

ST. JOSEPH AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
COORDINATING COMMITTEE
1ST Floor Conference Room – 12:00 Noon
February 28, 2013

Voting members present:

Jerry Russell	Citizen Representative
Dan Hausman	Buchanan County
Byron Myers, Sr.	City of St. Joseph
Donna Jean Boyer	City of St. Joseph
J. Bruce Woody	City of St. Joseph

Staff members present:

Jody Carlson	City of St. Joseph
Ty Nagle	City of St. Joseph
Elaine Buckner	City of St. Joseph
Andy Clements	City of St. Joseph
Gunnar Hand	City of St. Joseph
Dustin Smith	City of St. Joseph

Others present:

Shannon Kusilek	MoDOT District #1
Tony McGaughy	MoDOT District #1
Angie Hoecker	MoDOT
Mike Latuszek	FHWA – Missouri
Paul Cockram	ATU Local #847

OPENING REPORTS

Chairperson Russell opened the meeting.

Roll Call. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes. **Member Myers moved to approve the minutes of the October 25th meeting. Member Hausman seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.**

Opportunity for public comment. No one appeared for comment.

OLD BUSINESS – No old business was brought before the committee.

NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Nagle introduced the new Transportation Planner, Gunnar Hand. Mr. Hand said he was raised in Kansas City where he currently lives. Growing up, he visited relatives in St. Joseph. He has a background in education, Long Range Transportation Planning and Land Use Planning. He is excited to learn about what is going on in this area.

Safe Routes to School – Presentation of a segment of schools within St. Joseph. Mr. Nagle reported that plans for Wathena, Elwood and Savannah are complete and the school districts have approved them. The evaluation

of St. Joseph's sidewalks within a two-block radius around nine schools is 90% complete. Estimates for each school range from \$500,000 to \$850,000. By the next meeting he should have a plan in draft form to bring to both MPO committees. Ms. Boyer asked if this program connects to a recent Police Department initiative. Mr. Nagle responded no, theirs was not infrastructure related.

Chairman Russell asked if property owners are aware of, or involved in, the process. Mr. Nagle said when the plan for a particular school is written and they apply for the grant, there will be a neighborhood meeting. Nine schools were initially selected to apply for grants, providing there are funds. Mr. Kuselik complimented the plan, saying it is more comprehensive than others he has seen.

Mr. Kuselik noted that Hosea School applied for a pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Alabama which was approved in the amount of \$16,000. It included a flashing light with a crosswalk.

MoDOT's Missouri on the Move. Mr. Kuselik presented information on a statewide effort to update their Long Range Transportation Plan. MoDOT will be seeking direction from the public concerning their needs. The effort will include listening sessions, mobile tours to view conditions and virtual forums. A direction will be created from those forums to update MoDOT's priority projects and solutions.

Mr. Kuselik went on to explain that Missouri has over 10,000 bridges in the state bridge inventory. Of that number, 213 are "major" bridges over 1,000' in length. The state of Missouri has the most major river crossings (53). Missouri has 33,000 miles of state highways and 28,000 miles of minor roads. In overall miles, Missouri has more miles than Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas combined. Missouri also has 48,000 miles of railroad tracks carrying 410 million tons of freight. The state has the second and third busiest rail yards in the nation (Kansas City and St. Louis). With respect to the importance of rivers, 15 barges can haul the equivalent of 1,050 semis.

Mr. Kuselik stated that MoDOT is a very efficient state agency. Their "Bolder Five Year" direction cut costs to put as much as possible into the transportation system, saving \$355 million thus far. Staff produced a record number of projects on time and under budget. The Safe and Sound Bridge program yielded 190 bridges replaced or rehabbed in the Northwest District alone. The "Better Roads - Better Future" program started in 2008. It put a minimum of 2' paved shoulders with rumble strips along the roadways. Locally, they resurfaced the Belt, Pear, I-229 and Rte. 59. Guard cable along I-29 and a right turn lane for Mitchell near the college was installed. MoDOT currently enjoys an 85% customer satisfaction rating. However, the transportation system cannot continue to be funded as it is. MoDOT's funding comes from federal/state fuel tax and license fees. Inflation and material costs have skyrocketed the last 10 years. 1992 was the last time Missourians invested in transportation. Since then, the cost of concrete and asphalt has tripled. He asked MPO members to get involved in talking to people and participating in the listening session in St. Joseph on April 11th. For more details, visit the "missourionthemove.org" web site under "Transportation Priorities". Mr. McGaughy said the session will center around break-out groups.

