

# ST. JOSEPH AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

## COORDINATING COMMITTEE

JUNE 14, 2007

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 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

### **Voting members present:**

Billy Kretzer	City of Savannah
Mary Montgomery	Country Club Village

### **Staff members present:**

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

### **Others present:**

Cody Christianson	TranSystems
Michelle Schultz	St. Joseph Transit
Shannon Kusilek	MoDOT
Don Wichern	MoDOT
Steve Johnston	St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce

**OPENING REPORTS** - Mr. Billy Kretzer stood in as chairperson for Janice Hatcher and called the meeting to order. A quorum was not present for roll call. Action to approve the minutes of the April 12 meeting was postponed.

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

LRTP Committee appointments. Ms. Marr said she is working to get steering committee members appointed in order to begin work in the summer. She handed out a list of nominees for preliminary approval and asked for more nominees. When the fee and scope of work is finalized, the steering committee will meet. Those on her list of eight nominees have agreed to serve if they are approved. The committee could have as many as 12 members. She hopes to get a representative from the Stockyards industrial area and someone from the transit sector. Nominees will be approved at the next Coordinating Committee meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Plan. Cody Christianson from TranSystems, the consultant, presented the plan which must be adopted before applying for new funds.

He said the Plan was necessary to meet federal requirements under the new transportation plan.

Meetings were held with public transit providers and human service agencies in Wathena, Savannah and St. Joseph. Gaps in service were identified as: no Sunday service in Missouri; no evening service in Missouri outside of St. Joseph; limited convenience due to long headways in St. Joseph; and limited service particularly outside St. Joseph. Needs identified were: 1) better coordination and information sharing between transit providers; 2) public awareness; and 2) user friendly systems.

Recommendations were to: 1) hold regional coordination meetings facilitated by the MPO; 2) participate in the development of a coordinated plan outside the MPO area (Kansas and Missouri); 3) use the needs assessment as a starting point to develop more fully; 4) develop inventory more fully to identify all available services; and 5) periodically update the Coordinated Plan.

A vote could not be taken as a quorum was not present.

FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Marr said the TIP was approved and forwarded by the Technical Committee. The final document had a few changes from MoDOT: 1) On page 11.A “Alabama Intersection Improvement”, the facility name was changed to “U. S. 59”. 2) On page 6.8 “Cook Road” was changed to “I-29, Belt to Cook”; and 3) P. 4A the design fund activity was removed from the Safe and Sound Pavement activity.

One important section was added on Page 4 for new federal requirements to add written confirmation that each entity has enough operating and maintenance funds for the useful life of the project.

Michelle Schultz, Laidlaw Transit, explained that the City of Elwood was offered K-DOT money to provide transportation services for their residents. Their mayor and city council approved Laidlaw to expand their services to Elwood. Laidlaw surveyed Elwood residents to determine there they needed services. Most responded they wanted it for shopping up to twice a week, preferably between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. With that in mind, as well as the financial limitations, it was decided to provide services three times a day on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The service can be provided by expanding an existing route and without adding equipment or drivers. There will be two set bus stops and deviations to homes. The current plan is for the buses from Elwood to go directly downtown St. Joseph and transfer to any bus on the system. The cost to the resident is the same as for St. Joseph’s riders.

Bike/Ped Update. A bicycle advocacy group called the “St. Michael’s Meadow Foundation” has been established. This foundation is a local chapter of a wider known “Quad States Trails” Group. The Quad States Group is a long established group that promotes the linking of trails among the four surrounding states: Kansas, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska. The St. Michael’s Meadow is the St. Joseph chapter of this larger group. They are in the process of acquiring a 501(c)(3), a tax exemption of the Internal Revenue Code to make the foundation incorporated. The MPO has donated \$500.00 to get the foundation established.

Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update. Ms. Marr briefed the committee on the current status of the scope of work and fees with TranSystems. The majority of the work being done will involve re-calibrating the model using a 2000 base year and updating it to 2007 conditions and developing transportation scenarios up to 2035. In addition, another large portion of work will be toward public involvement. Elements of the plan include focus groups, workshops, residential/employer surveys, leadership roundtables, etc. The MPO staff will be working on updating the narrative.

#### **OTHER/ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007, at 12:00 noon.