

ST. JOSEPH AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Technical Committee

City Hall

December 10, 2013

Voting Members Present:

Shannon Kusilek	MoDOT - NW
Andrew Clements	City of St. Joseph
Scott Gatewood	City of St. Joseph
Bill Shellhorn	Village of Country Club
Jim Richardson	City of Wathena
Angela Hoecker	MoDOT

Other:

Mary Gaston	St. Joseph Transit
Michael Rinehart	MoDOT – NW
Beth Langley	OATS, Inc.
Paul Cockram	ATU Local 847
Kenneth Reeder	Public Citizen Local Associates

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. In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Member Clements directed the meeting.

Approval of October 10, 2013 meeting minutes. **Member Kusilek moved, and Member Shellhorn seconded, that the minutes of the October 10, 2013 meeting be approved as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.**

Opportunity for Public Comments. None were given.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS – Member Clements thanked Ms. Beth Langley, OATS Manager, for the use of their facility and wonderful refreshments.

Designing Healthy Communities – Video Part 2. Member Nagle showed Part 2 of the video which demonstrated ways to create or rehab areas to encourage walking and biking.

2040 MTP (formerly LRTP) Update. Mr. Nagle has begun the 5-year update for the outlook for 2040. Two groups (one transit) are working separately and together to go over the overall goals of the community. A public opinion survey ranked economic vitality at the top of the list. He highlighted other results of the survey: Wathena and Elwood residents perceived transportation difficulties as improving; St. Joseph residents increased their travel downtown, but cited lack of shopping, entertainment and parking as being deterrents. Downtown parking lots were perceived as unsafe. Perceptions of travel ease improved on the Belt and Frederick. While the Belt was #1 in congestion, it improved 4%.

Areas needing improvement: Downtown St. Joseph and St. Joseph's south end were at the top of the list, with the Riverfront also ranking higher on the list of needing improvements. Public transportation usage in St. Joseph is 4% higher than the national average, with hospital and medical trips being the top reason for transit use. Over the last nine years, 73% of our population believes we have an excellent or good rating on sidewalks/trails. 23% of the residents say the east end of St. Joseph needs more sidewalks.

Traveling to Kansas City between 2008 and 2013. 22% of the respondents are going to Kansas City one or more times a week. 47% responded that they drove less due to gas prices. 9% to 11% said they would buy a more fuel efficient car.

Fewer people in their 20's and 30's are obtaining driver's licenses, partly because they are moving into more population dense areas where a personal vehicle is less mandatory.

Funding. The majority wanted to focus on prioritizing existing funding. 67% in 2008 and 54% in 2013 said no tax is acceptable for supporting a transportation system. 2012 traffic counts were put in maps. Items slated for 2014 were added to the UPWP.

Next steps. Draft goals for the 2015 document and wrap up early fall of 2014, which includes meeting with large businesses and employers.

Tier projects 1-2-3 that haven't been done will be moved forward. Member Schmidt reported there is an emphasis on pavement management. That committee has met twice. Member Clements explained that the first year is working on the model and technical things. The Steering Committee is involved in the final year. The technical analysis is nearly done.

2014-2017 TIP Amendments – BR-42 and BR-49. Member Nagle Ty received two projects from MoDOT. Member Kusilek explained that MoDOT is asking to pull the bridge painting work out of the scope of two bridge projects and make them a separate bid. This would require a new project in the TIP in 2016.

The second project will include bridges on Highway 36 in the MPO and one in Atchison & one in Holt County. **Member Kusilek moved to approve the two TIP amendments. Member Hoecker seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.**

MoDOT Regional Prioritization Checklist. Member Schmidt reported attending a recent meeting at MoDOT. They are working on an accountability product to identify measurable benefits. The final due date is June 2014.

Mr. Kusilek noted that since last February, MoDOT has worked with its "Missouri on the Move" campaign. In receiving comments from 20,000 people statewide, they have learned that their main concerns are: safety; take care of the system; investment in economic development; and providing better intermodal choices. All future projects will be developed using those 4 main themes.

Member Schmidt commented that land use plans, leveraging funds, livability and community development factors go along with goals in the transportation plan. Member Kusilek said an initiative petition for a statewide 1% sales tax never made it out of the House. Now there is a new group of Missourians for Safe Transportation Jobs. They filed the language with the Secretary of State to redo the 1% sales tax proposal and remove money

for I-70. They are shooting for a November 2014 ballot. It states that MoDOT that will provide a list of projects that will be funded. The three RPCs and this MPO will help develop that list of projects between now and February. In March-April, RCPs and MPOs around the state will prioritize projects and in April-May, MoDOT will use that information to prepare a final list for the November ballot. Member Hoecker that it is important to capture rail, port, and aviation for freight, so that the list represents all needs and modes. Member Clements said it is hard to engage freight. Member Kusilek said the process should be submitted to MoDOT. Member Clements reminded everyone to log onto Missouri on the Move to learn and comment. His personal view is that it is a breath of fresh air and a well done plan.

Member Clements updated the status of an initiative petition. Two weeks ago a group filed a lawsuit with the Secretary of State saying the ballot language was too complicated and did not meet statutory requirements, so the signatures were invalid. If the language has to be revised, the petitions will be thrown out. Member Rinehart said is very unlikely that they will be successful.

Member Clements asked for items not on the agenda. Member Schmidt noted the MPO has been involved with MoDOT on standards prioritization. The MPO can model and respond to the national level. The likely outcome will be new standards and new levels of effectiveness of transportation systems in the future.

Country Club Village. Member Nagle reviewed a 2014 UPWP project to update the Village of Country Club Land Use and Subdivision Code. He has been working with the Village, using their GIS files to update. They have created files with MoKAN. He met with their Board of Trustees and Planning Commission. They were very excited that the MPO will be doing this. In January he will go to their Planning Commission with things they have found that need attention.

OTHER/ADJOURN - Member Hoecker moved to adjourn. Member Nagle seconded the motion.

Mr. Kenneth Reeder asked about priorities and funding for ports. Member Kusilek said MoDOT has a list of projects from the Summit in Jefferson City. Only so much funding was identified. They have that list to incorporate into what the MPO develops. He will give it to Mr. Clements. Member Hoecker reported on two priorities for St. Joseph. The first is a Transfer Station for Liquid Biosolids Storage Tanks - \$1.2 million - complete in 2015. The second is Additional Rail Car Storage - \$5 million. Mr. Reeder asked what the tax should generate for 10 years for rail and port. Member Kusilek said the numbers are not yet available. Member Hoecker said the projects developed for the ballot are committed to Missourians. Member Clements said the feedback from voters was that just approving a pot of money was not going to float.

The motion to adjourn at 11:40 a.m. was approved. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 13th, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. with the location yet to be decided.