

**Joint Economic Development Organization Board Minutes
May 12, 2011**

City of Topeka Council Chambers, 214 SE 7th Street, Topeka, Kansas, Thursday, May 12, 2011.

The Joint Economic Development Organization (JEDO) Board members met at 6:00 P.M. with the following Board members present: City of Topeka Councilmembers John Alcala, Denise Everhart and Andrew Gray; City of Topeka Mayor William W. Bunten; Shawnee County Commissioners Vic Miller, Shelly Buhler and Ted Ensley -7.

Also present were nonvoting JEDO Board members: City of Topeka Councilmembers Bob Archer, Karen Hiller and Chad Manspeaker.

Absent: City of Topeka Councilmembers Sylvia Ortiz, Larry Wolgast and Richard Harmon.

Acting Chairman Bob Archer called the meeting to order. He announced this is the first JEDO Policy Board meeting to be televised. He thanked Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., City Manager and City staff for facilitating the televising of the meeting.

APPROVAL of the Minutes of the JEDO Board meeting of November 17, 2010, were presented.

Mayor Bunten moved to approve the Minutes of the JEDO Board meeting of November 17, 2010. The motion seconded by Councilmember Gray carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

ELECTION of the 2011 JEDO Board Presiding Officer was presented.

Chairman Archer opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Miller nominated Councilmember Archer to serve as the JEDO Board Presiding Officer. The nomination seconded by Commissioner Ensley carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

Councilmember Archer thanked fellow Board members for having the confidence in him to serve as Chair of the Board.

2011 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT First Quarter Report for the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce and the Growth Organization of Topeka was presented.

Lucky DeFries, GO Topeka Board gave a brief history of the Growth Organization (GO) of Topeka and stated the Organization was established with the intent to take economic development efforts to a new level while having a balanced approach for minority and women-owned business enterprises. He stated it has been exciting to see what has emerged over the years and noted GO Topeka has one of the best Disadvantaged

Business Enterprises (DBE) Program in the country. He stated it is a very competitive arena and the necessary resources have to be committed and this has been done through the sales tax initiative commitment by the community. He stated they are proud of the Organization's successes and what has been built and recognized nation wide. He stated they appreciate the support of the JEDO Board and they are looking forward to working with them through a continued partnership. He introduced Ms. Cyndi Hermocillo-Legg, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Program Director and commended her for her hard work and contributions to the successful program.

Doug Kinsinger, President and Chief Executive Officer, Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce and GO Topeka read the GO Topeka Vision Statement and Mission Statement. He reported the Organization's focus is to attract primary job opportunities and economic development investments.

Steve Jenkins, GO Topeka Economic Development Senior Vice President referenced the organizational charts for JEDO and GO Topeka. He explained the organizations are divided into functional areas and they are currently trying to fill a newly created research position which is crucial for economic development. He stated the functions and primary expectations for each position would change following the finalization of their 3-year market plan.

Doug Kinsinger stated their focus is to attract primary jobs and employers that would provide a net gain to the economy. He reported by attracting primary jobs that sell or provide products or services far beyond the local market area it brings new dollars to the local economy. He noted companies need to export more products than they import to help build the local economy.

Steve Jenkins discussed primary employers and secondary and indirect jobs. He reported primary employers export products and services and secondary and indirect jobs circulate existing local dollars and typically do not inject new or outside dollars into the local economy and generally have lower wages and consume local community wealth. He discussed the following Shawnee County wage examples:

County Average	\$38,272
Manufacturing	\$47,424
Distribution	\$39,260
Medical Services	\$40,768
Retail	\$22,412

Mr. Jenkins continued to explain if the community is not boosting wages above the base economy average then the per capita of wealth in the community decreases and the community does not experience growth in secondary jobs. He referenced a study conducted on the economic impact of primary employers in Shawnee County in 2010; the economic impact of jobs by sector; and contributions of primary employers to Shawnee County's annual economy in 2010. The study reflected the following information:

- Direct Primary Jobs: 17,113
- Indirect Jobs: 13,528
- Direct and Associated Indirect Jobs: \$1.6 billion
- Annual Increase in Gross Area Product (GAP): \$4.6 billion
- Total Taxable Sales Generated: \$718.7 million

Discussion continued on GO Topeka's primary focus for the last 3 years including increased national awareness of Topeka and its business assets to corporations and site consultants; strengthening and expanding the existing business programs with particular attention to the community's primary employers; strengthening and focusing on minority and women business development programs; development and deployment of a meaningful entrepreneurial development program targeting emerging potential primary businesses; identify and address the needs in workforce development that increases the community's competitiveness for job and investment attraction and retention.

