

**Washington Area Highway Transportation Committee Meeting
Council Chambers of City Hall
405 Jefferson Street
Washington, Missouri 63090**

**Monday, March 29, 2021 at 8:00 AM
Minutes**

Present: Craig Mueller, Ed Fischer, Stephen O'Connor(telephone) Ray Frankenberg II, Bob Engemann, Bill Straatmann, Sandy Lucy, Danny Cassette, L.B. Eckelkamp,, Bill Miller, Steve Sullentrup

Absent: Tim Brinker, John Nilges

Chairman Bill Straatmann opened the meeting with a roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the minutes from February 22, 2021

- 1. Amtrak- Craig Mueller-**Had a MoPAC meeting on the 24th. They talked about budget issues that come ups again now. They have proposed a \$12 ½ million budget for two round trips. I think the House is happy to budget one round trip for this upcoming session. They voted yesterday in the House to move to the Senate a one train level. A lot of what they discussed they environmental impact study. To get two trains would be \$12 ½ million. So it is not doubling the price to get the service. They are still working on that. It looks like they are moving toward the budget at one single train. There is some help within that group to get some federal money to get some help. The Economic Impact Study shows that it does help and create a lot of jobs. We meet in May again. They are saying that if \$9.85 million is all we get then maybe we can work on the scheduling. Ridership is going to remain low if they do not offer a full-fledged service.
Sandy Lucy-How is the ridership right now?
Craig Mueller-It's about the same as it has been. Maybe 25% of what it had been before. They are worried that they can't ever get it returned if the budget doesn't return to what is needed. In good news, they did say that the Missouri River Runner is the busiest as far as bike travel. There will be new passenger cars coming out in May or June which is a publicity thing. They are handicap compliant and wi-fi in the cars. On time performance has been really great.
- 2. Highway 47/Missouri River Bridge-Stephen O'Connor-**Lighting is still the issue. They are trying to figure things out. They are hoping by April. Some of the system was vandalized. It has been fixed. Lighting is the last issue on the bridge.
Steve Sullentrup-Are they aware that some of the lights on the walkway of the bridge are not working?
Stephen O'Connor-They are aware of it. They are three sections of lighting on the bridge that need attention. Need to do a couple more diagnostics.
Bill Straatmann-Have all the restrictions been lifted from the bridge?
Stephen O'Connor-Yes, all restrictions have been lifted. They do still need to put some signs up on the north side of the bridge.
Bill Miller-Has MoDOT accepted the bridge?
Stephen O'Connor-Not yet, once the lighting is completed we will accept it.
- 3. Highway 47 Corridor Committee-**No report.
- 4. Franklin County Transportation Committee-**No report
- 5. MoDOT Northeast District-Warren County-Joe Gildehuas-**Working on putting up signs along north side of bridge.

6. **Washington Special Road District**-No report.
7. **Old Hwy 100 Bridge-Darren Lamb** -It qualifies for Federal money. It is something that we need to get with Tim Brinker on this.
Bill Straatmann-Would the old bridge be usable as the new one is being built?
Stephen O'Connor-We would need to look at the design before we would know that.
- Bill Straatmann**-What about the traffic issue on St. Johns Road and Hwy 100?
Stephen O'Connor-We are still in the process of choosing a traffic consultant.
Sandy Lucy-The School District has put some money in escrow for improvements to that intersection.
Stephen O'Connor-That is correct. They were told to hold onto the money until we know what is going to happen at that intersection.
Bill Straatmann-How can we get this going?
Stephen O'Connor-The project manager has not contacted the traffic engineer. Should be in a couple of months.
Darren Lamb-Is there anything going on about a temporary signalization at that intersection?
Stephen O'Connor-We have not talked about that at all. We may consider a J-Turn.
Sandy Lucy-Has anyone been in contact with the School District?
Stephen O'Connor-Not that I know of.
8. **Airport-Darren Lamb**-CMT should be completed with plans within two weeks.
We are looking at heating a couple of the hangars but right now we are watching the steel prices.
9. **Team Track-Darren Lamb**-No Report
10. **East-West Parkway**-This will depend on the Marquart farm. Then there may be a connection at Hwy A at Marquart Drive.
11. **Public Transportation**-Not present.
12. **Other Business- Steve Sullentrup-Augusta Bottom Road**-Are there any hard numbers showing what it would cost to pave this. With the money the Counties are getting maybe we could get together and get something done.
Darren Lamb-The most attention we had was the lawsuit. We had an engineer's study calling out what safety precautions we need to put in place. They were put in place. That is when it was determined that it was Warren County's to maintain. We do not maintain anything other there but now in the past we had been called out in the lawsuit at that time.
Ray Frankenberg-As everything going on in Augusta this is going to become more of an issue.
Darren Lamb-We will find a solution pretty quick.
- Darren Lamb-Rabbit Trail & Hwy 100**-This has always been a concern for people in that area. We had a traffic study completed back in 2006/2007. At that time they suggested the City put some things in place to go ahead and improve that intersection which would be limiting left turns going into Phoenix Center Drive. So with the increase in development we had CBB go ahead with another traffic study. They have gone back with some options and we are going to take that to the traffic committee Friday. Same options as before. Move Phoenix Center Drive further back south. But I can tell you with the discussions with the property owners it is not something they want to do. The second option is to put a median on Rabbit Trail Drive that would prohibit left hand turns going into Phoenix Center Drive.

Sandy Lucy-Craig, when we are talking about Amtrak, and I know our legislators have already voted, would it be beneficial to let them know that it is important to us or has the Chamber reached out?

Craig Mueller-I don't think the Chamber has done anything as far as approaching Amtrak. I know Emily Underdown, Tourism Director, was speaking at the last Chamber meeting as to going down to meet with the legislation on this issue and they were planning for that. I think Emily was a little surprised when they were voting on a lower budget in the house and has not received a call from Amtrak. It's not a finished deal but yes if it is going through the House of Representatives at that lower budget, it's moving along quickly. I don't know where to go with that. I know Aaron Greisheimer is much in favor of keeping that funding at the higher levels. From what I hear from Emily Underdown, he had a pretty rough fight to get any more money out of there. I don't think it could ever hurt to send a letter from this organization, the City or the Tourism Board saying that we are in support of this. I can create a letter.

Sandy Lucy-I think they need to hear from us. Our local would be John Simmons, Dave Schatz and Aaron Greisheimer. Can you put together a letter?

Craig Mueller-At the MoPAC meeting that is exactly what was discussed. Yes, I will get a letter together and get back to you.

Bill Straatmann-Maybe Stephen can give us an update on the Transportation Bill that is trying to go through?

Stephen O'Connor-Nothing has trickled down to me.

Joe Gildehuas-Doesn't sound like it is getting much traction.

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, seconded and passed without dissent.