Missouri Transportation Planning Committee
Meeting Notes
August 2020

The Missouri Transportation Planning Committee (TPC) Meeting was held virtually via GoToWebinar on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 2:00 pm.

Members in Attendance
Amanda Brauer, St Charles County Transit Authority representative
Jessica Gershman, Bi-State Development (BSD)
Jim Grutsch, Franklin County
John Hicks, St Louis County
Jason Jonas, Jefferson County
John Kohler, City of St Louis (for Rich Bradley)
Wesley Stephen, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
Shaun Tooley, Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) representative
Craig Tajkowski, St Charles County

Members Absent
Maurice Falls, City of St Louis
Mike Henderson, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
Pat Kelly, Municipal League of Metro St Louis
Chris Poehler, Bi-State Development (BSD)
Greg Smith, St Louis Regional Chamber

Others in Attendance
Jesse Jonas, American Concrete Pavement Association
Peter Koeppel, Farmington MPO
Steve Schultz, Bartlett & West
Grace Wright, M3 Engineering Group

EWG Staff
Larry Grither, Paul Hubbman, Jason Lange, Anna Musial, Rachael Pawlak, Sonya Pointer, Amir Poorfakhraei, Josh Schwenk, Melissa Theiss

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by Amanda Brauer, Chair.

ITEMS
Frenchtown Great Streets – Paul Hubbman (EWG) updated the TPC on Great Streets project in the Frenchtown neighborhood of St Charles. Frenchtown is an historic neighborhood just north of the historic Main Street neighborhood in downtown St Charles. The plan focuses on establishing better connections to the Missouri River, creating a new community character, and developing green infrastructure and street trees throughout the neighborhood, as well as enhanced transportation infrastructure.

Amanda Brauer (St Charles County Transit Authority representative) expressed her appreciation for the project. Wesley Stephen (MoDOT) asked about development opportunities near the Foundry. Hubbman responded that the developers have proposed mixed-use opportunities including housing, commercial, and entertainment uses tied to some of the other local assets like the Katy Trail. There seems to be strong market potential. Stephen asked about environmental issues. Hubbman responded that some environmental concerns may not yet be known. Stephen also asked about extending the brick pavers to the north on 2nd St. Hubbman responded that due to maintenance costs and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) concerns, standard sidewalks are being proposed.

Additional information, including the plan, is available at:
https://www.ewgateway.org/transportation-planning/great-streets-initiative/gs-round-eight/

2019 Regional Congestion Report – Larry Grither (EWG) informed the TPC of EWG's annual congestion report for 2019. The congestion report is part of EWG's required Congestion Management Process. The report looks at congestion on freeways and arterials throughout the St Louis region. The report found that in general, congestion is more severe in the afternoon peak hour than the morning peak hour. General trends are that the miles of congested freeway and congestion pattern of freeways remained the same from 2018, while the intensity of congestion has varied somewhat.

Wesley Stephen (MoDOT) asked what degree of diversion in traffic could be seen from the Poplar Street Bridge to the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge following its opening. Grither responded that there has not been a major change in congestion on the Poplar Street Bridge and there is some congestion on the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge as well. Jason Lange (EWG) noted that the closure of the Martin Luther King Bridge may have had an impact on that as well. Paul Hubbman (EWG) asked if construction impacts are taken into account in the report. Grither noted that it is noted when congestion can be attributed to construction work. TPC members then held a brief discussion of COVID-19's impacts on congestion.

Additional information, including the report from this and previous years, is available at:
https://www.ewgateway.org/transportation-planning/transportation-systems-management-operations/congestion-management-process/

FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Public Comment Period/Update – Jason Lange (EWG) noted that a public comment period on the draft TIP ran from June 30, 2020-August 5, 2020. The draft TIP was available on EWG's website for comment and two virtual open houses were held to provide an opportunity for input due to COVID-19 making in-person open houses impractical. So far, staff has received three comments. Next steps include finalizing the TIP document including changes due to schedule extensions as well as carryover Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) projects. The final TIP, air quality conformity determination, and compiled public comments will be presented to the EWG Board of Directors for approval at their August 26, 2020 meeting. Following federal approval, the documents are anticipated to take effect October 1, 2020.

Additional information, including the TIP document, will be available following approval at: https://www.ewgateway.org/tip

Reasonable Progress – Josh Schwenk (EWG) notified the TPC that 27 projects have obligated nearly $10 million in federal funds since their last meeting in May. Due to continued impacts of COVID-19, staff is monitoring some project which may not meet their September 30, 2020 deadline and may provide schedule extensions if needed.

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

Other Business –
Jason Lange (EWG) reminded the TPC that applications for the Transportation Alternatives Program are due on August 20, 2020. He noted that applications can now only be accepted electronically and that application fees can be paid either by check or by electronic funds transfer (EFT).

The next Missouri TPC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 2:00pm.

MEETING ADJOURNED - Motion: Move – Shaun Tooley, Second – Wesley Stephen
-Motion carries – All in attendance voting in favor