



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

February 15, 2023

Osage Centre

1625 N. Kingshighway, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

### Board Voting Members Present:

Mr. Dwain Hahs, City of Jackson  
Mr. Charlie Herbst, Cape Girardeau County  
Ms. Stacy Kinder, City of Cape Girardeau  
Mr. Tom Mogelnicki, Cape County Transit (CTA)  
Mr. Jim Roach, City of Jackson  
Mr. Jeremy Tanz, SEMO Regional Planning Commission (SEMO RPC)

### Board Non-Voting Members Present:

Ms. Betsy Tracy, Federal Highway Administration – IL Division (via Zoom)  
Mr. Mark Croarkin, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)

### Technical Planning Committee (TPC) Members Present:

Ms. Katrina Amos, Cape Airport  
Mr. Drew Christian, SEMO Regional Planning Commission (SEMO RPC)  
Mr. Michael Brandon, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (via Zoom)  
Ms. Mandi Brink, SEMO Port  
Mr. Rob Gilligan, SEMO REDI  
Mr. Tom Caldwell, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)  
Mr. Chris Crocker, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (via ZOOM)  
Mr. Joe Killian, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)  
Mr. Scott Perry, Bootheel Regional Planning Commission (Bootheel RPC) (via ZOOM)

### Staff Present:

Mr. Alex McElroy, City of Cape Girardeau

### Program Administration/Support Consultant Present:

Ms. Marla Mills, KLG Engineering

### Other:

Mr. Carl Armstrong  
Mr. Dustin Boatright, Missouri Highway Commission  
Ms. Nicki Clark, KFVS12  
Mr. Blake Hagedorn, Little River Drainage District  
Mr. Jeff Long, Southeast Missourian

### Call to Order

Chairman Tanz called the meeting to order at 2:00 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 February 15, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting was unanimously approved upon motion by Mr. Mogelnicki, seconded by Mr. Hahs.

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 21, 2022, Board of Directors Meeting were unanimously approved upon motion by Mr. Hahs seconded by Mr. Herbst.

### Communications from the Chairman

Chairman Tanz noted he had no communication to share.

### 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

- **Proposal for Extension of I-29 from St. Joseph to I-55 at Cape** - Mr. McElroy introduced Mr. Carl Armstrong to discuss his proposal for an extension of I-29 from St. Joseph to I-55. Mr. Armstrong presented a case for the development of the extension of I-29 and other Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri tri-state potential growth projects. His power point presentation was presented to the Board as part of the agenda packet.
- **FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program** - Mr. McElroy noted this year's UPWP would look a little different than past years. Factors affecting this include the fact that SEMPO was awarded the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant. SEMPO will be receiving \$160,000 for the development of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, plus match for a total of \$200,000. Those funds will not be counted against the other planning funds SEMPO receives. The timing in which the grant's notice to proceed is given is projected to be at the beginning of the fiscal year. This project will be on top of the other work elements chosen by the Board. Another factor is that the planning funds have increased due to the finalizing of the 2020 census numbers and the passing of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The amount SEMPO will be receiving increased by about \$25,000. Another factor is that MoDOT changed their carryover policy from a 5 year to a 4 year carry over. Mr. McElroy noted that SEMPO has always been in compliance with that but have had a carryover necessitated by being a smaller MPO, with the carryover helping facilitate larger required projects. He went on to say it would be prudent for SEMPO to spend down a little more to reduce the carry over to make sure SEMPO stays in compliance within the cap. Another factor is that SEMPO will be receiving additional dollars from the State of Illinois. The additional amount will be between \$25,000 to \$60,000. Mr. McElroy noted that these factors require finding a balance between spending more than typical, and carrying a workload of the additional large project.

Mr. McElroy reviewed a draft list of potential projects shared with TPC and their recommendations with estimated costs.

The Planning Committee recommended for inclusion in the UPWP:

- Comprehensive Safety Action Plan which will be paid for by the previously mentioned grant with an estimated total cost of \$200,000.
- Regional Trail Connection Study which would take SEMPO's Bicycle / Pedestrian plan and further develop more specific trail connection recommendations and planning with an estimated cost of \$125,000.
- Completion of two intersection studies with an estimated cost of \$26,000.
- Origin and Destination Study – Mr. McElroy originally recommended a full study but has amended his recommendation to looking at an analytical tool instead of a full study. This would be less expensive and possibly more flexible. This could be a project-based subscription or a one-year software subscription. This could be beneficial to the development of the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. Cost for the tool would be estimated at \$15,000. Mr. McElroy noted he has realized the full study would be too large a project in terms of scope and capacity to add to the list.
- GIS Audit – Mr. McElroy noted that SEMPO partners with SEMO RPC to do GIS mapping. Mr. McElroy noted that SEMPO could benefit from evaluating what additional GIS services could be utilized to enhance information. He specifically noted that an interactive map for use by members and on the website would be beneficial, as an example. The recommendation is to increase this budget amount by \$20,000, allowing SEMPO RPC to increase their GIS services to SEMPO.
- TIP tool assessment – Mr. McElroy noted the 5-year TIP Tool agreement is expiring this year. The recommendation is to review this agreement and other options to provide a tool for a cost of \$20,000.

Mr. McElroy noted that he could get additional cost estimates for other possible items for the Plan if the Board wanted to substitute any of those. He noted that he would have draft recommendations at the March 23rd meeting. He said he would have MoDOT review prior to that date. The Board can review in March and call for a public hearing in April. After the public hearing, the Board can adopt at the April Board meeting.

