

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED

Wichita Transit Committed to Listening

Continuing its commitment to listen to the community's thoughts about its transit future, Wichita Transit is hosting a series of public open houses to discuss potential transit improvement concepts. The concepts will be presented for review and comment through an on-line public meeting available at www.wichitatransittalks.com. The online meeting will begin during the week of February 13 and end March 9. The same information will be on display at traditional open houses held at the Rockwell Branch of the Wichita Public Library (5939 E. 9th Street North) on February 22 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. and at 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. It will also be displayed at the Wichita Transit – Van Maintenance Facility (777 E. Waterman) on February 23 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. and from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Wichita Transit staff, along with consultant team members, will be on hand to answer questions and discuss issues and concerns.

The open house format will allow the Wichita community to review and comment on detailed project displays that show a range of conceptual transit improvements that could be implemented in the city over the coming three years. The concepts respond to Wichita Transit's budgetary constraints and the input gathered from the community via meetings with stakeholders, surveys of riders and non-riders, and social networking sites like www.wichitatransittalks.com. One of the improvement concepts proposes to alter the configuration of the bus routes, changing the community's existing hub and spoke system to a hybrid combination of both the grid and a hub and spoke systems in order to improve service and connectivity. Another concept explores options for maintaining the existing service as it is today and a third addresses possible service reductions, which could become necessary if financial support for transit were not increased.

Input gathered from the open house will be incorporated into the vision for Wichita's transit future. A final report will identify transit priorities and policy considerations such as funding needs, improvement options, and level of community support. Wichita

Transit is leading the effort with the assistance of a consultant team consisting of Olsson Associates for transit planning, Vireo (formerly Patti Banks Associates) and MindMixer for public involvement, and ETC Institute for surveys.

For more information, visit www.wichitatransit.org and www.wichitatransittalks.com. If you require a sign-language interpreter or other communication aids at the meeting, please contact Michelle Stroot, Wichita Transit Project Manager, at 316-352-4808 or mstroot@wichita.gov at least one week in advance of the meeting.

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