Doug Kinsinger gave a brief overview of the following Quarterly Report information:

**Results of Direct Assistance Provided by GO Topeka
2002 - 2010**

New Jobs Created:	3,882
Jobs Retained	5,040
Total Jobs	8,922
Capital Investment	\$987.3 Million

JEDO/GO Topeka Federal Projects - Secured Since 2002

- Infrastructure for Central Crossing and Kanza Fire Commerce Parks (3 projects)
- Topeka Boulevard Bridge
- Forbes Field Taxiway Improvements
- 190th Headquarters and Support Facility
- I-70 Viaduct Planning and Design
- Kansas Children's Discovery Center.

2002 - 2010 Total Direct Primary Jobs Impact

New Jobs	3,882
Retained Jobs	5,040
Total Jobs	8,922

Total Direct and Indirect Jobs: 16,659
 Salaries to be paid to Direct/Indirect Workers: \$7.05 billion
 Taxable Sales: \$2.6 billion over 10 years
 Property taxes collected from projects in 2010: \$123.9 million

**Impact of Closing the 190th Air Refueling Wing - 2010
GO Topeka Project through Government Relations**

Direct Employment (military and civilian)	899
Indirect Employment	344
Direct Payroll Impact	\$37.5 million
Indirect Payroll Impact	\$13.4 million
Estimated Economic Impact in Community	\$163.9 million

Results of Direct Assistance from GO Topeka 2009 – 2010

New Jobs Created	825
Jobs Retained	1,691
Total Jobs	2,516
Capital Investment	\$444.45 million

Impact of Total Direct Primary Jobs 2009 - 2010

New	825
Retained	1,691
Total	2,516

Total Direct and Indirect Jobs: 4,654
 Salaries to be paid to direct and indirect workers: \$24.8 million/year
 Taxable Sales: \$1.01 billion over 10 years
 Net benefits to City and County: \$21.9 million over 10 years

Mr. Kinsinger continued discussion relating to the acquisition of the Central Crossing and Kanza Fire Commerce Industrial Parks. He reported there are 70 acres remaining to develop and noted the industrial park offers over 6000 feet of railroad access for companies.

Steve Jenkins stated it was important to note they have had a lot of good input from companies and they continue to work to meet the needs of their clients by concentrating on a timely response (within 24 hours) and excellent service which is critical in the process. He referenced a quote from Bimbo Bakeries USA and noted the Baker would be the most highly sophisticated bakery in the world as Bimbo follows suit with today's corporations which are leaner and more aggressive with marketing and relationship building. He stated they would continue to provide assistance and support to existing businesses and reported on five major expansions that took place in the community even at the height of the recession. He stated they have a good partnership with the community and work to provide a global work force; new marketing blue prints; building relationships with site consultants or selectors; good public relations and protect our investments. He also discussed attraction targeted sectors including food manufacturing, biomedical, logistics, distribution and clean technology. He stated their attraction goals include continued existing business support; entrepreneurial and minority business

development and workforce development. He discussed the implementation of a robotics training program slated for 2012 in the USD 501 School District. He reported the program would be centered in the Highland Park High School, creating skill sets for students to obtain good jobs. He stated he is excited to announce there are 27 students currently signed up for the program and a waiting list with more students interested in the program.

Cyndi Hermocillo-Legg, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Program Director reported the robotics training program is a great resource and the first of its kind globally. She stated job creations will be higher per capita with a beginning wage range of \$38,000 to \$51,000 and will be open to all Shawnee County School Districts. She reported robotics training has one common language no matter what industry and we need to target skills as early as possible, even allowing junior and senior students to train is not young enough. She noted this pilot project would grow into other opportunities for the community.

