



**MISSOURI HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

Official Minutes

TABLE OF CONTENTS

August 3, 2022

COMMISSION/DIRECTOR ITEM

Commission Workshop – Medical and Life Insurance Plan 4
 Approval of Minutes 4
 Consent Agenda 5
 Commission Announcement by Michael T. Waters, Jr. 6
 Commission Committees and Commission Related Boards 6
 Director’s Report 7

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Delegation Representing St. Joseph Region 8
 Creative Solutions to Deliver Bridge Infrastructure in Missouri..... 10

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments Regarding the Closure of Rest Areas At Dearborn and Lathrop Rest Areas 11
 Comments Regarding the Adequacy of Planning For the I-229 Bridges 11

MODOT PRESENTATIONS

Rural Roads Funding and Projects..... 12
 State of the Northwest District..... 13
 Medical Plan Funding Recommendation for Calendar Year 2023..... 15

BUSINESS ISSUES

Warren County Commission, Cost Share Economic Development 18
 Westside Intermodal Transportation Corporation, Appointment of Board Member..... 20

STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP)

Consideration of Bids for Transportation Improvements 20
 Approval of Plans for Condemnation 23

REPORTS

MoDOT Briefing Report 24
 Financial - Budget - Reports – Year-to-Date, Financial Report Period Ending June 30, 2022..... 24
 Consultant Services Contract Report..... 24

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING
HELD IN ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI,
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2022**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission was held on Wednesday, August 3, 2022, in the Fulkerson Center at Missouri Western State University, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, Missouri. Robert G. Brinkmann, P.E., Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The following Commissioners were present: John W. Briscoe, Gregg C. Smith, Michael T. Waters, Jr., Terry L. Ecker, and W. Dustin Boatwright, P.E.

The meeting was called pursuant to Section 226.120 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, as amended. The Secretary verified that notice of the meeting was posted in keeping with Section 610.020 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, as amended.

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Patrick McKenna, Director of the Missouri Department of Transportation; Rich Tiemeyer, Chief Counsel for the Commission; and Pamela J. Harlan, Secretary to the Commission, were present on Wednesday, August 3, 2022.

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*“Department” or “MoDOT” herein refers to Missouri Department of Transportation.
“Commission” or “MHTC” herein refers to Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission.*

-- OPEN MEETING --

COMMISSION/DIRECTOR ITEMS

COMMISSION WORKSHOP – MEDICAL AND LIFE INSURANCE PLAN

The Commission held a special meeting to review the MoDOT/MSHP Medical and Life Insurance Plan (Plan). The Commission provides a self-insured medical insurance plan that provides coverage for employees, retirees, vested annuitants, and the dependents of these groups, of MoDOT, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and the MoDOT and Patrol Employees’ Retirement System. The Commission has established the MoDOT/MSHP Medical and Life Insurance Plan Board of Trustees (Board) to provide oversight of Plan administration and to provide recommendations to the Commission regarding Plan funding, benefit changes, and other issues that may significantly impact the Plan.

Ed Hassinger, Chief Engineer, provided an update to the Commission regarding the history, and current status of the Plan. Mr. Hassinger reviewed the recommendations based upon an actuarial review. AON Hewitt Consulting conducts an actuarial review and analysis of medical plan funding on a semi-annual basis. Mr. Hassinger reviewed with the Commission the Board’s recommendations for rates for calendar year 2023. Throughout the presentation, the Commission inquired about and discussed the subjects brought before them. Mr. Hassinger explained he would present the recommendations at the open Commission meeting to seek approval of these recommendations.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Commissioner Waters, seconded by Commissioner Ecker, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the June 2, 2022, regular meeting minutes and the June 1, 2022, and

June 22, 2022, special meetings minutes. The Chairman and Secretary to the Commission were authorized and directed to sign and certify said minutes and to file same in the office of the Secretary.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda Process

In order to make the most efficient use of Commission meeting time and to ensure Commission members are well informed on issues requiring their action, staff prepares and submits to the Commission members, in advance of their meeting, internal memoranda consisting of advice, opinions, and recommendations related to the items of the Commission meeting agenda. Those items considered by staff to be of a routine or non-controversial nature are placed on a consent agenda. During the meeting, items can be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any one Commission member. The items that are not removed from the consent agenda are approved with a single motion and unanimous vote by a quorum of the members.

Minutes reflecting approval of items on the consent agenda are singly reported herein and intermingled with minutes reflecting action on related subjects that were openly discussed. Reference to “consent agenda” is made in each minute approved via the process described in the paragraph above. Minutes reflecting action on items removed from the consent agenda and openly discussed reflect the open discussion and vote thereon.