- **IDOT Unspent PL Policy** – Mr. McElroy explained that he has participated in MPO meetings with IDOT to discuss how to utilize unspent planning dollars. One option approved by FHWA was to increase the amount of planning dollars MPOs receive over the next few years. He noted that for SEMPO the amount is about \$65,000, an increase of \$50,000 planning funds with the state of Illinois offering to cover the match, bringing it to \$65,000 in FY 24. The \$65,000 threshold requires additional grant agreements and invoicing. There was an option of accepting a lesser amount of \$25,000 which would not trigger the need for additional agreement and invoicing. The TPC recommended pursuit of the higher amount of planning funds. Mr. McElroy noted that he has started on the additional paperwork and developed plans to expend the funds within the year on the Regional Trail Connection Study, benefiting the entire SEMPO area.
- **Route 621 & Perryville Road Traffic Study Request** - Mr. McElroy explained there had been a request by the County and the Special Road District for a traffic study at this area. He said the project would require acquisition of right of way, but not sure how much or what the alignment would look like. A study is needed to address the alignment issues. The Planning Committee wanted to include this as a work element as one of the intersections in the intersection study.
- **RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01, A Resolution Authorizing an application to the US Department of Transportation for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program** – Mr. McElroy explained that he had received a request from Mr. Scott Meyer asking SEMPO to consider applying for a planning grant through the RAISE program. Mr. Meyer was looking at a planning study that would evaluate a connection between Paducah, Kentucky and VanBuren, Missouri. They would use the grant funds to develop a plan for different alignments and routing options.

Applications are due February 28. Mr. McElroy noted that this does not require a local match and SEMPO would be the grant applicant and administrator. Considering the deadline of the grant, Mr. McElroy shared that it was necessary to bring directly to the Board for a decision. There was a general discussion about where the project stands and what MoDOT's position is on the proposal. Ms. Tracy noted that the application should indicate support and commitment for the project by SEMPO as the applicant and that would need to be part of the application. She also noted that this goes outside the boundaries of the MPO. The proposal did not receive a motion in support and therefore was not moved forward.

### Member Reports

City of Cape Girardeau – Ms. Kinder noted that as part of TTF6, the city will begin work on Lexington Avenue in 2024.

City of Jackson – Mr. Roach reported they are gearing up for the annual concrete and asphalt overlay maintenance program.

Cape County – Mr. Herbst noted that they are looking at roads they have to pave and overlay and concerned about pricing. He noted the county is fully staffed at this time.

Cape County Transit – Mr. Mogelnicki reported they still have a shortage of drivers but the situation is improving. He said that vehicle acquisition is an issue as well, although they did receive two new ones recently.

Port Authority – Ms. Brink reported they are still working on the BUILD grant. She said they received about \$1.4 million from state to match those federal dollars which helps stretch the state dollars. She said they are still in the process of design with the engineers on the material handling portion of the overall project. She noted they hope to have it under contract this summer. She said that technically the grant ends in July so they will have to extend the agreement.

SEMO RPC – Mr. Christian reported he is working on the new TIP and still waiting on some projects to come in. Mr. Tanz noted that the Missouri Association of RPC's are working on a RAISE grant for a statewide rural electric charging study.

SEMO REDI – Mr. Gilligan noted they are working with SEMO RPC on a grant application to analyze and plan better for the Nash Road reinvestment. A private developer is working on a 350 acre industrial park in partnership with Scott City. He noted SEMO REDI would like to follow that up with a study for the broader Nash Road region that would complement and support SEMO Port and the Cape Regional Airport efforts.

MoDOT – Mr. Croarkrin noted that inflation is a big issue. He noted that they have seen about 30% inflation in the last 18 months. He said that fuel tax is up but that is trumped by inflation. He noted that looking at the immediate needs required moving some work out of this year. Mr. Croarkrin noted that includes about 5 asphalt projects worth \$10.8 million in Southeast Missouri. He said they delayed intersections worth about \$6.5 million. He noted that they are looking at more flexibility when planning jobs as there is just no capacity. He noted they are looking at extending the time frames or being more flexible with them. He said that in the 2024 program they have updated estimates and are moving \$68 million out because of the increased construction costs. He said they had hoped for construction on K/Rt 25 this summer, but they are moving from a spring to a fall letting with construction next year. It is still a priority project but their priorities are shifting to asset management.

Mr. Brandon reinforced the movement of projects forward. He said essentially, they are not adding new projects to the STIP and even the current jobs have grown in cost, taking them over budget, due to inflation. He noted that there is still a threat on attack to SB 262 and they are looking how that would impact the STIP.

Mr. Crocker reported that they met with the city of Jackson on Rt 61, Hubble Creek Bridge to look at utility relocations. He said the project should be let in May with a July notice to proceed. He said he will need to reach out to schools as the project will require street closures. Mr. Crocker said it will be busy in Jackson over the next year as they are also doing a bridge over Byrd Creek on Rt. D, letting next January. He said they also have the Deerwood Drive project as well as the overlay delayed from last year. He said applications are due on April 14 for the traditional Cost Share projects and anyone interested is to let him know right away to work through vetting process to submit an application. He said last month they awarded the contract over the diversion channel on Hwy 25 to Strack Excavating for \$114,000.

IDOT – Mr. Caldwell had nothing else to report.

Federal Highway – Ms. Tracy congratulated SEMPO for receiving the Safe Streets and Roads for All program grant.

#### Staff Report

Mr. McElroy reported next week he is in Jefferson City on Thursday for the MoDOT statewide planning partner meeting. He said he would be participating in FHWA's webinars on how to execute grant agreements for the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant.

#### Other Business and Communications

There was no other business or communications.

#### Adjournment Motion

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 3:36 p.m. upon motion made by Mr. Roach, seconded by Ms. Kinder.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Mills