Kevin Singer, USD 501 School District Superintendent stated Topeka has a great sense of neighborhood and partnership which has allowed the community to survive tough economic times over the past decade. He stated they continue to work together to make things happen through partnerships with GO Topeka and the DBE Program. He stated they continue to work to improve Highland Park High School and the surrounding area to create a great source for the east Topeka community to grow opportunities.

Larry Robbins, USD 501 Executive Director of Operations stated he is very excited about the possibilities and opportunities the program would present for the east side of town and the community as a whole. He stated the robotics training program would provide students with the skills to compete in the 21st century. He noted there are unlimited possibilities to expand on the program and he looks forward to other partnerships that provide similar opportunities.

Steve Jenkins stated the robotics training program is a vision of the Women Minority Council and an exciting opportunity that would continue to grow. He reported they will continue workforce development by full deployment of the Competitiveness Center Alliance; implement a long-term strategy for creating and sustaining a globally competitive workforce; and continue on-going skill assessments through WorkKey testing. He highlighted the First Quarter 2011 Progress Report and discussed the following:

ATTRACTION

<u>2011</u>	<u>Annual Goal</u>	<u>First Quarter</u>
Suspect Generation	1,100	539
New Prospects	100	15
Qualified Projects	25	4

Other Actions

- NHRA event with 12 national site consultants to acquaint them with Topeka/Shawnee County, May 19-20
- Visits with 15 national site consultants
- New GO Topeka website anticipated to be active by June 1; beta testing underway
- New 3-Year Marketing Blueprint being completed

EXISTING BUSINESS

	<u>Annual Goal</u>	<u>First Quarter</u>
Business Visits	220	43
Primary Employer Visits	50	12
Walk-Around Visits	4	June & September
Primary Employer Events	2	May & 4 th Quarter

Other Actions

- Value in Manufacturing
- Surviving Progress
- Working with 3 existing primary employers on potential expansion

**ENTREPRENEURIAL & MINORITY
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

	<u>Annual Goal</u>	<u>First Quarter</u>
Breakfast Buzz Programs	4	1
Transitional FSFT Programs	4	1
Child Care FSFT	3	1 in Progress

Other Actions

Signature Initiative:

- PTAC Partnership
- Advanced Automation Robotics Program (Joint Venture with USD 501)
- MWBD 2nd Annual Conference (9/21/11)
- Surviving Progress Outreach
- Innovation Engineering Leadership Institute Scholarships

In conclusion, Doug Kinsinger stated economic development is a community team effort and they feel a great sense of partnership because of the continued unified level of support from a number of entities.

Councilmember Gray thanked Doug Kinsinger and Steve Jenkins for the thorough presentation. He questioned the community role of the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce compared to GO Topeka.

Doug Kinsinger reported the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce provides product development and GO Topeka promotes sales and marketing.

Councilmember Gray asked what would happen when the sale tax incentive sunsets.

Doug Kinsinger stated they would not have the funds to aggressively attract economic development as they do right now.

Councilmember Archer asked if GO Topeka receives private sector funds.

Doug Kinsinger reported they receive approximately \$400,000 annually of private sector funds.

Councilmember Manspeaker asked if a business is required to become a Chamber member to receive their services; what purpose will the website upgrades serve; and would the new website provide a transparency aspect of the organization.

Doug Kinsinger reported a business does not have to be a Chamber member to receive their services.

Steve Jenkins reported it was necessary to upgrade the website to allow them to reach out to site selectors and determine what customers want and need. He noted the most important marketing tool is a robust website and the new website will be more transparent.

Councilmember Gray asked what the 5 major expansions were referenced in the report.

Steve Jenkins reported the following business expansions for the past year include (1) Schendel Pest Control, Inc., creating 10 new jobs (2) Frito Lay, Inc., made a major investment retaining 40 people with higher paying jobs (3) Del Monte, Inc., made a major investment allowing them to keep 50 employees earning more money (4) Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company added 300 new employees (5) PTMW expanded creating 472 new jobs and retaining 1691 jobs with an average salary range of \$50,000 and included a \$390 million capital investment.