Consideration of August 3, 2022, Consent Agenda

No items were removed from the consent agenda. Upon motion by Commissioner Briscoe, seconded by Commissioner Smith, the consent agenda items were unanimously approved by a quorum of Commission members present.

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COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT BY MICHAEL T. WATERS, JR.

Commissioner Michael T. Waters, Jr. announced that he submitted his resignation to Governor Parson effective following the commission meeting on August 3, 2022. He thanked the Governor and the citizens of Missouri for the opportunity to have led such a talented group of people. He said the commission has tackled some difficult issues during his time on the commission, and he enjoyed working with the Governor, his administration, and members of the General Assembly to find solutions to some of the issues.

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COMMISSION COMMITTEES AND COMMISSION RELATED BOARDS

The Commission has two standing committees: Audit and Legislative. In addition, it elects Commission representatives to two boards: Missouri Transportation Finance Corporation Board of Directors and MoDOT and Patrol Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees. The Chairman also serves on the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety Executive Committee. The following committee and board reports were made during the August 3, 2022, meeting.

Audit Committee – Commissioner Brinkmann stated there was no report. The next audit committee meeting is scheduled for November 2022.

Legislative Committee – Commissioner Briscoe reported Governor Parson completed his review of all legislation that passed during the 2022 session. The Governor signed two transportation-related bills into law, each containing several road and bridge designations. These two bills, House Bill 1738 and House Bill 2627, contained a total of 16 designations. All bills signed will go into effect on August 28, unless otherwise designated in the passed legislation. The annual veto session of the Missouri Legislature is scheduled for September 14. The Governor has announced that he will call a special session to pass permanent tax relief for all Missouri taxpayers and to extend the sunsets on key agricultural tax credits.

Missouri Transportation Finance Corporation (MTFC) – Commissioner Smith stated there was no report. The next MTFC meeting will be in October 2022.

MoDOT and Patrol Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) – Commissioner Boatwright reported the MAPERS Conference was held July 13-15, 2022, and next regular board meeting will be September 22, 2022.

Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety Executive Committee – Commissioner Brinkmann explained the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety Executive Committee did not meet this month. The next meeting will be on September 27, 2022, in advance of the 2022 Missouri Highway Safety and Traffic

Conference. Commissioner Brinkmann noted this year's conference will be held in Columbia, Missouri where the conference organizers are anticipating hundreds of safety advocates from different disciplines to come together and discuss strategies for moving Missouri toward zero traffic deaths. The conference will address multiple aspects of highway safety, including education, enforcement, and engineering solutions. Commissioner Brinkmann stated they will also be taking time at the conference to recognize individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to highway safety in Missouri. Nominations for the awards are currently being accepted and can be submitted by visiting the conference website at www.savemolives.com.

Finally, traffic fatalities in Missouri are currently down 2% compared to this time last year. Commissioner Brinkmann reminded everyone to help continue promoting the four simple actions every driver can take to make roadways safer:

- Buckle up.
- Phone down.
- Slow down.
- Drive sober.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

During the August 3, 2022, Commission meeting, Director Patrick McKenna provided the following report:

Historic Flooding – Director McKenna reported last week MoDOT crews in Northeast and St. Louis battled several days of heavy rainfall including shattering the record for highest 24-hour rain on Tuesday, July 26. This data from the National Weather Service in St. Louis shows the historic levels with more than 9 inches, although some specific locations had more than a foot of rain. The heavy rain began in the early morning hours of July 26 and before morning rush hour could begin, almost every interstate in St. Louis was impacted with water backed up onto it from area creeks and drainage ditches. MoDOT crews quickly worked with partners from the Highway Patrol and other local emergency responders to close the roads until the rain stopped mid-morning and the flash floods receded.

MoDOT crews spent the remainder of the day clearing off the debris that had floated around with the flash floods to ensure it did not settle into the drains. Unfortunately, another severe round of heavy rain dumped another three inches of rain concentrated in a short time on Thursday, July 28, and this time the evening rush hour was impacted. A total of 46 MoDOT roads in ten counties in the Central, Northeast, and St. Louis districts were closed due to flooding. Director McKenna recognized the hard work of the crews and emergency response partners working together to deal with these historic flash floods.

Stand Up for Safety Day – Director McKenna stated all MoDOT staff participated in the eighth annual Stand Up for Safety Day on July 21. Employees were provided information on the new safety empowerment policy, and the new Safety Response Team. Training materials covered the new lifting program, ladder safety, heat safety, PPE use and inspection, the definitions of the levels of priority response, and information on the SAFER process for scoping the designs for new projects. Field staff

checked the conditions of equipment and supplies. Director McKenna noted it is important for the department to set aside this day every year and focus attention on these important safety trainings.

