



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

June 19, 2019

Osage Centre – Cape Girardeau, MO

Board Voting Members Present:

Mr. Drew Christian, Southeast Missouri Regional Planning & Economic
Development Commission (SEMO RPC)
Mr. Bob Fox, City of Cape Girardeau
Mr. Dwain Hahs, City of Jackson
Mr. Scott Meyer, City of Cape Girardeau
Mr. Tom Mogelnicki, Cape Girardeau County Transit Authority (CTA)
Mr. Jim Roach, City of Jackson

Board Non-Voting Members Present:

Ms. Mandi Brink, Southeast Missouri Regional Port Authority (SEMO Port)

Technical Planning Committee (TPC) Members Present:

Mr. Rodney Bollinger, City of Jackson
Mr. Mike Brandon, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
Mr. Alex McElroy, City of Cape Girardeau
Mr. Andy Meyer, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
Mr. Brian Okenfuss, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
Ms. Kelley Watson, Cape Girardeau County Transit Authority (CTA)

Staff Present:

Mr. Ryan Shrimplin, City of Cape Girardeau

Program Administration/Support Consultant Present:

Ms. Kelly Green, KLG Engineering

Call to Order

Chairman Hahs called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Introductions

The group went around the room, with each person giving a brief introduction.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda of the June 19, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting was unanimously approved upon motion made by Mr. Meyer and seconded by Mr. Mogelnicki.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 15, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting were unanimously approved upon motion made by Mr. Mogelnicki and seconded by Mr. Meyer.

Communications from the Chairman

Chairman Hahs stated that he will save his communications for Member Reports.

Public Comments

Chairman Hahs asked if there are any comments from the public. There were no comments.

New/Unfinished Business

- **Public hearing on FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program**

Chairman Hahs opened the public hearing. Seeing no appearances to speak, he closed the public hearing.

- **RESOLUTION NO. 2019-04, A Resolution adopting the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program – Reading and Passage**

Chairman Hahs introduced RESOLUTION NO. 2019-04. Mr. Christian presented the final draft of the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He stated that all MoDOT, IDOT, FHWA, and FTA comments have been addressed. He noted that the TIP was released for public comment, and no comments were received. The TPC recommended adoption of the TIP at its June 5, 2019 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Roach and seconded by Mr. Mogelnicki to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2019-04, which passed unanimously.

- **RESOLUTION NO. 2019-05, A Resolution authorizing the execution of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process Certification – Reading and Passage**

Chairman Hahs introduced RESOLUTION NO. 2019-05. Mr. Shrimplin explained that, in conjunction with the adoption of the TIP, SEMPO is required to certify that its

transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with the applicable federal laws. A motion was made by Mr. Meyer and seconded by Mr. Fox to approve RESOLUTION NO. 2019-05, which passed unanimously.

- **Center Junction Diverging Diamond Interchange Project – Discussion**

Mr. Okenfuss explained that representatives of MoDOT, the City of Cape Girardeau, and the City of Jackson met last week to discuss why the bids for the Center Junction Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) project were rejected by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (MHTC). The programmed amount was \$12 million and the low bid was \$18 million. One of the main factors in the bids being much higher than the programmed amount was the complexity of the staging plan. At MoDOT's request, a TPC special meeting has been scheduled for June 20, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. to review the plan and discuss how it could be simplified to reduce the project cost. MoDOT is planning on re-letting the project in November. This will allow for the construction to be completed by the end of 2021. He added that MoDOT will be revising the project estimate.

Mr. Andy Meyer explained that the staging plan was designed with the objective of not having to close US 61 or the ramps. Unfortunately, this meant there could be no machine paving. One bidder had indicated that the plan would require over 140 hand pours. He noted that the time frame to complete the project did not appear to be an issue. He also noted that this is not the first time MHTC has rejected bids. The bids on the East Main Street /LaSalle Avenue Interchange project were rejected because the bidders had excavation concerns and priced the work accordingly.

