



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

June 21, 2023

Osage Centre

1625 N. Kingshighway, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Board Voting Members Present:

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:

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

Technical Planning Committee (TPC) Members Present:

Mr. Rodney Bollinger, City of Jackson
Mr. Drew Christian, SEMO Regional Planning Commission (SEMO RPC)
Mr. Chris Crocker, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (via Zoom)
Mr. Joe Killian, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
Ms. Kelley Watson, Cape County Transit (CTA)

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 (via Zoom)
Mr. John Voss, State Representative, District 147
Rob Gilligan, Cape Girardeau Area Chamber of Commerce

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 21, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting was unanimously approved upon motion by Mr. Mogelnicki seconded by Mr. Roach.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 17, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting were unanimously approved upon motion by Mr. Roach seconded by Mr. Mogelnicki.

Communications from the Chairman

Chairman Tanz noted that the meeting room was booked for 3:30 pm and asked that as the time gets closer to 3:00 pm to keep comments briefer to accommodate the next meeting.

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

- **Election of Officers for Fiscal year 2024** – Mr. McElroy noted that at the last Board meeting there were inquiries as to whether Ms. Kinder would be interested in the chair position. He said that if not, Chairman Tanz had agreed to remain as chair and if so, would Ms. Kinder be interested in vice-chair. Ms. Kinder indicated she would prefer no chairmanship. Upon a motion by Mr. Roach, seconded by Mr. Herbst a motion to elect Mr. Tanz as Chair and Mr. Hahs as Vice-Chair for the Fiscal year 2024 was unanimously approved.
- **PUBLIC HEARING on Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan** - Mr. Tanz opened the public hearing for the Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan and asked for any comments. There were no comments. Upon a motion by Mr. Herbst, seconded by Mr. Roach a motion to close the public meeting was unanimously approved.
- **RESOLUTION NO. 2023-03, A Resolution adopting the Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan** - Mr. McElroy noted that the planning committee had met earlier in the month and recommended approval with the incorporation of one final comment. Also, he noted that a much-deserved acknowledgement of the United Way of Southeast Missouri and their Transportation Coalition as well as the Cape Girardeau Transit Authority for their extensive efforts in public outreach was added. He said the public engagement was kicked off in October with the Project Hope community outreach event on October 7. There were 39 individual interviews were completed. This was followed up by and October 22 community discussion meeting at the Shawnee Center with representatives from the Cape Girardeau Transit, United Way, Community Partnership, and local elected officials present. He said there were over 50 citizens in attendance. He went on to say that on December 8, in partnership with United Way and Cape County Transit, a print and web-based survey was issued receiving 267 responses. He said there was a follow up in March with the Jackson Ministerial Alliance receiving additional feedback. The plan has been recommended for approval by the planning committee. Mr. Tanz noted that a copy of the Resolution was provided in the packet. Upon a motion by Mr. Roach, seconded by Mr. Herbst, RESOLUTION NO. 2023-03, A Resolution adopting the Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan was unanimously approved.
- **PUBLIC HEARING on the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Tanz opened the public hearing for public comment. There were no comments. On a motion by Mr. Roach, Seconded by Mr. Mogelnicki, the public hearing was closed.

- **RESOLUTION NO. 2023-04, A Resolution adopting the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program** - Mr. McElroy noted that the latest version of the TIP was included in the packet. He said the only change is that subsequent to when the planning committee made the recommendation, Mr. Jay Knudtson was acknowledged as the county's new representative on the planning committee and his name will be added under that committee. He offered a reminder to the Board that the program serves as a management tool for structuring transportation related projects and intended improvements over a four-year span. Projects include federally funded as well as regionally significant projects. The draft was posted on May 3rd for public comments and, according to SEMPO's public participation plan, it was open for 25 days of public comment. He said it was also posted on the website and a press statement was released and an ad placed for today's hearing. He noted that on June 7 the planning committee voted to recommend approval to the Board. Upon a motion by Mr. Mogelnicki, seconded by Mr. Herbst, RESOLUTION NO. 2023-04, A Resolution adopting the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program was unanimously approved.
- **RESOLUTION NO. 2023-05, A Resolution Expressing Support of a US Department of Transportation Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application by the City of Cape Girardeau** - Mr. McElroy noted the next two Resolutions are for the same planning project envisioned by the city of Cape Girardeau. This Resolution is similar to the Resolution approved last year for the same program. He said the program purpose is aimed to address transportation facilities which create barriers within communities. The city of Cape is seeking a planning grant to study the MO Hwy 74 section locally named Shawnee Parkway to enhance north/south mobility for citizens living south and adjacent to the highway. The Reconnecting Communities program has a billion dollars over the five years of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law with funding for both planning and construction grants. He said last year's first cycle apportioned \$195 mill, dedicating \$50 million toward planning grants and \$145 million for construction grants. He noted that as a pilot program, this was the first year it was offered through the DOT. He noted it turned out to be both highly popular and competitive. He said they received 324 planning grant applications, awarding only 39, resulting in a twelve percent success rate by those seeking planning grants. He said 90 construction grant applications were submitted and only 6 were awarded with a success rate of seven percent. He said they anticipate the second round of applications to open in summer of 2023, so we are a little ahead but want the Resolution in hand when it is open. Mr. McElroy noted that he provided some materials in the packet outlining the various programs available. He noted he had received notice that the Reconnecting Communities program is being combined with the Neighborhood Access and Equity program which increases the amount of money available for planning and construction. He noted it is unique to see some of these programs combined but not unheard of and could expedite the process and allow for more awards. He noted there are two Resolutions as the city had intended in participating in the Reconnecting Communities Program but was aware of the Neighborhood Access and Equity program as well as additional opportunities that may be opening up in the future. The second allows for general support of pursuing a planning grant for a mobility study. Upon a motion by Ms. Kinder, seconded by Mr. Mogelnicki, RESOLUTION NO. 2023-05, A Resolution Expressing Support of a US Department of Transportation Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant application by the City of Cape Girardeau was unanimously approved.
- **RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06, A Resolution Expressing Support of a Planning Grant Application by the city of Cape Girardeau for Shawnee Parkway/Missouri Highway 74 Enhanced Mobility Study** - Upon a motion by Mr. Roach, seconded by Ms. Kinder, RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06, RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06, A Resolution Expressing Support of a Planning Grant Application by the city of Cape Girardeau for Shawnee Parkway/Missouri Highway 74 Enhanced Mobility Study was unanimously approved.