Buck O’Neil Girder Signing – Director McKenna recognized that the US Route 169 Buck O’Neil Bridge reached a major milestone just one year after the project groundbreaking. The first river bridge girder was installed. The moment was captured with a girder signing ceremony on June 30 including Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas and other dignitaries along with Commissioners Ecker, Waters, and Smith. Director McKenna played a video from the event provided by the MoDOT Kansas City team.

MAASTO Meeting – I-49 Award – Director McKenna stated last week, the Mid America Association of State Transportation Officials (MAASTO) held its annual conference. The event provides the department the opportunity for interaction and collaboration with neighboring states and others across the Midwest. Director McKenna announced that Missouri was recognized with a project award during the event for the I-49 joint project between Missouri and Arkansas. The I-49 Connector has been in the works for more than 25 years. The last segment between the two states opened in the fall of 2021.

The \$70.3 million project in Missouri relocated the four-lane divided highway to the west of the existing U.S. Route 71. Missouri programmed partial funding for the completion of the I-49 Missouri-Arkansas Connector after being awarded a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) federal grant of \$25 million through the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Council. This final segment measures just five miles, though the completed I-49 Missouri-Arkansas Connector stretches 290 miles between Kansas City and Fort Smith, Arkansas. Director McKenna congratulated the employees in the Southwest District who have worked on this project over all these years.

NCHRP United Kingdom Tour – Director McKenna stated in July he participated in the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) tour with other Department of Transportation leaders and several other organizations to learn about innovations with connected and automated vehicles. Meeting with leaders from the United Kingdom Department of Transport, United Kingdom Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, and the Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles, among others were held throughout the event. The group also toured a Smart Mobility Living Lab in London and visited several public-private sector research collaboration sites. It was a whirlwind three days packed with information about the potential future of automated vehicles.

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PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

DELEGATION REPRESENTING ST. JOSEPH REGION

Natalie Redmond, President and CEO for the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce, and John Josendale, Mayor for the City of St. Joseph, welcomed the Commission to the city

Ms. Redmond shared a little information about St. Joseph that complements transportation in the region including highways, bridges, rail, transit, and aviation that are vital to the economic health of the community. She reviewed that St. Joseph is the third largest exporter in Missouri. St. Joseph has access

to 350,000 workers which helped the community earn its recent designation as the best place to work in manufacturing. The city is only a thirty-five-minute drive to Kansas City International Airport and is at the crossroads of two major thoroughfares, I-29 and US 36. She was pleased to report there is a functioning port thanks to funding from MoDOT. The port added two storage buildings and a conveyor system as well as additional capital improvements. This is a multimodal port with rail and barge capabilities. She shared examples of recent activity at the port including the transport of wind turbines and fertilizer.

Mayor Josendale recognized the importance of the interaction with MoDOT. Throughout the last six years they have been working to improve the bus system, replacing 40 bus stops with a bench and solar lighting as well as ADA ramps. He noted the legislature increased funding for transit which was very important for the community. St. Joseph is known for its trails and parkways. Over twenty miles of trails were built and maintained with MoDOT's funding; this brings in more people to the community. MoDOT supports aviation in St. Joseph through the block grant system. He reviewed some of the funding for several projects at the airport. He noted the community works closely with the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) that serves the northwest region of the state. He said the planning process with MoDOT and the MPO works very well to address transportation needs. He reviewed the planned and potential projects for the MPO. One of the subjects that arises routinely is the I-229 bridge project. In the last 4 or 5 months working with the MPO, MoDOT, and the local people, they have been able to come up with several alternatives and have finally developed a preferred plan. Public meetings are taking place to seek input and support of the preferred option that seems to work for everyone. The project will remove the bridge and place the road in the same footprint.

Commissioner Ecker thanked the county for their presentation and their continued partnership with MoDOT as they continue to work together on solving future transportation needs in St. Joseph and Northwest Missouri.

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CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO DELIVER BRIDGE INFRASTRUCTURE IN MISSOURI

John Irvine, Executive Vice President of Business Development for United Bridge Partners, stated his company funds, designs, builds, owns, and operates private toll bridges across the United States. United Bridge Partners (UBP) offers a turnkey solution to state and local governments to replace and repair bridges in need, delivering new, modern, safe, and durable structures that provide an enhanced transportation experience. As private owners, UBP is responsible for all long-term operations and maintenance, customer service, and tolling back-office activities. The structures employ open-road, all-electronic tolling technology to make travel safer and more efficient, and UBP has become the foremost experts in tolling back-office billings and collections in the United States. UBP is built on the values of trust, integrity, safety, innovation, humility, and commitment. Their mission is to creatively deliver and operate transportation infrastructure for America's communities. UBP has identified and is prepared to commit private capital for bridge replacements rather than debt financing. UBP assumes all risks from funding, design, building, operating, and collecting the user fee.

