

ST. JOSEPH AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

April 11, 2013

Voting Members Present:

Dustin Smith	City of St. Joseph
Ty Nagle	City of St. Joseph
Gunnar Hand	City of St. Joseph
Shannon Kusilek	MoDOT - NW
Gary Leftin	City of St. Joseph
Andrew Clements	City of St. Joseph
Scott Gatewood	City of St. Joseph
Angie Hoecker	MoDOT - CO
Kenny Lance	City of Savannah

Other:

Paul Cockram	ATU Local #847
Mary Gaston	St. Joseph Transit
Elaine Buckner	City of St. Joseph
Michael Rinehart	MoDOT – NW
Beth Langley	OATS, Inc.

OPENING REPORTS - Roll Call of Voting Members. A quorum was present.

Approval of February 13, 2013 meeting minutes. **Member Clements moved, and Member Leftin seconded, that the minutes of the February 13, 2013 meeting be approved as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.**

Opportunity for Public Comments. Mr. Rinehart encouraged everyone to attend the last of MoDOT's 15 listening sessions at MWSU this date, April 11th.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS – Introduction of Gunnar Hand, Transportation Planner, City of St. Joseph. Chairperson Smith introduced Mr. Hand, the new planner working with Ty Nagle. Member Hand told the group that his background is city and regional planning. He has a Master's degree from Brooklyn, New York and has worked in Joplin, Kansas City, New York and Los Angeles. He looks forward to working with this community.

Safe Routes to School. Member Nagle explained that the focus was moved to the Kansas side to complete their application for this round of grants. Sidewalk conditions have been evaluated in a 2-block radius around Wathena and Elwood schools. Depending on the rating, the cost to upgrade or construct sidewalks ranges up to \$9.00/sq. yd. The Elwood project was divided into two phases totaling \$1,470,000. This is an update to the previously approved plan for Elwood.

The Wathena school sidewalk project totals \$1,600,000. Safe Routes to School grants support the “Walking School Bus” which ties in with sidewalks. Member Leftin asked if there are historical areas with brick sidewalks. Member Nagle responded that downtown Wathena is historic, but there are no brick sidewalks. Member Leftin noted that ADA improvements in historical districts are more complicated. **Member Kuselik moved to approve the updated Riverside School District Safe Routes to School Plan. Member Clements seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.**

INVEST – Infrastructure Voluntary Evaluation Sustainability Tool – Application Overview. Member Hand reported that two grants are being pursued from Federal Highway. An on-line evaluation tool to program each project has been created. Most things that start voluntarily actually become part of the process. The intent is to help people produce a more sustainable transportation system through planning, operation and maintenance. Their goal is to steer programs and practices towards developing sustainable highways. URS will include this in their process.

The MPO will apply for two projects. The first project, a “Systems Planning” project, will show the benefits of building a more sustainable roadway. This MPO already promotes the “Complete Streets” concept. A second project is “Bikebelong” which will develop community partnerships and develop Share the Road signs and sharrows along Noyes Boulevard to let users of the trail know there is an extension of the trail further on. Grant applications are due May 24th and selections known in August. The grant should cover materials and the City Street Division will probably do the work.

2012-2015 TIP Amendments – Presentation and Approval. Member Kuselik noted that in the past MoDOT proposed an amendment to the 2012 TIP to add sidewalks along Frederick, Woodbine to the Belt, with state enhancement dollars. The amendment was approved and it was considered a state project. It has since changed to a federally funded project with design and right of way in 2013 and engineering and construction in 2014. MoDOT pays for the cost up front and will be reimbursed later by Federal Highway. **Member Clements moved to approve the TIP amendment requested by MoDOT with the caveat that changes discussed including the 80-20 split be made subject to positive outcome from the public comment period and that the MPO has the ability to then review the comments.** Member Nagle said another amendment is to add U.S. 36 Highway engineering for the Ag Expo Center interchange. Member Kuselik explained that the developer is fronting the money for the design. Dollars were put in the 2013 TIP for design to administer the contract. Rather than \$400,000 in the STIP, only \$5,000 MoDOT dollars will be needed.

Member Nagle described two more proposed TIP amendments. Wathena has received a Pony Express Trail Grant for design work, as well as downtown streetscape improvement design. Member Clements said there is an additional comment period to provide the breakout on state and federal funds to operate the Boulevard and 36 Highway interchange. The totals are the same. Member Kuselik explained that the amount includes both preliminary design and construction engineering, with the fiscal years broken out and the 80/20 split noted. Federal dollars must be recognized to authorize design work. **Member Clements moved to approve**

the previously noted TIP amendments. Member Lance seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

2014-2017 TIP Update. The 2012 TIP will be approved in the June meeting. Member Hand explained updated selection criteria to be used in the next round. The updates make internal evaluations easier, builds in more discretion and makes the information more concise. It now has categories for aviation, rail, port, and freight and each one has a safety category. Member Nagle noted that the forms now have signature lines to attest to the sponsor's financial ability to maintain the improvements, so once approved it can immediately be sent out. More points are given for mitigation. Member Kuselik asked if maintenance projects would go through this process. Member Clements said yes, according to FHA. Member Kuselik asked if, timewise, it affects the TIP. Member Clements said it won't be an issue. **He moved to approve the modifications to the TIP submittal form. Member Hoecker seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.**

Member Kuselik said MoDOT will be updating the 2014 TIP shortly and the STIP every year. They are also completing the 2014-18 State Highway TIP.

