JATSO Policy Board Meeting Minutes
5th Floor Study
Thursday, March 28, 2024 1:30 p.m.

**Call to Order**
Dan Johnson, City of Joplin, called the meeting to order.

The following members were present:

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| Marvin Morris | MoDOT |
| Stacy Reese | MoDOT |
| Craig Switzer | MoDOT |
| Troy Bolander | City of Joplin |
| Dan Johnson | City of Joplin |
| Chad Weller | City of Joplin |
| Dakota Rusk | City of Joplin |
| Robert Lolley | City of Joplin |
| Carl Francis | City of Webb City |
| Daniel Swem | Newton County |

**Approval of September 28, 2023 Minutes**
Chad Weller made a motion to approve the September 28, 2023 minutes; Robert Lolley seconded. All in favor.

**Approval of November 14, 2023 (TIP Amendment 8) Electronic Vote Minutes**
XXX made a motion to approve the November 14, 2023 minutes; XXX seconded. All in favor.

**Approval of December 13, 2023 (TIP Amendment 9) Electronic Vote Minutes**
Chad Weller made a motion to approve the December 13, 2023 minutes; XXX seconded. All in favor.

**Approval of January 29, 2024 (TIP Amendment 10) Electronic Vote Minutes**
Chad Weller made a motion to approve the January 29, 2024 minutes; Robert Lolley seconded. All in favor.

**Approval of February 5, 2024 (MoDOT Safety Targets) Electronic Vote Minutes**
Chad Weller made a motion to approve the February 5, 2024 minutes; Troy Bolander seconded. All in favor.

**Safe Streets for All**

Dane Seiler from CJW brought a Safe Streets for All Plan presentation: Also in attendance was Tawny Hensor.

Dane presented a Safety Analysis, a couple of items that jumped out at him were the greater numbers of crashes around area high schools, he went over the heat map of crashes and highlighted the areas that were more active. Fatality crashes each had different circumstances, but they tried to look for consistencies. Serious injury crashes were highlighted around Madison, 7th Street as well as Hearnes (South Main), these make sense where we have speed changes when coming off the interstate. Traffic engineers look at the data, but they look at crash rates vs total number of crashes to get a more accurate comparison. Of unsignalized intersections, the Carl Junction High School entrance is in the top 10 for numbers of crashes. He wrapped up his presentation by requesting input from the Stakeholders and the public via a survey. The survey for Stakeholders was available in hard copy at the meeting as well as available by email. Once the Stakeholders surveys are completed, they will move into identifying policy and plans amendments needed and prioritization of projects.

A member of the group asked if there will be a separate survey developed for the general public. Dane is currently developing that survey.

Troy Bolander asked about a timeline – Dane responded that Engagement will take place over the next month to month and a half with a new presentation to the group in June for adoption.

Dan Johnson pointed out the importance of policies and ordinances as they apply to traffic, that it was important to not look at just one community, but to look at the Metropolitan area. For example if one municipality has a different ordinance for trail crossings etc, it can become confusing for the area drivers. Dane acknowledged this concern and stated that the goal is to be consistent so he is hoping the surveys will help with these issues. Dan thanked Dane and asked for the committee to please provide feedback through the survey.

**Approval of the FY2024 Unified Planning Work Program**

Troy Bolander introduced the First Amendment to Task 3 of the UPWP. The Origin & Destination Study was approved by JATSO in the FY2023, this amendment moves the item to FY2024 action items. Original allocation was $200k but it will not be that much, 80% Federal Planning Funds and the 20% balance will be covered by the City of Joplin. This study covers the metropolitan area. There were no questions.

Chad Weller made a motion to approve the FY2024 Unified Planning Work Program to move the Origin & Destination Study from the FY2023 plan to FY2024. Troy Bolander Seconded. All in favor.

All below voted "Yes" to adopting the aforementioned items:

Dan Johnson
Bart Starkey
Chad Weller
Darius Adams
Troy Bolander
Robert Lolley
Patrick Tuttle
Daniel Swem

Carrie Campbel
Carl Francis

There were no Board members who voted "No".

**Discuss amendment to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to include the design & implementation of a Long-Range Transit Funding Plan funded through the Areas of Persistent Poverty Grant Program.**
Robert Lolley explained that the city won a competitive grant that includes not only assessing our current system but also future models with prospective funding opportunities. This would be for design and implementation of this plan. Troy pointed out this is not an action item, we are still in the public comment period. In the next couple of weeks we would request an electronic vote. Troy also asked if this would be a shared responsibility for governance and management. Robert said if this is approved we would hire consultants to look at options. Dan stated that taking the regional approach does seem like the best way to handle public transit in our area. The need is regional and doesn't stop at municipal boundaries.

**Discuss amendment to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to include funding for operation assistance, preventative maintenance, and vehicle purchases by the Metro Area Public Transit Systems (MAPS).**
Robert Lolley explained the projects are needed to be in the TIP to be able to apply for grants. This sets out what projects we would see come forward every year. Troy again pointed out that this is also in the comment phase and would be presented in the future for vote with public comments included.

