



Tupelo Major Thoroughfare Program Minutes October 10, 2022

Members present: Terry Bullard, Bill Cleveland, Robin Haire, Raphael Henry, George Jones, Ernie Joyner, Jon Milstead, Greg Pirkle, Danny Riley, Ted Roach, Drew Robertson, and Dan Rupert.

Members not present: C W Jackson, Stuart Johnson, and Charlotte Loden.

Others present: Dennis Bonds, Scott Costello, Don Lewis, Caleb McCluskey, Neil McCoy, Tanner Newman, Renee Newton, Johnny Timmons, John White, and Chuck Williams.

Chairman Pirkle called meeting to order.

Renee Newton called roll.

Chairman Pirkle asked the Committee to review and approve the minutes of the September 12, 2022, Major Thoroughfare Program regular meeting. Correction request to minutes to change “Danny Riley made motion to accept minutes” to “Dan Rupert made motion to accept minutes”. Terry Bullard made motion to accept minutes with correction. Dan Rupert seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously by Committee.

No financial report presented for month ending September 30, 2022. Year end and Phase VI closeout report to be presented at November meeting.

Dennis Bonds reviewed updates on the current projects.

MAINTENANCE WORK

No current projects

W JACKSON STREET (CLAYTON TO MADISON)

Final pay request is being reviewed by ESI. Final payment to be issued as soon as possible.

EASON BLVD (S VETERANS TO BRIAR RIDGE)

Widening along the north side of project is approximately 75% complete. Contractor has begun working on the south side. Project should be substantially complete by end of this year.

W JACKSON ST (N THOMAS ST TO LUMPKIN)

Outreach to property owners continues for right-of-way requests. Few responses have been received. Mr. Bonds asked Committee members for assistance reaching out to property owners.

N VETERANS MEMORIAL BLVD (E MAIN ST TO HAMM ST)

Design work has been completed by ESI.

E JACKSON ST (N MADISON TO N FRONT ST)

Design work almost complete. Working on options for Glenwood Cemetery retaining wall.

MDOT NEWS

MDOT Partner Project at McCullough/Hwy 45/Hilda Ave - MDOT representatives have requested to be on the November MTP Agenda to share their concept plan.

Belden to Mt Vernon overlay on McCullough Blvd job bid on July 27; expect work to begin soon.

OTHER

Dennis Bonds informed the Committee the Tupelo Grade Crossing Elimination grant application was submitted today. The CRISI grant request for quiet zone crossing improvements should be submitted by December 1.

Chairman Pirkle reviewed current and proposed Jackson Street projects to open discussion on including the section of W Jackson St between Clayton Ave and Joyner Ave. This portion was not included in MTP proposed projects for W Jackson St due to the understanding that the Neighborhood Development Corporation planned for a boulevard in the Jackson West Neighborhood improvements. NDC no longer plans to construct a boulevard and the City would like MTP to consider including this portion of W Jackson St to Phase VII projects. Ernie Joyner stated this section would be the only two lane section of Jackson St after current MTP projects are completed if it is not added as an MTP project. Committee also discussed this project as an option if the right-of-way acquisition between Thomas St and Lumpkin is not able to be finalized for Phase VII. The addition of this project would require public approval to amend Phase VII project list.

Dennis Bonds opened discussion of improvements along E Main St from Elizabeth St to the railroad at Front St. Parking and traffic entering onto Main St from side streets have caused a safety issue. Tupelo Police have responded to eighteen traffic accidents in this area in the past twelve months. Greg Pirkle stated this project is not currently included in the overlay/maintenance budget, but it is a MTP road. ESI presented estimated construction cost of \$758,807.65. Chairman Pirkle asked for a recommendation from the Committee.

Motion to recommend the use of Major Thoroughfare funds for safety improvements to E Main St from Elizabeth St to the railroad at Front St was made by Dan Rupert. Terry Bullard seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously by Committee.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.



Chairman Greg Pirkle



Recorded by Renee Newton