

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

**Monday, March 27th, 2023 at 8:00 AM
Minutes**

Present: Craig Mueller, Stephen O'Connor, Ray Frankenberg, Bill Straatmann, Mayor Hagedorn, Joe Holtmeier, Sandy Lucy, Bill Miller, Tim Brinker, John Nilges

Absent: Ed Fischer, Bob Engemann, L.B. Eckelkamp, Chad Briggs, Jeff Niemeyer

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

Approval of the minutes from February 27, 2023, Motion made, seconded and passed without dissent.

1. Amtrak- Craig Mueller-No Report.

- 2. Highway 47/Missouri River Bridge- John Nilges-**I think they had a snooper truck out there the week of our last meeting. I don't know what they found but I know they were doing some investigative work. I did notice last week, one night that they weren't all working, so, maybe they're working on that. But that's all that I have.

Stephen O'Connor-They are working on it and we did have a maintenance crew out last week and cleaned up about 20 bags full of trash on the Washington end and there was a mattress under there. So we don't know if someone was maybe using it as an encampment or what, but, you know, we, we can't have them under our bridge. So we do put up no trespassing signs and try to keep them from underneath our right of way. So they cleaned up a lot of stuff.

Bill Straatmann-Just as a notice. What happened this past week Saturday, I think it was a nice day. And you had these clean up crews that are out there on the highway they do an amazing job. I mean, there must have been 30 or 40 people on Highway 100 picking up trash and it was the, the piles of trash were amazing with the stuff that they pick up and this is all volunteer as I understand it and, and people designate areas along the highway to take care of it and to pick up trash. But there was a biggest crew I guess I've ever seen up and down Highway 100.

Stephen O'Connor-MoDOT did a big push across the whole Saint Louis district to clean up trash and there you go, sweepers and everything. So they, they collected hundreds of tons of trash.

Bill Straatmann-So I wanted to commend the volunteers. So, you guys provide jackets and things for safety and bags I assume.

Stephen O'Connor-We do.

Bill Straatmann-So there's probably other opportunities available for areas along the highway to continue to clean up and keep it clean.

Tim Brinker-Talking about the lights on the bridge.

Sandy Lucy-We opened the bridge December 1, 2018.

Stephen O'Connor-I agree and I've been talking to Tim about it every month and they, it keeps moving, but it's just not done yet. I hear you. I understand, but they're working on it. That's all I know. It's not simple. I mean, it's not a simple task and they, they've had a lot of issues and I don't like to make excuses for it but it's, it's ongoing and they're going to get it fixed, but it's not fixed yet.

Bill Miller-I hope a year from now we're not talking about the same thing.

Stephen O'Connor-I hope we're not either.

John Nilges-I think the concern for the City of Washington is just understand that once they get this thing up and running, there's a ten day warranty period and then we take that over for maintenance in the future. We do not have that right now to be clear, we do not have control of the project. It's still in MoDOT's hand. But once they get these things working, we take that over for maintenance in the future. So just understand what that could mean for the future as far as year two, let's just say year zero, they finally get them working year two, they don't work again. Think about the struggles that MoDOT has had to keep them going. We need to all really understand that.

Bill Straatmann-It has been on our agenda and it is on our agenda and we talk about it every month. And, I think they're aware, I know MoDOT is, and I'm sure they would be. They're as anxious to get it completed as we are to have it completed. So it isn't a lack of push on it. Everybody's aware of it. Hopefully it will get done as soon as it can be. And that's really, we're at the mercy of the manufacturer who put it in and MoDOT really is, of course they're the contractor. But I think it's maybe more the manufacturer than, than it is MoDOT. So, again, not to, share the blame, but it's probably more the manufacturer than it is MoDOT. So that's my comment.

2. **Highway 47 Corridor Committee- Jim Grutsch**-The Committee has not met it over the past month. As I reported at the last meeting, the expressway and the roundabout is proceeding. Right now both are in the real estate phase and they're looking to do some borings for the expressway, the bridge. So the engineer is looking at that and that's the status where we are right now.

Bill Straatmann-Anything that we can do from our end to this committee or whatever to help you along with the process. I don't know.

Jim Grutsch- I don't believe so.

Bill Straatmann-It seems like it's just sitting there and nothing's being done, but we know there is things being done right now.

Jim Grutsch-It's behind the scene but things are moving.