Commissioner Miller clarified competition is not always with other States, it also takes place internally within existing companies. He reported many times, a company such as Frito Lay, Inc., is required to submit a proposal to their corporate headquarters outlining why a particular location should be allowed to expand and any assistance companies receive from GO Topeka is an advantage.

Councilmember Manspeaker questioned who owns the property title when GO Topeka purchases land.

Doug Kinsinger stated the land is owned by GO Topeka on behalf of JEDO and in the event GO Topeka is no longer an economic development entity for JEDO the land would be transferred back to JEDO.

Councilmember Alcalá asked what new economic development is currently underway; and what do competitors offer that GO Topeka does not.

Doug Kinsinger reported there are some significant manufacturing companies currently considering the Topeka-Shawnee County community. He also reported that each case is different in regards to why a company may not come to Topeka including not having the right workforce skills represented in this area, raw materials, method of distribution, or logistics. He stated they would not have the leverage they do if infrastructure was not in place and noted the Kanza Fire Commerce Park is their strongest advantage right now.

Commissioner Miller questioned the use of “extra funds” offered by other States in their incentive packages. He stated in his opinion, the lack of “extra funds” has been a deal breaker for GO Topeka in some cases.

Dough Kinsinger reported more and more States have been adding “closing funds” which is an additional State incentive package to be included in the local incentive package. He noted the State of Texas currently is provided with an additional \$250 million annually to be used at the Governor’s discretion to sprinkle on projects. He reported they have been working with the State of Kansas to implement the same type of incentives.

Steve Jenkins reported they lost a project to the State of Arkansas because they were able to offer the company a “closing funds” incentive. He stated it is crucial to meet the needs of companies or they are not interested in communicating with you.

Councilmember Everhart asked how the Topeka-Shawnee County area ranks in regards to community amenities or quality of life factors when attracting economic development to the community.

Steve Jenkins reported the quality of life is increasingly important to companies and it is essential to have a vibrant core or downtown because young professionals have different demands. He stated companies want to know where a community will be in several years and if you want quality jobs you have to have a successful long-term community plan to work together to make things happen.

Councilmember Gray stated he agrees it is imperative to have a long-term plan. He asked what GO Topeka’s plan is when the sales tax initiative sunsets in 2016, and if there is a contingency plan in place.

Doug Kinsinger stated it would be premature to try and predict what the solution would be until discussions are held; however, it would be the decision of the City and County.

Steve Jenkins stated he believes the sales taxes incentive is an important asset that provides them with a competitive edge in attracting economic development, as well as, allows them to craft a proposal that meets the needs of each company.

A PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY for the Joint Economic Development Organization was presented.

The proposed policy was presented as follows: **Public Comment:** Requests by the public to speak regarding items listed on the JEDO agenda will be placed on the agenda in the order received. The public must sign the Public Comment Agenda Sheet available at the JEDO meeting location 15 minutes prior to the beginning of all JEDO meetings. Persons planning to speak must be identified by name and organization represented (if applicable), under the items listed on the agenda. Public comment is allowed on actionable items and must relate to the actionable item as listed on the agenda (Actionable items are those agenda items which require a vote at that scheduled meeting.). There will be no public comments on items listed on the consent agenda. Persons addressing JEDO will be limited to three consecutive minutes for their presentation, unless a majority of JEDO voting members agrees to award additional time to the speaker. Matters pertaining to personnel, litigation and violations of laws, ordinances or resolutions are excluded from public comment. Those making public comment are to maintain proper decorum relating to public meetings.

Commissioner Miller moved to strike Line 2, "The public must sign the Public Comment Agenda Sheet available at the JEDO meeting location 15 minutes prior to the beginning of all JEDO meetings." The motion seconded by Commissioner Ensley carried. Mayor Bunten voted "no." (6-1-0)

Commissioner Miller moved to strike the sentence, "Persons addressing JEDO will be limited to three consecutive minutes for their presentation, unless a majority of JEDO voting members agrees to award additional time to the speaker." The motion seconded was by Commissioner Ensley.

