



TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2021

Osage Centre

1625 N Kingshighway, Cape Girardeau, MO

Technical Planning Committee (TPC) Voting Members Present:

Mr. Rodney Bollinger, City of Jackson

Ms. Mandi Brink, SEMO Port (via Zoom)

Mr. Drew Christian, Southeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission (SEMO RPC)

Mr. John Mehner, MAGNET

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. Joe Killian, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (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

Call to Order

Chairman Christian called the meeting to order at 11.04 a.m.

Introductions

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

Adoption of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 3, 2021 Technical Planning Committee Meeting were unanimously approved upon motion by Mr. Mehner 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 noted that the draft plan has been released for public comment until March 16 with a public hearing on the 17th. He went on to say that we are on target to take to the Plan to the Board in April.
- **FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program** – Mr. McElroy said that he had previously asked for input on projects to include in the UPWP and a draft was included in the agenda packet. He went on to say that he did include some unfinished projects including the Title VI update and the Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan. He also noted that the general services agreement with local firms are expiring in December. He felt it has been beneficial to have those in place and plans to do an RFQ to see if there are additional firms that are interested in a five-year contract. Other than those, he got the most interest in an electric vehicle readiness plan and there was also some interest in a freight plan. He went on to say he tried to find an estimate of what a plan would cost and did put a figure in the draft UPWP but feels it is on the high end of what a plan might cost. Mr. McElroy then provided the committee with several completed plans for both an Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan as well as a Freight Plan. A one-page summary for both plans was passed out which highlighted the goals, research activities, and deliverables for each respective plan.

Regarding a freight plan, he said he found a guide on how to develop freight plans from a Kentucky/Indiana regional planning and development agency. He noted that the guide gives an overview of what should be looked at within a freight plan including segments, type of freight, identifying strategic clusters and types of industry that might benefit from locating in the area. Mr. McElroy said he certainly thinks a freight plan is something SEMPO should look at within the next few years but wasn't sure if the committee wanted to prioritize it for this year.

Mr. McElroy noted that with the current administration's focus on clean energy, it might be good to prioritize an electric vehicle readiness plan. Mr. Mehner agreed that prioritizing an electric vehicle readiness plan first would be most beneficial as things will just keep moving in that direction. Regarding a freight study, Mr. Mehner reported there are some groups looking at a better assessment of where we are from an economic development perspective and where we might be headed, and it might be good to wait until those are complete before starting our plan. Mr. Shrimplin noted that there is increased interest even locally in electric vehicles and charging stations so agreed that an electric vehicle readiness plan is timelier. He also noted that if SEMPO tried to do 2 plans at a time it might overtax SEMPO resources and the community. Mr. McElroy noted he will move forward in this direction.

- **MoDOT Unfunded Needs List** - Mr. McElroy noted that an explanation of MoDOT's unfunded needs list was on the agenda at Mr. Bollinger's request and asked Mr. Brandon to address the process. Mr. Brandon noted the list was developed as it has been in the past. He said the planning partners have asked for the same distribution as has been done across the state. Each area was given a target amount. They look at what projects fit the budget and would have the biggest impact on the system. For the MPO area, Mr. Brandon noted there is about \$5 million for Tier 1. He clarified that this is outside bridge replacement and more like capacity improvements. They then looked at the work already scheduled, capital improvements, and cost share, and then how those fit in the economic development plans.

Mr. Bollinger noted that Mayor Haas was surprised that the Route K and 25 intersection improvement was on the list as he had not heard of these before and he was concerned that this would leapfrog over other projects including Donna and Shawnee right turn lane. Mr. Bollinger thought the Mayor was satisfied with their explanation as previously sent. Mr. Brandon noted that the Rt. K and 25 intersection improvements would be addressed with safety funds which need to be looked at different and must follow certain guidelines. The others are using system improvement funds. Mr. A Meyer also noted both SEMPO and SEMO RPC have been interested in pursuing work on K and on 25 and this intersection improvement would address some of the need. He went on to explain that the temporary improvements made at the intersection because of the center junction project has resulted in a reduction in accidents even with an increase in traffic and it would be irresponsible to not address this long term with the safety money.

