



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

November 15, 2023

Osage Centre

1625 N. Kingshighway, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

### Board Voting Members Present:

Mr. Rodney Bollinger, City of Jackson

Mr. Mark Croarkin, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)

Mr. Dwain Hahs, City of Jackson

Mr. Charlie Herbst, County of Cape Girardeau

Ms. Stacy Kinder, City of Cape Girardeau

Mr. Jeremy Tanz, SEMO Regional Planning Commission (SEMO RPC)

Ms. Kelley Watson, Cape County Transit (CTA)

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

Mr. Michael Brandon, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (via Zoom)

Mr. Tom Caldwell, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) (via Zoom)

Mr. Drew Christian, SEMO Regional Planning Commission (SEMO RPC)

Ms. Cecelie Chochran, FHWA Mo Division (via Zoom)

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: No other individuals were in attendance.

### Call to Order

Chairman Tanz called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

### Introductions

All those present introduced themselves and Mr. McElroy introduced those joining via zoom.

### Adoption of Agenda

The agenda of the November 15, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting was unanimously approved upon motion by Mr. Hahs seconded by Ms. Kinder.

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 18, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting were unanimously approved upon motion by Ms. Kinder seconded by Mr. Hahs.

### Communications from the Chairman

Chairman Tanz had no communication at this time.

### 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

- **RESOLUTION NO. 2023-13, A Resolution Expressing Support of a USDOT Thriving Communities Program Grant Application** – Mr. McElory explained that Cape County Transit in partnership with United Way and the City of Cape Girardeau are seeking technical assistance to uncover funding opportunities to benefit low-income individuals with transportation needs. It was recognized through United Way community surveys that there is a lack of reliable transportation in the region. This was reported by job seekers, employers, and employees as a key obstacle in obtaining and maintaining steady employment. Through the Thriving Communities program, they have identified an opportunity to procure some technical assistance. The purpose of the Thriving Communities Program is to provide access to DOT resources in the form of technical assistance, planning, and capacity building to develop advanced transportation and community revitalization activities which increase mobility and expand affordable transportation options, facilitate efficient land use, improve housing conditions, preserve and expand jobs, enhance connections to health care, education and food security and improve health outcomes. The program is authorized through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The planning committee recommended a Resolution in support of the application. The planning committee also recommended SEMPO be named as a partner in the application. There is no financial commitment by any of the entities in submitting the application. There is no cost share as it is direct access to DOT resources. The application is due at 4 p.m. today. Mr. Hahs made a motion to approve the resolution in support of the application and to be identified as a partner in the application. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kinder and passed unanimously.
- **SS4A Comprehensive Safety Action Plan** - Mr. McElroy noted that earlier in October a project kick off meeting for the SS4A Comprehensive Safety Action Plan was hosted with the planning committee. Since that time, the project timeline has been finalized and public engagement plan has been developed and is included in the packet. Mr. McElroy noted that they are working on data collection through MoDOT representatives and the cities of Cape and Jackson and IDOT. He said the task at hand is developing a Safety Oversight Committee. He went on to say representatives are needed from Bike/Ped, Cape County, Cities of Cape and Jackson, IDOT, MoDOT, he will represent SEMPO, and the University. For bike/ped he noted Bruce Loy agreed to be a representative and Mr. Loy had some additional names of bicycle enthusiasts and walkers to contemplate for membership. Mr. McElroy went on to note he had invited Charlie Herbst and Jay Knudtson. He said the city of Cape has some potential members and Mr. Shrimplin has agreed to be an alternate. He said Alex Broch, Assistant Chief of Police from Jackson has agreed to serve, and Tom Caldwell will represent IDOT, Chris Crocker will represent MoDOT, and he has invited Beth Glaus from the University. He noted he will follow up with them for commitments and noted the first meeting for the committee will be in December with the first public meeting in January.
- **SEMPO Region Trail Connection Study** – Mr. McElroy said a committee was established and they were in favor of issuing an RFP to find a consultant rather than looking at the general

service agreements and issuing a task order. He said the RFP was finalized, went out on November 6, and will be due December 1<sup>st</sup>. He noted it was distributed on the consultant list, on the AMPO (Association for Metropolitan Planning Organizations), and it is on SEMPO's website under RFP's. He noted it is a regional plan covering the entire SEMPO area and they will be asking the consultants do a thorough review of the 2018 Regional Bike Ped Plan to see the connections originally contemplated.

