



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

April 20, 2022

Osage Centre

1625 N. Kingshighway, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Board Voting Members Present:

Ms. Beth Glaus, Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO University) (via Zoom)
Mr. Dwain Hahs, City of Jackson
Ms. Stacy Kinder, City of Cape Girardeau
Mr. Mark Phillips, Cape Special Road District
Mr. Jim Roach, City of Jackson
Mr. Jeremy Tanz, SEMO Regional Planning Commission (SEMO RPC)

Board Non-Voting Members Present:

Mr. Andrew Meyer, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
Mr. Tom Caldwell, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) (via Zoom)
Ms. Betsy Tracy, Federal Highway Administration – IL Division (FHWA) (via Zoom)

Technical Planning Committee (TPC) Members Present:

Mr. Mike Brandon, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (via Zoom)
Ms. Mandi Brink, Southeast Missouri Regional Port Authority (SEMO Port)
Ms. Dana Brune, Cape Girardeau Area MAGNET (alternate for Mr. Rob Gilligan)
Mr. Drew Christian, SEMO Regional Planning Commission (SEMO RPC)
Mr. Chris Crocker, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
Mr. Joe Killian, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (via Zoom)
Ms. Britni O'Connor, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (via Zoom)
Mr. Tim Pickett, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
Mr. David Wyman, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (via Zoom)

Staff Present:

Mr. Alex McElroy, City of Cape Girardeau

Program Administration/Support Consultant Present:

Ms. Kelly Green, KLG Engineering (via Zoom)

Other:

Mr. Jeff Long, Southeast Missourian
Mr. John Voss, Candidate for Missouri House of Representatives District 147

Call to Order

Chairman Tanz called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Introductions

All those present introduced themselves and those present via zoom were identified by Mr. McElroy.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda of the April 20, 2022, Board of Directors Meeting was unanimously approved upon motion made by Mr. Roach seconded by Mr. Hahs.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 16, 2022, Board of Directors Meeting were unanimously approved upon motion by Mr. Hahs seconded by Mr. Phillips.

Communications from the Chairman

Chairman Tanz noted he would hold his communications until member report.

Public Comments

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

New/Unfinished Business

- **MoDOT Exit 93 Draft Alternatives Presentation**

Mr. Tim Pickett, MoDOT Project Manager. The Exit 93 project was originally scheduled as a bridge replacement project. After some public comments, MoDOT decided to look at some other issues at the interchange such as safety, access, and merging movements. In January of 2020, a working public meeting occurred. In November in 2021, MoDOT hired Garver, an engineering consultant out of Kansas City and they were tasked with coming up with concepts. The consultant started with nine concepts and with MoDOT paired that down to three concepts. MoDOT and Garver had a kick off meeting in November and three other meetings since then. Some traffic analysis, estimating, and safety analysis will occur now and then MoDOT intends to bring the ideas before the public in July. Today, MoDOT wants to share the rough ideas with SEMPO.

The first option is a diamond interchange with roundabouts (dog bone) at the ramp terminals. This helps with the heavy left turn movements going south. The roundabouts give flexibility for any future development for the City of Cape Girardeau on the west side of the interstate with a possible outer road from Shawnee Parkway south. The consultant looked at a roundabout at Silver Springs and Kingshighway and this still needs to be analyzed some more. This option eliminates the interchange to the south which will likely be required by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The second option is a diverging diamond interchange. These are very helpful for left turn movements. The two bridges to the north of the interchange are scheduled to be replaced in FY 2026.

The third option is a fold over loop ramp. MoDOT has already received comments from FHWA and they had concerns with the merging movements on the ramps.

There is also the option of just replacing the bridge as is with no other work.

Some of the goals that came out of the public meeting was to increase the safety of the merging traffic, reduce interchange confusion, maintain or improve the Level of Service (LOS), clearance of the bridge at MO 74, and flooding on MO 74. All of these options will increase the LOS both in the construction year and twenty years thereafter. If MO 74 is rerouted then the clearance of the bridges is no longer an issue. Roundabouts reduce fatal accidents by 78%. All of these options allow for a potential third lane on I-55, for a more direct connection from US 61 to MO 74 corridor, and for flexibility for development to the west. MoDOT and Garver will now dive into these concepts further. They will do some modeling, cost estimating, and traffic counts. They want this completed prior to going to the public. Mr. Pickett stated that they would like to come back to stakeholders, SEMPO, in June. MoDOT intends to present to the public in July. The conceptual study report will be submitted in October. The schedule shows that the final report will be submitted in December. Currently, this project is programmed at \$7 - \$8 million. These concepts will likely cost \$20-\$25 million. Mr. Pickett described how Level of Service is determined.

- **Public Hearing on FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Phillips seconded by Mr. Hahs the public hearing on the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program was opened. With no one present to speak, the hearing was closed.

- **RESOLUTION NO. 2022-03, A Resolution adopting the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program - Reading and Passage**

Mr. McElroy explained that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) serves as SEMPO's work plan and budget for the year. In early March, SEMPO issued a draft to MoDOT and FHWA for their review and comments. All of the recommended revisions were incorporated into the document. These were shared with SEMPO's planning committee and board. The planning committee released the document for public comment. Within the public comment window, no comments were received.