- **Website Design** – Mr. McElroy presented 2 website design concepts from Rooted Web. The site will be responsive and mobile friendly and will be more user friendly. The first concept is more photo centric, using stock photos to which Rooted Web has access. The 2nd site choice had a more graphic design feel. Mr. Bollinger noted he preferred the 1st one with photos. Mr. Christian and Mr. Shrimplin agreed. Mr. McElroy noted Rooted Web had some stock imagery but with additional dollars they could use a local photographer to have them take some local professional photos for SEMPO to have for future use. The group agreed that additional photos should be added to the project.

Member Reports

City of Cape Girardeau – Mr. Shrimplin reported on TTF5 saying that there had not been a firm decision on Fountain Street, but the reports are not favorable. Staff is still working to resolve some of the issues on the Independence Street project and working on acquisition. The City has amended their code to grant relief to property owners if the project takes them out of compliance. The Main Street acquisition is going well. He noted that staff is still working through the design on the Sprigg Street project. West End Boulevard will be let in the next month or so. There was a preconstruction meeting at the end of last year on street repair so it is underway. He noted the city has started collecting revenue on TTF6 and getting design professionals on board so projects will start soon.

City of Jackson – Mr. Bollinger reported that the 2 low water replacement crossings in Jackson City park are the 2 big projects they have for this year. This year they will complete Hubble Creek with Smith & Co as their engineers. This should go out to bid in Spring. Cochran Engineering is the consultant on Mary Street, and they applied for TAP funds for a sidewalk connection. The design will be done this year with construction in 2021. He noted there was another incident at Jones Drugstore in uptown. In response, they have hired consulting

engineers Lochmueller to work on the Court Street Streetscape Research Study. The primary purpose of the study is to make the area safer, but their hope is to improve it aesthetically as well. That report should be completed soon. Mr. Bollinger noted that the recent winter storm resulted in some road damage and they will be working on those repairs.

CTA – Ms. Watson noted that they recently put in orders for replacement vehicles. She noted that it was a challenge to find vehicles that meet requirements. They are assessing locations for a potential facility. She went on to say ridership is about 80 percent of pre-covid numbers.

SEMO University – Mr. Sandfort noted they will also be ordering vehicles soon. They are just waiting on funding to come through.

Port – Ms. Brink noted the Port has been very busy. The earthwork is under construction on the BUILD project. The track portion of the BUILD project will be advertised in the next few weeks. She noted that they signed a contract on the material handling portion of the BUILD project and will be advertising for the last component which includes road and utility work. She went on to say that on the EDA grant they are working through some issues and will announce low bidder soon.

Airport – Ms. Amos was not present but forwarded a report which Mr. McElroy read to the group. She noted that on the Terminal Area Master Plan, they have received comments from the FAA on the final chapters submitted. Staff and consultant, CMT, Inc., are working to respond to those comments and making any changes necessary. They anticipate submitting all responses/revisions by the end of this week. She further reported that the staff has advertised an RFP for Owner's Representative to assist with potential design-build projects. These projects include the new terminal, t-hangar development, control tower, and fuel farm installation. RFP submissions are due March 25th with recommendations scheduled to be submitted to Council on May 3rd.

SEMO RPC – Mr. Christian noted they sent in the amendment for CTA's property acquisition and facility construction. He noted it would be ready for public comment when the TIP unfreezes (at adoption of MTP). He said we should update the TIP as soon as possible so the project can move ahead. Also, he noted the RPC has been scoring for the TAP applications and will be finalizing that on the 10th. He went on to say SEMO RPC had their TAC meeting last week. Their next TAC meeting is in May. Ms. O'Connor noted that the process for adding the CTA TIP Amendment can move forward with hearing and Board approval but just won't be approved by FTA until after the MTP is approved.

Bootheel RPC – Mr. Perry noted that he too has been scoring the TAP grants.

MoDOT – Mr. Brandon noted that Mr. Crocker is the one handling the TAP program. He said they will get unfunded needs list moved forward. He went on to say there should be more information soon on a Tier 3 and a Multimodal list. He reported they are putting together the STIP which will include the backfill projects. This will be finalized this week.

Ms. O'Connor asked when the ordinance will be sent to council for the CPG agreement for 2022. She wanted to know when to get the draft agreement finalized. Mr. McElroy said he would follow up with her after the meeting as he didn't have the dates on hand.

Staff Report

Mr. McElroy had nothing additional to report.

Other Business and Communications

There was no other business or communications.

Adjournment Motion

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11:50 p.m. upon motion made by Mr. Bollinger and seconded by Mr. Shrimplin.

Respectfully submitted,
Marla Mills