

US-24 Corridor Committee Meeting - Minutes

Friday, January 12, 2024

Joint Maintenance Facility

1000 Levee Drive, Manhattan, KS

Introductions

Meeting called to order at 10:35a

Jared Tremblay – FHMPPO	Abigail Danner – FHMPPO	David Seitz – KDOT
Matt Mackeprang – KDOT	Gregg Webster – PT County	Stephan Metzger – PT County
Stephanie Peterson – City of MHK	Judd McCormack – City of StG	Debby Worth – City of St. George
Doug Adams – PT Sheriffs Off.	Nathan Bergman – PT County	Eric Reid – USD 383
Jared Barnes – PT County	Chad Kinsley – PT County	David Schwartz – KDOT
Paul Schliffke – Wamego Police		

Recent & Current Projects:

1. US-24 & Flush Road Safety Study
 - Jared Tremblay noted that KDOT hired TranSystems conducted study. Went over recommendations, specifically the Medium U-Turn (MUT). JMT sent to TAC and will send to US24 committee.
 - Nathan Bergman and Stephen Metzger:
 - Development on NW corner is not 100% built out yet, traffic study says NB left turn lane required. In limbo stage – would we build the turn lane OR would we hold off until US24 and Flush Road alternative is built?
 - County commissioners are NOT 100% on board with recommendations. What is next step moving forward? Will it ever get pushed by KDOT/county?
 - How do we proceed with development at this intersection?
 - David Seitz of KDOT stated that he was not aware of any timeline for the MUT project, and that the County should move forward with their Flush Road left turn lane, as needed by the development.
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2. US-24 Safety Corridor Speed Report
 - Dave Schwartz presented the report
 - June 16 US24 speed study. Wanted to know speed data for 2 locations: W of Wamego, and between Wamego and St Mary's. Most concerned with 10mph+ speeders especially at entrance roads.
 - Compiled map with all speed limit zones, access points, fatal crashes (2016-21), lane configuration, etc. Very data intensive map.
 - Stephen Metzger: Fatal crashes in low-traffic areas east of Wamego?? Does KDOT have plans/projects to address this?

- David Schwartz: No specific plans. Lack of shoulders could be a contributing cause.
- Nathan Bergman: Implementing shoulders between Silverlake and Wamego has been “in the works” for a long time.
- Judd McCormack: Road was in bad shape during time of study – could have contributed to crash
- David Schwartz: May want to put fatalities layer in front of serious injury layer... some fatalities are “hiding.” Some vehicles observed traveling ~100mph. Road by milepost 340 is flat, so people speed. Speed differential between speeding drivers and slower traffic (farm implements etc). 85th Percentile (usually used to determine speed limits) is 76 mph!
- Stephen Metzger: Shoulders and wider lanes may cause people to drive even faster.
- David Schwartz noted 42% of morning WB drivers were speeding excessively (>10mph over)
- Jared Tremblay: How will information be used?
- David Schwartz: Used for safety corridor designation, extra enforcement, etc. Now that there is more signage, hoping future safety studies will show a decrease in speeding.

3. East Manhattan Gateway Plan

- Stephanie Peterson: Presented timeline of different plans/studies. First round of public involvement 2nd week of Feb: will have community open house in Green Valley/McCall Triangle Feb 12th or 13th. Focus groups in Feb for businesses/residents.
- Jared Tremblay: Agreed the MPO be involved in Feb and discussion with City to what degree
- Stephanie: Specific convos regarding transportation will be next round/later this spring. Will send MPO more info on first round of public engagement.

Upcoming Projects:

1. Excel Road Intersection

- Nathan Bergman stated the signal project is on hold due to uncertainty around Scorpius/commercial development. Pott County Commission not treating as a priority. The County is hesitant to move forward without some indication that development will be happening soon.
- Stephanie Peterson stated the City of MHK hopes to hear about Scorpius early this year. Remaining optimistic, but there is no clear timeline/deadline.

2. KDOT Safety Corridor Pilot Program

US-24 Corridor Plan Review:

1. Link to plan document & Plates

https://www.ksdot.gov/Assets/wwwksdotorg/bureaus/burTransPlan/AccessMgt/projectsandstudies/US-24-CM-Plan_PT_Co_2009.pdf

New Business:

Next Meeting planned for July/August 2024.

Meeting was adjourned