Commissioner Miller stated it has been his experience that it is not necessary to place a time restriction on public comment because if a person remains on topic, is not repetitive, and maintains proper decorum a person generally does not speak longer than 3 minutes.

Councilmember Alcala stated he supports no time limits on public comment.

Councilmember Gray stated he agrees with the 3 minute time limit because the time could be extended if needed; and it would eliminate the Board from having to determine if a person should cease public comment.

Commissioner Miller stated in his experience public comment usually adds to debate not restricts it; the Chairman has the authority to control the situation if necessary; and members of the public will appreciate the fact they are respecting their time.

Mayor Bunten stated he believes it is good policy to have a reasonable constraint on time and would not support the amendment to the policy.

The motion to strike the sentence, "Persons addressing JEDO will be limited to three consecutive minutes for their presentation, unless a majority of JEDO voting members agrees to award additional time to the speaker." carried. Mayor Bunten and Councilmember Gray voted "no." (5-2-0)

Commissioner Miller moved to strike the sentence, "There will be no public comments on items listed on the consent agenda." The motion seconded by Councilmember Gray carried. Mayor Bunten voted "no." (6-1-0)

Commissioner Miller moved to strike the sentence, "Matters pertaining to personnel, litigation and violations of laws, ordinances or resolutions are excluded from public comment." The motion seconded by Commissioner Ensley carried. Mayor Bunten, Councilmembers Alcala and Gray voted "no." (4-3-0)

Commissioner Miller moved to approve the Public Comment Policy as amended with the exception public comment would be allowed on the proposed policy prior to adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buhler.

Joseph Ledbetter commended the Board for the policy amendments. He asked if they plan to allow general public comment at the end of each meeting.

Commissioner Miller reported the policy does not allow for open public comment at the end of each meeting; however, it does allow public comment on any item on the agenda. He stated he is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, if Mr. Ledbetter would like to express his concerns to him.

Joseph Ledbetter stated he would prefer to express his concerns at the JEDO meetings to make certain the issues and general business concerns he has regarding GO Topeka and the Chamber are recorded in the permanent record.

The motion to approve the Public Comment Policy as amended carried. Mayor Bunten voted "no." (6-1-0)

The amended Public Comment Policy was approved as follows: **Public Comment:** Requests by the public to speak regarding items listed on the JEDO agenda will be placed on the agenda in the order received. Persons planning to speak must be identified by name and organization represented (if applicable), under the items listed on the agenda. Public comment is allowed on actionable items and must relate to the actionable item as listed on the agenda (Actionable items are those agenda items which require a vote at that scheduled meeting.) Those making public comment are to maintain proper decorum relating to public meetings.

THE 2010 GO TOPEKA FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT was presented.

Doug Glenn, Mayer Hoffman McCann, P.C., stated the financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management and to express an opinion on these financial statements based on their audits. He reported the audits are conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the U.S. and it is their opinion, the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Growth Organization of Topeka-Shawnee County, Inc., as of December 31, 2009 and 2010. He discussed the planned scope of the audit, timing of the audit, and audit findings. He noted they did not issue any letters for weaknesses in internal control.

Joseph Ledbetter expressed concern with the public not having access to JEDO Board meeting information or handouts prior to the meeting. He questioned Footnote 6, Related Party Transactions and asked who made the transfer of funds.

Doug Glenn reported the amounts billed to GO Topeka for the year ending 2010, in the amount of \$884,000 and the year ending 2009, in the amount of \$897,000 was transferred by the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce.

Councilmember Gray moved to approve the 2010 GO Topeka Financial Audit Report. The motion seconded by Commissioner Buhler carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

CONSIDERATION of a \$25,000 Investment in the Governor's Military Council was presented.

