Missouri Transportation Planning Committee
Meeting Notes
March 2019

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

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

Members Absent
Rich Bradley, City of St Louis
Maurice Falls, City of St Louis
Jessica Gershman, Bi-State Development (BSD)
Greg Smith, St Louis Regional Chamber
Craig Tajkowski, St Charles County

Others in Attendance
Chelsey Call, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
Cynthia Davis, Bi-State Development (BSD)
Carol Kliethermes, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)

EWG Staff
Jerry Blair, Larry Grither, Paul Hubbman, Peter Koeppel, Jason Lange, Marcie Meystrik, Anna Musial, Rachael Pawlak, Josh Schwenk, Melissa Theiss

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

ITEMS
Update on STP-S and CMAQ project applications – Jason Lange (EWG) updated TPC members on the applications received in the 2019 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Suballocated (STP-S) and Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) Call for Projects. The Call for Projects closed February 14, 2019. In Missouri, staff received 88 STP-S applications requesting approximately $103.3 million. There is an estimated $47.5 million available to award. Sponsors submitted 21 CMAQ applications requesting approximately $33.7 million. There is an estimated $24 million available.

Staff is now accepting public comments on project applications through April 4, 2019. Public comments and project scores will be presented to the TPC at their May 1, 2019 meeting for their recommendation.

John Hicks (St Louis County) asked when the public meetings would be held. Jason Lange (EWG) clarified that open houses will be held in July for the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which will include projects recommended for funding.

Additional information about STP-S & CMAQ project applications, including the public comment form, is available at https://www.ewgateway.org/transportation-planning/transportation-improvement-program/local-program-applications-public-comment/

MetroLink system-wide security assessment – Marcie Meystrik (EWG) presented an overview of the recommendations provided through the assessment conducted by EWG and WSP Global on behalf of BSD/Metro. One of the main takeaways from the study is the need for a coordinated security strategy for the MetroLink system. In all, the report has 99 recommendations for improving security on MetroLink, including recommendations in the areas of staffing, procedures and training, fares and fare enforcement, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), and technology.

Metro has been implementing recommendations on an ongoing basis as the study has been completed. EWG is in the midst of hiring a consultant to conduct Phase 2, which would entail the development of the security strategy recommended in Phase 1. Staff will make a recommendation on the consultant selection to the Board of Directors at their March 27, 2019 meeting and begin work in early May.

Additional information, including the full report, is available at:
https://www.ewgateway.org/library-post/metrolink-security-assessment-documents/

MoDOT Cost Share program/Missouri Transportation Finance Corporation – Carol Kliethermes (MoDOT) discussed some of MoDOT's funding opportunities. Cost Share is a program offering 50% MoDOT participation for projects along state routes. 10% of Cost Share funds are set aside for Economic Development projects. 20% local match is still required if the local agency plans to use federal money for a portion of their 50% share. Minimum project cost is $200,000 and the maximum available is $2.5 million per year per project. Wesley Stephen (MoDOT) spoke on the importance of submitting applications early to the MoDOT Area Engineer so that MoDOT District staff have time to review the application before it is submitted to MoDOT Central Office.

The Missouri Transportation Finance Corporation (MTFC) is a loan program which can be used on any federal-aid route in the state, bridges on the state system, or mass transit. The minimum amount is $50,000, and anything over $10 million or with a loan period over 10 years requires approval by senior leadership.

Jason Lange (EWG) noted that applicants should get a letter of support from EWG when applying. He also mentioned that project sponsors might use Cost Share to reduce their federal ask from EWG's STP-S or CMAQ programs and therefore improve their scores.

More information on both Cost Share and MTFC, as well as the application and due dates for both programs, is available at: https://www.modot.org/partnership-development

Development of *Connected2045 Update* – Peter Koeppel (EWG) updated the TPC on the update to EWG's long-range transportation plan, *Connected2045*. The long-range plan prioritizes future transportation needs for the region. In order to receive federal funding, regionally significant projects must be included in the plan. EWG updates their long-range plan every four years.

Staff does not have a draft investment plan to share with the TPC at this time. The document must be financially constrained, meaning staff must show that funds are available to cover the costs of the projects in the plan. At this time, a funding allocation change in Missouri has delayed the funding analysis of the projects in the plan. Staff expects to bring the draft plan to the Board of Directors in April, with the final plan presented for approval in June.

More information on the *Connected2045* Update is available at: https://www.ewgateway.org/connected2045

Reasonable Progress – Josh Schwenk (EWG) informed the TPC that in the month of February, seven projects obligated just under $1.5 million in federal funds. Several of these projects obligated right of way funds indicating that these projects are now moving forward thanks to additional MoDOT staff reviewing right of way.

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 focus on safe pedestrian infrastructure and crossing treatments and will include a site-visit to Woodson Rd. Additional information, as well as registration, is available at: https://www.ewgateway.org/transportation-planning/bicycle-pedestrian/step-workshop/

The next Missouri TPC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 2:00pm.

MEETING ADJOURNED