



TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES

April 3, 2024

Osage Centre

1625 N. Kingshighway, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Technical Planning Committee (TPC) Voting Members Present:

Mr. Drew Christian, SEMO RPC

Mr. Jay Knudtson, Cape Girardeau County

Mr. Ryan Shrimplin, City of Cape Girardeau (via Zoom)

Mr. Mark Phillips, Cape Special Road District

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

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

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

Ms. Cecelie Cochran, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – Mo Division (via Zoom)

Mr. Jake Garrard, City of Cape Girardeau

Mr. Mike Henderson, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (via Zoom)

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

Ms. Melissa Rose, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)

Ms. Betsy Tracy, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – IL Division (via Zoom)

Others Present:

Consultants from Design Studios, Jonathon Corbett, and Scott Emmelkamp and from Lochmueller Group Ilana Strauss and Kevin Neill

Staff Present:

Mr. Alex McElroy, City of Cape Girardeau

Program Administration/Support Consultant Present:

Ms. Marla Mills, KLG Engineering

With no quorum, the meeting was opened at 11:02 by Interim Chair Mr. Christian, noting no action could be taken.

Introductions

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

With no quorum, the agenda was not adopted.

With no quorum, the approval of minutes from March 6, 2024 was tabled to the next meeting.

Comments from the Chair

The Interim Chair stated that he had no communications to share.

Public Comments

Mr. Christian asked if there were any comments from the public regarding items not on the agenda. There were none.

New/Unfinished Business

SEMPO Region Trail Connection Study Project Kickoff and Discussion – Representatives from Planning Design Studio and Lochmueller Group were present to kick off the SEMPO Region Trail Connection Study Project. Planning Design Studios is the lead on the project and consultant Scott Emmelkamp lead the discussion.

Mr. Emmelkamp began by introducing the team present with Jonathon Corbett, also from Planning Design Studios, and consultants Ilana Strauss and Kevin Neill from Lochmueller Group. He noted that both consulting firms have worked in Cape Girardeau previously and were looking forward to the project and the partnership.

Mr. Emmelkamp went on to outline the five main project tasks.

- Task 1 is the Project Kick off which is today's meeting. He noted that he made an assumption that the Technical Planning Committee would serve as the project steering committee but that can be changed.
- Task 2 is Discovery to include mapping, looking at existing conditions, project vision & goals, destination identification, online survey, and steering committee meeting. The team brought their bikes and were going to ride some of the existing trails in Cape and Jackson to better understand what exists, conditions, and how it is being used. He said they are also already doing some mapping and have been working with the GIS people to get as much information as possible. They are also developing an online survey.
- Task III is the Routing Analysis. He said they will look at various scenarios and alignments. They will have a matrix to help them evaluate the pros and cons of different alignments. There will be additional meetings with the team and the public.
- Task IV Recommendations & Implementation which includes looking at how to phase and implement the trail alignments. This will also include another public meeting.
- Task V is delivery of the Draft & Final Report.

Mr. Emmelkamp went on to discuss the planned Public Participation. He noted that opportunities for Public Input were as follows:

- Discovery Task includes an on-line survey to be promoted with yard signs showing a QR code placed at strategic locations. He said they could assist with the artwork if SEMPO could print them.
- Routing Analysis – Public meeting to discuss and get public input on the three alternatives.
- Recommendations & Implementation would include another public meeting to discuss the preferred alignment and get further input.
- Draft & Final Report will be presented at a public open house.

Mr. Emmelkamp said that they would help distribute Announcements and Project Updates looking at outlets such as:

- SEMPO Newsletter
- Websites – SEMPO, City of Cape and City of Jackson
- Social Media – FB, LinkedIn & Instagram

Mr. Emmelkamp then reviewed the Schedule. He noted the Kickoff is this meeting. He tried to align future Steering Committee meetings with the TPC meetings and holding public meetings on that same day. Mr. McElroy noted that he had made the committee aware that this project would carry over into the next fiscal year.

He went on to discuss the next steps which is a combination of windshield tours and bike tours in both Cape and Jackson. Mr. Emmelkamp noted they would continue with data collection and try to gather as much information about potential destinations while they were in person in the community. He said they would then start putting the online survey questions together and would ask for review and input from the committee regarding the questions. He noted it was not a statistically valid survey but just to gather additional information and get a better sense of the trail system. Mr. Emmelkamp said they would also review previous studies.

Mr. Emmelkamp asked for questions. Mr. McElroy noted there are a few additional people to serve on the committee and he would try to bring them into the discussion but thought it might be good to talk about what the steering committee should look like. He noted it did make sense to try to use the TPC meetings as a meeting for the subcommittee.

Mr. Emmelkamp asked what the expectations for the project were. He said they had reviewed the previous study done in 2017. Mr. McElroy noted SEMPO was very pleased with that study, and it has been used to support several grant applications and it has been very useful. Mr. McElroy noted that there needs to be trail connections between Cape and Jackson and that was the impetus behind this study, stating that it was still a planning document and not engineering services. Mr. Emmelkamp asked if this study was to help identify which of the previous alternatives would be best, as well as any alternative routes. Mr. McElroy confirmed that was the goal and then to also look at alignments, land ownership, and more specific details of a connection. He went on to clarify that it is a study of the three different alignments but none of those connections are funded at this time. Mr. Knudtson noted this should lay the groundwork for a collaborative effort to find funding.

Lochmueller consultant Kevin Neill noted that they can look at some funding opportunities as well to be included in the implementation portion. Mr. Shrimplin reminded the group to keep in mind the criteria for the grant programs as the options are being evaluated and plans developed.