**Discuss MO Highway 171/MO Highway 249 Corridor.**
Troy explained that this has been a primary project for JATSO to redesignate 171 to I49, it is an economic development project for all communities in this area as well as Harry S Truman. It is a top project so we are looking for discussion.
Carl Francis stated this is also a safety issue as well, the fidelity intersection is seeing a lot of accidents some quite serious with trucks trying to make the cloverleaf to go north onto 49. JATSO and Harry S Truman both voted as priority item the interchange in Carthage, the revamp, it was discussed in this forum many times. We delayed an action plan and vote for a couple of meetings when concerns were brought forward, but the amount of traffic from I49 to I44 is causing the accidents. Now we have State Rep Cody Smith & MoDot meeting at CFI – none of our organization, a planning council who reports to MoDOT or Harry S Truman who is also a traffic planning council that reports to MoDOT were invited to the meeting. How did they determine to fund the Fidelity intersection? Fidelity has never been mentioned in the MPO submissions. Who got the governor and Cody Smith the redo the Fidelity intersection. The issue is not the widening of I44, but the only place widening right now is where I49 gets on to I44 and where I49 gets off of I44. Did anyone tell CFI before the press conference that there was an option to remove I49 from I44? That 249 was built to interstate standards for a reason, that 171 was revamped to interstate standards for a reason. We were told that the reason it had not been done in the past was because they didn't have the funding to do the Carthage intersection 171/49. Frank said this is partly the reason, but that there were other reports that it wasn't built to

interstate standards, more improvements to 249 would have to be made to designate it as an interstate.
No other member of the JATSO group knows of any other changes that needed to be made other than Carthage interchange.
Troy asked Frank what other changes are needed on 249?
Frank stated the Carthage interchange and improvements to the ramp. JATSO staff should be aware of it, they have been involved in prioritizing.
Craig stated that Frank is right that it is the ramps, the ones on 249 are fine but the ones on 171 are needing improvements. As well as a massive signing contract that would need to happen. A lot of signs would need changed.
Carl - If you rebuild Fidelity, how long will it be before you rebuild the Carthage interchange?
Frank stated that we don't know yet, it is on the unfunded needs list, more studies would be needed, Craig can talk about this again but there are impact statements, sewer plant, cardinal? We were told in 2016 the cost of the interchange in Carthage was between 80 & 90 million and that was the only thing holding it back was we couldn't afford it. Now we are spending 290 million to widen I44 where 249 is at and rebuild the Fidelity intersection. Just looking at Economic issues, we are giving up 18 miles of interstate designation in Jasper and Newton Counties.
Did anyone run these options by the Governor before he supported this?
Frank - this is more about the legislature not MoDOT, it is 44 statewide, not in the context of we want to do a different interstate than I44.
Craig asked if anyone is familiar with the statewide 6 lane goal. There is a study going on right now to prioritize the segments. Joplin Main Street to Rangeline was mentioned.
Troy - Joplin Rangeline didn't make the top of the list.
A comment was made that this is the highest priority for JATSO & Harry S Truman. But no discretionary points went to this. We scrambled to get projects funded to get to the top of the list because this would not have been funded.
Frank – It ranked 30th out of 57. Madison in Webb City is number 1 in the district
Discussion about Google map being the issue. Joplin still voted the interstate as the top. But Dan pointed out when you are in the process you want to bet on the ones that are going to have the best chance of getting to the top. The one with the best chance was the intersection of McArthur and Madison. We couldn't get the other one to the top on our own.
Carl stated that he doesn't like the points system when prioritization states something else. Carl did agree that more studies are needed. Has Joplin spoken to any legislature about the press conference? Troy stated not yet, we were waiting on the feedback from this meeting.

**MoDOT update –**
Craig Switzer update on projects:
This year
Resurface 43 from 160 to 171
Replace signal Main Street Route 43 and Fountain Rd
Intersection improvement work at Rangeline & Newman Rd
Cost share with City of Joplin at 15th Street & Rangeline, close to starting.
Rt 43 South M – 34th Street turn lanes
Resurfacing Route 86 from I44 to BB underway

Rehab westbound I44 bridge Mercy Exit

Next Year
Resurface 43 from 171 to F Street
7th Street rebuild from Schifferdecker to Rangeline
Relocate of Davis Blvd at Route FF signal at Stephens and FF

Other items -
Traffic study for Madison & McArthur intersection ongoing.
Route FF over CPKC Railroad on Main Street. FY 2028
Route 43 North Main street bridge over CPKC Railroad & Turkey Creek 2027

Questions – Dan asked about Madison, McArthur, thought there was already a plan for that intersection, where is that, or when it was ranked number 1, what did that do to funding?
Frank - If there are funds available then they look at the list, but this year they were not able to add any new projects. There are 3 tiers, which this project is already on the top.

**Member updates –**
Troy asked for everyone to introduce themselves.
Cecelie – FHWA introduced herself, performance measures, greenhouse gas emissions, MPO has 180 days to adopt the state target or adopt their own. This measure doesn't align with everyone's program, the federal court ruled not in favor of federal highway, there may be another hold or removal of the greenhouse gas emissions rule. Stay tuned.
Patrick Tuttle – 2026 Centennial Celebration will be a busy travel time so please think about these things to help re-route traffic around projects. Frank will help keep them posted and help with phasing if possible.

**Meeting was adjourned @ 2:47 p.m.**