

ST. JOSEPH AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Coordinating Committee

Fourth Floor Conference Room- City Hall

November 21, 2019

Voting Members Present:

Bob Dempster, Chair	Citizen-At-Large
Madison Davis	City Council Member
Kent O'Dell	City Council Member
Bruce Lundy	City of Savannah
Bruce Woody	St. Joseph City Manager

Staff Members Present:

Chance Gallagher	City of St. Joseph
Brady McKinley	City of St. Joseph
Andy Clements	City of St. Joseph
Nikki Kidwell	City of St. Joseph
Bill McMurray	Mayor of St. Joseph

Other:

Chris Redline	MoDOT
Adam Watson	MoDOT
Shannon Kusilek	MoDOT
David Earls	MoDOT
Tim Doyle	Restoration Project
Jim Lehr	Tourist Agency
Joni Westcott	Citizen
Gary Westcott	Citizen
Dick DeShon	Citizen
Mignon DeShon	Citizen
Ron Taylor	Citizen
Jim Weidinger	Citizen

OPENING REPORTS

Chair Bob Dempster called the meeting to order. Bob welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Nikki Kidwell called role. A quorum was present.

Public Comment: Bob Dempster opened the floor for public comment about the possibility of declassifying the I-229 bridge. Citizen Dick DeShon expressed to the Coordinating Committee that he was there to support the Roundabout alternative but also to say that he wishes that the public would have been given the opportunity to be more involved in the process of elimination

from the original twenty (20) options to then five (5) options and now the remaining two (2) options. He mentioned that his main concern is that he does not want trucks coming through downtown and he would not want the bridge to lose its classification as an Interstate, but understands that the bridge is going to come down so he would rather support MoDOT to find a good alternative and he believes that is the Roundabout option. Next to speak was citizen Gary Westcott. He personally prefers the Parkway Extension alternative because he is specifically looking at it from a historical perspective. He says by going with the Parkway Extension, we would be able to make the Riverfront more of a tourism location. Bob Dempster asked Chance Gallagher to give everyone a timeline of how the process has taken place for them to get to the final 2 options. She explained that on September 18, 2019, herself and Andy Clements went to an Advisory Committee meeting at MoDOT along with other committee members (Hillyard, FRA, MPO, Lifeline, Triumph, etc.) where the four (4) options were presented to the committee along with the Rehab and No Build options. The committee then voted on which options they preferred and which options they did not prefer. After that, on November 7, 2019 was the Freight Summit where MoDOT along with Hg Consult presented the remaining two (2) options. On November 14, 2019 MoDOT asked for a Letter of Support for the declassification of the I-229 bridge from the Technical Committee, where it was voted no upon. Then, on Monday November 18, 2019 there was a Resolution brought to Council to declassify the Interstate where it was also voted no upon. There was a contingency that MoDOT would present more information as to how they arrived at these last two (2) alternatives at the next Technical Committee meeting in January. Assistant Public Works Director and Chair of Technical Committee, Brady McKinley said that the Technical Committee feels like they need more information in order to make the decision to declassify the interstate. There are a lot of factors to be considered that have not been discussed or clarified yet. He asks that in January at the next meeting that MoDOT give the Technical Committee a detailed explanation as to how each one of the options was rejected internally and what the percentage of public opinion was for each. Bob Dempster then explained that the declassification of I-229 was not on the Coordinating Committee's agenda to be discussed or voted upon but thanked the public for coming and expressing their opinions, and that the public is always welcome to come to these meetings and do so. From there, Shannon Kusilek and Chris Redline both from MoDOT said that they would be happy to answer any questions that citizens or committee members had. Shannon then went through the whole elimination process as well. Council Member Madison Davis had questions pertaining to how MoDOT started with twenty (20) options and then reduced to six (6) options without any chance for public comment. Shannon said that the Advisory Committee made the decision to reduce the options down to six (6) and that the Advisory Committee is not a public meeting and that there will be a chance for public comment soon. Bob Dempster then asked if there were any other public comments. No more public comment was made. Public comment was closed.

Approval of minutes: Kent O'Dell motioned to approve the minutes from the last meeting and Bruce Lundy seconded. Minutes from the Coordinating Committee Meeting held on September 26, 2019 were **unanimously approved.**

NEW BUSINESS

TIP Emergency Amendment: Shannon Kusilek from MoDOT presented the quorum with the TIP Emergency Amendment. The emergency amendment involves preventative maintenance treatment to extend the pavement life on two routes in the MPO area. The routes included are: Buchanan County Route FF (from US-169 to Route H in Agency) and Buchanan County Route O (from Route A to Route FF) The Amendment was sent out for public comment for seven (7) days from November 14, 2019- November 21, 2019. There was no public comment received. Madison Davis made a motion to approve the TIP Emergency Amendment and Bruce Lundy seconded the motion. The TIP Emergency Amendment was **unanimously approved**.

MTP Final Draft: The MTP Final Draft went out for public comment for forty-seven days. It was posted on Facebook, MPO Website, the City Link, as well as sent out to MPO area libraries and newspapers. All comments and edits that were made have been addressed. Chance explained that if the MTP were to be approved, the only changes that will be made is an updated front page with better pictures and that we will also add an amendment for the I-229 bridge once something is decided moving forward. This plan is good for 5 years. Madison Davis made a motion to approve the MTP Final Draft and Kent O'Dell seconded the motion. The MTP Final Draft was **approved unanimously**.

UPWP Update: Chance Gallagher presented the committee with the new UPWP going over the budget for the year. It outlines all of the work programs and program measures. This years budget went down \$100,000 from last year for a total budget amount of \$182,942 for FY2020. Madison Davis made a motion to approve the UPWP Update and Kent O'Dell seconded the motion. The UPWP Update was **approved unanimously**.

2020 Meeting Dates: Starting in February 2020, the Coordinating Committee meetings will start meeting every other month. These meetings will still be held in the Fourth Floor Conference Room at City Hall. No action needed. Informational.

MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Opportunity for Public Comment/Questions
- B. Next Meeting: February 13, 2020 at City Hall. Fourth Floor Conference Room 1100 Frederick Avenue, St. Joseph, MO 64501

ADJOURN: Madison Davis motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.