



Meeting Notes

Interstate 29/35 Connections Project
103 W. 26th Ave.
North Kansas City, MO 64116

816.841.8888
www.kcicon.com

Date: Friday, July 10, 2009

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Location: kciCON Project Office, 103 W. 26th Avenue, North Kansas City, MO 64116

Purpose: Community Advisory Group monthly meeting & project tour

Participants:

Committee Members Present:

City of Kansas City, Michael Burke
City of North Kansas City, Mike Smith
Downtown Council, Daniel Serda
Greater Kansas City Chamber, Dick Holwick
North Kansas City Business Council,
John Wagner, Sr.
Northland Regional Chamber, Tim Kristl
Platte County, Ed Bradley
Columbus Park/Guinotte, Mike Sturgeon
Clay County, Larry Larson

Committee Members Absent:

Chouteau Courts, Lizzie Brown
Jackson County, Ali Roohanirad
MARC, Mell Henderson

MoDOT's kciCON Project Team

Beth Wright, MoDOT District Engineer
Brian Kidwell, Project Director
Jennifer Benefield, Community Relations Mgr.

Paseo Corridor Constructors

Tom Kellerman, Sponsor
Bryan Wilkerson, Project Manager
Laura Wagner, Public Information Office

Agenda Items:

Call to order 7:30 a.m.

1. Legislative update

Kidwell reported that Governor Nixon vetoed the motorcycle helmet legislation. Wright stated that 86 percent of Missourians surveyed agreed that helmets are needed. The ACLU opposes helmets and seat belts. Wright stated some legislators have questioned whether MoDOT should spend money on safety issues. The governor made the right decision and MoDOT will work on re-building relationships strained by this process.

Kidwell stated that design-build legislation passed. Up to 2 percent of MoDOT's STIP projects can now be design-build contracts. Design-build is a strategic tool that can be used on big projects that need to be designed and built fast.

Wright stated that ignition interlocks will not be installed in MoDOT vehicles. Employees required to use one of these will not be employed by MoDOT.



Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Mike Kehoe (Jefferson City) resigned. There are now two Republican slots to fill. These replacements could likely come from Kansas City and St. Louis.

2. Project update / Q&A

Kidwell reported the project is about 50 percent complete. MoDOT is paying PCC about \$7 to \$9 million per month. There are 55 people in the project office and up to 300 workers in the field on a daily basis. The first river bridge girder set will take place on the north end in late-July/early August. Steel is being shipped from AFCO Steel in Arkansas.

Wilkerson provided a construction update from the north end to south end of the project. I-29/35 southbound to Armour Road will open to traffic July 28. Before this occurs, the southbound I-29/35 on-ramp from Armour Road will close. Traffic will be detoured to Linn Street to 16th St. to access the interstate. Macon Street is scheduled to re-open in early August; will also open the northbound ramp to Bedford Ave. 16th Avenue will be modified from a loop ramp to a half-diamond in September. Bypasses will be constructed at Front Street and interstate traffic will be rerouted off the mainline. This will allow PCC to construct the single-point urban interchange. At the south end of the project, interstate traffic will be shifted head-to-head on the southbound lanes in September to allow PCC to demolish the existing ramp bridge over the Paseo. Crews will be adding new concrete paving on south end. The Independence Avenue loop ramp is scheduled to re-open in early August.

Wilkerson stated all work at Armour is scheduled to be finished by late-2010. City of North Kansas City Council members will tour progress Tuesday afternoon (July 21).

Kidwell stated roadway design was completed in early 2009; river bridge design completed in April. There are still a few designers still on staff to assist with changes. Wilkerson stated there are seven different phases of traffic to complete the single point urban interchange at Front Street. There will always be access at Front Street.

There was discussion with regard to funding for the City of Kansas City, Mo project that will tie into Front Street. Burke stated this is nearly complete and he anticipates a fall project letting. Kidwell stated there is will be just one signal installed under the new Front Street bridge. This will make for a very clean, attractive looking area. Traffic switches are necessary to accommodate construction, will be substantial and will affect how people will be able to navigate the corridor.

Kidwell stated crews will be working on the northbound lanes of the Heart of America Bridge to add the bike-ped facility in spring 2010. The project is scheduled to let in December 2009 or January 2010.

