



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2024

Osage Centre

1625 N. Kingshighway, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Board Voting Members Present:

Mr. Dwain Hahs, City of Jackson

Mr. Charlie Herbst, Cape County

Mr. Jim Roach, City of Jackson

Ms. Ginny Smith, Cape Girardeau County Transit (CTA)

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

Technical Planning Committee (TPC) Members Present:

Ms. Katrina Amos, Cape Girardeau Regional Airport

Mr. Rodney Bollinger, City of Jackson

Ms. Mandi Brink, SEMO Port

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. Mark Croarkin, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)

Mr. Joe Killian, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)

Ms. Bety Tracy, Federal Highway Administration – IL Div (Via Zoom)

Staff Present:

Mr. Alex McElroy, City of Cape Girardeau

Program Administration/Support Consultant Present:

Ms. Marla Mills, KLG Engineering

Call to Order

Chairman Tanz called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Introductions

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

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda of the February 21, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting was unanimously approved upon motion by Mr. Roach seconded by Mr. Herbst.

Approval of Minutes

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

- **SS4A Comprehensive Safety Action Plan** – Mr. McElroy noted that two open houses were held, one on January 24 at Jackson Civic Center and one on January 25 at Shawnee Community Center in Cape. It was an open house forum with informational project documents and boards, and consultants and staff on hand to answer questions. There was also printed information on the survey and information on the web based public input for people to geolocate areas of concern. The stakeholder meetings followed with the school administrators meeting on January 29. Bike/ped representatives met on the 30th, followed by public safety officials on February 6th, and representatives from human services and underserved populations on the 8th. The survey is closed, and consultants are analyzing the results and input from the interactive maps. Based on all the input, they will be developing programs and policy recommendations and safety tool kits. They will also analyze VMT reduction strategies. All this will be put in an administrative draft form by the end of July. SEMPO will have August and September to issue comments to be incorporated in the draft. There will be a 3rd open house in August to share the draft with the public. The project is still on schedule. As part of the grant agreement, we have to have the Safety Action plan completed by the end of December 2024 and adopted by the end of January 2025. The final report is due to Federal Highway by the end of March 2025.
- **SEMPO Region Trail Connection Study** – Mr. McElroy reported that we are under contract with the consultant, Planning Design Studios, who partnered with Lochmueller. Mr. McElroy noted that he issued requests to Jackson, Cape County, and the City of Cape for their GIS data and that is being collected. He said he is working with consultants to set a project kick off meeting. He noted that these are typically hosted at the TPC meeting, so he is trying to set that kick off for the March 8 TPC meeting.
- **Intersection Studies** – Mr. McElroy stated that on February 6 a Rt D corridor study open house was held at the Jackson Middle School, following the two stakeholder meetings. Mr. McElroy noted that the stakeholder meetings, followed by solutions and a final report was all the consultants were contracted to do. However, at the Rt D stakeholder meeting, it became evident that due to the proximity of the Middle School, this intersection would be a good candidate for grant opportunities. He said that based on this, a decision was made to prioritize this study so Jackson could have a report to pursue any possible opportunities. Many of the grant programs require an intentional public engagement process so an open house was held in order to meet that requirement if needed. Mr. McElroy commended CBD for hosting an open house even though they were not required to do so by their contract. He said they did a lot of additional work including two videos. He said the open house was very good although not very well attended. He felt they obtained good information with no negative feedback. He said the report for Rt D is expected in the next few weeks with the 621 report coming in the April or May time frame.
- **TIP Tool Selection** – Mr. McElroy stated SEMPO entered into a three-year management maintenance and service agreement with EKO interactive. He noted that the steering

committee did a number of demonstrations and issued an RFP before selecting EKO. He said EKO is really the standard of functionality that SEMPO needs. He said he is working with the old vendor to get all the data transferred. He said there is about a 4-month implementation timetable. Mr. McElroy feels SEMPO will be happy with it once implementation is complete.