John Nilges-Bill, real quick on that. We do have some development in the City just south of Steutermann road that's occurring and we've been coordinating with MoDOT on that to make sure that whatever utilities that go in the ground, whatever, whatever they do adjacent to the ride away doesn't impede the project in the future. So, just so, you know, we've been kind of thinking ahead on those things. So just, I think it's important to note that we know it's coming, MoDOT has it on there plan. So, want to make sure we do what we need to do to not cost money in the future.

Bill Straatmann-Very good. Stay on top of that one.

4. **Franklin County Transportation Committee- John Nilges**-We met two Thursdays ago. And, there wasn't a lot of discussion. The only thing that came out of that really, that was large was, I did announce my resignation from the chair of that. Kathy Trentmann from New Haven is the new Chair.

Bill Straatmann-Is that someone that might be invited to our meeting from that area?

5. **MoDOT 50/50 Grants**-No report.

6. **MoDOT Northeast District-Warren County- Theresa Lee**-Booneslick Regional Planning. So, the northeast district and MoDOT met last week, we met with the staff from Jeff City as well as the northeast district staff and all of the county commissioners. They did let us know that they are changing, moving the timing, the planning process just a little bit. So the causeway is still on the high priority unfunded needs list. But due to inflation in the projects that they currently have in the STP, they're not sure that much it's going to be moving up in the next couple of months from the unfunded needs to the STP. So, know that this is definitely still on the radar in the northeast district and particularly in Warren County. And we'll continue to monitor it and keep pushing to make things happen. Very good.

Bill Straatmann-Thank you. I've had occasions to use Highway 47. A number of times. My son-in-law bought a piece of property up in that area. I'm amazed at the roadway, Highway 47 is, you guys have

done a great job of working on improvements on that highway as I remember it from when I was in my school days, early school days, or college days. We used to be dropped off in Warrenton or whatever and, and then hitched a ride into Washington and that road is nice. That's a nice road. Highway 47. I mean, you guys have done the shoulders well.

Theresa Lee-It's on the list for overlay this summer. I think they're starting in Hawk Point, aren't they? And moving, they're starting here and moving north. Ok. So, but yes, it's definitely, there's a lot of traffic on 47 more every day.

Bill Straatmann-I bet 47 is going to be a north-south highway big time in the future. I mean, based on what MoDOT is doing with Highway 70 and 270 they're bringing all the lanes, six lanes or whatever to Highway 47 basically. And, it's going to be a north-south, a major artery for area particularly. So, anyway, very good. Keep it up.

7. **Washington Special Road District- John Nilges**-The City of Washington has been working with the Special Road District to do the next phase of paving along South Point Road. If you notice right before the northern entrance of Stonecrest, they ended paving last year just due to some cost of things. But we're working with them on developing the next phase which would take it from that end point to just north of Goodesmill. So we're again working with them on combining contracts to get the best bang for our buck and make sure that we get our city limits, which is the entrance to Stonecrest taken care of with the same contract. So, collaborating.

Bill Straatmann-A lot of new homes being built in that area. Washington's expansion. Major stuff happening big time.

8. **Old Hwy 100 Bridge- Stephen O'Connor**-Nothing new.

Bill Straatmann-Did you guys get an engineer to look at it yet to where it's being studied?

Stephen O'Connor-Not yet.

Bill Straatmann-When do you think that's going to happen?

Stephen O'Connor-I'm not sure. I need to talk to the project manager.

Ray Frankenberg-The projection is 2026. We start two years, three years out there.

Bill Straatmann-Well, you'll stay on top of that. We will just keep it active so that we get it done as soon as we can.

9. **Airport- John Nilges**-Hangar construction is ongoing. The building was purchased, there's a significant lead time, plus 200 days to get the building delivered. So they'll be grading utility work that type of stuff ongoing. So, hopefully soon we'll, if you get over there, you'll see some equipment moving dirt and those type of things. So it's exciting. Switching gears a little bit. We did have in regards to the causeway as well. We've been working very diligently with the US Army Corps of Engineers to see if there was any federal funding available to do some hydraulic studies for what a causeway would do to the flood plane. And even a potential alternate, which could be some sort of a levee system to protect the airport. Through the Omnibus bill, the airport received \$3 million to do a runway expansion. Current estimates probably somewhere approaching \$7 million. So we have a \$4 million gap that we got to figure out how we're going to fill. But we're confident we can do that. So, when the federal government is putting this money into that airport, that airport is not protected, right now from any flooding of that. So we started looking into what can we do that could protect the airport. So, when the causeway discussion came up. A causeway is great. It keeps transportation, keeps good services, people moving, but it doesn't really provide any protection to the airport. It doesn't provide a potential kitty trail connection to the south. It doesn't provide any real flood protection to the farm fields, future development, those type of things. So we talked to US Army Corps of Engineers. They do have some money available. We are going to ask the City Council for a letter of support to the Kansas City district to do \$100,000 hydraulic study of what a causeway or what a levee would do. That's kind of the first step because obviously anything that happens over there, we can't affect what happens over here or downstream or upstream or all those things. But what this would potentially do is protect Highway 47 in place as well. So it has some, some