He then reviewed the six bridges that are part of their portfolio: the South Norfolk Jordan Bridge located in Chesapeake, Virginia; the Dominion Boulevard Bridge in Chesapeake, Virginia; the Cline Avenue Bridge in East Chicago, Indiana; the Houbolt Road Extension in Joliet, Illinois; and the Independence and Liberty Bridge in Bay City, Michigan which is a project that is scheduled for completion in 2023. He also shared about a current project that is underway with the Parkersburg Bridge Partners for a structure that crosses the Ohio River between Parkersburg, West Virginia and Belpre, Ohio.

Commissioner Boatwright inquired about the range of user fees for the bridges. Mr. Irvine noted they vary from \$1.00 to \$2.60. Commissioner Smith thanked Mr. Irvine for sharing the many innovative solutions his company has worked with others to deliver bridge projects.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

COMMENTS REGARDING THE CLOSURE OF REST AREAS AT DEARBORN AND LATHROP REST AREAS

Debbie LeDuc, Executive Director of Clinco Industries in Cameron, Missouri, which is the sheltered workshop that provides janitorial services for the rest areas along the I-29 and I-35 corridors at the Lathrop north and southbound rest areas since 1986 and at Dearborn north and southbound areas since 1989. Staff and crew provided services 365 days per year, approximately 12 hours per day. She received notification of the conversion of the southbound rest areas to truck parking only facilities. She is asking that these projects be reconsidered or postponed. She cited the state freight and rail plan to support her concerns about whether or not the need for truck parking will be met by this conversion. She hopes there can be an alternate plan keeping the existing buildings and figuring out something else for parking. Chairman Brinkmann thanked Ms. LeDuc for her comments.

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COMMENTS REGARDING THE ADEQUACY OF PLANNING FOR THE I-229 BRIDGES

Bob Dempster, Chairman of the local MPO, wanted to make sure the public is invited to attend the various stakeholder meetings to discuss the alternatives. The last alternative that was shared with the public was put together in the April/May time frame. The MPO will work with MoDOT and the communities to move the process forward. Everyone understands that the I-229 bridge needs to come down and together we are looking for the best alternative. Mr. Dempster stated he just wanted to make sure that alternatives are fully vetted. Chairman Brinkmann thanked Mr. Dempster for his comments.

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MODOT PRESENTATIONS

RURAL ROADS FUNDING AND PROJECTS

On behalf of the Director, Eric Schroeter, Assistant Chief Engineer, presented an update on rural routes in Missouri. He explained the General Assembly passed a state budget including an additional \$100 million of general revenue for rural routes, he noted these funds are required to be expended in Fiscal Year 2023. He reminded the Commission when they approved the 2022-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in July, they took historic action with its investment in the rural road system. The STIP includes investment in minor routes and low volume roads covering more than 15,000 lane miles of minor routes and more than 3,000 lane miles of low volume minor routes. It also addresses more than 500 bridges on minor routes and almost 300 bridges on low volume minor routes. The total STIP investment in minor and low volume roads is \$1.98 billion, which is a tremendous investment in this part of the transportation system.

Mr. Schroeter noted with the Commission's award of the bids today, the combined total of \$100 million of Governor's Rural Routes Program and state road funds of \$15 million, a lot of projects are going to get started with scheduled completion by July 1, 2023. This is a significant investment in rural Missouri that will directly impact the state's economy. This is a targeted investment to raise the condition of these rural routes.

Commissioner Ecker noted it is exciting to finally have the money to do this and address the condition of low volume minor roads, and it comes with some challenges because the department now has a lot of work to do. Being able to improve these roads also boosts the morale of the employees working on these roads, too. Commissioner Waters thanked Mr. Schroeter for his presentation and expressed his appreciation for the investment in the rural roads. He noted the Governor putting money in the rural roads is fantastic for everyone involved. Director McKenna noted that when Commissioner Waters joined the Commission in 2015, the entire STIP was less than the amount being invested in rural roads today. He

also expressed concern that with the rising costs to do projects, there is growing concern that inflation will have an impact on next year's STIP.

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STATE OF THE NORTHWEST DISTRICT

On behalf of the Director, Marty Liles, Northwest District Engineer, provided a brief overview of the current state of roads, bridges, and safety improvements in the Northwest District.

The Northwest District proudly supports the MoDOT values of safety, service, and stability while serving more than 270,000 Missourians in 20 counties. The district is authorized 493 employees and is currently staffed with 467 employees. The Northwest District maintains 11,331 lane miles of interstates and major, minor, and low volume routes, including Interstates 29, 35, and 229 and several U.S. Routes including 36, 65, 71, and 24.

