

East-West Gateway Council of Governments Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 – 2:00 pm

East-West Gateway Council of Governments
1 S. Memorial Drive, Suite 1600
St. Louis, MO 63102

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Kevin Jemison – IDOT
Jacque Knight – Community Mobility Committee
John Kohler – City of St. Louis BPS
Sara Nelson – St. Charles County
John Shrewsbury (for Misty Bell) – St. Louis Co.
Travis Wood – Citizens for Modern Transit
John Bugh – St. Charles County Parks Dept.
Mark Vogl – Great Rivers Greenway
Shaun Tooley – MODOT
Bryce Monser (for Cindy Mense) – Trailnet

Angelica Gutierrez – Great Rivers Greenway
Scott Dunakey – Heartlands Conservancy

Others in Attendance:

Taylor March – resident
Lily Sheets – Trailnet

East-West Gateway Staff:

Christie Holland
Saranya Konala
Alex Hartig
Jason Lange
Rachael Pawlak
Maddie Mattli
Paul Hubbman
Marcie Meystrik
Melissa Theiss – BPAC Coordinator

Members Absent:

Lisa Cagle – Bi-State Development
Chris Clercx – City of O’Fallon, MO
Karen Karabell – Cycling Savvy
Scott Ogilvie – City of St. Louis

1. Introductions

Jacque Knight called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting – November 8, 2023

The minutes were approved as proposed.

Shaun Tooley made the motion to approve and John Kohler seconded the motion.

3. Elections – Chair, Vice Chair, and TPC Representatives

Committee positions were nominated and elected as follows:

Chair – Sara Nelson

Vice Chair – Shaun Tooley

Mark Vogl – TPC Representative (primary)

Angelica Gutierrez – TPC Representative (secondary)

John Kohler made the motion to approve and Travis Wood seconded the motion.

4. Great Streets Plans to Pilots Initiative

Christie Holland presented an overview and timeline for the Great Streets Plans to Pilots Initiative, which is funded through a grant from the Healthy Illinois MPO Collaborative. Walk audits are currently being conducted to assess challenges and opportunities in target locations. Discussion on barriers to implementation touched on the following issues: resistance to new/innovative/interim treatments, the cost of large-scale projects versus quick builds, concerns over anticipated maintenance, working within the existing right-of-way, incremental change, the benefits of demonstration projects, and guidance released by MARC and MNDOT.

Additional feedback can be shared at the link below.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScUlc2z6aXZtjAT8ylhX6INGfCoWOe0z0tSbiZzhMqdpU7yag/viewform>

5. **St. Louis County Upcoming Projects**

John Shrewsbury shared several road projects currently in design that will include shared-use paths and sidewalks, including implementation of the West Florissant Great Streets plan. Further detail on upcoming projects can be found on the St. Louis County website.

<https://stlouiscountymo.gov/st-louis-county-departments/transportation-and-public-works/under-design/>

6. **St. Charles County BikeWalk Phase 1**

Sara Nelson provided an update on the BikeWalk Phase 1 project that was awarded TAP funding last year. The project moves forward implementation of the August 2021 update to the Gateway Bike Plan and includes improvements on three routes – West Meyer Blvd, Lake St. Louis Blvd, and Interstate Drive. Improvements across 18 miles of facilities include upgrading sections to ten foot wide shared-use path, wayfinding and signage, pavement markings, crosswalks, pedestrian signals, and RRFBs. A public meeting for the project was held January 31, 2024 and construction will begin by Spring 2026. More information for the projects is available online at www.Sccmo.org/BikeWalk.

7. **Baltic Creek Greenway**

Mark Vogl presented on the Baltic Greenway in St. Charles County that will connect the Dardenne Greenway to the Katy Trail. The greenway also creates connections to St. Charles Community College, Vantage Park, and Veteran's Tribute Park, which were prioritized in the 2020 St. Charles County Greenway Master Plan. Public engagement generated the name for the new greenway and planning has narrowed the alignment down to two options – either on Caulk's Hill Road or Pitman Hill Road.

8. **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)**

Rachael Pawlak announced that work is proceeding on the region's comprehensive safety action plan, which has been titled "Gateway to Safer Roadways". The plan is expected to be complete in June 2024 so that local public agencies are able to apply for implementation funds this year. The USDOT has not released the FY 2024 SS4A NOFO, therefore the deadline to submit funding request for implementation projects is speculative and based on previous deadlines. Data analysis is underway and is looking at vulnerable road users, contributing crash factors, and underserved communities, as well as development of the high injury network. Task force meetings kicked off at the end of January and the next round of meetings is coming up in a couple weeks.

9. **Federal Funding Project Submittals**

Alex Hartig announced that applications for STP-S/BRO and CMAQ/CRP were due last week, on February 8. In Missouri, 65 STP-S and 17 CMAQ applications were submitted. In Illinois, 23 STP-S and 8 CMAQ applications were submitted. The number of applications received is slightly lower than last year, but still about average. Applications are still being processed, so the amount of federal funds requested is not yet available. There will be an online public comment period for the submitted projects from March 12-28.

10. **Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP)**

Melissa Theiss shared the schedule of open houses and public comment period for the draft CHSTP that was released earlier this month. The final CHSTP will be presented to the EWG Board of Directors in April for approval and adoption.

- March 1-31 online public comment period
- March 7 from 1:00-3:00 pm at the Glen Carbon Senior Center
- March 12 from 4:00-6:00 pm held virtually via GoToMeeting
- March 22 from 1:30-3:00 pm at the Jim Tuscher Auditorium at Paraquad

11. **Other Business / Announcements**

Kevin Jemison announced that the next technical advisory meeting for the Illinois Active Transportation Plan is being held virtually tomorrow at 1:00 pm.

Sara Nelson announced that St. Charles County and Wentzville were awarded a grant for a Bicycle Friendly Communities workshop through the League of American Bicyclists. The workshop is scheduled for April 30-May 1, 2024 at Quail Ridge Park.

12. Upcoming Events

- a. APBP webinars provided by GRG & Trailnet:
 - February 21: Floating Bus Stop Accessibility: What Have We Learned?
 - March 20: Quickly and Comprehensively Implementing a Major Shift in Transportation Design to Improve Safety and Encourage Active Transportation
 - April 17: Best Practices: Emergency Vehicle Access for Bicycle/Pedestrian Friendly Streets
- b. National Bike Summit: March 19-21 – Washington D.C.
<https://www.bikeleague.org/events/summit>
- c. Smart Growth America's Equity Summit: March 27-28 – Washington, D.C.
<https://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/equity-summit>
- d. NACTO Designing Cities 2024 Conference: May 7-10 – Miami, Florida
<https://events.bizzabo.com/DesigningCities2024/>

13. **Next Meeting** – May 15, 2024

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Shaun Tooley made the motion to adjourn and Taylor March seconded the motion.