

ST. JOSEPH AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
COORDINATING COMMITTEE
4th Floor Conference Room – 12:00 Noon
October 24, 2013

Voting members present:

Jerry Russell, Chairperson	Citizen at large
Bryon Myers, Sr.	City of St. Joseph
Donna Jean Boyer	City of St. Joseph
J. Bruce Woody	City of St. Joseph
Dan Hausman	Buchanan County

Staff members present:

Ty Nagle	MPO Staff
John Schmidt	MPO Staff
Elaine Buckner	MPO Staff

Others present:

Jody Carlson	City of St. Joseph
Andy Clements	City of St. Joseph
Mike Rinehart	MoDOT
Shannon Kusilek	MoDOT
Paul Cockram	ATU Local #847

OPENING REPORTS

Chairperson Russell opened the meeting.

Roll Call. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes. **Member Hausman moved to approve the minutes of the August 22nd meeting. Member Boyer 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 Mr. John Schmidt, Transportation Planner for the MPO, who replaces Gunnar Hand. Mr. Schmidt explained that he has worked as a transportation planner in Kansas City on both sides of the state line and has worked with local communities seeking grants. He has been involved in large and small projects.

Active Living by Design – Video Part 1. Mr. Nagle showed a video, focusing on the policy-making side of community design with a case study in Detroit. The community was built in 1947 and is still thriving. He noted that St. Joseph has many of the attributes described in the video and is making great progress with policy.

2014 UPWP Approval – Mr. Nagle reported that the draft copy which was examined at the last meeting has had comments from KDOT, MoDOT, Federal Highway and 1-DOT incorporated into the final copy.

Mr. Nagle reviewed key efforts for 2014:

Rails to Trails. This version has been accepted by Wathena, Elwood, Country Club Village and Savannah. St. Joseph's City Council will consider it for action in the near future.

Bike and pedestrian counts. Now that counts have been taken for five years, trends will emerge.

Bike to Work. Participants increased from 25 to more than 100. MoDOT has increased the 2014 grant from \$1,500 to \$2,000, which was a great help.

Second annual Walk to School Day. Staff is trying to incorporate findings from the Transit Development Plan. A transit group has been formed to assist with implementing the findings.

Land Use Plan for Village of Country Club. Mr. Nagle said the initial thought was to produce a corridor analysis study around 71 Highway for land use and how to preserve it as a whole. The project bounds then increased to examine Village planning as a whole. He described the Village boundaries as: DD on the west; County Line Road on the south; parcels just east of the Belt Highway; and north to the I-29 interchange.

71 Highway & Village of Country Club entrance improvements. Mr. Rinehart noted that MoDOT improvements started this week to the entrance, beginning with pavement repair. Some of the intersection work will be completed next spring. The intent is to upgrade the roadway surface and shoulders. Herzog is the contractor. He explained that following completion of the improvements, northbound 71 Highway traffic desiring to turn left onto 59 Highway will be able to see southbound traffic without turning their head to look for them. The southbound off ramp onto 59 Highway is now fairly far from the intersection. When improved, it will be an adjacent right turn lane and function as a classic T-intersection.

Better Block. Mr. Nagle reported that much was accomplished this year to make Better Block self-sustainable. \$1,200 in private donations purchased fencing and a bike rack for future use. The group is prepared to run on its own, while keeping the MPO and MoKan in the conversation.

Walk to School Day. Mr. Nagle noted that the St. Joseph School District has a new Safety and Transportation Director who wants to be active in promoting walking to school. Live Well St. Joseph is also involved. Their funds were used to purchase T-shirts for the classes with the most walkers on Walk to School Day. The top five schools are being given "Blender Parties". Promotions included media coverage through Facebook, News-Press, and KQ2's "Live @ 5". School participation totals can be used as a baseline for the Safe Routes to Schools program. Classes with the highest percentages of students walking to school were from: Lafayette 6.4%; Hosea 45.5%; Lindberg 26.5%; and Bode 14.9%. Pickett Elementary and Pershing Elementary didn't participate.

2014 Bike to Work Grant, Mr. Schmidt reported receiving feedback from the MPO's grant application for 1.6 miles of signage improvements and sharrows for bike lanes. The comments were that our data was good but they wanted more emphasis on local commitment. The MPO will either reapply for the same grant in a couple of years or change the scope and apply for something new.

MISCELLANEOUS – Member Myers reported on a recent "City Talk" meeting the City Council had with property owners and residents in the area of St. Joseph Avenue. Eleven people spoke to the Council and ten of those had positive comments about the just completed improvements on St. Joseph Avenue.

ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 19th (third Thursday) at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be served during the meeting.