



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

March 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. Beth Glaus, Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) (via Zoom)
Mr. Andy Meyer, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)

Technical Planning Committee (TPC) Members Present:

Mr. Michael Brandon, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
Mr. Tom Caldwell, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
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)

Staff Present:

Mr. Alex McElroy, City of Cape Girardeau

Program Administration/Support Consultant Present:

Ms. Marla Mills, KLG Engineering

Other:

Mr. Jeff Long, Southeast Missourian

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 March 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 February 15, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting were unanimously approved upon motion by Mr. Hahs seconded by Mr. Herbst.

Communications from the Chairman

Chairman Tanz wanted to make the Board aware of HJR 37 which could potentially affect MoDOT's appropriation's process. He noted the bill passed the House and is now in the Senate.

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

- **FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program** – Mr. McElroy presented a draft of the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program incorporating the TPC prioritized projects that had the Board's preliminary approval. Mr. McElroy also added a budgeted amount for the projects and shared the preliminary plan with the state and federal planning partners. Their comments have been incorporated in the draft. He noted this is just another opportunity to look at the list and review the draft plan. He noted there are some unique obstacles for this year. He said the Safety Action Plan is being covered by a grant that will have its own grant agreement, reporting requirements, and performance measurements. He noted SEMPO is also adjusting its fund balance to align with MoDOT's change in the fund carryover policy. The trail connection study is a part of the extra funds SEMPO will be receiving from Illinois as part of their unspent PL carryover policy. He said SEMPO will receive an additional \$65,000 this year. He noted there are a lot of moving components. He noted the draft will go to the Planning Committee on March 5. They will review the draft, release for public comment, and send a recommendation to the Board. Mr. Hahs asked about the Freight Plan, looking at economic development. Ms. Kinder asked why some of the other projects were not prioritized. Mr. McElroy noted the planning committee did discuss the pros and cons of each project and ended up prioritizing the ones that ultimately were put in the plan. He also noted there are some overlap on the projects. He also added that the Public Transit - Human Transportation Coordination Plan might have some actionable items to incorporate and wants to make sure we are able to do that as the plan will be finalized this fiscal year.
- **FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program**
Upon a motion by Mr. Herbst, seconded by Mr. Mogelnicki, a public hearing for the FY Unified Planning Work Program was set for April 19, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.
- **DOT Unspent PL Policy** – Mr. McElroy gave a brief update, noting that he has been working with Mr. Caldwell on the grant agreements and grant risk assessment forms that will allow SEMPO to receive the additional IDOT funds. He noted we should be on target to receive it for the new fiscal year.

Member Reports

City of Cape Girardeau – Ms. Kinder noted the city was not awarded the Reconnecting Communities grant they had applied for. She said the city is proceeding with construction and road projects.

City of Jackson – Mr. Hahs reported the city is preparing the BID packages for the concrete and asphalt programs and planning for and waiting on the Hwy 61 N. project.

Cape County – Mr. Herbst noted they are ready to put asphalt bids out. He said they will overlay about 15 miles of road this year. They did not receive bids on their creek bridge. He noted they may put it out again in the fall and give contractors more time to finish the project. He said they have two additional bridges and might combine those in a bid. Mr. Herbst said that their TAP grant for the trail connection is delayed as they found they must bid it out.

Cape County Transit – Mr. Mogelnicki reported ridership is up and they are doing better with hiring drivers. He noted they are better able to keep up with demand. He said they are working with United Way and the city of Cape on finding locations for benches and possible shelters at stops for the fixed bus route.

SEMO – Ms. Glaus had no report.

SEMO RPC – Mr. Christian reported he is working on the TIP update and should have a draft for TPC next month and start the process of public hearings.

MoDOT – Mr. Meyer noted MoDOT is updating and working on the draft STIP with a focus on the asset management plan and considering the cost issues that have previously been discussed. He said they want to keep promised projects moving. He noted that after the increased costs are considered, MoDOT is over program with the projects already in the program. He said this required moving some programs back and will not allow for the addition of new projects. Mr. Meyer noted they are proposing to move roughly 100 projects back, totaling \$230-240 million. He noted that this will impact the exit 93 project. Engineers have determined it is possible to rehabilitate the bridge instead of replacing it. This would give the bigger project a few more years to settle on a final decision and to find funding partners. This might leave enough money to address the safety concerns at the Silver Springs intersection.

Mr. Brandon noted that the STIP is in draft mode. He reinforced Mr. Meyer's comments that there will be no new projects added. He said they did add some small dollar repair items. Mr. Brandon noted they are going to start updating their unfunded needs on a yearly basis after work is completed on the STIP. He noted they would have a finalized list at the next meeting.

Mr. Crocker reported that Rt K/25 roundabout project has been pushed back to an October letting. He said that during the public meetings they realized there are access management issues at the gas station with some entrances that need to be realigned. He said they met with the City of Jackson to finalize plans for the Rt 61 N project at Hubble Creek. This will be in the May letting. and they are currently working on an agreement. Mr. Crocker went on to note that the with these and additional projects, the west side of Jackson will be busy during 2024. He said they are working on an emergency route plan that will help facilitate emergency closings of I55. Mr. Crocker noted that the Ames Team has been selected for the Chester Bridge project. He said that on LPA projects, they met with the city of Jackson on the Deerwood/Rt. 61 project to talk about some preliminary issues. He said the cost share project in the city of Cape on Minnesota Ave/Rt 74 has been delayed because of right of way issues but should be moving forward soon. He said that the Kingshighway/Kiwanis Drive TAP project is almost done. He said they are still working with the city of Cape to get an engineer on board for the Cape Rock Drive TAP project. Mr. Crocker said the LPA on call list was revamped this year. He said it

streamlines the process for projects with design costs under \$100,000. He suggested that at least three prospective consultants are contacted for a project. Mr. Crocker went on to say they will be having a BRO one year call for projects again this year in May. He noted the City of Jackson had submitted one that was previously rejected and suggested they resubmit. He said there will be a two-year call for TAP projects this summer. He noted there is a LTAP online training for the LPA basic training requirements. Mr. Crocker said that trash is a priority for now and April is no more trash bash month. Local groups should reach out if they want to pick up trash, which they can do on a one-time effort. He said MoDOT had made a big commitment to litter control.

Mr. Killian noted that now that they have the STIP information they are working on the draft, and he said he would get it to Mr. Christian soon.

IDOT – Mr. Caldwell had nothing to report.

Staff Report

Mr. McElroy reported city of Cape was not successful with the \$120,000 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant to enhance north/south mobility along Hwy 74/Shawnee Parkway. He said the program was very competitive and only 6 capital and 39 planning projects were selected for this year. He noted he has a meeting scheduled with the US DOT representative to do a debrief on the application to see how it could be enhanced to make it more competitive should the city apply again. He went on to say that as part of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), there is a new program called the Neighborhood Access and Equity program which will have \$3 billion dollars with \$700 million available the first round. This would be good for any community looking to enhance pedestrian access or infrastructure. It is comparable in nature to the Reconnecting Communities program and has more money allotted. Mr. McElroy noted that another program that was recently released is the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary program through US DOT. He said \$350 million was released for funding Community Charging and Fueling program grants. He noted these are all options for communities interested.

Other Business and Communications

There was no other business or communications.

Adjournment Motion

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 3:03 p.m. upon motion made by Mr. Mogelnicki, seconded by Mr. Hahs.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Mills