



TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2023

Osage Centre

1625 N. Kingshighway, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Technical Planning Committee (TPC) Voting Members Present:

Mr. Drew Christian, SEMO Regional Planning Commission (SEMO RPC)
Mr. Rodney Bollinger, City of Jackson
Mr. Scott Perry, Bootheel Regional Planning Commission (Bootheel RPC) (via Zoom)
Mr. Mark Phillips, Cape Special Road District
Mr. Ryan Shrimplin, City of Cape Girardeau (via Zoom)
Ms. Kelley Watson, Cape Girardeau County Transit (CTA) (via Zoom)

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

Mr. Mike Brandon, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (via Zoom)
Mr. Tom Caldwell, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
Mr. Chris Crocker, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
Mr. Mike Henderson, 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)

Others Present:

Mr. Mark Shelton, MO/KS ACPP
Mr. Jeff Long, Southeast Missourian

Staff Present:

Mr. Alex McElroy, City of Cape Girardeau

Program Administration/Support Consultant Present:

Ms. Marla Mills, KLG Engineering

Call to Order

With Chairwoman Watson attending via Zoom, Vice-Chair Christian called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

Introductions

Each person introduced themselves and their organization and Mr. McElroy identified those participating by zoom.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda of the February 1, 2023, Technical Planning Committee Meeting was unanimously approved upon a motion made by Mr. Bollinger and seconded by Mr. Phillips.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 7, 2022, Technical Planning Committee Meeting were unanimously approved upon a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Bollinger.

Communications from the Chairwoman

Vice-Chair Christian stated that he will reserve his communications for Member Reports.

Public Comments

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

New/Unfinished Business

- **FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program** – Mr. McElroy noted that in FY 2022 the amount of planning funds received annually increased due to the 2020 census and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The amount went from approximately \$150,000 to \$177,000. The local match is \$35,000 to \$40,000 annually which resulted in a \$210,000 to \$230,000 budget each year. This year MoDOT is changing their carry over policy. It has been a 5-year policy and historically since SEMPO's inception, SEMPO has accumulated a carry-over balance. Recently, SEMPO has been using all the planning funds received and have not been building on that carry-over allotment over the last few years. Moving forward, if SEMPO spends all the allotted funds for FY 24, we will have a cushion of \$50,000 to 80,000 before we maximize the carry over amount. With that in mind, this would be a good year to spend a little extra to have less cushion not to exceed the 4-year maximum.

Mr. McElroy reviewed a list of potential projects for FY 2024 and the group discussed the pros and cons of each project and whether it fit into the scope of the planning requirement. The first item on the list is a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. He noted that SEMPO had applied for funding from the US Department of Transportation from the Safe Streets and Roads for All program. He noted that yesterday he was notified that SEMPO will receive \$160,000 for that project. He believes the timing will work well for the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan to go into the FY 24 Work Plan. With that, the Safety Action Plan will definitely be included. The rest of the potential projects on the list are projects or ideas that have been discussed in the past or have come up recently. The group reviewed the additional potential eight projects. Mr. McElroy noted that this was the potential projects he identified but was open to additional ideas from the Committee. He went on to say that he would like to narrow the list over the next month.

There was a specific discussion of the Intersection at Rt W and Perryville Road, which is also on the agenda as a requested consideration by Mr. Herbst. Mr. Henderson noted that he could help determine whether the project would fit under the planning restrictions. Mr. Henderson suggested it is best to keep the project to finding appropriate solutions rather than for design and construction. He and Mr. Caldwell noted the project should be broader than just one intersection.

The group concluded that it made sense to prioritize advancing SEMPO's Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan. The group is aware of several problem intersections, in addition to the

one discussed, and looking at all of these under one study and producing some possible solutions would be helpful. Also, there was interest in an Origin and Destination Study. Mr. Christian noted that some additional funds could be dedicated to enhance GIS, doing more of a preliminary audit, which could help move toward a full audit without funding the complete project at this time. Mr. McElroy said he would put together potential costs for these projects to see which or how many could be included in addition to the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan that will be funded by the Safe Streets and Roads for All program. Mr. McElroy also stated that he would get some clarification on allowed scope for these projects to make sure they are all appropriate.

