



TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 3, 2021

Osage Centre

1625 N Kingshighway St, Cape Girardeau, MO

Technical Planning Committee (TPC) Voting Members Present:

Ms. Katrina Amos, Cape Girardeau Regional Airport (via Zoom)
Mr. Rodney Bollinger, City of Jackson
Mr. Drew Christian, Southeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission (SEMO RPC)
Mr. Allen Friedrich, Cape Girardeau County (via Zoom)
Mr. Scott Perry, Bootheel Regional Planning Commission (Bootheel RPC) (via Zoom)
Mr. Kirk Sandfort, Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO University) (via Zoom)
Mr. Ryan Shrimplin, City of Cape Girardeau
Ms. Kelley Watson, Cape Girardeau County Transit Authority (CTA) (via Zoom)

Technical Planning Committee (TPC) Non-Voting Members Present:

Mr. Mike Brandon, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (via Zoom)
Mr. Thomas Caldwell, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) (via Zoom)
Mr. Mark Croarkin, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (via Zoom)
Mr. Chris Crocker, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (via Zoom)
Mr. Joe Killian, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (via Zoom)
Mr. John Mehner, MAGNET (via ZOOM)
Mr. Andy Meyer, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (via Zoom)
Ms. Britni O'Connor, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (via Zoom)

Staff Present:

Alex McElroy, City of Cape Girardeau

Program Administration/Support Consultant Present:

Ms. Marla Mills, KLG Engineering (via Zoom)

Others Present:

Ms. Cheryl Sharp, Lochmueller Group (via Zoom)
Ms. Kelly Green, KLG Engineering (via Zoom)
Karen Miller, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (via Zoom)

Call to Order

Chairman Christian called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Introductions

Each person in the meeting was introduced, identifying themselves and their organization.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda of the February 3, 2021 Technical Planning Committee Meeting was unanimously approved upon motion made by Mr. Bollinger and seconded by Mr. Shrimplin.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 3, 2021 Technical Planning Committee Meeting were unanimously approved upon motion by Mr. Shrimplin and seconded by Mr. Bollinger.

Communications from the Chairman

Chairman Christian stated that he will reserve his communications for Member Reports.

Public Comments

Chairman Christian asked if there were any comments from the public regarding items not on the agenda. There were none.

New/Unfinished Business

- **Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update** – Mr. McElroy introduced Cheryl Sharp with Lochmueller Group who discussed the proposed goals, objectives, and strategies for the MTP update. She noted that there were significantly more than in the original MTP, in part to align them better with the performance measures. She noted these were presented as more of a menu of options, based on public input, and best practices from other MPO's. She asked that these be pared down based on what was relevant for the area and practical to do. Feedback is needed on how to move forward. She noted that these are set up with a specific way to evaluate so that five years down the road the information will be available and there is a baseline for the next update. She suggested these be tracked every year or two to make it easier to follow. The committee needs to consider what measures work for SEMPO, show what is going on in our region, and can show progress is being made toward achieving the goals.

Mr. McElroy noted that the intent is to choose which strategies need to be incorporated. He noted that it would be difficult to measure all of these annually so it would be good to refine these. Mr. Christian noted that all the strategies were good but he does believe the number needs to be reduced.

Ms. O'Connor introduced Ms. Karen Miller with MoDOT who works with performance measures. Ms. Miller suggested to keep it as simple as possible and a bit high level. She noted if it gets too detailed, the group will get lost. She suggested additional measures or strategies could be added later.

Mr. McElroy suggested the group keep the complete document as a reference but focus on the top five strategies for each goal.

Mr. Shrimplin asked what the reporting requirements would be. Ms. Green noted that it would be an internal report. She suggested they may want to do a yearly report to make it easier to track and then, again, can use that in the next MTP update. Ms. Sharp noted this

is a way to be accountable. She went on to say that the plan is SEMPO's plan and it should be what the group wants to impact and measure.

Mr. Bollinger noted that SEMPO has limited resources and should keep this to something that is manageable with those resources.

Mr. Shrimplin suggested the plan include the goals and objectives and the strategies are then decided outside of that. But those objectives can be measured. Ms. Miller noted that SEMPO has adopted the state and federal performance measures and those have to be followed even if not part of the plan. She went on to note that other MPOs do have performance measures in their plans, but she is not sure if that is required. Ms. O'Connor noted that there are some performance measures required. Mr. Shrimplin noted that he thought Ms. O'Connor's reference was in relation to the federal performance measures. Ms. Miller reiterated including performance measures that make sense for SEMPO but keep it simple.

Mr. Christian noted that looking at the top five for each goal might be sufficient. After discussion, it was noted that the strategies need to be carefully vetted and not included in the public presentation at this time. Mr. Christian suggested that the group look at the goals, objectives and top 5 strategies and send comments to Mr. McElroy within the next few days. He then suggested the performance measures be evaluated further before being included in the plan. Mr. Christian asked the group to get comments to Mr. McElroy no later than Friday.