A quick recap of what is planned for the year includes the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Update. SEMPO has engaged SEMO RPC to assist with this project. The majority will begin after July 1, 2022. Also, the Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan (PT-HSTCP) will need to be updated and KLG Engineering has been engaged to update that plan. After reviewing the 2018 plan, SEMPO determined that more time was needed to reflect the changes and needs in the transit communities. Therefore, the majority of the work will begin in FY 2023. Also, the EV Readiness Plan should be adopted in November so some funding is allocated this year to finish that planning document. Some funds will be set aside as needed or contingency for travel demand model updates of the

Metropolitan Transportation Plan in case of any potential large economic development. And finally, there will be some funds allocated for regular TIP maintenance.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Roach and seconded by Mr. Phillips, RESOLUTION NO. 2022-03, a Resolution adopting the FY 2023 United Planning Work Program was passed by the Board.

- **RESOLUTION NO. 2022-04, A Resolution recognizing Bob Fox – Reading and Passage**

Mr. McElroy stated that Mr. Fox had served on SEMPO's Board of Directors from 2018 to 2022. During that time, he had served as Vice Chair and Chair of the Board. The resolution will be signed and sent to outgoing member Mr. Bob Fox. Chairman Tanz read the resolution aloud.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Hahs and seconded by Mr. Phillips, RESOLUTION NO. 2022-04, a Resolution recognizing Bob Fox was passed by the Board.

- **Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan – Discussion**

Mr. McElroy shared an outline of the draft plan. This is an eleven-point plan including: introduction, highlight the benefits, basics of charging, barriers of adoption, steering committee, public charging infrastructure, existing conditions, outline regional barriers, EV in underserved areas (Justice 40 Initiative), the road ahead, and formal recommendations. Mr. McElroy asked the board to review and provide him with comments. The draft plan will be submitted in May and the final plan in June. The goal is to adopt the plan in September.

Member Reports

City of Cape Girardeau – Ms. Kinder reported that she does not have anything prepared to report today.

City of Jackson – Mr. Hahs reported the bridge work continues. The City has approved a contract with Strickland Engineering for utilities relocation on US 61 North project. The asphalt repair contract is being finalized with some coordination with Cape Girardeau County. The concrete replacement program has been awarded.

Cape Special Road District – Mr. Phillips reported that the asphalt overlay program is underway.

SEMO University – Ms. Glaus reported that the Ameren solar project is continuing and will hopefully be completed in June. In May, they will begin a tunnel project in the area behind Academic Hall. This is an extensive project that will continue to 2023. Access will be limited and it will affect transit routes. The routes will need to be re-directed through the course of that project. She will share the route information when it becomes available.

SEMO Port – Ms. Brink reported that due to wet weather, the earthwork portion of the project is at a standstill. The track contractor is onsite building as much of the track that they can. Nip Kelley is working on the road and utility relocation portion. This is 73% completed and hope to finalize the end of this month. They are having some issues with engineering of the transload conveyor barge load out. They will get a second opinion of the design and still hope to bid out this summer. From MoDOT General Revenue, the Port Association received \$2 million for this project and SEMO Port is in line to get additional funding next year as well.

SEMO RPC – Mr. Tanz reported that the Missouri Association of Councils of Government (MACOG) (SEMO RPC is a member) presented to the State last week the RPC Advantage Initiative. Each RPC will specialize in one of the grants of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). SEMO RPC will specialize in the EV programs. Mr. Christian stated that he is working on the TIP update and will need updated project information from MoDOT. Next Tuesday is the TAC meeting and they will begin the prioritization process of projects.

MAGNET – Ms. Brune nothing to report.

MoDOT – Mr. Meyer reported that MO 177 project is underway. MoDOT has a new South Area Engineer, Matt Wilkerson. The April bids included the Rte AB railroad project. There is MoDOT EV charging stations funds available with an anticipated 80/20 grant. The plan will be completed this fall for MHTC review.

Mr. Crocker reported that MoDOT's website contains information on a new program Show-Me the Money. LTAP and MoDOT have partnered to discuss the funding opportunities. The INFRA grant application is due soon. A letting for the Chester River Bridge rehab project is in May.

Mr. Brandon reported that the draft STIP is being reviewed by Central Office. He hopes to make this available to partners in mid-May.

Mr. Wyman reported that this is a busy time at MoDOT. In the SE District, there are 399 projects on the STIP. The City of Jackson will administer the Deerwood Roundabout project.

Ms. O'Connor reported that the Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) agreement is underway and will send to Mr. McElroy by Wednesday for the Council meeting.

Mr. Killian reported that the cost-share application is due July 22nd. He asks that the application be submitted two weeks in advance so that MoDOT can get a District Engineer approval letter returned.

IDOT – Mr. Caldwell had nothing new to report.

FHWA – Ms. Tracy reported that she has nothing more to add.

Staff Report

Mr. McElroy reported that he will be purchasing new portable speakers and a 360° camera for more flexibility in meeting spaces and for virtual meetings.

Other Business and Communications

There was no other business or communications.

Adjournment Motion

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:56 p.m. upon motion made Mr. Phillips seconded by Mr. Hahs.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Green