merit. It'll be 100% fund funded by the federal government. We're hopeful we'll get it in this year's fiscal year, if not next year. But they've assured us that they want to do this hydraulic study for Warren, the City and the airport. So it's, it's all positive. That's a huge step. And I think as this progresses and again, it's just the engineering work, but as it progresses, we'll be going to everyone looking for letters of support. Franklin County, Warren County, City of Washington.

Bill Straatmann-And Mr. Marquart can help us on this one too a lot. As the rains keep happening this year, you know, we are due for a major flood a year. I mean, historically, it's happened, I mean, it's going to happen again and that's a great move on your part to get that done, to get that started to get that opportunity.

John Nilges-And I know we've talked about this with others in this room. This concept, this is literally hot off the press like last Wednesday that the USACE said that they have this.

Bill Straatmann-It's great. It's good stuff.

Mayor Hagedorn-You guys this is John's concept and just it's going to be if we can get this done versus the causeway, it will save everybody huge amounts of money. It's so much cheaper to do it this way than to just to simply build a causeway, but we had to use it.

Bill Straatmann-We use the causeway as a term.

Mayor Hagedorn-You bet.

Bill Straatmann-We had, we didn't know what was going to happen. We just knew that we need to do something out there. That basically is what John took the bow.

John Nilges-And I think the biggest thing to think about here is that we may not have a project here in the next X amount of years. It's going to take a while. This is a huge project. But when a flood happens, which it is going to happen, we are going to get calls saying, well, we built this bridge, we did all this work and now the roads closed. School District is going to have to deal with that. Everybody have to deal with this. It's good to just have a solution sitting on the shelf, a concept solution sitting on the shelf that has already been ran through that first engineering litmus test basically. And, I think, so we're going to ask the City Council for that letter of support. We're hopeful we're going to get that, but that'll will really get this thing moving.

Bill Straatmann-So that's a big move.

Ray Frankenberg-I think it's also important to remember this ties a lot of districts and a lot of jurisdictions together. We've got Highway 47 tied to, I mean, Highway 47 tied in Highway 70 to 44 through here. We've got counties, we've got congressional districts and I don't think we waste the time when the water comes up, the water is going to come up. It comes up every spring. We've got a lot of snow in the mountains this year is going to be a fairly big one unless somehow Mother Nature eases us into it. Let's use that to let all the jurisdictions know that we're all willing to work together. I think that we come out with this, everybody thinking the same thing and we know it can be done. Ok. We got to do studies, we've got to prove it. We got to make sure we're not harming anything. But look at Chesterfield Bottoms, look at the Howard Bend Bottoms where the casinos are up there. Same river, similar situation. Let's get this growth area and traffic area figured out and fixed. And so when the water starts coming up, that's our notice to talk to the other congressmen, talk to the other engineers, talk to the other cities and let's get it rolling.

10. Team Track- No report.

Bill Straatmann-Any contact with Mary Laime with the Team Track from Freightways just to reiterate that we don't have a user on that right now. And, and I think that people are looking for freight movements by a train and just a note to her saying, hey, we've got this entity or whatever you want to call it and it's unused. It was federal money that built it. Is there a need somebody out there needs that thing and we've got it. Just a contact with Mary Laime would be good.

