



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2025

Cape Sportsplex

2526 Jim Drury Dr, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Board Voting Members Present:

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

Board Non-Voting Members Present

Mr. Thomas Caldwell, Illinois Department of Transportation (via Zoom)
Mr. Corbin Carlton, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
Ms. Cecelie Cochran, Federal Highway Administration-Mo Division (via Zoom)
Mr. Stephen Daume, Cape Girardeau County
Mr. Joe Killian, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
Md. Anna Musial, Federal Highway Administration – IL Division (via Zoom)

Technical Planning Committee (TPC) Members Present:

Mr. JoJo Stewart, Cape Regional Airport
Mr. Michael Brandon, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) (via Zoom)

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

Others Present:

Mr. Scott Emmelkamp, Planning Design Studios (via Zoom)
Trey Scott – Missouri Department of Transportation

Staff Present:

Mr. Alex McElroy, City of Cape Girardeau

Program Administration/Support Consultant Present:

Ms. Marla Mills, KLG Engineering (via ZOOM)

Call to Order

Chair Kinder called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Introductions

All those present introduced themselves. Mr. McElroy introduced those attending by Zoom.

Adoption of Agenda

Upon a motion by Mr. Pulley seconded by Mr. Tanz, the agenda of the July 16, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 18, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting minutes were unanimously approved upon motion by Mr. Pulley, seconded by Mr. Phillips.

Communications from the Chairman

Chair Kinder had no communication.

Public Comments

Chair Kinder 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 introduced Mr. Emmelkamp with Planning Design Studios, who gave a presentation on the Regional Trail Connection Study.

- He reviewed the timeline and public outreach, including an online survey.
- The biggest area of concern noted was unsafe/fast traffic.
- The study started with a previous study that had looked at the overall region. This study went deeper into analysis and alignment option evaluation and initially included two alignment options and a third was added after public outreach.
- Each of the alignment options has merits.
- North alignment was developed to avoid heavy traffic. Hwy 55 is the biggest barrier on all 3 options. On this alignment, the trail could utilize an underpass to get under 55 at LaSalle. But it is 10 miles long with 111 parcels along the route and has the most at grade crossings. The biggest con on this route is the length.
- Trail should not be on the road and best if it is adjacent to the road or adjacent to a creek.
- The middle alignment is shorter at 7.21 miles, has fewer parcels, and is most direct. However, the elevation profile is steeper. The biggest obstacle is the Hwy 55 and 306 crossing. Could put additional width on bridge if bridge were being replaced but not planned anytime soon. Would have to do a separate pedestrian crossing bridge as the current bridge is narrow. Also, this does not have many connections in Cape.
- With public input, a middle alternative was developed. This would run up adjacent to VMD where this is a bit of a creek to be adjacent to and then go under 55 at LaSalle. The entire route would be 7.92 miles with fewer stream and at grade crossings. This links to residential areas and improvements planned to 620 by MoDOT could help. Does have some steep slopes.
- South alignment goes through rural areas and is about 8 miles long with 95 parcels. More bridge and at grade crossings. Challenge at 55 and Bloomfield bridge. Does connect to Cape neighborhoods but lots of challenges.
- Used an evaluation matrix which showed the middle alternative route would be the least costly and meets more of the evaluation factors.

- They developed some trail guidelines.
- They developed a cost estimate for each alignment and suggestions for phasing.
- The full report is available.

Resolution No. 8, A Resolution adopting the SEMPO Region Trail Connection Study

Mr. McElroy provided handouts and noted he had a copy of the complete study on hand for anyone wishing to review it.

Ms. Kinder asked if the Study was adopted what the next steps would be. Mr. McElroy noted that it would be up to each community to use the Study to look for funding and include phases/portions in other improvements as recommended.

Upon a motion by Mr. Pulley, seconded by Ms. Kinder, Resolution No. 8, A Resolution adopting the SEMPO Region Trail Connection Study, was unanimously passed.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update – Mr. McElroy reported that both last week and this week the consultants have met with eight stakeholder groups and will be meeting with three additional groups tomorrow. He went on to say there is a public open house on Monday and Tuesday of next week. He provided a handout and asked members to share the information within their groups. In addition, Mr. McElroy provided a written update to the board.

FY 2026 Program Year and Transportation Projects – Mr. McElroy reminded the Board that this month begins the next cycle for SEMPO projects. He reviewed the projects adopted by the Board for the upcoming year.

Member Reports

City of Cape Girardeau – Mr. Pulley reported they are still working on Lexington and Perryville. He noted they should be done with South Sprigg by end of year. He said the biggest current issue for the City of Cape is water conditions.

City of Jackson – Mr. Bollinger reported on the E Main St. sidewalk project which was awarded recently. Contract forwarded to MoDOT. He said the Sunset Hills bridge replacement project contract was awarded to Putz Construction and they began work on June 17. He said the planning specs and estimates for the roundabout at Deerwood and Hwy 61 cost share project are complete and they are coordinating with Lochmueller. He went on to report that the Jackson Middle school TAP is in design. Mr. Bollinger reported on the East Main Street cost share lighting project noting it is expected to be let in August. He went on to report on the Recreational Trail Phase III, noting it received a MoDOT letter of acceptance on July 8. He said the concrete street improvement program was awarded and work will start this month. He said Mr. Walker flat statues have been placed in 6 locations under the pedestrian crossing safety program to raise awareness regarding pedestrians. He said the Fire Station #1 renovations project is nearing completion.

Cape Girardeau County – Mr. Daume reported on bridge construction progress. He reported on the jail noting it is moving toward completion, and they hope to utilize the facility in August.

Cape Special Road District – Mr. Phillips reported still waiting on asphalt overlay to start. He said the bridge project is under contract.

Cape Regional Airport – Mr. Stewart gave an update on the taxiway upgrades which started a few weeks ago and expected to go on until October. He said the FAA is starting a project on the approach lighting. He went on to give an update on additional projects.

SEMO RPC – Mr. Tanz reported they have a TAC meeting next Tuesday immediately following the Board meeting.

MoDOT - Mr. Carlton reported on the Emerson Bridge construction. He went on to report that Route Y should be open by July 25 and the contractor will start back on Rt 72 through Jackson in August. He said they are working on a drainage project in Cape and will require closures on some of Kingshighway. He said they did deck repairs and chip seal on the Bloomfield Road Bridge. He noted this is a temporary fix until a more permanent solution can be implemented. He said they are putting plans together for additional repairs in a larger contract and could begin this year or early next year. He said the bridge is not on list to be replaced until somewhere in 2030s as there are at least 15 other bridges in worse condition.

Mr. Killian noted that the Highway Commission approved the FY 26-37 STIP. He said they are working on the high priority unfunded needs list and there is a public meeting on August 28 in Poplar Bluff. He said they are also starting the asset management plan. He then noted that Trey Scott, who is currently an intern with MoDOT, has accepted a position and will be a paving specialist. He said there is no official word on leadership.

IDOT –No Report.

FHWA – Ms. Cochran noted that she had sent an email to Mr. McElroy regarding virtual registration for their Freight Management Operation practice for peer exchange about how to launch freight research and practices on August 20 & 21. She said it is free and virtual and noted it is a good resource item. She noted that they are gathering safety information on a list of high priority arterials that are coming in from the MPO areas to prioritize them for safety and operation. They should have the information by the conclusion of the federal fiscal year, and this is just the gathering of information.

Staff Report

Mr. McElroy reported no additional information 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 2.50 p.m. upon motion made by Mr. Pulley and seconded by Mr. Tanz.

Respectfully submitted,
Marla Mills