# Missouri Transportation Planning Committee
# Meeting Notes
# February 2019

The Missouri Transportation Planning Committee (TPC) Meeting was held in the East-West Gateway Council of Governments (EWG) offices on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 2:00 pm.

Members in Attendance
Steve Ables, Municipal League of Metro St Louis
Rich Bradley, City of St Louis
Amanda Brauer, St Charles County Transit Authority representative
Jessica Gershman, Bi-State Development (BSD)
John Hicks, St Louis County
Karen Karabell, Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) representative
Dan Naunheim, Jefferson County
Wesley Stephen, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
Ron Williams, Franklin County

Members Absent
Maurice Falls, City of St Louis
Mike Henderson, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
Chris Poehler, Bi-State Development (BSD)
Greg Smith, St Louis Regional Chamber
Craig Tajkowski, St Charles County

Others in Attendance
John Kohler, City of St Louis

EWG Staff
Brenden Giblin, Larry Grither, Ajdin Hamzagic, Peter Koeppel, Jason Lange, Anna Musial, Sonya Pointer, Josh Schwenk, Lubna Shoaib, Melissa Theiss

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by John Hicks, Chair.

ITEMS
**Functional Classification – ACTION ITEM –** Ajdin Hamzagic (EWG) presented on revisions to the functional classification of area roadways. Functional classification is the process by which all roadways are grouped into classes according to the type of service they provide. Staff, along with MoDOT, solicit revision applications from member agencies semi-annually in May and November of each year. Applications are reviewed in accordance with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidelines on mobility, accessibility, and connectivity. A total of 11 changes in Missouri are recommended by staff. The recommended changes are shown in the attached memo.

Staff will bring the TPC's recommendations to the Board of Directors for their final approval at their February meeting.

John Hicks (St Louis County) asked why Fee Fee Rd was being reclassified as a local road. Jason Lange (EWG) responded that a bridge over the railroad between Schuetz Rd and Dorsett Rd was removed by Maryland Heights, and therefore the roadway was reclassified to reflect the lost connectivity. Hicks asked whether TPC members had sufficient time to review the proposed changes. Lubna Shoaib (EWG) responded that EWG staff have communicated their recommendations with the application contacts, so all recommendations have already been reviewed by the staff of the agencies requesting the change.

Additional information about functional classification, including the most up-to-date maps, is available at https://www.ewgateway.org/FuncClass.

Motion to Approve: Motion – Amanda Brauer, Second – Steve Ables.
-Motion carries – All in attendance voting in favor.

***Connected2045* Update –** Sonya Pointer (EWG) presented an overview of the update to EWG's long-range transportation plan, *Connected2045*. Federal regulations require this plan to be updated every four years. A new requirement is that federal performance measures and their corresponding local targets be integrated into the plan. EWG has been attending events around the region and conducting a survey to gather public input on the plan update. To date, EWG has received 747 responses to the survey: 1.1% from Franklin County, 3.4% from Jefferson County, 5.3% from Madison County, 0.8% from Monroe County, 29.4% from St Charles County, 3.0% from St Clair County, 22.8% from City of St Louis and 30.5% from St Louis County. The survey will remain open until the draft plan update is completed.

The draft will be completed in March or April 2019, depending on when staff receives needed financial data for the projects in the plan. In April or May 2019, the draft will be available for public comment. Staff will bring the final plan to the Board of Directors for their approval at their June 2019 meeting.

John Kohler (City of St Louis) asked if there was any information on the projects which the City had submitted for inclusion in the draft plan update. Peter Koeppel (EWG) responded that staff is evaluating projects for regional significance and has not yet determined which local projects will be included in the draft plan update. John Hicks (St Louis County) asked how fiscal constraint was taken into account in the draft plan update. Koeppel responded that staff is waiting on the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (MHTC) and MoDOT to release information on the distributions of funds to determine how much funding is available. Hicks asked about future opportunities for the TPC to review the draft plan update. Koeppel responded that the schedule depends on when staff receives the financial information, but the draft plan update will be brought to the TPC again. Kohler asked about whether stakeholder focus groups were again being incorporated into the public involvement process. Koeppel responded that this is an update to the existing plan to bring in the federal performance measures, rather than a complete rewrite of a new plan.

