability<br>Community Council    | 68. Wichita Chamber of Commerce                             |
| 58. Sierra Club  | 69. Wichita District Advisory Board #1                      |
| 59. The Senior Summit  | 70. Wichita District Advisory Board #4                      |
| 60. TransSystems   | 71. Wichita District Advisory Board #5                      |
| 61. United Way of the Plains   | 72. Wichita District Advisory Board #6                      |
| 62. Valley Center City Council                                       | 73. Wichita Transit Access Advisory Brd.                    |
| 63. Valley Center Planning and Zoning                                | 74. Wichita-Sedg. Co Metro Area Planning Dept               |
| 64. WAMPO Freight Roundtable   | 75. Wichita-Sedgwick Co. Access Advisory Brd.               |
| 65. WAMPO Transportation Advisory Committee                          | 76. Wichita-Sedgwick County Advanced Plans                  |
| 66. WAMPO Transportation Policy Body                                 | 77. Wichita-Sedgwick County Continuity of Care<br>Coalition |
|  | 78. YMCA Wichita  |

## Ongoing Improvement

WAMPO has an ongoing commitment to evaluate proactive and responsive strategies to engage traditionally under-represented populations including minorities and individuals with limited English proficiency in the transportation planning process.

During the 2015 review period WAMPO received a MPO Title VI Program Review Questionnaire from KDOT that requested information about specific Title VI processes and activities. The highlights of the feedback received from this exercise is summarized below and includes relevant updates occurring since the prior review period:

- Recommendation that WAMPO develop and implement a system for tracking characteristics of public meeting attendees (low income, race/ethnicity etc.)

**Complete** - During this review period WAMPO had the opportunity to experiment with soliciting and tracking of Scenario Planning attendee characteristics that include age, race/ethnicity, and community role (resident, elected official, etc.) Staff were generally successful in identifying characteristics of about 57% of attendees. These characteristics were used for planning additional targeted outreach to certain under-represented individuals as well as in the development of an outreach narrative.

- Recommendation that Title VI considerations be more specifically incorporated into the upcoming PPP.

**Completed** during last review period.

- Recommendation that equity be incorporated into the planning process through the use of equity evaluation criteria used for project scoring.

**Progress to Date** – in 2018 staff developed and reported on equity profiles that reflected the following three input areas:

- Regional Data

- Member Data
- Project Level Data

These profiles were then provided to the WAMPO Project Selection Committee (PSC) to use in consideration of the current candidate projects slated to be recommended to the Transportation Policy Body later this Fall. The equity profiles were developed using data and maps generate from the EPAs web-based EJSCREEN tool. The equity profiles are designed to be used by the PSC to support decision making for the WAMPO Tier III project scoring criteria which reflects the goals of the current long range plan.

2019 Update:

The incorporation of equity into the decision making process continues to be an ongoing effort at WAMPO. During this review period staff have begun planning the implementation of the equity profile supplemental approach (described above) at the MTP level. An addition to that an Equity analysis of public feedback was developed and reported on to the MTP Plan Advisory Committee (PAC) in the Spring of 2019. Below are the report details and findings that were used in the narrative designed to inform the MTP update decision-making process.

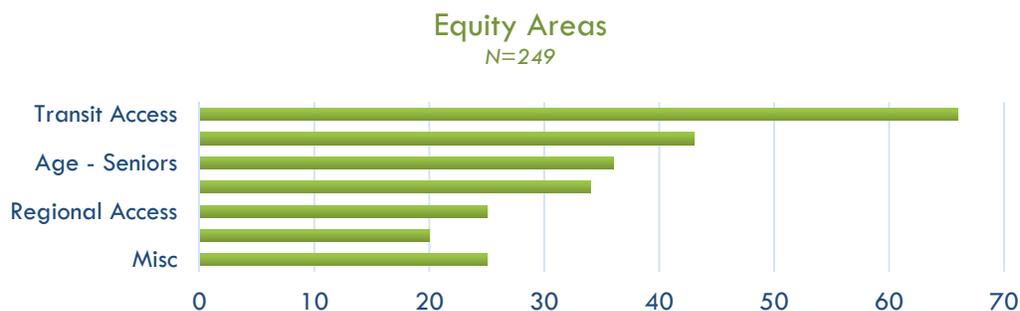
*PAC Discussion March 2019*

Equity analysis refers to the distribution of impacts (benefits and costs) and whether they are appropriate. Transportation equity analysis is often ad hoc, based on the concerns and values of the stakeholders involved in the planning process; other, significant impacts may be overlooked or undervalued. As a result this analysis should be paired with additional information, indicators and feedback to achieve a comprehensive decision-making perspective.

*Equity Concerns & Values*

The ultimate goal of most transport activity is accessibility, which refers to people’s ability to reach desired services and activities. Equity focus areas were developed for the WAMPO region using public input data received during the WAMPO Scenario Planning Initiative, Coordinated Plan update, and the most recent Long-Range Plan Vision Development Survey.

Results indicated that 22% of the comments were concerning matters of equity. Below is a distribution of those comments by area of concern:



The Miscellaneous category includes the following distribution of comment areas:

- Age - Children
- Minority
- Education
- Public Health
- Environment

#### Future Focus:

Based on the values and concerns of WAMPO region stakeholders and the general public the following accessibility-based selection criteria are being proposed:

*Please note the following proposal was not incorporated into the project selection process, but staff plan to bring the information forward at a later date for consideration of future process enhancements*

#### Benefit Distribution

- Benefits to transportation disadvantaged members of the community (non-drivers, seniors, disabled, children etc.) in one or more of the following ways:
- The project creates more accessible, multi-modal communities
- The project reflect universal design (they accommodate people with disabilities and/or other special needs).
- The project includes special mobility services for people with mobility impairments

#### Access Improvement

- Improves basic access and favors trips considered necessities rather than luxuries. Transportation that provides adequate access to medical services, schools, employment opportunities, and other “basic “activities.
- The project supports or connects higher value travel as described above