Member Kuselik reviewed new projects in the MPO area in the June TIP. The Ag Expo Center interchange will use \$4.8 million in Economic Development Funds. The developer will upfront the money for the diamond style interchange and, beginning in 2016, MoDOT will reimburse the developer based on the number of jobs created. The interchange will be a single span overpass three-lane bridge with sidewalks on the west side. MoDOT will design and award the interchange work, and oversee construction.

Member Clements reminded everyone of the MPO policy on sidewalks on both sides of new bridges over highways. Member Kuselik explained that only the west side is currently developed. The bridge will be designed to easily add a sidewalk later on the other side.

Member Clements asked about public road connections. Member Smith inquired about considerations for Mitchell Woods Business Park and Pickett Road. Member Kuselik said the developer will connect the interchange to Pickett Road. As it stands now, there will be a stub road ending on the north side. The developer is discussing going to the north at some point. Member Smith said he was not aware of any discussions. Member Clements noted that MoDOT will need to request a variance for the bridge approach. The MPO will be looking for a commitment that when development occurs, the state or developer will put in the sidewalk entirely at their cost. Member Kuselik said he will speak to Mr. Hausman about it.

Member Smith asked how the distance between interchanges (I-29) and the new interchange relates to the MPO's LRTP and the possibility of 36 Highway being designated as a freeway. He also wanted to know how it would affect future designations. Member Clements said in looking at the model, because of the issue of the outer ring, the consultant recommended this wasn't the best idea, but the committee voted to support it a year ago. The consultant felt the interchange was too close and the location was in conflict with the outer road and there are no plans for connecting to other roads. Approval will be sought in June.

Member Kuselik explained resurfacing projects on Rt. A, Rt. JJ and Rt. V. Sidewalk improvements on North Belt Highway were described as three projects between Karnes Road and County Line Road totaling \$932,000. A transit bus turnout along Ryan's Restaurant is being discussed. Member Leftin asked about snow removal on the new sidewalks. Member Clements said it is the abutting property owner's responsibility. Mr. Cockram asked if a pedestrian signal will further delay traffic getting onto the Belt Highway. He drives a bus and it is a "disaster" trying to get across the Belt Highway. Member Rinehart said he isn't sure if MoDOT will keep the current new signal timing on the Belt Highway.

Chairperson Smith said in the development review process, his department is constantly fighting battles to get sidewalks along any street, not just the Belt Highway. Sidewalks on the Belt is a perfect example that what the City has insisted on over the years has significantly reduced the cost of a project. He questioned if the project would have been built if the City didn't have segments of new sidewalk already in place. Member Kuselik said he believed the project would have been done, but the money went further than it would have. Member Clements said MoDOT made a good point in their application about leveraging local investment in St. Joseph. Member Nagle said the application was also timely in relation to the Transit Operational Plan that recommended using the Belt Highway for turnouts but couldn't because of the lack of sidewalks along that highway. Member Kuselik said MoDOT knows that sidewalks need to be added and that they are in their ADA transition plan. Member Clements said MoDOT has come a long way with including sidewalks along their projects. Member Kusilek said that, historically, MoDOT has not put in many sidewalks. In the future, though, Federal Highway is looking at total transportation, so they should be installing more sidewalks. In 2015 MoDOT has money set aside to do sidewalk improvements along their highways through small towns when improvements are done on their right of way.

Mr. Kuselik said in 2014 MoDOT will be repairing the I-229 double decker viaduct through downtown, a \$2 million project. Part of I-229 will be shut down at different times during that project.

Reimbursement for the Ag Expo Center project totals \$4.88 million in 2016. The guard cable contract repairs will receive \$353,000. That project has almost eliminated cross over accidents. Annual contracts for parts of the interstate asphalt pavement repair total \$270,000. In summary, federal project funds total \$38.35 million and local \$4.21 million, for a grand total of \$42.56 million in construction investment.

Member Leftin questioned the status of the Alabama bridge project. Member Kuselik replied that at this point MoDOT has nothing to do with it, it is a city project.

Bike to Work – 2013 Schedule. Member Hand noted that Bike to Work month is May; Week is May 13-17; and Day is the 17th. He explained that most of last years' events are being repeated. The goal is to make biking to work an everyday occurrence. Some businesses are giving a discount to customers who ride their bike to the business on the 17th. The MPO applied for and was awarded a \$1,000 Blueprint for Safety grant. T-shirts were designed and sold (sold out!) New sponsors have become involved. An awards ceremony will be held at the Hi Ho Grill.

Better Block. Member Nagle reported that Better Block will take place May 3rd and 4th during Apple Blossom festivities and the city barbecue. A downtown city block in need of repair will receive temporary improvements to the buildings and streetscape improvements. The goal is to change people's perception by seeing the block full of activity. He and Member Hand are in charge of the streetscape work.

Draft Title VI – EJ. Member Hand said the Title VI program was updated two months ago. Two weeks after approval the City received a note from KDOT saying there was a new update which is now due in December 2013. The new information has been added and it has been advertised for public comment. Technical Committee approval will be requested in the June 2013 meeting. Member Clements explained that Title VI calls for consideration of minority and low income needs in transportation planning.

OTHER/ADJOURN – The meeting adjourned by motion at 12:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. at Rosecrans Memorial Airport.