The Northwest District's 2,215 miles of major roads are maintained at 86 percent good (statewide goal 90 percent); 77 percent of its 3,030 miles of minor roads are in good condition (statewide goal 80 percent) and 52 percent of its 6,086 miles of low volume roads are in good condition (statewide goal 70 percent).

The Northwest District has 1,359 bridges with 182 in poor condition. The district continues to focus on making improvements to these poor condition bridges. Last year the district was able to improve 21 bridges removing them from the poor condition list, with only 6 new bridges being added to the list.

The I-229 Environmental Assessment Study continues to move forward. The study team has met with stakeholders and the community to help identify options for the aging double decker bridge. Four alternatives have been identified that remove the bridge and would place the highway on the ground in its current footprint. Meetings with stakeholders and the public continue for this project. The study team launched a website to inform the public of these alternatives and eventually identify a preferred alternative alignment by the end of the year.

The district is addressing its bridges through a combination of programs and projects. The Fixing Access to Rural Missouri (FARM) Bridge Design-Build program improves a total of 31 bridges in the Northwest and Northeast districts. The Northwest District has 14 bridges that are included in the FARM Bridge program. Two of these bridges are completed and one in Livingston County will begin construction in the middle of August 2022. The Northwest Bridge Bundle is a Design-Build Project that is planned for advertisement in Spring 2023. The project includes improvements to 34 poor condition bridges in seven counties on the eastern side of the district. The Northwest District has 48 bridges identified on the Governor's Focus on Bridge Program. Thirty-seven of those bridges have been completed and 11 are under construction. The district expects to complete all the bridges in the construction program next year.

The Northwest District has over 6,000 lane miles of low volume roads. The condition of these roads is at 52 percent good condition. With the current STIP, which includes the department's maintenance asset management deficit program, the district will be making significant improvements to these low-volume and minor roads. In addition, the Governor's Rural Road Program provided \$100 million of general revenue monies to be used on rural roads statewide. The Northwest District received \$53 million of this money toward improvements to these poor condition low-volume roads. He reported, to date, 151 lane miles have been completed, 548 lanes miles are awarded, and 1,947 lane miles are planned in the STIP.

None of this would be possible without the staff to get this work done safely. Through all the challenges the department has with hiring and retaining a workforce, the employees who remain are dedicated, hardworking, and delivering the program. He commended his maintenance team for laying 95,000 tons of asphalt, completing 500 lane miles of chip seals, installing 32,000 feet of pipe, sealing 1.4 million square foot of bridge deck, and striping over 7,400 lane miles of roadway.

Commissioner Ecker thanked Mr. Liles for his presentation and for the teams who work hard to take care of the roads and make the roadsides look good, especially for the visitors coming to St. Joseph for the Chiefs training camp.

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MEDICAL PLAN FUNDING RECOMMENDATION FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023

On behalf of the Director, Ed Hassinger, Chief Engineer, shared the contribution recommendations for the medical and life insurance plan. Contributions are based on projected funding necessary to provide medical and life insurance benefits to employees, retirees, vested annuitants, and the dependents of these groups of MoDOT, the Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP), and the MoDOT and Patrol Employees' Retirement System (MPERS). The Medical and Life Insurance Plan Board of Trustees (Board) provides recommendations based upon an actuarial review. AON Hewitt Consulting conducted an actuarial review and analysis of medical plan funding on a semi-annual basis. Based upon the June 29, 2022, review, the Board made recommendations for plan funding for calendar year 2023. The recommendations are projected to maintain adequate funding for medical plan costs.

Mr. Hassinger noted the plan has provided employer sponsored health benefits for over 43 years. The plan is governed by a Board of Trustees composed of four active MoDOT employees, two active Patrol employees, and one retiree from each agency. These Board members are recommended by either the MoDOT Director or the MSHP Superintendent, respectively, and require approval by the Commission. MoDOT's Assistant to the Chief Administrative Officer-Employee Health and Wellness serves as the Chairman of the Plan Board of Trustees.

The plan offers two options. One option is the Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) with a \$600 annual deductible; as of July 1, 2022, there are 12,318 subscribers in the PPO option. There is also a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) offered in conjunction with a health savings account (HSA). As of July 1, 2022, there are 452 subscribers in the HDHP option. About sixty-four percent of the plan serves

active employees, about ten percent serves pre-65 retirees, and about twenty-four percent are the Medicare population.

Mr. Hassinger reported in order to maintain a sufficient, affordable, and sustainable health care benefit for both the active employees and retirees, the commission adopted the strategy to move to a split of premium costs where the employees' pay twenty percent, and the employers pay eighty percent. This strategy also resulted in retirees receiving a two percent contribution toward medical premiums per year of service that is capped at fifty percent. This strategy remains in place although the premium cost distribution changed in 2018 when the employers absorbed all necessary increases in plan funding for active employees while sharing the increase with retirees. This resulted in employees paying 18 percent of the premium cost while the employers are paying 82 percent of the premium cost. For calendar years 2019, 2020, and 2021 there were no premium increases.

