



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

October 16, 2024

Osage Centre

1625 N Kingshighway, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Board Voting Members Present:

Mr. Dwain Hahs, City of Jackson
Ms. Stacy Kinder, City of Cape Girardeau
Mr. Mark Phillips, Cape Special District
Mr. Trevor Pulley, City of Cape Girardeau
Mr. Jeremy Tanz, SEMO Regional Planning Commission (SEMO RPC)
Matt Winters, City of Jackson

Board Non-Voting Members Present

Mr. Tom Caldwell, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
Ms. Cecelie Cochran, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) MO Div (via zoom)
Mr. Cary Harbison, SEMO Port Betsy
Ms. Betsy Tracy Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) IL Div (via zoom)

Technical Planning Committee (TPC) Members Present:

Mr. Shad Burner, SEMO REDI
Mr. Drew Christian, SEMO Regional Planning Commission (SEMO RPC)
Mr. Rodney Bollinger, City of Jackson

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

Mr. Mike Brandon, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (via Zoom)
Mr. Chris Crocker, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
Mr. Joe Killian, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)

Others Present:

None

Staff Present:

Mr. Alex McElroy, City of Cape Girardeau

Program Administration/Support Consultant Present:

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 October 16, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting was unanimously approved upon motion by Mr. Hahs seconded by Mr. Phillips.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 21, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting were unanimously approved upon motion by Mr. Phillips seconded by Mr. Hahs.

Communications from the Chairman

Chairman Tanz had no communication.

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

- **SEMPO Region Trail Connection Study** – Mr. McElroy reminded the committee there was a round of Open Houses in August where information from the public survey was provided. He noted the survey received 228 responses. He said the consultants outlined the northern and southern connections and solicited feedback from participants. He said the TPC received a brief update from the consultants at their last meeting but was limited with technical difficulties. He provided a handout from consultants as part of the agenda packet as an update. Mr. McElroy gave some highlights from the update, noting the consultants will give more details in November. He noted the consultants are in Phase IV of V phases, in which they develop recommendations and an implementation plan. He noted they will finish this phase in November and between December and February they will be working on a draft and final report for the Board's consideration.
- **Placer.ai Product Demonstration** – Mr. McElroy gave a brief review of this project, noting that at the beginning of the year, SEMPO invested in the Placer.ai system. He noted that every member has access, but it is being managed by SEMO RPC and so members should go through the RPC with requests for information. Mr. Christian gave a brief presentation on how it works. He noted that the company aggregates data on visitors and others in an area. He said Placer.ai is more economic development focused than transportation focused but can still provide valuable information. Mr. Christian then demonstrated how it works and what kind of information can be obtained. He said information is based on cell phone data and narrowed through geofencing information. He noted that it is a powerful tool, and he encouraged members to contact them with questions or requests for information.
- **Metropolitan transportation Plan Update** – Mr. McElroy reported that this project is underway. He said the RFQ was developed and released on September 17 with a four-week deadline. He said they directly solicited 24 firms regionally and listed it on AMPO and SEMPO's website. He

noted that three qualified proposals were received from CBB Transportation Engineers and Planners, Bacon Farmer Workman, and Lochmueller Group. He noted the submissions are being scored and should be done by Friday. He said that, if necessary, they will hold interviews at the next TPC meeting and hopes to have a recommendation to the Board at their November 20 meeting. He noted that this is the major flagship project for the planning year. He went on to remind the group that it is Federally required to update the plan every 5 years and SEMPO's expires April 2026.

- **SS4A Comprehensive Safety Action Plan** – Mr. McElroy reported that the final Open House for this Plan is on October 23 at the Osage Center from 4-6. He said the draft plan will be provided along with information boards. He provided a one-page promotional piece to the group. He reported the draft plan has been distributed to the Planning Committee and they are to submit comments by the end of today. He also distributed the plan to the Board. He said the goal is to put it up on SEMPO's website for people to review in advance of the open house. He said consultants are currently working on incorporating comments and developing the GIS story map which is an interactive map to track incidents. This will also be put on the SEMPO website. He reported that the Plan is to be completed by the end of this year and the Board needs to adopt it in January with the final report to Federal Highway in March 2025.

