

# ST. JOSEPH AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

## Technical Committee

Buchanan County Court House

October 10, 2013

### Voting Members Present:

Dustin Smith	City of St. Joseph
Jody Carlson	City of St. Joseph
Dan Hausman	Buchanan County
Shannon Kusilek	MoDOT - NW
Andrew Clements	City of St. Joseph
Scott Gatewood	City of St. Joseph
Abe Forney	City of St. Joseph
Bill Shellhorn	Village of Country Club
Roger Sparks	City of St. Joseph
Jim Richardson	City of Wathena

### Other:

Mary Gaston	St. Joseph Transit
Michael Rinehart	MoDOT – NW
Donald Dillman	City of Savannah
Beth Langley	OATS, Inc.

### Staff:

Ty Nagle	City of St. Joseph
John Schmidt	City of St. Joseph
Elaine Buckner	City of St. Joseph

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

**Approval of August 22, 2013 meeting minutes.** **Member Hausman moved, and Member Sparks seconded, that the minutes of the August 22, 2013 meeting be approved as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Opportunity for Public Comments.** None were given.

**OLD BUSINESS – None.**

**NEW BUSINESS –** Chairperson Smith introduced and welcomed Mr. John Schmidt, the MPO's new Transportation Planner, who replaces Gunnar Hand. Member Schmidt said he is happy to be here and explained that he has been in the transportation planning field on both the Kansas and Missouri side of Kansas City. He has also worked in local government and has kept active in the planning association so he is acquainted with this MPO's work. He is also familiar with grants and procedures.

**Designing Healthy Communities – Video Part 1.** Member Nagle showed the first of a four-part series which will be continued in future meetings as agenda time allows.

**2014 Work UPWP – Work elements to be completed in 2014 and Alignment with Strategic Plan.** Mr. Nagle said the Walk to School Day was first promoted by the MPO, but School District officials didn't think it would be safe without improving the environment. A handful of schools were selected and the project was presented

to the school district's director of safety and transportation. He wanted to take it district wide and challenged each school to explore it. MPO staff worked with Live Well St. Joseph. T-shirts are given for prizes with schools with the most students who walked and biked to school. Lindbergh School participated last year and those numbers were used as a base line. Even if schools did not want to challenge kids to walk, it is beneficial to get a baseline count for school classes to incorporate in the Safe Routes to School Plan.

MPO staff appeared on a "Live at 5:00" show; Fox 26 started to record at one of the schools; KQ2 visited Eugene Field School; and a News-Press reporter wrote an article. The five school classes with the highest participation will receive a "blender party". The vegetables will come from community gardens planted by Live Well St. Joseph.

Percentage of students walking/biking = 6.4%; Lindberg = 26.5%; Hosea = 45.5% (grades 6-5-4). Hopefully, other schools will send their tally for a baseline. Ms. Langley remarked that nothing was sent to parents at Lindbergh. She doesn't feel comfortable with having her child walk to Lindbergh. Member Clements noted that the "Walking School Bus" is a way to improve safety.

Member Nagle said the PTA was sent an invitation regarding the Walking School Bus. However, when the Director of Transportation and Safety took over, he implied he would do it district-wide. The MPO is not as able to be as "hands on" with each PTA to look at different routes to walk them. The SRTS grant allows infrastructure improvements such as the St. Joseph Avenue Livability Project. The kids that did walk said they did it because they got a phone call from the PTA. Ms. Langley said perhaps the School District could use their alert phone system with parents. Member Hausman asked if schools in certain areas are being targeted. Member Nagle said no, the approach is district-wide with email and flyers to all principals, along with incentives to walk. They ask that teachers ask each morning who walked or biked. Only elementary students are being challenged at this time. Member Sparks asked which schools are the worst for walking accessibility. Member Nagle responded Pickett and Pershing.

Grant award for 2014 Bike to Work Week. Member Nagle said this year the MPO received a \$1,500 grant for Bike to Work Week, Month and Day, along with \$300 from sponsors. The \$300 was unspent from the grant, but over 100 registered for 2014 so \$2,000 was awarded for next year's grant. The money will be spent for t-shirts and public outreach. Several downtown businesses offered 10-20% discounts to people biking to their business that day.

TIP Call for Projects Out. Member Nagle announced that the cutoff date for projects is the second Friday in November.

**OTHER/ADJOURN** – The meeting adjourned by motion at 11:15 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. with the location yet to be decided.