

ST. JOSEPH AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
COORDINATING COMMITTEE
1ST Floor Conference Room – 12:00 Noon
January 26, 2012

Voting members present:

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

Staff members present:

Andy Clements	City of St. Joseph
Ty Nagle	City of St. Joseph
Elaine Buckner	City of St. Joseph
Dustin Smith	City of St. Joseph

Others present:

Shannon Kuselik	MoDOT District #1
Don Wichern	MoDOT District #1
Allen Ashelford	Country Club Village
Michael Rinehart	MoDOT District #1
Jill Cornett	City of Savannah

OPENING REPORTS

Chairperson Russell opened the meeting.

Roll Call. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes. Member Hausman moved to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2011 meeting as submitted. 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 - Transit Study Update. Mr. Nagle recounted the purpose of the study (examining the current system and assessing rider needs) and distributed the current study schedule. Rider surveys were taken. Conceptual recommendations are now being examined, with a presentation to this Committee in March. Member Woody asked if a presentation will be made to City Council as part of the consultants' "tasks" under the agreement. Mr. Clements said yes, a worksession should be scheduled. Mr. Clements said changes will probably affect service hours and shutting down parts of the system with low ridership. Mr. Nagle said the study revealed that many people are uninformed of

the process to ride transit and unaware that deviations are offered. Missouri Western invited the consultant to student council meetings and other college groups, after which the college sent out their own surveys and published one of the reports on the front page of their newspaper. They recommended an information packet be included with Freshman orientation. Under consideration is the possibility of increasing student fees to pay for monthly student transit passes.

Mr. Janicek said that conversations have also started with Boehringer Ingelheim about the use of transit at their facility now under construction. He noted that any company subsidizing transportation by purchasing tickets for their employees can take it off their income tax. Member Hausman asked if a business buys into that, could the number of parking spaces required be reduced. Mr. Clements said that may be possible. Storm water impacts could also be lessened.

Non-Motorized Counts for Fall. Mr. Nagle compared the results of the last two years. The Urban Trail, Ashland, and Northwest Parkway have the highest pedestrian volumes.

Rails to Trails Study. Work by the consultant, Patti Banks Associates, according to Mr. Nagle, may start in March. The study will examine abandoned railroad lines from St. Joseph to Savannah and Wathena to Elwood. A steering committee was formed to work with the consultant and the consultant recommended that community stake holders be used as sounding boards. He encouraged the offering of names of people (give to Mr. Nagle) with an interest in that topic or who live nearby, to get involved. Mr. Clements said this is the old Chicago Northwestern Line which goes down DD, past the rock quarry, and along the west side of Country Club Village. There are a number of incursions down the abandoned line that will be identified and recommendations for solutions made.

TIP Amendment Changes. Mr. Nagle explained that the 59/Alabama Grade Separation Project was incorrectly labeled. This has been corrected along with right of way, engineering amounts and years. A \$1 million earmark has been sent through to proceed from MoDOT. Mr. Clements said the city of St. Joseph requested MoDOT send a grant agreement that would fund engineering for the project. After state and city council approval, right of way acquisition would begin using the balance of the earmark fund. Hopefully by that time construction funds will be identified and available. This project began with a 1961 newspaper article. The late Representative Maurice Lawson picked up the momentum. **By voice vote, the amendment changes were unanimously approved.**

UPWP. Mr. Nagle distributed the UPWP for calendar year 2012, approved by e-vote in November 2011.

MISCELLANEOUS. Next meeting March 22, 2012 at 12:00 noon.

OTHER/ADJOURN. MoDOT Update. Don Wichern reported that MoDOT is still in the middle of downsizing 20% of staff, statewide. The organization will continue the best they can for as long as they can with reduced staff and funding. He commented that the City made a “great acquisition when they hired Jody Carlson”. MoDOT will be overlaying roads and holding bridges together while working for increased funding.

Mr. Wichern talked about the I-70 corridor and the fact that it will take \$2-\$4 billion to widen I-70 across the state and add lanes in each direction. Another possible way to fund the project is to make I-70 a toll highway through a public/private partnership. This would require no tax money. It would be funded totally by private consortium and they would make the decision on the tolling amount. The

users would pay for the improvements. They are trying to get legislative support. Member Hausman asked if it requires a vote of the people. Mr. Wichern said MoDOT believes it can be decided by the legislature. The trucking industry thinks it needs a vote of the people (tolling has failed by vote every time). Mr. Wichern reminded everyone that both the Missouri River and Mississippi River Bridges were paid for by toll. The Missouri Transportation Alliance found that it is something that people will consider. If tolled, it would free up \$70-\$90 million for the rest of the state to use. It would double traffic on U.S. 36 (which has the capacity) and would increase economic activity in north Missouri. Card accounts would be set up for regular users of the highway. Those who don't have a card would receive a bill in the mail. Member Hausman said the Highway Patrol is not a big advocate of that pay method. Mr. Wichern said the improvements would go from I-70/I-64/US 61 at Wentzville to Blue Springs. Member Hausman commented it would be a great way to come out of the problem.

OTHER/ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2012 at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be served.

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