The report explained the prescription drug plan costs continue to rise. Last year the plan exceeded \$35.6 million in prescription costs, largely due to the cost of specialty medications. These are the drugs that are used to treat cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, and hepatitis C. Specialty drugs are 1.0 percent of total claims, but account for over 57 percent of total drug plan spending. This trend is a serious issue for health insurance plans nationwide with no apparent strategy to combat the trend in the foreseeable future.

The report also noted while the number of medical claims decreased 29 percent, the costs are up by 6.5 percent. The number of medical claims decreased to 467,706 claims in 2020 compared to 658,281 claims in 2019.

Although the plan has had some financial challenges in the past, the commission has been able to adequately fund the medical plan and as a result regained financial stability. Mr. Hassinger was pleased to report the total net position at the end of 2021 is \$49.4 million and is positive progress. He also shared

the plan actuary projects retained earnings and the Board has established a goal for retained earnings as a percentage of total expense to be near fifteen percent.

Mr. Hassinger noted this year's report includes information regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. He reported the plan provides one hundred percent coverage for any sort of COVID-19 screening and testing. As of June 30, 2022, total medical claim costs to diagnose and treat COVID-19 is \$15.7 million. Of the plan population, 13,461 members have had a COVID related claim. It was anticipated that the retiree population would be more vulnerable to the disease and result in more hospitalizations, and with over 6,000 retirees makes the plan more vulnerable.

Looking across both the private sector and government entities, there is an alarming downward trend in the ability of employers to offer health insurance to retirees. Because of this decline, those who have a solution to offer are eager to engage with plans like the department's plan. There are two general plan designs currently available. Traditional Medicare partnered with supplemental coverage for doctors and hospital, which is what the department currently offers. Additionally, there are Medicare Advantage plans. Medicare Advantage Plans offer little to no disruption to the retiree, while offering the potential for significant savings, such as the following:

- Federal Subsidies – Access to risk adjusted federal subsidies
- Network Flexibility – Allows retirees to keep their providers
- Plan Design Flexibility – Ability to mirror current design

The Medical Board conducted a Request for Proposal (RFP) this spring to determine if a change was advantageous. The analysis of the RFP determined that there would be increased benefit options, such as offering additional services like Silver Sneakers, which is the most often requested benefit, personalized health care assistance, home meal deliveries post hospital stays, in home health visits, and pharmacy integration for better health outcomes. It would also reduce deductibles and offer a zero-dollar premium for retirees with 12 years of service or more. It is anticipated that moving to a Medicare

Advantage plan will reduce the Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) liability, staff will monitor any changes closely.

Mr. Hassinger stated the outlook for the medical plan is good with a stable financial status. The plan is currently ahead of where the actuary anticipated it would be, and as a result the recommendations are projected to provide adequate funding while maintaining an appropriate plan premium stabilization reserve. The premium stabilization reserve goal is established based on guidance from the plan actuary and is set aside to prevent dramatic fluctuations in necessary plan premiums.

Mr. Hassinger recommended the Commission continue offering two plan options, the Preferred Provider Option (PPO) and the High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) with a Health Savings Account (HSA), with no premium increases for all rate categories in calendar year 2023, to continue the employer contribution into the HSA for an individual subscriber at \$500 and for all other rate categories at \$1,000.

After further discussion and consideration, and upon motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Boatwright, the Commission unanimously approved the medical and life insurance plan recommendations to: (1) not increase medical plan premiums for all rate categories in calendar year 2023; (2) continue offering two plan options PPO and HDHP with a HSA with no changes in Plan design including continuing the annual employer contribution into the HSA for an individual subscriber at \$500 and for all other rate categories at \$1,000; and (3) approve recommendation to contract with United Health Care for a group Medicare Advantage Plan with prescription drug plan for Medicare eligible retirees.

Commissioner Boatwright thanked Mr. Hassinger for his presentation. Mr. Hassinger noted that this was the fifth year in a row there was no increase in premiums for medical insurance.