- **Draft SS4A Comprehensive Safety Action Plan RFP – Discussion** - Mr. McElroy noted the notice to proceed has been received. He noted this grant process aligned with SEMPO's fiscal year so with this hand and July 1st approaching, the timing is good. The planning committee formed an RFP review committee, and they are reviewing a draft and developing a scope. He noted that there are specific plan elements that need to be satisfied per the grant agreement, but with the project budget there is room to branch out beyond that. Mr. McElroy noted that he had Federal Highway review the draft RFP and they gave approval, noting that approval from them was not required. He said after the planning committee approval, it can be released.

Member Reports

City of Cape Girardeau – Ms. Kinder noted there are several culvert and drainage projects going on. She said that West End Blvd. north of Capaha Park is nearing completion and the next big project after West End is Lexington Ave.

City of Jackson – Mr. Roach reported completion of the asphalt overlay program for the year and under way with the concrete improvement program for this calendar year.

Cape County – Mr. Herbst noted they are working on the overlay of roads.

Transit – Mr. Mogelnicki had nothing to report.

SEMO RPC – Mr. Christian said he is working on an amendment to the TIP. Mr. Tanz reported they are working through their TAC process with a meeting scheduled next month.

SEMO Redi – Mr. Gilligan reported they are finalizing the strategic planning process with plans to release it in August. He went on to say that Shad Burner had been contracted to come on staff July 1 to support their efforts.

MoDOT – Mr. Killian reported the draft STIP is open to the public for comments and available on the website. He said they are taking comments through the first week of July and expect the Highway Commission to adopt it the second week of July. He said the high priority unfunded needs list will have a public meeting for the district on August 15 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Bootheel RPC offices in Dexter. The list of the high priority unfunded needs will be published from mid-July through mid-August. He noted they will let the planning partners know so they can review. He said there is a new section (4B) that is termed legislative funded and designated initiatives to include projects like the Governor's focused bridge program and the Governor's cost share program. He noted that they would like to have the amendment being drafted approved in August to allow for the timeline on the Rt 72 project.

Chris Crocker reported on the Rt 61 project in the City of Jackson, noting Penzel Construction has met with MoDOT proposing a design change to the utilities to circumvent long lead times on the utility items. MoDOT is reviewing. He noted they are putting the Rt W project (Rt 177 to Lexington Roundabout) out to bid this month. This includes an overlay on Rt W and pavement improvements in the roundabout. He said they received preliminary plans from the city of Jackson for their roundabout at Deerwood Dr. He said they have reviewed them and provided comments back to the city. He noted the city of Cape has put the Kiwanis Dr and Kingshighway pedestrian project out to bid last month and received high bids as much as 67 percent over engineer's estimates. He said they are going to try to award some of it as they had not factored nighttime

work in the estimate so rebidding would not likely change the bids. He noted the office is reviewing to see if they can concur so it can be awarded, and the project can get underway. He said they are also working on BRO applications. He noted they received 27 applications on this call for projects. He noted they have approximately \$8 million to award relating to 8 to 10 bridges. He said the Governor's appropriation bill included significant dollars for low volume roads. He said they met internally to try to get those projects scoped and out to bid in the near future. He said there is a tight timeline requiring letting this summer and a completion date of November 2024.

IDOT – Mr. Caldwell had no report.

FHWA - Ms. Tracy gave kudos to Mr. McElroy and team on applying for the federal programs.

Staff Report

Mr. McElroy noted there were three handouts in the packet. One is the email notification of the merger of the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhood Access and Equity programs. He said the Notice of Funding Opportunity is still not out yet. He said the second is a breakdown of the three planning grant programs the city of Cape is evaluating. He said the final is a listing of the SEMPO projects for the fiscal year 2024, beginning July 2021.

Other Business and Communications

There was no other business or communications.

Adjournment Motion

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:29 p.m. upon motion made Mr. Roach and seconded by Mr. Mogelnicki.

Respectfully submitted,
Marla Mills