Mr. Scott Meyer asked if changes to the project would require a TIP amendment and if other projects would be affected. He suggested breaking the DDI into two projects, with the overpass being completed now and the lane work on US 61 commencing at a later date. Mr. Okenfuss stated that breaking the DDI into two projects is not preferable because MoDOT would have to pay the contractor to mobilize twice. He noted that there are lots of issues to consider.

- **Election of Officers for FY 2020**

The Board of Directors held its annual election of officers. The Board unanimously passed a motion to elect Mr. Fox as Chairperson and Mr. Roach as Vice Chairperson, with both terms beginning on July 1, 2019.

Member Reports

City of Cape Girardeau – Mr. Fox reported that the City has some stormwater drainage projects underway, including one at Hopper Road near US 61. Hopper Road is closed to through traffic for several weeks while construction is underway. The renewal of the Capital Improvement Sales Tax will be on the August 6, 2019 ballot. If passed, the tax will have a 15-year sunset. \$500,000 per year will be devoted to street repairs. He commented that he continues to receive complaints about the quality of the pavement

on US 61. Mr. Okenfuss explained that the contractor has suspended work, as its asphalt provider is closed due to flooding. Mr. Andy Meyer reported that the turning guide markings for the left turn lanes are in the process of being added to the intersections.

City of Cape Girardeau – Mr. Meyer reported that the Transportation Trust Fund 6 (TTF6) Committee held its kickoff meeting this past Monday.

City of Jackson – Chairman Hahs reported that the East Main Street/Oak Hill Road traffic signal is working well. The City has proposed an engineering study for the railroad crossing at East Main Street. The study will consider stormwater drainage improvements and the removal of the tracks. Plans for the East Main Street/Shawnee Boulevard roundabout project are nearing completion. The 2019 Asphalt Overlay program will be underway soon.

CTA – Mr. Mogelnicki stated that there is nothing new to report.

SEMO Port – Ms. Brink reported that Mississippi River traffic was re-opened to barge traffic two days ago. The railroad is still under water, as are the loading docks. The river level is forecasted to drop to 42 feet on Sunday or Monday, which would allow the Port to resume servicing Buzzi Unicem USA. The river level must be below 38 in order to resume BNSF rail operations. The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) project has been delayed due to heavy rain events. The Port is still working to secure a federal loan to cover a portion of the match for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant. A revised budget was received, which is \$10 million higher than the amount of the grant award (\$33 million). The Port has hired a new administrative assistant.

Cape Regional Airport – Mr. Meyer reported that the airport is on pace to finish 2019 with over 10,000 boardings. Mr. Fox added that through May, boardings are up by about 1,500.

SEMO RPC – Mr. Christian reported that he will begin work on the next TIP amendment soon. Now that the new TIP is completed, he will resume work on the Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan.

MoDOT – Mr. Okenfuss reported that the Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge project is underway. Both IL 146 and IL 3 are likely to be closed soon due to flooding. The seep water in Illinois continues to rise. MoDOT is monitoring this situation. He noted that the Chester Bridge is closed, which makes the Emerson Bridge situation even more critical. The temporary rock bed on MO 177 will be removed on Monday. MoDOT hopes to have all of MO 177 open by Tuesday.

MoDOT – In response to an inquiry by Chairman Hahs, Mr. Brandon reported that he is working to develop a final district-wide prioritized project list based on the lists submitted by the regional planning partners for the funding scenarios. He added that the public

comment period on the draft 2020-2024 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) ends on July 5.

Staff Report

Mr. Shrimplin reported that the Cape Girardeau City Council approved the Consolidated Planning Grant agreement this past Monday. Ms. Green reported that she is in the process of scheduling the TIP tool training session with the consultant.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:31 p.m. upon motion made by Mr. Meyer and seconded by Mr. Roach.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Green, P.E.