John Armbrust, Governor's Military Council Executive Director referenced the information sheet (page 37) provided in the meeting packet. He reported the Governor's Military Council has been restructured to focus on two primary missions both tied to economic development including (1) Grow and protect the State's current military installations which is directly related to the Council's previous focus, and (2) Maintain and recruit defense related industries to the state, a new focus for the Council. He reported the Governor reduced the State's contribution to the Council to \$100,000 from \$350,000 and they are asking the surrounding communities of the five major military installations to provide annually, as a minimum, funds matching the State's contribution. He stated they continue to work to grow Forbes Field and plan to conduct a study to determine where they are now in terms of growth, the vulnerabilities they may face, and what actions could they take to remove the vulnerabilities and keep military installations viable. He reported the Council's activity of creating new jobs is new and they are in the process of building a plan by working with GO Topeka and the Chamber to identify what needs to be done. He stated they would work in conjunction with the Kansas Department of Commerce and local university representatives to grow major military installations, and to expand defense related research and defense related jobs. He reported several communities have already committed to allocating \$25,000 annually to the Council. He stated they are asking JEDO to approve at least \$25,000 annually to the Governor's Military Council to continue their work.

Commissioner Miller asked if the \$25,000 allocated from JEDO would be used in the same fiscal year as the State's and other community funding allocations.

John Armbrust stated the \$25,000 would be used in the same fiscal year (2012).

Commissioner Ensley asked if Forbes Field would be excluded from the Council's efforts if the \$25,000 request is denied.

John Armbrust stated Forbes Field would not be excluded; however, when there are less financial resources due to the lack of contribution from a particular community, decisions would have to be made regarding priorities.

Commissioner Ensley asked how the funds would be used.

John Armbrust stated the funding would be used for normal economic development activity including conducting studies of each military installment from an economic development perspective, something that has never been done before.

Commissioner Ensley asked if there would be a final report on the completed studies.

John Armbrust stated they would provide quarterly reports, as well as, an annual report at the end of each fiscal year.

Councilmember Alcala asked if the expenditures would include cost of travel or employee salaries.

John Armbrust stated the funds may be used for cost of travel or to host. He reported the State has provided a point of contact and they would not pay for a salary that is already being paid by the State; however, they may have to pay for salary activities directly related to the plan.

Councilmember Alcala stated he believes the financial breakdown is too broad and would prefer a better explanation.

Councilmember Everhart questioned the intent of the Governor in reducing the Council's budget and asking for community contributions.

John Armbrust stated it was the Governor's intent to have the communities that request the presence of military installments share in the financial responsibilities of maintaining them.

Councilmember Gray stated he commends Mr. Armbrust for the presentation; however, he would not support the request because he believes it is the State's way of shifting more expense to communities when they are already financially strapped.

Commissioner Miller clarified the State contributes annually to the Council in addition to contributions from local government entities.

John Armburst reported in the beginning local governments contributed funds; however, over the past several years they have tried to operate without local contributions. He stated the \$250,000 eliminated from the budget was used to pay for their consultant in Washington, D.C., a position that has been eliminated.

Councilmember Manspeaker asked if there is any plan to expand the services of the V.A. Hospital located in Topeka as the need increases.

John Armburst reported they are related to the activities of the V.A. Hospital; however, their primary charter is to concentrate on the economic success of the five major military installations.

Commissioner Ensley asked if the Council works closely with the Metropolitan Transit Airport Authority (MTAA).

John Armburst stated they do not have regular interaction; however, they would help if needed.

Joe Ledbetter stated it was his understanding GO Topeka still continues to fund the Washington D.C. consultant.

Commissioner Miller clarified the consultant in Washing D.C. was funded through an independent pool of money generated from local and State sources; however, GO Topeka continues to pay for the lobbyist that handles matters before Congress.

Joseph Ledbetter asked if the Coast Guard Pay Center falls under the auspices of the Council.

John Armburst reported the Council does not interact with the Coast Guard Pay Center on a daily basis; however, the Commander of the Pay Center attends their meetings and provides operational updates. He stated if there was ever a threat of the operation leaving the Topeka area they would become intimately involved in the issue.

Joseph Ledbetter stated \$25,000 appears to be a small investment compared to the amount of money GO Topeka spends annually. He asked if the request was included in GO Topeka's budget last year.

Doug Kinsinger reported the request was not included in last year's budget and that is why it has been brought before the Board for consideration.