- **Origin & Destination Analytical Tool** – Mr. McElroy said he had nothing new to report after the initial demonstration with the Chamber and SEMO REDI. He said they are looking at how this might work in a partnership. The tools are either geared toward economic development or transportation so not sure it will work for both.
- **FY 25 Unified Planning Work Program** – Mr. McElroy provided a list of potential projects. He noted that he had tasked the TPC to help develop the UPWP and they have not given a formal recommendation yet but wanted to share some preliminary information. One of the documents showed a timetable for federally required planning documents. The first plan recommended for update in 2025 is the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. It is federally required to be updated every five years. It was adopted in April so if it is planned to update in FY 26 SEMPO would only have ten months to complete. He noted starting in FY 2025 would give SEMPO 22 months which he said he was more comfortable with. He said the last update was a good document but was done during Covid and under an abbreviated time frame which is difficult to do so he is recommending the plan go on the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. McElroy went on to say that SEMPO had been doing the Transportation Improvement Program update every four years and MoDOT recommended either every year or every other year. He noted that he had looked at starting every two years this upcoming year, however, with the transition of the TIP tool, it would be complicated. The planning committee recommended doing it in three years and moving to every two years in the future to accommodate the transition. Mr. McElroy noted that SEMPO needed to work on the Title VI and Language Assistance Plan that needed updating this year as well. He noted the trail study will also overlap into FY 2025. The planning committee is reviewing this list and potential projects previously discussed and they will make a recommendation, likely at their next meeting.

Member Reports

City of Jackson – Mr. Hahs reported Strickland is working with MoDOT to get approval to move forward with streetlights on Jackson Blvd. from Exit 99 to Wal Mart. He said the next big project after Hwy 61 will be the roundabout at Deerwood and they are currently deciding what goes in the middle of the roundabout. He further reported they are in the planning stage on the maintenance asphalt and concrete programs. He noted that the asphalt program this year would include paving from AP to the soccer park.

Cape County – Mr. Herbst noted they are reviewing their paving and overlay for the upcoming year. Working on a Tap grant.

Cape CTA – Ms. Smith reported that new vehicles are coming in the next few weeks.

SEMO Port – Ms. Brink noted that their project is on hold until they hear back from MARAD on some issues.

Airport – Ms. Amos reported that the terminal is moving along great, and they are still on target for the June completion date. She said they are shifting focus to taxiway reconstruction projects and in the design phase for Echo, Delta, and Foxtrot.

SEMO RPC – Mr. Tanz noted they are starting their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) process with the kickoff after their next RPC meeting next Tuesday. He said that the following Wednesday after the next TPC meeting there will be a Cape focused RPC CEDS

meeting. He asked all members to try to participate and they will provide lunch. Mr. Tanz noted that RPC partnered with other members last year for a subscription with Placer AI. He noted that it is a very good economic development tool but a bit weaker in transportation, so he understands some hesitation from SEMPO. He said their contract is due to renew in April and they are currently having conversations about how that will renew. He said they are looking at opening it up to a service for members.

MoDOT – Mr. Croarkin reported that 72 is being let again for the third time. He noted the asphalt night work is very expensive, but he is advocating for it. He said the bids are in and the decision should be made the first week of March. He noted that MoDOT awarded a \$405 million design build project on I70 from Kingdom City to Columbia. He said there are significant improvements at Columbia on 63 with additional underpasses and roundabouts. He noted they are in the middle of the STIP update and they had updated price of asphalt last year but not enough. He felt both inflation and capacity were an issue. He said they will have to raise the cost of asphalt again which will result in few changes in the program.

Mr. Crocker noted the Rt 25 and Rt K roundabout had a preconstruction meeting on February 8 with Fronabarger who will start around the first of April. He said they will work with staged construction throughout the project. He said they are still working on utility relocations on the US 61 project in Jackson. He noted they are working through some pole issues with Charter. He said they have scheduled the boring company to predrill the borings for the bridge and to start driving the pilings in the next three to four weeks. He said they will also start paving in the next few weeks as well. Mr. Crocker noted they awarded a project on Rt D over Byrd Creek but shouldn't start work until after 61 is complete. He said the tentative LPA grant cycles are coming up with TAP March 1st through April 26 and TEAP is August 1st through September 12. He went on to say the BRO is October 1st through November 12. He requested that TAP projects be submitted early so they can be reviewed for any challenges and make sure the budgets are where they should be.

Mr. Killian noted that the statewide planning partner is next week, February 29. He is working on STIP development. He said he is still waiting on the functional classifications changes. He said that Chris Rutledge has submitted his retirement so there will be a new assistant district engineer.

IDOT – Mr. Caldwell had nothing to report.

FHWA - Ms. Tracy had nothing to report.

Staff Report

Mr. McElroy had nothing to report.

Other Business and Communications

There was no other business or communications.

Adjournment Motion

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:39 p.m. upon motion made by Mr. Hahs and seconded by Ms. Amos.

Respectfully submitted,
Marla Mills