11. East-West Parkway- **John Nilges**-There's a good report here. The High Street extension South, which is part of the East West Parkway past Casey's development. The box culvert is in, the road base is rocked

in and that has a completion date I think of June 1st to get that done, but they are on schedule to get that completed. So that'll bring High Street to the former Marquart Farm and then it will tie in the Autumn Leaf subdivision as well on the back side but it'll provide a secondary entrance/exit to the Autumn Leaf subdivision which should alleviate some traffic concerns to some level Steutermann road area. It'll provide at least those people away in and out. So we're, we're happy with that. It won't solve the problems at the along Highway A but it will provide at least those and individuals away in and out. We also have been talking with a potential developer near the Bieker Road area on the first construction of the East West Parkway in that area. So those conversations are ongoing but we had a really good meeting last week about it. And, we're hopeful that by the end of this year you'll start to see East West Parkway on that end also start up. So, two different locations opposite sides of the parkway. But I think an we have agreement that sets a good precedent moving forward. And it shows a little bit of public participation in that roadway which is important. It'll be beneficial to the developer and obviously everyone in the future. So a lot of positive there as well.

Ray Frankenberg-When are we looking to tie into Autumn Leaf? I had a date, I think.

John Nilges-June 1st is a, is a contract completion date. It is locked in right now if you actually, I don't have a photo of it but just drive out there and take a look at it. It's, it's coming together.

12. East-West Gateway 2050 Plans- Darren Lamb-as soon as we get that information, we'll email it out.

John Nilges-Be thinking about just some things that we can comment on. I think their biggest focus, what I saw from the survey was just pedestrian friendly type things, which is, you know, more urban kind of related things. But I think for us, we just need to be aware that pedestrian facilities are very, very, very important on the scoring of any projects that we put forth. So that's why we, we're putting in sidewalks on a lot of things. It's because we can't score well, unless we have some of those things in. So just kind of be aware of that moving forward. That's a, that's a really good strategy.

13. Public Transportation- Theresa Lee-That's right. So the MoRides program is administered out of the Booneslick Regional Planning Office. This is a statewide program that connects people who have transportation barriers with transportation providers. So we are that connector. I know we talked briefly about that last month, so I got some numbers pulled together. This is a statewide program statewide in 2022 we have a website, we received almost 44,000 visitors to that website statewide. And then in addition, we have a call center. So people who are not as internet savvy will call in and we have a lot of elderly who use this service. Statewide in 2022 we received over 1,600 calls of those 1,644 specifically identified themselves as being from Franklin County and needing transportation in Franklin County. In 2023 so far for Franklin County, we have received already 11 calls, from Franklin County of people wanting, needing transport, that transportation connection. So it continues to grow, website hits continue to increase

Bill Straatmann-The vans or buses or whatever you use for the transportation. Those are federally funded. Correct.

Theresa Lee-So, what we have is we connect is we have both, public and private transportation providers in our database. And so we will like, when, if they call in, we'll probe what is the need, what are they needing and see what fits for them and then give them that information so that they can, can set up that ride. Ok. Very good, very good.

Ray Frankenberg-So MO Rides does not actually include, I mean, they're not under your purview, those vans and buses that we see, you'll link people together and if no one else can get them together, you might have an individual, a volunteer that'll pick them up, take them to the hospital and so forth.

Theresa Lee-Correct. Right. We're, that link and we try and especially if they are needing a medical ride. We'll go above and beyond to try and find a way for them to get transportation.

Ray Frankenberg-And then I've got 11 in Franklin County. Did you say Warren County? And I was listening for it and missed it. How, how many calls you've had in 2023?

Theresa Lee-I did not provide the Warren County numbers. For Franklin County it's been 11 so far and those have been the calling numbers. Warren County is higher. There's a lot more name recognition in Warren County. So we do get a lot of calls in Warren County.

Bill Straatmann-Very good, Teresa. Thank you for the report and keep it up, keep us informed.

14. **Other Business- Darren Lamb**-I just want to say this is John's last meeting with us and thank him for all the stuff that he's done. I mean, I don't have to tell you guys what he has meant to this committee as far as transportation and we've had a lot of difficult decisions sometimes to go ahead and make or whatever. And John's has been a big part of it. So I just want to thank him for his time with us and I, like I said, it just dawned on me a while ago. This is going to be his last meeting. So I want to thank him for everything he's done.

Bill Straatmann-Good job John. We look forward to keeping you in the community somehow.

Bill Miller--And you've been very helpful to the committee, very helpful.

Ray Frankenberg-You did mention earlier, possibly asking the chair of the Franklin County Transportation Commission to go ahead and come and I want to appreciate all you guys that come as well from Warren County, the state, all that. And I think that's really important for us any time we can get involved in the area it's good.

15. **Adjournment-Motion made and seconded to adjourn, passed without dissent at 8:30 a.m.**