

ST. JOSEPH AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
COORDINATING COMMITTEE
1ST Floor Conference Room – 12:00 Noon
April 25, 2013

Voting members present:

Jerry Russell, Chairperson	Citizen Representative
Dan Hausman	Buchanan County
Byron Myers, Sr.	City of St. Joseph
Jill Cornett	City of Savannah
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:

Mike Rinehart	City of St. Joseph
Shannon Kusilek	MoDOT District #1
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 February 28th meeting. Member Woody 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 – Safe Routes to School – presentation and approval of updated Riverside School District (RSD) Plan. Mr. Nagle explained that the RSD, which includes Wathena and Elwood schools, is updating their plan. The Technical Committee recommended it for approval at their last meeting. The sidewalks connect to the Rail to Trail route recently proposed. The School District applied for federal funds to connect Downtown Wathena to the park. He presented a power point explanation of the condition/non-existence of the sidewalks in a 2-block area of the schools. Due to the lack of sidewalks, the estimate to provide them is \$3 million for two project phases. One thing that can be done now to improve student safety is to promote “Walking School Buses”. Chairperson Russell asked for a show of hands to approve the updated plan. All were in favor. The Plan will now go to the RSD for their approval.

2012-2015 TIP Amendments – presentation and approval. Mr. Kuselik presented two amendments: 1) MoDOT’s project to complete filling in sidewalks on Frederick from Woodbine to the Belt has now changed from a state grant to federal funds (80/20). A right of way issue is delaying the project from 2013 to 2014. They hope to award the project in August 2013 and possibly complete it this construction season. 2) The Ag Expo Center Board signed the Economic Development Agreement with MoDOT for a new 36 Highway interchange. Design dollars need to be added in 2013.

Mr. Nagle described two amendments requested by the City of Wathena: 1) Pony Express Trail, \$7,500 engineering costs; and 2) Wathena Downtown Streetscape, \$7,500. All were in favor.

2014-2017 TIP Update – updated selection criteria and draft document before June approval. Mr. Nagle explained that as part of the new TIP document, Tip evaluation criteria was examined. Consistency and uniformity with the LRTP was the goal. The former performance evaluation form did not consider aviation, rail, port or freight, so a category for those was added. MoDOT asked for criteria for maintenance projects to be included on the new form. In addition, a signature line was added at the bottom of the page to assure from the start that the sponsor has sufficient funds for the project.

Mr. Nagle noted that the 2014 TIP is now out for comment. It contains some of the new projects for the region in 2016-17 which were not in the 2012 final version, such as the crosswinds runway project at the airport – design 2014 and construction 2015.

Mr. Kuselik showed slides of projects MoDOT is submitting in the 2014 TIP. He described the Ag Expo Center interchange as a diamond style, single span overpass with a sidewalk on the west side of the bridge. It is being designed by private consultants and administered through MoDOT. Mr. Nagle asked if sidewalks could be retrofitted. Mr. Kuselik responded if the three lane bridge expands to a four lane bridge in the future, a sidewalk could then be added. The interchange will stub on the north and the Expo Board will construct a road to Pickett. Member Woody said he continues to worry about the pressure that a successful development would put on Pickett Road between Riverside and Riverside Terrace, which is a narrow, two-lane road. He sees the interchange as offering some relief for the industrial park. He suggested roundabouts at Riverside. Mr. Kuselik agreed that roundabouts would be a good idea at Riverside and that roundabouts are also being considered at off ramps. When the interchange is completed in 2016, the Ag Board will be reimbursed based on the jobs they create. Eventually, MoDOT will own the interchange.

Mr. Kuselik talked about the following projects:
Resurfacing in 2014 using federal funds on Rte. A, Rte. JJ and Rte. V.

Three sidewalk projects using \$330,000 from district-wide enhancement funds: 1) along N. Belt, Karnes to Wal-Mart; 2) along the Belt Highway, from Ashland to south of Blackwell; and 3) along the Belt Highway from Wal-Mart to Northridge.

Bridge repairs along I-229 where bridge bearings will be replaced and steel beams painted in the spring of 2014. Southbound lanes through downtown St. Joseph will be closed for a period of time.

An interchange for the Ag Expo Center is estimated to cost a maximum of \$4.8 million. Any costs in excess of that amount will be paid by the Ag Expo Center.

On call services for guard cable repairs on I-29; interstate pavement repair for I-29 and I-229; and interstate asphalt repairs.

Scoping projects include: 1) interchange improvements at 169 Highway and I-29 by Menards; 2) widen 169 Highway from I-29 to Rt. AC; and 3) major viaduct repairs in downtown St. Joseph.

A total of \$42.5 million will be invested in this area over the next few years. A vote for MPO approval will be scheduled for the June meeting.

Bike to Work – 2013 schedule. Mr. Hand said Bike to Work Day is May 17th. More emphasis is being given to attracting larger employers and adding programs. Some businesses are giving discounts on May 17th if the customer rides their bike to their business. There is a group prize for having the most employees participating at a business. Among last year's employer participants were: Trinity, UMB, American Family, MWSU, and Heartland Health. A grant was received from MoDOT.

Better Block – 2013 schedule. Mr. Nagle reported this second year effort will occur May 3rd and 4th during Apple Blossom festivities. Francis Street will be the focus. The event is nationwide. Many success stories have resulted from business test runs and property owners finding potential leasees or sales.

Mr. Hand explained that the MPO is interested in the streetscape transportation aspect. \$1,000 has been raised for the improvements, which include adding trees in tree wells. Public Works Traffic and Street Maintenance have worked closely with MPO staff in the Better Block effort.

ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 27th at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be served during the meeting.