- **FY25 Unified Planning Work Program** – Mr. McElroy noted he had wanted to adopt the plan this month. He provided a document showing projects for this fiscal year. All federal and state comments have been incorporated. Mr. McElroy said he will release for public comment and take to the Board in April for consideration without action from TPC but encouraged anyone that had any to submit comments.

- **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01, A Resolution Expressing Support of a Transportation Alternatives Program Application by the City of Jackson for the Jackson Middle School Crosswalk & Sidewalk Improvements Project** – With no quorum, Mr. McElroy informed the committee that he will take the Resolution to the Board at their next meeting as this needs to be adopted for a TAP application by the end of month.
- **SS4A Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Discussion** – Mr. McElroy shared a progress report on the Safety Action Plan. He highlighted some of the current tasks in progress. He said an administrative draft is projected by the end of July and following review and comments on the draft there will be a third community open house in October, with plan adoption by the end of January 2025.
- **Intersection Studies Discussion** – Mr. McElroy said that, based on the findings of the Rt B study, Jackson is pursuing a TAP grant. The report was issued to the Jackson stakeholders on March 18 and was reviewed and accepted so there is a final report. Mr. McElroy noted he provided a link in the agenda email. He said that there were several conceptual designs presented to the committee based on the 621 and Perryville Rd site visit and discussions. The consultant agreed to provide additional refined concepts after those discussions, and they are working on those now. Mr. Garrard said that after staff discussion they will work with the Jaycee golf course to see if any are viable concepts as all will take participation from them. Mr. McElroy noted that there should be a final report in late April or early May.
- **TIP Tool Selection Discussion** – Mr. McElroy noted SEMPO contracted with Eko Interactive for a 3-year service and maintenance agreement. He said it will be June or July before they go live.
- **Origin & Destination Analytical Tool** - Mr. McElroy reminded the committee that the Board agreed to partner with the SEMO RPC, the Cape Area Chamber of Commerce, and SEMO REDI on a Placer.AI subscription. He noted SEMPO just sent payment. He said he is going to set up a demonstration for the Committee to understand the capabilities and features. He said the arrangement is structured so that SEMPO has access to information, but the RPC will be the entity that runs and generates reports. He said it was a one-year agreement and can be reevaluated at that time.

Member Reports

City of Cape Girardeau – Mr. Garrard reported that under TTF 5 the city is closing out West End Blvd and the Main Street project is under design. He said the Independence project has been shelved with inability to acquire right of way. This may be revisited in the future. The monies will be reallocated. He reported that under TTF6, Sprigg St is under construction. He said under maintenance, the city is working on Clark St. with the concrete street repair. He said the asphalt overlay will be finishing soon. He added that the 2024 asphalt just went to council and it has been awarded to Lappe for S Frederick, S Middle, and Jefferson which is around River Campus and South Sprigg. Mr. Garrard said S Sprigg St is under design with Bertling to follow with design. He said under the TAP projects, the city is finalizing the Kingshighway intersection and sidewalk with work complete in testing period. He reported they had the prebid meeting for the 74/Minnesota project today and it will go to council on May 6. He went on to say the city is

working on design of Cape Rock sidewalks. Mr. Shrimplin noted they will convene the TTF7 team in May and anticipates early fall public meetings and it will go to council toward the end of the year. Knudtson reiterated the importance of passing this tax. He reported that MoDOT had some scope changes for the Cape Rock sidewalk and the city had received initial go ahead and is working on design on the Cape LaCroix trail project.

Cape Girardeau County – Mr. Knudtson said Cape County is opening bids this Thursday for the asphalt contract for the year.

Cape Special Road District – Mr. Phillips noted they are under contract for the 2024 asphalt overlay and have a bid opening on a bridge project on Cape Rock Dr and 643 on April 30.

SEMO RPC – Mr. Christian said they have a TAC meeting this month on the 23rd at 2:00 p.m. He said they are still working on their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. He noted they have had numerous public meetings in the seven counties they serve. He said transportation has come up quite a bit and generally as a strength with transit as a weakness. He noted there is another county meeting on May 1st after the TPC meeting.

MoDOT – Mr. Killian noted there is a public meeting on the Rt K corridor on April 18 at Notre Dame High school from 4-6 pm. He reported on current projects, noting that on US 61 the bridge work has started, and they are replacing concrete on Mary St. and the sanitary sewer work is almost complete. He reported that on the Rt. K project, where they are widening on the south side with anticipated asphalt stage 1 replacement in late April. He said the March lettings will include Us 61 and Rt K asphalt pavement repair. He said bids are high and they are waiting to see Commission action. He went on to say that the signal improvements on MO 74 at I 55 and I 55 resurfacing projects just north of SEMPO area were let last month and April lettings include the Rt Y bridge over Little Indian Creek east of I55. He said the TAP deadline is April 26 and cost Share deadlines are July 19 & September 27. He said the MTFC (low interest loans) deadlines are May 1, August 7, and October 2nd.

Leslie Rose reported they are putting together the TAP selection committee to review applications and the scoring member and nonscoreing representative should be submitted by the end of April. There will be a meeting on May 7 and scoring results are needed by May 21 with an in-person meeting on May 23rd in Poplar Bluff to go over scores.

IDOT – Mr. Caldwell had no report.

FHWA MO Division – Ms. Cochran gave a heads up on performance targets that the greenhouse gas measures are on hold due to a legal challenge. She said there should be more information coming later.

Staff Report

Mr. McElroy had nothing to report.

There was no other business or communications.

Adjournment by Mr. Christian at 11:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Mills