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BUSINESS ISSUES

WARREN COUNTY COMMISSION, COST SHARE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The department works in cooperation with the Department of Economic Development and project

sponsors to determine when targeted investments can be made to create jobs and may provide up to one hundred percent of participation costs. Twenty percent of the cost share program funds are set-aside for projects that demonstrate economic development through job creation. In June 2021, the Cost Share Committee revised its program guidelines. The Cost Share Committee consists of the Deputy Director/Chief Engineer, Chief Financial Officer, Assistant Chief Engineer, and two members selected by the Director, which are currently the Chief Administrative Officer and Governmental Relations Director. This committee revised its guidelines to require Commission approval for projects that use the cost share economic development funds. This action is required to occur prior to the project being included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

The Warren County Commission submitted a \$2,870,417 request for cost share economic development funds to construct additional lanes and pavement improvements on the Interstate 70 South Outer Road (Veteran's Memorial Parkway) from Archer Road to Route T to accommodate the increased traffic volumes created by the industrial development, which includes American Foods Group. The project is located in the Northeast district.

The total project costs of \$2,880,417 will be funded by the following sources: \$2,870,417 cost share economic development funds available in state fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024, and \$10,000 of Northeast District funds for preliminary engineering and construction engineering reviews. Warren County will be responsible for any additional project costs. The project construction is estimated to begin in spring of 2023. The project will support an estimated 1,400 new jobs at the American Foods Group manufacturing facility.

The Cost Share Committee approved the County's request at their June 16, 2022, meeting. On behalf of the Director, Ed Hassinger, Deputy Director/Chief Engineer, recommended approval of the award of \$2,870,417 in Cost Share Economic Development set-aside funds to the Warren County Commission to construct additional lanes and pavement improvements on the Interstate 70 South Outer

Road (Veteran’s Memorial Parkway) from Archer Road to Route T to accommodate the increased traffic volumes created by the industrial development. Via approval of the consent agenda, the Commission unanimously approved the recommendation described above.

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WESTSIDE INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION, APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBER

On behalf of the Director, Chris Redline, Kansas City District Engineer, conveyed the following recommendation of Westside Intermodal Transportation Corporation Board of Directors as it pertains to the membership on that board:

- Appoint J.P. Moody to fill the unexpired portion of the six-year term held by J. J. Dustin, which is set to expire December 26, 2025.

Via approval of the consent agenda, the Commission unanimously approved the appointment to the Westside Intermodal Transportation Corporation Board Members as recommended and noted above.

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STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP)

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS FOR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

On behalf of the Director, Travis Koestner, State Design Engineer, presented the following recommendations pertaining to bids received on federal aid and state highway and bridge projects during the past month.

Mr. Koestner recommended: (1) Award of contracts to the lowest responsive bidders for bids received at the July 15, 2022, letting, as recommended, and noted in Table I below; (2) Concur in Illinois Department of Transportation award for the Mississippi River Bridge, required combination with Call F01, in Table I below; (3) Concur in award of the Governor’s Cost Share Route 63 Intersection project that will be awarded by the City of West Plains from the bids they received on July 1, 2022 as noted in Table II below.

**Table I
Award of Contracts
July 15, 2022, Bid Opening**

Call No.	Route	County	Job No.	Bid Amount	Non-Contractual Costs	Contractor	Description
A01	LP 29	Buchanan	JNW0090	\$197,295.00	\$0.00	BRS Construction, LLC	Drainage Improvement
A02	T, DD, BB, H, HH, EE, CC, Z, KK, PP, M	Atchison, Gentry, Holt, Nodaway	JNW0091	\$9,945,264.01	\$0.00	Herzog Contracting Corp.	Resurface
A03	F, MM, T, M, U, JJ, D, C, NN, C, B	Grundy, Harrison, Mercer, Worth	JNW0092	\$15,017,519.38	\$0.00	Herzog Contracting Corp.	Resurface
A04	BB, Y, JJ, KK, K, U, Z, C, YY, 139	Carroll, Grundy, Linn, Livingston	JNW0093	\$14,102,655.05	\$0.00	Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc.	Resurface
A05	F, FF, N, KK, EE, BB, M, V, U, CC, O	Linn, Putnam, Sullivan	JNW0094	\$17,882,086.05	\$0.00	Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc.	Resurface
B01	T, MM, CC, N	Lincoln, Montgomery, Warren	JNE0163	\$2,339,000.00	\$0.00	Pace Construction Company	Resurface
B03	D, M, W, AA	Clark, Knox, Scotland	JNE0165	\$6,112,521.55	\$0.00	W. L. Miller Company	Resurface
B04	E, EE, JJ, J, HH, K, J, T, N, A	Adair, Linn, Macon, Schuyler, Scotland	JNE0166	\$19,153,962.05	\$0.00	Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc.	Resurface
C01	EE, HH, H, FF, V, BB, CC, Z, OO	Ray	JKR0228	\$5,054,401.18	\$0.00	Ideker, Inc.	Resurface
D01	5	Laclede	JCD0046	\$690,823.20	\$0.00	H.R. Quadri Contractors, LLC	Pavement Replacement

