

ST. JOSEPH AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
COORDINATING COMMITTEE
1ST Floor Conference Room – 12:00 Noon
October 28, 2010

Voting members present:

Jerry Russell, Chairperson	Citizen Representative
Bill Kretzer, Vice-Chairperson	City of Savannah
Donna Jean Boyer	City of St. Joseph
Byron Myers, Sr.	City of St. Joseph
Dan Hausman	Buchanan County

Staff members present:

J. Bruce Woody	City of St. Joseph
Andy Clements	City of St. Joseph
Kelsy Marr	City of St. Joseph
Elaine Buckner	City of St. Joseph

Others present:

Mike Fisher	City of Savannah
Shannon Kuselik	MoDOT District #1
Don Wichern	MoDOT

OPENING REPORTS

Chairperson Russell opened the meeting.

Roll Call. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes. **Mr. Myers moved to approve the minutes of the August 26th meeting as submitted. Mr. Kretzer seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.**

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

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Marr distributed an Executive Summary of the Long Range Transportation Plan which outlines its key features split up by counties and jurisdictions. It identifies goals and objectives, contains the two most important maps in the document, as well as the vision for funding needs in the next 10-20 years. She will distribute any additional copies requested. Mr. Myers asked that Coordinating Committee members not present at this meeting be mailed a copy of the Executive Summary.

NEW BUSINESS

FY11 UPWP Amendment. Ms. Marr said a study is desired to make transit services more efficient and to reduce gaps in service. They are not looking to expand operations or ask for more money, rather to obtain updated demographic information and evaluate ridership/employer surveys. New software will track who is riding where. The study costs \$70,000 with a match of \$19,892. Mr. Hausman asked the value of the grant. Ms. Marr said all but \$70,000 was held in savings from previous years. **Mr. Hausman moved to amend the budget in the amount of \$70,000 for a transit operational study. Mr. Myers seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.**

Chairman Russell asked if they will make any transit connections in Savannah. Ms. Marr said it is unlikely with this study, as current transit revenues are not stretching as far as anticipated. The study will be completed June 30th, 2011. November 8th, 2010 is the deadline for consultant submittals.

MoDOT Updates. Mr. Wichern reported that funding for transportation improvements over the last five years has averaged \$1.2 billion statewide, but that is now being cut in half, which will only serve to hold the system together with no new expansion or safety initiatives. The state has seen no new revenue since 1992, and federal since 1993. MoDOT will soon be announcing the appointment of a new director.

Mr. Wichern reported that the “Jesse James” bridges should be open in two weeks. Highway 169 has been paved from MoDOT’s office to I-29. The paving contractor is ready to start work on St. Joseph Avenue from Karnes Road north to “K” Highway. Next year “FF” and “O” towards the city landfill, and South Belt from Pear to “FF”, will receive new surface treatment. Traffic signals have been installed by San Jose Steakhouse on S. 169 Highway. The Belt Highway will receive skid resistant surfacing and water blading asphalt in 2011. Mr. Fisher remarked that drivers noticed very little traffic delays with MoDOT’s bridge projects over I-29.

T-Works Update. Ms. Marr said this program is authorized by the Kansas legislature and funneled through K-DOT. In an effort to obtain public support and to hear comments from each community, local consult meetings have been arranged throughout the state with representatives of the various jurisdictions in attendance. In the meetings, breakout groups talk about projects they are interested in. From what Ms. Marr and Lawrence Mays gathered from the meeting: if group members are not interested in particular projects, they don’t make the list and the project won’t happen. The only project in the St. Joseph MPO are was the upgrade of US-36 Highway from Troy to Wathena. The project never made the final list of projects, but was put into a list of “runner-up” projects that could receive funding if other project bids come in low. The cost of the US-36 upgrade was \$36 Million.

National Bicycle & Pedestrian Documentation Project. Ms. Marr said this was the second year for the annual project to manually count bicyclists and pedestrians. Volunteers conduct the counts. This year’s weather was nicer than last, and being only the second year of the counts, the increase in activity can’t be taken too literally. The largest increase was seen near Commercial and Pickett, probably due to the completion of the Pickett Road bridge, which made connections easier. With 2 years of data available, there are trends in walking and bicycling that are beginning to emerge.

OTHER/ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 16th, 2010 at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be served.
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