- **FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Plan Administrative Modification C** – Mr. Christian noted there are 3 modified MoDOT projects. The first one is Rt. 177 north of Cape. It had a cost increase but was below the 15% threshold. The other 2 are contracts for asphalt repair and ADA transition improvements. He noted that one had a total reduction. The other had a total cost increase but a drop in the federal funding amount. This information has been sent to Ms. O'Connor. Because it is an administrative modification it does not require action.

Mr. Brandon noted that MoDOT developed their own amendment guidance that says it is a full amendment if a project construction and right of way budget increases more than a \$1 million and 25%. He just wanted SEMPO to be aware of MoDOT's guidelines. SEMPO can choose to align with MoDOT's guidelines but it is not required.

Mr. Christian also noted he had a TIP amendment for CTA but it will not be done before the TIP freezes with the current MTP expiration. He noted it will be moved forward so that when the TIP does unfreeze it will be ready. This will come to the next meeting.

- **FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program** – Mr. McElroy noted that the group needs to develop action items for the next United Planning Work Program. He needs a draft by the end of February and suggested anyone with action items forward those to him. Mr. Shrimplin noted that anything started in previous years needed to be completed. Specifically, he suggested to start with the Title VI Program and Public Transportation Coordination Program. Mr. McElroy asked for input on items by the end of next week.

Member Reports

City of Cape Girardeau – Mr. Shrimplin gave an update on TTF5 projects. On the Independence Street project, staff is still working with property owners and the city is working on amending their code to include an administrative process for property owners whose properties are taken out of compliance due to a project. On the Main Street project, information cards have been sent out to property owners and in acquisition stage. Sprigg Street project is still in design and will not include storm expansion as part of the project. West End Boulevard will start construction in early spring.

City of Jackson – Mr. Bollinger noted they continue to work on design of the low water bridges. He noted Hubble Ford would be replaced this year and West Mary Street next year. The city did submit an application for the Transportation Alternatives Program to connect the new bridge on Mary Street to the end of the sidewalks that is about a block away. There is interest in doing improvements on Harmony Lane and they have started scoping that project. He said it might be a cost share project. He noted they are just starting. MoDOT has 2 sidewalk improvement projects going on in Jackson.

Cape Girardeau County – Mr. McElroy noted that Mr. Allen Friedrich was the new representative for Cape Girardeau County. Mr. Friedrich reported they are working on grading improvements to pave County Road 379.

CTA – Ms. Watson reported that CTA is beginning the process of looking for land and the building of a dedicated transit facility with the intent that the facility would have the capability of charging stations. CTA is also actively looking into what it might take to transition to an electric fleet.

SEMO University – Mr. Sandfort noted that the semester has started.

Airport – Ms. Amos noted they received conditional approval from FAA on the terminal area master plan, specifically on the facility requirements and alternatives chapters. She noted it is conditional as they would like to see a few changes because of COVID and the long term affects, making sure there is enough space to maintain social distancing requirements if necessary. As another part of the conditional approval, they can move forward with hanger development and they are in the process of advertising for a consultant request for qualifications to move forward with some of the things not currently being worked on with Crawford, Murphy and Tilly.

SEMO RPC – Mr. Christian had nothing additional.

Bootheel RPC – Mr. Perry had nothing to report.

MAGNET – Mr. Mehner noted they are watching legislation at the state level, looking at increasing funding for MoDOT and transportation.

MoDOT – Mr. Brandon reiterated that there are some options being considered to increase funding for MoDOT. He said the hands-free legislation is likely being considered again. Mr. Brandon went on to say they are still working on the STIP that is due in early March. There will be public comment in June and official approval by the Commission in July. He noted they are also updating their unfunded needs list. It will be a 2-tier list. Tier 1 statewide is \$500 million. Tier 2 is \$2 billion. This district gets about 9 percent of that so tier 1 will be about \$44 million and tier 2 will be about \$176 million. The MPO area should get about \$4.7 million on tier 1 and about \$18.7 million on tier 2. He noted they are looking at the most recent list to see what projects might fit the budget. He noted they would be reaching out soon to review the

suggested projects. That is also due the first week of March. He noted there could be a tier 3 list which will be another \$2 billion. He noted there will be further discussion about how that will be distributed with more information coming soon.

Mr. Killian reported that there is a statewide planning partner meeting next week. Ms. O'Connor noted that the deadline for registration had passed but if someone was interested, they could still register and asked Mr. McElroy to let her know if there was someone. She noted it will be a recorded meeting and will be posted on MoDOT's external website.

IDOT – Mr. Caldwell had nothing to report.

Staff Report

Mr. McElroy reported that the Rooted Web team has been working on rebranding for SEMPO and wanted input from the group. Two logos were presented and input was provided. He noted he would send a link out and would welcome any additional input.

Other Business and Communications

There was no other business or communications.

Adjournment Motion

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 12:43 p.m. upon motion made by Mr. Mehner and seconded by Mr. Sandfort.

Respectfully submitted,
Marla Mills