- **Intersection Studies** – Mr. McElroy noted there is a committee for this also. He said they reviewed the general service agreements and selected CBD Transportation Engineers and Planners to conduct the study. He noted they have issued a task order and the consultants have started work. He reminded the group that the two intersections are 621 and Perryville Rd and Independence St/Rt D in Jackson between Broadridge and Rosebud and south on Broadridge to the middle school entrance. The consultants are coordinating kick-off meetings with one on November 27 at Cape City Hall for 621 and Perryville Rd. The meeting at city hall will be immediately followed by a site visit. He noted they are looking at December 4 or 5 for a Jackson meeting.
- **GIS Audit** – Mr. McElroy stated that in working with the RPC, they have generated some maps now available on the website.
- **TIP Tool Selection** – Mr. McElroy noted he, Mr. Christian, and Mr. Killian have been looking at TIP Tool vendors. He said they have held a demo on a tip tool with Eko Interactive and was impressed but will be looking at more. He noted that the pricing will be at the threshold of needing an RFP, so they issued one on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November with proposals due December 8<sup>th</sup>.
- **Origin & Destination Analytical Tool** – Mr. McElroy stated he has a meeting with the Chamber and SEMO REDI to discuss these types of analytical tools to see if there are any synergies in partnering to select a vendor as they are looking at similar tools. He noted the tool could be used by anyone in the SEMPO area.

### Member Reports

City of Cape – Ms. Kinder noted that late next spring the city will be forming the Transportation Trust Fund VII committee to work on what will go to voters under this program.

City of Jackson – Mr. Hahs reported that are working on the budget process. He noted that there is additional spending in the budget on the Hwy 61 project and put the Deerwood roundabout planning process. He noted that one of top three priorities was to be sure to keep increasing the amount of money in maintenance for concrete and asphalt streets. He said they want to keep streets in good condition and will add dollars for inflation.

Cape Girardeau County – Mr. Herbst said they are working on the final paperwork for the BRO bridges. He noted that more subdivisions are being built in the County affecting the number of roads to be paved.

CTA – Ms. Watson noted the Board hired an Executive Director. She said Jennie Smith is coming from SMTS out of Fredericktown where she served as the Chief Operating Officer.

MoDOT – Mr. Croarkin reported that on October 31<sup>st</sup> the State Highway Commission came to the Southeast district for their meeting. He said there was an official groundbreaking for the Don Welge Memorial Bridge (Chester). He noted that there was a lawsuit clarification as the Cole

County Circuit Court ruled favorably in a clarification that MoDOT had asked for, assisting in the ability to move funds within categories. He said it was on hold for 30 days. He noted that the 72 project was rejected as asphalt costs appeared too high. He said they will put back in letting for February. He said there are concerns statewide about whether I70 will affect local contractors and that it could cause some challenges locally.

Mr. Brandon noted they are working on the next STIP, and that inflation is still playing a role. He said there is talk about RPCs and MPO's forming a multimodal TAC to address multimodal issues more completely.

Mr. Killian noted they received a request for traffic information regarding the area around the intersection study in Jackson at the middle school. He noted that the MPO is allotted some funds for the Carbon Reduction Plan and there are outstate areas that have allotted funds as well. He said they are discussing things to look at under this program. He gave a precautionary note of winter weather coming up.

FHWA – Mo Division - Ms. Cochran said she had no report but wanted to give kudos in reference to the new maps on the website. She said they were very helpful.

#### Staff Report

Mr. McElroy said the Airport is doing a beam signing today and tomorrow until 2 p.m.

#### Other Business and Communications

There was no other business or communications.

#### Adjournment Motion

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:45 p.m. upon motion made by Ms. Kinder and seconded by Mr. Hahs.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Mills