Additional information, including the survey, can be found at: https://www.ewgateway.org/transportation-planning/long-range-planning/.

**Buckle Up, Phone Down –** Anna Musial (EWG) discussed the Buckle Up, Phone Down program sponsored by the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety and MoDOT. EWG has adopted a staff policy requiring seatbelt usage and barring cell phone usage while driving agency vehicles or conducting agency business. EWG encourages partner agencies to adopt similar policies for their staff members.

Ron Williams (Franklin County) noted that the State of Missouri does not have a law against texting and driving and asked what action was being taken to change this. Musial responded that the St Louis Regional Blueprint Coalition, a group of local safety advocates, work with legislators each year to try to pass a primary seatbelt law and a cell phone usage law. She noted that some municipalities and counties have passed their own versions of these laws in the absence of state action. Wesley Stephen (MoDOT) noted that these are also some of MoDOT's legislative priorities during this legislative session.

More information, as well as the personal pledge to wear a seatbelt and not use a cell phone while driving, is available at: https://savemolives.com/.

**FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule –** Jason Lange (EWG) discussed the current development of the FY 2020-2023 TIP. EWG's Call for Projects for Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Suballocated (STP-S) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) for local public agencies is currently open. Roughly $47.5 million is available for STP-S and $24 million for CMAQ. Staff have completed Project Development Workshops to convey information on eligibility and requirements to potential applications and held two Project Review Workshops with MoDOT, Metro, and Trailnet to provide feedback on preliminary project concepts. Staff has also returned comments on preliminary applications and has met one-on-one with project sponsors to answer any questions they have on the application process. Applications are due February 14, 2019, after which staff will begin the evaluation process. May 1, 2019, staff will submit project scores to the TPC for their funding recommendations. Those recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors at their May meeting. Those local projects, along with projects in MoDOT's and Metro's programs, will be incorporated into the draft FY 2020-2023 TIP which will be presented to the Board for their information at their June meeting. A public comment period will be held on the draft TIP from June 28, 2019 to August 5, 2019, which will include several open house meetings. The final TIP and summarized comments will be submitted to the Board at their August meeting.

John Kohler (City of St Louis) asked whether there would be a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) solicitation. Lange responded that staff is continuing to wait until the passage of a new transportation bill in Congress to ensure the program is continued. John Hicks (St Louis County) asked when the current bill expires. Lange responded that it runs through September 30, 2020.

More information on the TIP is available at: https://www.ewgateway.org/tip.

**Reasonable Progress –** Josh Schwenk (EWG) informed the TPC that in the month of January, seven projects obligated just over $2 million in federal funds. Staff is continuing to monitor projects' progress toward obligation and has received some questions concerning delays in review. MoDOT has made progress on catching up on their reviews, but staff is still monitoring some projects and communicating with MoDOT if projects appear to be falling behind.

The most recent Reasonable Progress Update, as well as previous updates, is available here under Reasonable Progress: https://www.ewgateway.org/tip.

**Other Business –**
Melissa Theiss (EWG) informed the TPC that EWG is partnering with FHWA and the City of Woodson Terrace to offer a Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP) workshop on March 22 in Woodson Terrace. This one-day workshop will include a site-visit to Woodson Rd. Additional information will be sent out as it becomes available.

John Kohler (City of St Louis) announced that the City will be hosting a National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) roundtable on micromobility. NACTO officials from around the nation are expected to attend the 2½ day conference April 29-May 1 at T-REX to discuss scooters, bike share, and ebikes. Attendance to most of the conference is open only to NACTO members, but a ½ day session is expected to be opened to local organizations as well.

Kohler also noted that Lime has ended bike share in St Louis as they have switched to scooters. This is part of a nationwide trend amongst dockless shared mobility systems. Kohler anticipates Lime and Bird to expand scooter availability beyond the City of St Louis, and anticipates ebikes to be introduced in the future. The TPC also engaged in a discussion around scooter and bicycle safety concerns.

The next Missouri TPC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at 2:00pm.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion – Ron Williams, Second – Karen Karabell.