



## **TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES**

March 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

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

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. Andy Meyer, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (via Zoom)  
Mr. Daniel Weitkamp, Federal Highway Administration - MO Division (via Zoom)  
Ms. Tracy Betsy, Federal Highway Administration – IL Division (via Zoom)

Others Present:

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

In the absence of Chairwoman Watson and without a quorum, Vice-Chair Christian opened the meeting at 11:00 a.m. He noted no action will be taken due to lack of quorum.

### Introductions

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

### Adoption of Agenda

Due to lack of quorum, the agenda of the March 1, 2023, Technical Planning Committee Meeting was open for discussion only.

### Approval of Minutes

Due to lack of quorum, the minutes of the February 1, 2023, Technical Planning Committee Meeting were not approved.

### 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 formal action on the UPWP is not needed this month. He said the timeline is to bring it back to the Planning Committee next month to review the draft. He said then, pending any comments from the committee, it will be released for public comments and then taken to the Board with a recommendation for adoption. He said that will allow time in May and June for state and federal approval before the start of the fiscal year. Mr. McElroy said he had taken the draft list of proposed projects to the board highlighting the TPC recommended projects along with budget numbers for those. He noted that the only change concerns the origin destination study. He noted that the cost of the Safety Action Plan, the Regional Trail Connection Study, and the Origin Destination Study were higher than he anticipated. He said what he proposed to the Board was to continue with the Regional Trail Connection Study at about \$125,000 and keep the Origin Destination Study with a budget amount that could cover investing in an analytic tool. He shared that there is a lot of potential with the software but SEMPO may not need an annual or project based subscription. He said he put a budget number in but would continue to research benefits of a study and in the meantime would put language into the solicitation for the Safety Action Plan that preference would be for applicants to have an analytical tool comparable to the previously previewed tool, including multimodal transportation traffic, intersection analysis, vehicular street volume, and speeds. He noted that this would give us better data for the Safety Action Plan and an idea of the capabilities of the software and whether it would be beneficial to SEMPO to align with future projects. However, if the firm selected does not have the tool, there would be dollars in the budget to provide a project-based subscription for them to utilize. Mr. McElroy noted the other plans remain and selecting all of these would spend down the planning fund reserve a little, leaving \$100,000 to \$150,000 buffer before there was a loss due to the size of carry over. Mr. McElroy noted he thought this would spend down responsibly, maintaining a reserve for future plans. The reserve allows SEMPO to address any large budget plans or projects required by Federal guidelines. He noted he did get information from Mr. Phillips noting he still is in support of the priorities identified previously. Mr. McElroy noted that moving forward he had provided a draft of the UPWP to the state and federal partners. They are issuing comments and he will incorporate those and provide an updated draft in April to be reviewed and then ask for it to be released for public comment with a recommendation for approval by the Board.
  
- **IDOT Unspent PL Policy** – Mr. McElroy noted that he is still working with Mr. Caldwell on the agreements and the budget template. He said the process is on track to get the additional funds.

### Member Reports

City of Cape Girardeau – Mr. McElroy said he had received a report from Ms. Amy Ferris at the city. She reported that the city is working on a supplemental agreement for the Cape Rock/Kingshighway crosswalks Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) project. She further reported that they are negotiating engineering contracts for the sidewalks at Cape Rock which was another TAP project.

City of Jackson – Mr. Bollinger reported the city's 2023 annual concrete street repair program is out to bid. The annual asphalt program draft bid documents are being prepared and it will be out to bid shortly. Sunset bridge replacement project is in design phase with Koehler Engineering. West Mary Street bridge construction is ongoing and the contract had to be extended through the middle of May. Lochmueller is still working on design for the Deerwood roundabout at 61. MoDOT's comments on the engineering services contract for the E Main Street Sidewalk TAP project have been sent back to consultants Bacon Farmer Workman. He said the Main Street Pedestrian Corridor Study TEAP project has received a notice to proceed with Lochmueller. The initial notice letters to the property owners were sent out on the Hubble Creek Recreation Trail project and Smith & Co is working on design.

SEMO RPC – Mr. Christian reported he is still working on the TIP. He will incorporate the transit information from CTA and the University once he receives it and he expecting to complete it within the next few weeks. Mr. Christian reported he attended the Planning Partner meeting in Jefferson City.

MoDOT – Mr. Meyer reported the planning partner meeting was a good opportunity to discuss the future and one of the things discussed was the inflationary impact on the STIP. He said they are in the process of drafting the next round of STIP updates. He said there are close to four hundred projects in the STIP and of those, about 133 projects valuing \$175 million will likely be delayed at least a year to address the inflationary impact. Mr. Meyer noted that the focus is making sure MoDOT meets the existing commitments first. They want to deliver what is in the STIP before adding and the delays are necessary to make the cash flow work. Mr. Meyer said the details are not complete but realistically it will impact local projects including the Rt K corridor improvements and the Rt Z project west of Gordonville. He noted that there could be additional projects impacted.

Mr. Crocker reported also that the Rt. K project is delayed from a May letting to an October 2023 letting. He noted that they are considering how to control access at the gas station and had to shift a property entrance, creating delays in right of way and environmental processes. He said they have met with the city and reviewed the final touches on the Jackson Rt 61 replacement of the Hubble Creek bridge. Mr. Crocker noted that he is working on an agreement outlining things like the city's responsibilities, cost split, and road closures. He said that later today there is a meeting to discuss options after the inspection is done on the Exit 93 flyover bridge. He noted there are several options for replacement but with funding restraints they are looking to see if a rehab would be possible to extend the life of the current bridge. He said this would allow considering some additional partners down the road for funding purposes. Mr. Crocker noted it is the time of year MoDOT is putting an emphasis on litter with the maintenance crews spending additional time working on it. He said they would be reminding the Adopt a Highway partners to help with spring cleanup. Mr. Crocker noted that there will be another call for projects for the BRO program tentatively in May 2023 for 2025 funds. He said there is also going to be a TAP call for 2024 and 2025 funds which could be combined with the BRO call or might be in July.

Mr. Killian reported that regarding the STIP development, they are locking down the internal system today for input. He said that within the next couple of weeks he would have SEMPO's list available for the next TIP development. He said he does not anticipate many new projects. As noted, the inflationary impact may cause some projects to shift. He said MoDOT is changing the annual inflation number in the STIP from 3% to 7%.

IDOT - Mr. Caldwell had nothing additional to report.

FHWA – Mr. Weitkamp noted that he and Ms. Tracy collaborated and sent back combined comments on the UPWP draft.

Ms. Tracy congratulated SEMPO on receiving the Safe Streets for All grant. She said FHWA is working on how that will work.

#### Staff Report

Mr. McElroy noted the city of Cape Girardeau did not receive the Reconnecting Communities Pilot program grant. He said there were 415 applications requesting \$1.76 billion. He went on to say that the program has \$1 billion to disburse over the 5 years of the program. Of the \$1.67 billion, there was \$185 million distributed this cycle given to 45 recipients. The city is looking at another option in the Inflationary Reduction Act. There is a \$3 billion program called Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program. He noted the goals are similar to the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program. Details will be released this spring and Mr. McElroy said he will be monitoring it and will forward information when available. He said it could provide more opportunities for sidewalk, neighborhood connections, planning studies, and capital projects.

#### Other Business and Communications

There was no other business or communications.

#### Adjournment Motion

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11:29 a.m. without formal action.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Mills