- **IDOT Unspent PL Policy** – Mr. Caldwell noted that IDOT has a significant balance of planning funds that have gone unobligated and have built up over the years. The plan to distribute the funds will present SEMPO with option to receive some additional dollars. SEMPO has been receiving \$2,500 as a member in the past. This process could allow SEMPO to receive up to \$65,000. In order to receive this full amount, SEMPO would have to undergo the standard agreement procurement process. He noted the process is somewhat tedious. Another option is that SEMPO could expand direct payment up to \$20,000 (up from the \$2,500) without an additional agreement. The full amount would require the additional agreement and submittal process. The lesser amount would not need action but the Board would have to approve the larger amount. The Committee agreed it would be worth at least looking at the paperwork to gain the additional \$50,000. Mr. McElroy said he would get with Mr. Caldwell to review the process and see about moving forward. Mr. Caldwell noted that these are still planning funds and would have to be used as such. The group concurred they would like to recommend to the Board to pursue the full amount, depending on feasibility.
- **Route 621 & Perryville Road Traffic Study Request** – Mr. McElroy noted this was added to the agenda at the request of Mr. Herbst. It was previously discussed, and Mr. McElroy noted we will explore trying to include it in the Work Plan as part of an Intersection Study.
- **Proposal for Extension of I-29 from St. Joseph to I-55 at Cape** - Mr. McElroy said he, along with several city leaders, had been contacted by Mr. Carl Armstrong about plans to attend the February SEMPO Board meeting. Mr. McElroy included a document Mr. Armstrong plans to present to the Board outlining his plan and options to extend Shawnee/Hwy 74 to St Joseph, Missouri to connect to I29. This is informational only for this group at this time.

Member Reports

City of Cape Girardeau – Mr. Shrimplin noted that the city is still in the acquisition phase on the Independence project which is part of TTF4. He had no other updates at this time.

City of Jackson – Mr. Bollinger reported that the design for the Sunset bridge replacement is complete and will be taken to the Board of Alderman and Mayor on Monday for approval of the design phase. The West Mary Street bridge construction is going well and is on schedule for completion in the spring. The design is ongoing by the Lochmueller Group for the Deerwood roundabout at North High Street. Bacon Farmer Workman is finishing their engineering services contract for the East Main sidewalk project for MoDOT review and city approval. The engineering services contract is with MoDOT for review on the Main Street Corridor Pedestrian Safety Study TEAP project. The SHPO study reported no historical problems with Old Cape Recreational Trail Phase III from the high school to the soccer park. The city continues to work

with MoDOT on utility replacements on HWY 61 that goes along with the bridge replacement between the courthouse and Rt D. A team meeting on this project is scheduled for next Thursday.

Special Road District – Mr. Phillips reported they still have work to do on the Hopper Road bridge replacement, but it is on hold due to weather. He said that other than that, they are working on routine maintenance.

CTA – Ms. Watson reported they are getting two new vehicles at end of week. She said they are in grant writing season.

SEMO RPC – Mr. Christian reported they are working with transit providers to get their projects for the next TIP cycle. The TIP will be ready to bring to the TCP within next couple of months. He said they are getting started with their project prioritization process. This is a months' long process to be finalized in July, but they kicked off the discussion at their TAC meeting last week. He noted they will be meeting with counties to get their priorities identified.

MoDOT – Mr. Crocker reported that January is not a very busy month. He said the deadline for the traditional cost share program is April 14 for the next round. This is for projects that exceed \$200,000 on the state system with a 50/50 cost share. Mr. Crocker noted that there is a FHW webinar on February 8 for entities interested in the discretionary grants. It is their “how to“ for applying for the federal discretionary grants. The FHWA RAISE grant deadline is February 28. Mr. Crocker noted that the Planning Partner Meeting is coming up on February 23.

Mr. Brandon said that as they are working on the STIP they are having to delay some projects due to increased costs. He said they are looking at how to handle inflation which requires moving a significant number of projects into the next years.

IDOT - Mr. Caldwell had nothing additional to report.

Staff Report

Mr. McElroy noted that he will be attending the MoDOT Planning Partner Meeting in Jefferson City at the end of February. He went on to say progress is being made on the Public Transportation – Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan with most of the data being acquired and the draft plan is being developed. Also, the official announcement will be made today regarding SEMPO's award of the Safe Streets and Roads for All program.

Other Business and Communications

There was no other business or communications.

Adjournment Motion

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:17 a.m. upon a motion made by Mr. Phillips seconded by Mr. Bollinger and unanimously approved by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Mills

