

ST. JOSEPH AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
COORDINATING COMMITTEE
1ST Floor Conference Room – 12:00 Noon
October 25, 2012

Voting members present:

Jerry Russell	Citizen Representative
Dan Hausman	Buchanan County
Byron Myers, Sr.	City of St. Joseph
Donna Jean Boyer	City of St. Joseph
Jill Cornett	City of Savannah
J. Bruce Woody	City of St. Joseph

Staff members present:

Jody Carlson	City of St. Joseph
Ty Nagle	City of St. Joseph
Elaine Buckner	City of St. Joseph
Andy Clements	City of St. Joseph

Others present:

Shannon Kuselik	MoDOT District #1
Michael Rinehart	MoDOT District #1
Stephen Rhoades	VIREO
Megan M. Carroll	Mo-Kan Regional Council
Julia Elder	Country Club Village
Paul White	Reporter
John Cluck	City of Wathena

OPENING REPORTS

Chairperson Russell opened the meeting.

Roll Call. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes. **Member Myers moved to approve the minutes of the August 23rd meeting. Member Woody seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.**

Opportunity for public comment. No one appeared for comment.

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

NEW BUSINESS – Proposed UZA Changes and Functional Classifications – review and discuss. Mr. Nagle said the changes in the 2010 census boundaries prompted proposed changes in Kansas and Missouri urbanized area boundaries. Mr. Kuselik said the urban limits changed slightly because of the population concentration. St. Joseph and Savannah were looked at in relation to urban limits. In St. Joseph it is recommended that two areas be added to the urban limits; the Greystone subdivision and the intersection of Bishop and Cook where the new school is being built; and the area of I-229, I-29 and Rt. FF which has seen growth. There is talk about

extending Rt. AC to connect with I-29, which would open it up for growth. Chairperson Russell said the corridor must be laid for an eastern loop and looking for a way to get from I-229 to 71 Highway and to reduce Belt traffic.

In Savannah, it is proposed to add an area from 14th Street west to Rt. T and south to Swenson Drive.

Rails to Trails. Mr. Rhoades of VIREO presented the final document (see attached power point). Mr. Clements thanked staff and members of the Steering Committee for their hard work. The next part will be taking it from a “bookend” to implementation.

UPWP Approval. Mr. Nagle directed discussion to the LRTP update and the TIP update the following year. Hiring another transportation planner is proposed to complete more studies in-house.

A program similar to Better Plock is planned for Wathena in the Fall of 2013.

Implementing and encouraging Safe Routes to Schools and the Rail to Trails inventory will be completed at the end of 2012 and taken to each governmental entity to approve the vision.

Member Hausman moved to approve the UPWP. Member Myers seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

Other. Mr. Kuselik said MoDOT has made a change in route classification as they enter urban areas. Previously, all routes would jump up a classification at the boundary location. Now the change will happen at the first intersection past the urban limit. If this committee agrees, Federal Highway will as well. He specified the five routes entering St. Joseph and where the change would occur. The Committee expressed verbal approval of the changes. Mr. Kuselik said that MoDOT will proceed with making the changes.

Mr. Clements noted the LRTP will be amended in December. Member Hausman noted that at some point, Woodbine north of Cook Road should be upgraded and annexed into the city.

Member Myers asked about extending Bishop to County Line Road. Mr. Clements said it is in the LRTP.

City of Savannah MPO Funds Request. Member Cornett explained that she addressed the Technical Committee at their last meeting. The City of Savannah accepted a grant from MoDOT several years ago for sidewalk enhancements. The City’s employees performed much of the engineering and construction in-house and then halted progress because of a shortage of funds to meet the match required. The work done by their crews did not meet federal government standards. She estimates 20% of the project was completed. The entire project was due to be completed 2-3 years ago. The City of Savannah doesn’t have the funds to complete the work. An additional complication is that the sidewalks already completed would have to be removed and redone. City officials met with MoDOT to ask how the city could get out of the commitment. MoDOT explained that they would have to pay back the money, after which the city made arrangements to pay back the \$70,658.94. MoDOT also suggested that the City of Savannah contact the MPO to ask if it would consider bearing the burden of the cost.

Member Cornett further explained that the sidewalks are very passable and walkable, however don’t comply with grade and other requirements. They are being used and it would not make sense to tear them up. She asked that the MPO consider funding the reimbursement to MoDOT because they actually completed the construction to its intent but not its standards.

Savannah is at a point where they are looking at the broader picture and they want to participate in the MPO planning. Their mayor/council would like to be more involved and be more participatory in the rails to trails

program. One of their councilmen participated on the steering committee. Member Hausman asked if the MPO has the funds. Mr. Nagle replied there are funds in the STP program balance and the Technical Committee recommends paying the debt. Savannah has current projects in the TIP which have continually been pushed back due to lack of funds. Member Hausman asked if by paying this back, will it reopen the money for new applications? Does it hold up other enhancement money? Member Boyer asked if the \$70,000 can be used in our area or does it go back to the federal government? Mr. Kuselik replied the funds would be returned to Federal Highway. Chairperson Russell asked why the sidewalks were not inspected to insure compliance? Member Cornett said part of the grant agreement was that the engineering firm make quality assurance checks but the leadership in Savannah determined it was not necessary. By the time the sidewalks had been improved, the city had been through three administrators. Mr. Carlson acknowledged that it is a challenge getting sidewalks to meet standards.

Member Hausman moved that the MPO pay off the loan. Member Boyer said what is good for the smaller community is good for the whole area. She seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2012 at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be served.