

ST. JOSEPH AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
1<sup>ST</sup> Floor Conference Room – 12:00 Noon  
June 28, 2012

**Voting members present:**

Jerry Russell, Chairperson	Citizen Representative
Dan Hausman	Buchanan County
Byron Myers, Sr.	City of St. Joseph

**Staff members present:**

Ty Nagle	City of St. Joseph
Elaine Buckner	City of St. Joseph
Dustin Smith	City of St. Joseph
Roger Sparks	City of St. Joseph

**Others present:**

Shannon Kuselik	MoDOT District #1
Michael Rinehart	MoDOT District #1
Mary Robertson	City of St. Joseph
Larry Koch	Citizen's CIP Committee Member
Ken Reeder	St. Joseph Resident
Barbara LaBass	City of St. Joseph

**OPENING REPORTS**

Chairperson Russell opened the meeting.

Roll Call. A quorum was not present.

Approval of Minutes. **Approval of the minutes was postponed until the next meeting where a quorum is present.**

Opportunity for public comment. No one appeared for comment.

**OLD BUSINESS** – No old business was brought before the committee.

**NEW BUSINESS** – CIP Update – presentation of selected projects. Mr. Koch explained the emphasis is on maintaining the existing infrastructure. Examples of past projects completed with CIP funds: Rt. AC (Riverside Road), widening Frederick and King Hill, and Heritage Ball Park. There is a lengthy list of streets to be resurfaced and concrete to be replaced. A long awaited improvement will be the Krug/Parkway/Karnes signalization and realignment. Member Myers said resident surveys have shown that streets are their number one priority and public safety their number two priority.

In response to a comment about roundabouts, Mr. Koch noted that Olathe has a street with two roundabouts and a school in the middle. People are afraid of them until they get used to them, but they are easy to navigate and keep speeds down. Mr. Sparks pointed out the advantage of driving through an intersection without stopping.

Ag Expo Center – discuss proposed development and access from 36 Highway. Member Hausman thanked the committee for endorsing the interchange off 36 Highway. The project has been submitted as a 50-50 cost-share project rather than a 100% economic development project. Reviews will be conducted July 26<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Russell asked about the funding source. Member Hausman said MoKan recommended a longtime funding program which has been used by Springfield, Kansas City, St. Louis, and MoDOT District 2. There remains a considerable amount of money on the table and MoDOT wants it spent.

Chairman Russell said it would be nice to obtain right of way on Riverside north of Frederick to Cook Road. Heartland is interested in linking to Cook and I-29 to the north to better serve ambulances. An east loop around St. Joseph is in the Long Range Transportation Plan. He contended that any development that serves the east side of the city still needs to be part of the city's major infrastructure. His concern for 36 Highway is access north and south of Pickett Road. Before anything goes in, the full infrastructure needs to go in.

Member Hausman said the City expects developers to put in infrastructure which is sometimes up to standard and sometimes not. Chairman Russell said the city has been doing things backwards. Someone develops two blocks out of the city limits and after the City inherits it, the people want sewers and street lights. Member Hausman responded that the east side of town was annexed in the 1970's. Chairman Russell noted that Deer Park was developed when it was not in the city. Member Hausman said the area he was in in the 1980's was a mud road. The city annexed undeveloped property with no thought of how to pay for improvements. There are properties all over without sewers.

Chairman Russell said Leonard Road is there today because we got what we wanted for the business park and then the city comes along and is supposed to put in sewers and lights. It is always for someone's gain, but the city pays. When developing along 36 Highway, the rest of the infrastructure must be part of the plan. Member Hausman explained that a road north and south to connect to Pickett Road is not in the plan today. TEVA does not want to talk about taking the road north due to privacy and security reasons, but maybe that's a discussion that needs to be had now. They own most of the property going towards Mitchell. A road would enhance their property for future development. Member Sparks noted that a road would separate their campus.

Member Russell cautioned that it is not good to rush to achieve one thing and destroy something else. If not in the plan in the beginning it will get washed away and someday become a major problem. Member Hausman said in his opinion, economic development money should be spent on infrastructure rather than given to companies. Infrastructure should go in first, which was done for Boehringer Ingelheim. A developer would not be expected to put in infrastructure. Chairman Russell countered that Springfield requires developers to put in utilities, that it all falls back on the city when there is no plan for infrastructure. He has seen and lived the results of poor planning. He hopes the developer gets their funding. He doesn't love where the Expo Center will be, but progress is progress. Member Hausman thanked the committee for their support.

National Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts. Member Nagle gave a report of the Spring 2012 bicycle and pedestrian counts throughout 7 locations at main intersections and throughout the urban trail system. Member Nagle said a full report will be out in two weeks. Mr. Hausman said there have been requests for a dog park. Mr. Sparks said it didn't make the CIP list.

National Bike to Work Month. Member Nagle reported that May was National Bike Month. Several employers helped sponsor the events. City Hall had the most riders on Bike to Work Day, with MoDOT following closely behind. Member Hausman noted that Central Park in New York City has "pedestrian cabs", a bicyclist pulling a cart similar to a rickshaw. That is an idea for historic home tours or a parkway tour by the Bike Club for fundraising.

Transit Operational Review – action steps. Starting July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Elwood will receive on-demand response service only. On July 30<sup>th</sup>, service hours will be reduced in St. Joseph by one hour except for three routes. There will

be 1-hour headways with driver lunch hours eliminated. On January 1, 2013 buses should start running the length of the Belt.

Section 5310 – 2012 Applicants. Mr. Nagle reported there were two applications from Heartland for capital assistance 80-20 grants for private non-profit organizations. They applied for two raised roof modified vans, one as a replacement and one to expand their existing service. After committee review, the applications will be sent to MoDOT this week. Ms. LaBass asked if OATS has cut their service. Member Nagle responded that OATS has been running outside the MPO area, so they are not eligible for funding.

Report of projects for bid and awarded from FY2012. For MoDOT, Mr. Kuselik described three projects in this area on I-29.

On behalf of the City of St. Joseph, Member Sparks reported that two aviation projects have been postponed. Four of six bike and ped projects are active, with the remaining two put off until enhancement funds are re-established. The Garfield Bridge Replacement will be bid in the fall of 2012. Trail signage and trail maintenance will be bid July 20<sup>th</sup> with construction underway in the fall. Transit will receive two new coaches in August. They replaced their coin counting machine this year and will replace the shop floor sweeper in 2013.

**OTHER** – Better Block. Member Nagle showed before and after photos, noting that Lucky Tiger is now a permanent business in the 700 block of Francis Street as a result of their participation in Better Block. He described the businesses and entertainment that participated in the 2012 Better Block, as well as media coverage. The event will be held again in 2013. Member Hausman felt that it was good to pair the event with the Apple Blossom Parade and Barbecue Cook Off.

CIP. Mr. Reeder commented that he was disappointed in the process this time, that the City did not keep its promises when they spent the money, and that the process was politicized and corrupt. He felt that extending it to six years was too far reaching. This time he doesn't quite fully support the tax, he supports it 95%.

**ADJOURN** - The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be served.

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