Call No.	Route	County	Job No.	Bid Amount	Non-Contractual Costs	Contractor	Description
D02	P, NN	Monroe, Randolph	JNE0164	\$16,134,195.99	\$0.00	Capital Paving & Construction, LLC	Resurface
	MM, B, 129, HH, O, WW, KK, VV, DD	Carroll, Chariton	JNW0095				
	H, O, U, K, BB, FF, CC, JJ, HH	Howard, Randolph	JCD0130				
F01 *	I-270	St Louis, St Louis City	J6I3020C	\$35,443,245.69	\$4,055.36	Walsh Construction Company II, LLC	Interchange Improvement
G01	AA, VV, T, YY, E, U	Benton, Dallas, Hickory	JSR0149	\$5,135,000.00	\$0.00	APAC-Central, Inc.	Resurface
H01	TT, U, AA, V, NN	Cape Girardeau, Dunklin, Madison, Mississippi, Reynolds	JSE0158	\$2,590,299.10	\$0.00	Apex Paving Co.	Resurface
H02	A, OO, VV, KK	Douglas, Oregon	JSE0159	\$1,928,000.00	\$0.00	Pace Construction Company	Resurface
			TOTAL:	\$151,726,268.25	\$4,055.36		

^Focus on Bridges

*Call F01 – Required Call with IDOT 76J90 / J6I3264

MoDOT Maximum \$190,000,000 (J6I3264)

IDOT Costs of \$496,247,509.09 for combined total of \$531,690,754.78

**Table II
Concur in Award
July 1, 2022, City of West Plains Bid Opening**

Route	County	Job No.	Bid Amount	Contractor	Description
63*	Howell	J9P3664	\$495,518.80	Cary Stewart Construction, LLC	Construct New Intersection – Section 2

*Governor's Cost Share – \$926,269.05

Commission Consideration and Action

After consideration, and upon motion by Commissioner Briscoe, seconded by Commissioner Smith, the Commission took the following action with abstentions listed below.

1. Awarded contracts to the lowest responsive bidders for bids received at the May 20, 2022, bid opening, as recommended, and noted in Table I above. Non-contractual costs for these projects are shown on the above tabulation.
2. Concurred in the award of bids received by the Illinois Department of Transportation award for the Mississippi River Bridge project IDOT project 76J90/MoDOT project J6I3264 let as a required combination with Call F01 the Missouri approach Mississippi River Bridge project, in Table I above.
3. Concurred in the award of bids received by the City of West Plains for the Governor’s Cost Share Route 63 Intersection project as recommended and noted in Table II above.
4. Authorized the Director, Deputy Director/Chief Engineer, Chief Financial Officer, or Assistant Chief Engineer to execute the contracts awarded above.

Commissioner Waters abstained from Calls A04 and C01.

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APPROVAL OF PLANS FOR CONDEMNATION

On behalf of the Director, Travis Koestner, State Design Engineer, recommended the Commission approve the following detailed project plans, approved by the Chief Engineer, for filing as necessary for the condemnation of right of way.

<u>County</u>	<u>Route</u>	<u>Job Number</u>
St. Louis	340	J6S3255

In accordance with Section 227.050 RSMo, the Commission via approval of the consent agenda, approved the detailed project plans for the above noted projects and directed they be filed as necessary for the condemnation of right of way.

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-- **REPORTS** --

REPORTS

The Commission received the following written reports.

MODOT BRIEFING REPORT

Patrick McKenna, Director, provided to the Commission the written monthly Issue Briefs that are sent from the department to the Governor since the previous MoDOT Briefing Report. There was one briefing report for the past month.

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FINANCIAL - BUDGET - REPORTS – YEAR-TO-DATE, FINANCIAL REPORT PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2022

Todd Grosvenor, Financial Services Director, submitted a written financial report for fiscal year to date June 30, 2022, with budget and prior year comparisons.

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CONSULTANT SERVICES CONTRACT REPORT

Travis Koestner, State Design Engineer, submitted a written report of consultant contracts executed in the month of June 2022, for both engineering and non-engineering related projects. The department utilizes consultants to efficiently manage workload and provide specialized expertise to supplement and support department staff. Expenditures for consultant services are funded from the Commission approved Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and MoDOT Operating Budget. There were 428 active contracts held by individual engineering consultant firms prior to June 1, 2022. Eighteen engineering consultant services contracts were executed in June 2022, for a total of \$2,016,311. There were zero non-engineering consultant contracts executed in June 2022.

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By unanimous consensus of all members present, the meeting of the Commission adjourned.

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The Mission of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission is to:

- Represent the citizens of Missouri pursuant to the Constitution by providing independent and nonpartisan governance of the Missouri Department of Transportation; and
- Establish policies, exercise oversight, and ensure accountability in developing and maintaining a world class transportation system in Missouri which fosters safety and economic development.

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