Councilmember Alcalá stated he would support the request because it is a small investment compared to the large community return; however, he questions the expenditure breakdown of the funds and believes it is too broad.

Commissioner Ensley moved to approve the funding request of the Governor's Military Council in the amount of \$25,000. The motion seconded by Councilmember Everhart carried. Councilmember Gray voted "no." (6-1-0)

CONSIDERATION of the Administration Fee-Utility Relocation Reimbursement Policy Resolution. (Resolution No. 2011-1)

Tom Vlach, Shawnee County Public Works Director provided a brief overview of the function of the JEDO Finance Committee. He reported the resolution has been presented to seek clarification from the JEDO Policy Board regarding the intent of the 2004 Countywide Retailers' Sales Tax Interlocal Agreement as it relates to reimbursement of administrative fees and utility relocation costs that are realized by the City and/or County as a result of implementing the sales tax referendum roadway infrastructure projects. He stated the JEDO Finance Committee approved the proposed resolution by a vote of 4-0-0. He stated Mike Teply, City of Topeka Development Coordination Division Director is present to provide an update on the sales tax projects if needed. He reported if the resolution is approved they would have a projected ending balance of \$3 million.

Mayor Bunten thanked Finance Committee members for their work on the proposal. He asked what kind of administrative costs are incurred that are not already being paid for in the regular appropriation of Public Works expenses for each corresponding agency (City and County). He questioned the need for additional administrative fees to be paid when both the City and County already have staff members being paid to perform the administrative duties.

Commissioner Miller stated they are not creating money they are using sales tax funds to cover what used to be paid for by property tax funds. He noted the City has already been following the practice of covering the cost of existing staff to administer sales tax projects with sales tax funds.

Mayor Bunten asked if property taxes would be reduced if sales tax funds are used in lieu of property tax funds.

Commissioner Miller stated project taxes would be reduced dollar for dollar.

Commissioner Ensley moved to approve the resolution. The motion seconded by Councilmember Gray carried unanimously. (7-0-0)

A REPORT on the Road and Bridge Sales Tax Completion Projects was presented.

Randy Speaker, Deputy City Manager distributed an updated project list.

Joseph Ledbetter questioned the extension of the street improvement project on SE 29th Street and SE Croco Road. He stated the ballot question approved by the public did not include language that would allow for extension of improvements south of SE 29th Street. He reported the JEDO Board approved the extension in 2005 and the improvement was funded with sales tax funds.

Tom Vlach, Shawnee County Public Works Director stated that particular corridor was funded through the Countywide Half-Cent Sales Tax Program, a combination of Federal STP Funds, County matching funds, and City of Topeka funds.

Tom Flannigan, Shawnee County Project Manager reported the corridor was financed with sales tax funds beginning at SE 6th Street to SE 29th Street through the intersection. He stated during the process of improving the intersection they asked the JEDO Policy Board to approve an extension of the project (approximately 1300 feet south on SE 29th Street) to include the portion of the street in front of the Thunderbird Square Business District, eliminating the need to disrupt businesses at a later date.

Joseph Ledbetter questioned if they are deviating from the text of the 2004 ballot question for other projects.

Chairman Archer asked if JEDO is in compliance of the 2004 ballot question.

Randy Speaker, City of Topeka Public Works Director stated he would research the matter and report back to the Board.

Commissioner Miller reported the JEDO Policy Board had full discussion and full debate on the issue. He stated the discussion about the particular section in question (approximately 1300 feet south of SE Croco Road) was whether or not it could be considered as part of the overall project, and a majority of the JEDO Policy Board voted in agreement that they could not finish a street project on one side of the street with five lanes and the other side of the street with two lanes and have a safe intersection; therefore, it was approved.

Joseph Ledbetter stated he did not dispute what Commissioner Miller stated in regards to the safety of the intersection. He stated he disagrees with the process of approval because it was accomplished without public input. He stated he wants assurance the public will have input on these types of decisions made by the Board in the future.

Chairman Archer stated the meetings would continue to be televised and noted they now have a public comment policy to follow.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS appearing the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.