Member Reports

FHWA – MO Division – Ms. Cochran noted that the annual highway information seminar is coming up the week of December 2-6. She said the seminar is virtual and free and she will forward the information.

City of Cape Girardeau – Ms. Kinder noted that the city is working on finalizing work on the TTF 7 initiative ballot issue in November and will be issuing a report in December. Mr. Pulley noted that there is an Open House on Nov 7 from 4-6 at the Osage and Shawnee Community Centers for public input on nine projects. He reported they are mostly maintenance and repair projects. Mr. Pulley went on to report on past and current TTF projects.

City of Jackson – Mr. Hahs reported they received a cost share award from MoDOT in September for the Jackson Boulevard Street lighting project, and they are hoping to have the bid out by end of the year. He noted they will begin the Sunset Hills' bridge and the Deerwood roundabout projects in 2025. He said the grant to extend the street in the North Industrial Park and for infrastructure improvements has started and is ongoing in 2025. He said they will be budgeting maintenance projects in 2025. He noted that the Middle school improvements project which is a result of the intersection study is budgeted for 2025. Mr. Bollinger noted that the city's asphalt pavement improvement program has started. He noted that the city will be approving an agreement with Uptown Jackson Revitalization Organization on Monday for wayfinding and directional signage.

Cape Special Road District – Mr. Phillips noted they are completing their bridge replacement on Cape Rock Drive, and it should be open by the end of the week. He said that all asphalt overlay projects have been completed for the year with the exception of the overlay of that bridge.

SEMO Port – Mr. Harbison noted they are working on the FY 25 plans and specifications. He said they hope to bid the parking lot and driveway and sidewalk ADA improvements in November.

RPC – Mr. Christian noted he is working on a TIP amendment to bring to the TPC then the Board.

SEMO REDI – Mr. Burner noted they are focusing on regionalism and under this they are exploring the east/west corridor project that has been discussed in past years in a bit different approach, focusing on economic development. He noted they are collecting data from regional businesses on transportation needs. They are doing this to evaluate whether adding east or west access would impact their bottom line and whether it would help the region be in line for expansions in the future. He said they are also having conversations with IDOT and other political leaders in the area and suspects that there is interest in looking at what a potential west and/or east expansion could look like. He said the data is overwhelming that it would be positive economically, but the question is where the corridor would be and how to get it done. He said they are working through that approach now.

I-Dot – Mr. Caldwell said they are meeting with East/West Gateway and will be using some examples from SEMPO.

MoDOT – Mr. Crocker noted that the Rt 177 shoulder and overlay project is pushed back to 2025. He said asphalt should begin on the Kingshighway near 61 on October 22. He noted they should complete the repairs the following week and move to Rt K after. He said the Rt 72 mill/fill overlay is complete, and contractors will start on the turn lane at Rt 34 and 72. He said the intersection would be paved this year and the rest of the project will be completed next year. He noted the Rt 61 is about 75 percent complete with work still to be done north of Mary St. He noted that the project could be delayed. He noted that the Chester Bridge project is going well. He said the Rt K roundabout is operational and Rt 74 signal project is moving forward. Mr. Crocker noted that the studies being done by SEMPO are good opportunities to use for Cost Share projects with an application due date coming up down the road. He encouraged members to chat with him regarding potential projects. He said they are currently having a BRO call for projects due November 15 with selection mid-January. He noted that they have about \$4 million to put toward those applications. He said they sold 3.66 acres at Center Junction.

FHWA, MO Division - Ms. Tracy had nothing to report.

Staff Report

Mr. McElroy reported that next month there will be a resolution requiring a quorum. He noted that as part of Safety Action Plan, SEMPO will have to commit to toward zero and there is a need to adopt safety targets.

Other Business and Communications

There was no other business or communications.

Adjournment Motion

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:51 p.m. upon motion made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Hahs.

Respectfully submitted,
Marla Mills