

ST. JOSEPH AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
June 12, 2008

A meeting of the Coordinating Committee for the St. Joseph Area Transportation Study was held at 12:00 noon in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, City Hall, St. Joseph, Missouri, on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

**Voting members present:**

Gary Roach, Vice-Chair	City of St. Joseph
Bill Kretzer	City of Savannah
Julia Levinn	Village of Country Club
Dan Hausman	Buchanan County
Bill Falkner	City of St. Joseph

**Staff members present:**

Bruce Woody	City of St. Joseph
Andy Clements	City of St. Joseph
Kelsy Marr	City of St. Joseph
Elaine Buckner	City of St. Joseph

**Others present:**

Shannon Kusilek	MoDOT
Tony McGaughy	MoDOT
Don Wichern	MoDOT

**OPENING REPORTS**

Vice-Chairperson Gary Roach directed the meeting.

Roll Call. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes. **Mr. Kretzer moved to approve the minutes of the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting after removing a paragraph on page 2 related to a bridge deck resolution. Ms. Levinn seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.**

Opportunity for public comment. No member of the public appeared to comment.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Tour of Missouri Update. Mr. Clements said Lt. Governor Peter Kinder was in St. Joseph last week and informally announced the location of the starting line for the Tour of Missouri on the south side of Civic Center Park. The Tour will leave from St. Joseph around noon on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The 7-day international bike race will cover 600 miles, ending up in St. Louis. Participating in the race will be at least 10 riders that finished in the top 20 of last year's Tour de France. Events are planned for Saturday and Sunday. Fund raising has yielded \$25,000 thus far. Fox Sports has an exclusive on

coverage. Millions of people around the world will watch it. If the event goes well, the race should return to St. Joseph next year. Part of the agreement is that local school districts incorporate bike racing curriculum in their instruction two weeks preceding the race to increase students understanding of biking and the rest of the world. On race day the riders will pass two high schools and four elementary/middle schools in St. Joseph. The goal is to have 10,000 onlookers at the start line on Monday morning. The official route will be announced June 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Section 5310 Application. Ms. Marr reported that Heartland Health submitted an application for funds in the amount of \$80,000 to help replace door-to-door transportation for long term care residents. The application received a perfect score of 100 based on established criteria. Mr. Hausman asked if only patients are transported. Ms. Marr said yes. **Mr. Falkner moved to approve Heartland's application for placement in the TIP. Mr. Kretzer seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.**

FY 2009 UPWP. Ms. Marr noted, for informational purposes, that the UPWP was approved in the last Coordinating Committee meeting, however administrative changes were made subsequently. The program contained a budget for "Emerging Needs", ie. things that came up unexpectedly. In comments received from ONEDOT after the meeting, they recommended doing away with that section, which has been done. The funds were moved into the "Administration" program.

FY 2009-2012 TIP. Ms. Marr said MoDOT and the MPO were able to compromise on the Pickett Road bridge sidewalk project. The bridge is now included in the TIP as having sidewalks on both sides of the bridge. The City of St. Joseph has agreed to fund the connection to the Urban Trail on the east and west side of the bridge. The east side connection to Leonard Road has been added as a separate bike/pedestrian project.

Mr. Woody noted that the City Council held a work session this week to examine ways to fund more street improvements. As a part of that discussion there were concerns about sight distance and improvements needed at Pickett and Leonard, although no funding is yet identified. It is on the list of possibilities. There is a debate on 2-lane versus 3-lane. There was some consensus that a 2-lane was adequate for most of the route but the intersection at the bridge is a "T" with SST on one side. A 3-lane section could be needed from the intersection back over the hill to SST.

### Long Range Transportation Plan Update.

Subtitle VI/Environmental Justice and English Proficiency sections were expanded in the Public Involvement Plan. The web site is being updated with agendas, minutes, maps and documents. The consultant developed a timeline to keep everyone on track where they are in the update process.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Mr. Falkner asked about the possibility of more signage in the Stockyards area regarding how to get various places from the Deluxe Truck Stop to the street which is now cut off. This was discussed at a Southside Industrial Park meeting. He and Mr. Bozarth looked at the concerns. Mr. Woody said advance warning for the northbound lane is on the City's route but southbound signage is MoDOT's.

Mr. Clements asked for a drawing of what is needed. Mr. Woody said signage messages should be as concise as possible. For example, "Lower Lake Road east of 759 Highway is not a through street". Mr. Falkner said he will get with Mr. Bozarth and Ms. Cyndra Lorey of the Chamber of Commerce about the issue.

Mr. Roach said there was discussion at a recent City Talk concerning the appearance of the fence along I-229 as being an eyesore. Mr. Woody said he believed it is a private property fence owned by American Walnut and/or a trucking business.

Mr. Wichern reported that FY 2009 SAFETEA-LU projects have large deficits. If the federal program is not fixed by September 30<sup>th</sup> this year, Missouri stands to lose \$30 million next year. It would impact the STIP and TIP, virtually everything in the region. Revenues are down. State fuel receipts in March were lower for the first month ever in Missouri history and the trend is expected to continue. Mr. Clements noted that ABC news reports that driving numbers, nationwide, are the lowest they have been in 40 years. Mr. Wichern said buses are so crowded in St. Louis and Kansas City that people are being turned away. Mr. Clements noted that transit ridership is up in St. Joseph.

#### **OTHER/ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at 12:00 noon.