

ST. JOSEPH AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
February 14, 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 February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

**Voting members present:**

Julia Loe	Village of Country Club
Dan Hausman	Buchanan County
Vince Capell	City of St. Joseph
Bill Falkner	City of St. Joseph
Mike Bozarth	City of St. Joseph
Jerry Russell	Citizen Representative

**Staff members present:**

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

**Others present:**

Shannon Kusilek	MoDOT
Don Wichern	MoDOT
David Gach	MoDOT
Cyndra Lorey	Chamber of Commerce
Tom Richmond	Altec Industries
Angela Smith	St. Joe Now
Ray Scherer	News-Press

**OPENING REPORTS**

**In the absence of a chair or vice-chair, Mr. Bozarth nominated Mr. Falkner to chair the meeting. Mr. Capell seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.**

Roll Call. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007) was postponed until the next meeting.

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

Ms. Marr introduced and welcomed Ms. Julia Loe, Village to Country Club representative on the Coordinating Committee.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Intersection Concerns at US-169 & I-29 and Mitchell Avenue & Riverside Road.

Ms. Cyndra Lorey, Chamber of Commerce, said she works with existing businesses to make sure they are growing, feel valued, and helps address issues that could be an impediment to their continued growth and expansion. She noted that Altec Industries is working with a group of industries to address traffic needs they have in common in that geographic area. She referred to a prepared statement that companies in these areas have endorsed (attached). The companies support continued growth in the area, however traffic congestion is a concern with the new Riverside link and the new industrial park which will soon be ready to accept occupants. Delays are of primary concern. The number of traffic accidents are not exceptionally high. There are 9,000 employees working in that immediate area. Including companies on the peripheral (Heartland, American Family and MWSU) another 9,000 employees use the roadways. This doesn't include residential and truck traffic. From the perspective of the Chamber of Commerce, if companies continue to have problems getting materials and supplies delivered, it could be a deciding factor when making decisions about continued growth.

Mr. Tom Richmond, Altec Industries, said Altec appreciates the efforts of the City to make this a great community. He recognizes that the traffic congestion is reflective of the growth in the area. He divided the traffic problems as: 1) near 8 a.m., traffic on 36 Highway driving east using the off ramp onto Riverside Road backs up traffic onto the highway past the ramp. There is the potential for people being on the shoulder or actually in the right hand lane because of congestion at the traffic signal. People turning right currently use the shoulder of the lane and that is also dangerous; and 2) at the end of the work day, the intersection at the access to Riverside Road is "too exciting". With increased traffic going north on Riverside Road, routinely someone pulls in front of someone to make a left hand turn or in front of people on Riverside Road heading north which back up traffic to Altec's office. It is not unusual to have a 15 minute delay from Altec's driveway to Riverside Road. It is frustrating and cumbersome as other traffic wants to come in and out of their business at that time. It is time to look at options to deal with issues at that intersection which is awkward at best, but when congested, it becomes unmanageable.

Mr. David Gach agreed it is congested but doesn't have a suggestion to remedy the problem. Johnson Controls has a huge amount of truck traffic moving product in and out.

Ms. Lorey said Chamber of Commerce staff has spoken with Mr. Don Wichern at MoDOT regarding US 169 & I-29. The intersection was designed with a short turn around. She is requesting that the MPO form a task group to look at options and include something for future plans. Mr. Wichern commented that the intersection was adequate when built. Love's has widened their entrance, which has helped, but the signal too close to the interchange causes instant congestion. It is MoDOT's number one issue in St. Joseph. He and Mr. Woody tried unsuccessfully to find money a couple of years ago to address that. When Proposition B failed, MoDOT closed many consultant studies. Now they need to get an environmental impact study going for that interchange. A "single point" interchange would work, but they need to be sure of environmental clearance. MoDOT is trying to free up resources to get it going. The design will be done in house. They need to study the piece from I-29 to Rt. AC.

Mr. Wichern said MoDOT will also look closer at the Mitchell Avenue & Riverside Road interchange, the second interchange priority in St. Joseph. The outer road is so close to the interchange that it

causes congestion. He asked how long traffic is delayed and at what times of day. Mr. Richmond responded that it varies at different times. As more traffic goes north on Riverside Road it makes left turns more difficult coming out of Altec. Mr. Wichern said for years MoDOT has tried to determine how to move the outer road to lesson the effect of the left turn. MoDOT's existing program is only to maintain what they have. It is in MoDOT's long range program, but not short term. It would take a lot to get it in their short term study.

Ms. Lorey asked how long it would take to do an environmental study. Mr. Kuselik responded that an EA document could take 3-5 years. A major EIS document could take 10 years.

Mr. Wichern said if they can find resources in Jefferson City, they can make faster decisions because they are doing the design in house. They might be able to phase the work in shorter distances, perhaps from I-29 to Route AC could be the first phase. He asked how far the improvements should be taken south of Rt. AC.

Mr. Russell said perhaps Leonard Road and the outer road could be connected to AC away from the intersection. The Riverside Terrace & U. S.169 intersection should also be reviewed as it will be affected with development.

Mr. Woody said planning to Candy Creek just east of Riverside Terrace would capture 30 years of growth.

Mr. Bozarth asked if the U.S. 169 & Rt. AC intersection is in the City limits. Mr. Woody responded yes, Riverside Terrace is the east city limits. Mr. Bozarth said the intersection is dark. Mr. Wichern replied that MoDOT is looking into that. They may also add rumble strips and other improvements to the intersection.

Ms. Marr asked if business park industries have considered staggering shifts. If many of the businesses have traditional 8-5 shifts, working with surrounding businesses to stagger office hours might help the peak congestion as a temporary fix. Mr. Richmond said he will find out.

Mr. Bozarth said from Highway 36 north on Riverside, a left turn lane is needed.

#### FY08-11 TIP Amendment.

Ms. Marr asked for approval for a TIP amendment for a Safe Routes to School grant which was awarded to Webster School. These 100% federal funds in the amount of \$3,900 will promote students walking to school.

Mr. Capell asked if the program encourages sidewalk construction. Ms. Marr said infrastructure funds were applied for but were not approved. **Mr. Hausman moved to approve a TIP amendment for a Safe Routes to School grant for a non-infrastructure project at Webster Elementary School in the amount of \$3,900. Mr. Bozarth seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.**

Chairperson Falkner suggested that the remaining agenda items be postponed to the April meeting. Committee members concurred.

## **OTHER/ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at 12:00 noon.