TIP Call for Projects. Mr. Nagle said he has collaborated with MoDOT and Federal Highway regarding our call for projects methodology. Currently the project summary form lists only projects and the need to show that funds are available. We are now adding "amendment or new" to the top of the form and focusing on funding for 10 years after the project has been completed. A signature line has also been added for the agency representative to verify that they have the proper funds to support the project for 10 years.

A full TIP update is underway with a round of amendments set for April should any projects need to be added.

One Cent Sales Tax. Mr. Nagle explained that gas tax revenue has declined due in part to higher gas mileage vehicles. In Missouri, 26,000 roadway miles need improving and 2,000 bridges need repair. A one cent sales

and use tax is proposed for 10 years, groceries and medicine being the exception to the tax. The tax should generate \$7.9 billion, with \$1 billion going to I-70. 60% of Missouri residents live within 30 miles of I-70.

Mr. McGaughy noted that I-70 and I-44 are the true economic engines of Missouri. The sales tax initiative is led by legislators with the Commission's support. MoDOT is trying to find out what people want in order to put together a ballot proposal that is palatable for most Missouri citizens. There will be a comprehensive list of projects for the voters' information.

Mr. Clements asked how the activity will incorporate the MPO's investments and projects in its Long Range Transportation Plan. The LRTP process is a significant effort and should drive the process from this region. Mr. McGaughy explained that listening sessions are another way to capture information. The MPO's are already in place. Mr. Clements asked what process is envisioned for taking general citizen and MPO input. Mr. McGaughy said he didn't know, that it is a partnership they have already developed and the MPO would be asked to help prioritize. It should be more of a collaborative discussion. The legislature may prescribe how the process should be done. The discussion is now just opening and he welcomes the MPO's suggestions on how to define the process.

Member Hausman said the 10% (\$397 million) to cities/counties will follow the carte formula. The county expects a 40% increase in those funds. Mr. McGaughy said concerning 5% city and 5% county, the Region gets to make the determination and is flexible in the type of projects. As a region, we have never competed well against higher population areas. Once the region gets their piece of the pie, they can spend it without it being prescribed.

Mr. Hausman said the carte formula is based on the tax base, population, and miles of road. Mr. Clements asked if that is for the county minus the city? Member Hausman responded that it is the total for the entire county, including the city.

Mr. Kuselik said the Northwest District should see \$24 million more in funds. They currently receive \$30 million, so it would almost double the amount. Mr. McGaughy said as it stands now it is not tied to a specific project.

Chairman Russell contended that adding lanes to I-70 is no way to convince voters in Northwest Missouri to vote for a 1% sales tax for 10 years. Mr. Kuselik pointed out that the city and county will benefit by getting an extra 10%. Chairman Russell said he is sick and tired of pouring money into I-70 but doing nothing to relieve the traffic on it, such as improving 36 Highway. Illinois is saying "what is wrong with you people?" The use of 36 Highway is not encouraged. It is a political football. It may serve 60% of the population, but the rural vote will prevail. It needs to have something big for everyone. Northwest Missouri has been ignored because of the pressure to go through the gate to St. Louis.

Mr. McGaughy agreed that MoDOT hears the same thing from the 20 counties they serve in Northwest Missouri. Chairman Russell said people should be encouraged to provide input at the listening sessions. Mr. McGaughy noted that he and Mr. Kuselik are ambassadors to speak to groups. They want all voices at the table.

ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 25th at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be served.