Wilkerson stated that utilities have been one of the largest construction challenges on this project. There are no contaminated areas. Kidwell stated that the age of infrastructure south of the river is proving to be a challenge. Widening work in the 1970s buried old utilities and the 100-yr-old brick manholes are extremely fragile.

There was a discussion about project safety. Kidwell stated there was a bicyclist fatality in the northbound lanes of the south viaduct.

Kidwell stated there have been several change orders to the project. They include painting the Paseo Blvd. Bridge with a safety message; modifying Front Street on both ends, adding some continuous lighting; and eliminating a pond. MoDOT spent \$1.3 million to re-design and construct a right-hand entry at Paseo Blvd. to improve safety. This will help improve the north- and southbound alignments resulting in a more practical driving experience for motorists. Kidwell stated that to date MoDOT has been able to fund all changes within the same budget with the use of a contingency fund. There may be a few unknowns still out there, but further the project progresses, the less likely the risk.

There was a discussion about third party work. Kidwell stated MoDOT abandoned a water line we attempted to relocate. Isle of Capri will be the next engagement with KCMO water services department. Wright stated MoDOT meets monthly with new the new head of KCMO water services to coordinate work.

There was a discussion about DBE and workforce development. PCC is still striving to meet the contract goals. There are currently 39 trainees on the job learning crafts and skills on their way to lifelong careers. PCC is trying to balance building the job with number of trainees. There are many experienced journeymen that are waiting for work right now. MoDOT and PCC is producing a workforce video. The on-the-job trainees are telling us that they are providing for their families and that the program is rewarding. Kidwell stated we want more trainees and that we will continue to work to add more. All hired trucks are through minority companies – different category – 13% DBE participation – PCC has exceeded that – almost at 14%. There is a huge difference between 1-year person and 5-year person, etc. Skills are built over time. The trades involved include carpenters, iron workers, laborers, finishers, Teamsters, painters – they are diversified over numerous unions.

Benfield reported on community relations activities. Paseo Corridor Constructors sponsored a booth at RiverFest July 3-4. About 30,000 festival goers attended. kciCON team members handed out Become A Fan! t-shirts to about 1,000 people and answered questions about the project. The exhibit featured a semi-truck trailer wrapped with Bond Bridge renderings and project information. A southbound I-29/35 to Armour Road ramp opening celebration is planned for July 28 at the base of the ramp. Invitations will be extended as details are finalized. A workforce development/on-the-job (OJT) video is in production. About 15 OJTs have been interviewed. All expressed appreciation for the opportunity to receive highway construction training. As part of our quarterly strategic communication plan, we rolled out a "Become A Fan" of the kciCON Project re-awareness campaign this spring. Part of this campaign included launching our facebook page June 3. Our objective was two-fold: 1) inform the traveling public that construction in our corridor was going to ramp up again and to take action; and 2) get people excited about our region's new emerging landmark (the pylon legs have now become very visible as they are towering over the existing Paseo Bridge). The facebook tool was a good fit for what we were trying to accomplish. Benfield pointed to the ARTBA PRIDE Award received for "Ready, Set, Construct...Preparing Kansas Citizens for a Major Highway Project."

The group discussed the various elevations how nicely all the subsections are coming together. There are lots of temporary ramps and different for continuity of traffic. Wilkerson stated soon mainline interstate traffic speeds will be reduced to 45MPH in places. There will be some challenging phases for corridor traffic.

PCC continues to work with Columbus Park residents. CAG members discussed the importance of working collaboratively with affected neighborhoods.

MoDOT/PCC is still working with the City of North Kansas City still working on the aesthetics. The southbound I-29/35 ramp to Armour Road is scheduled to open July 28. PCC will need to know what is going in that quadrant. NKC would be responsible for landscaping.

Burke thanked MoDOT and PCC for their participation in RiverFest.

Wagner commented on the amazing quantity of fill and the quality of finish on the wall caps. The quality of construction is outstanding.

3. New Business

None.

4. Next Meeting

To be determined.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m. PCC Safety Director Bryant Gray provided a safety briefing. A project tour followed.

Note: The Community Advisory Group may elect to go into closed session at any time during the meeting to consider attorney-client privileged matter(s), pursuant to § 610.021 (1), RSMo, to consider specifications for competitive bidding, pursuant to § 610.021 (11), RSMo, to consider sealed proposals and related documents, pursuant to § 610.021 (12), to consider records which are protected from disclosure by law, pursuant to § 610.021 (14), or to consider records relating to scientific and technological innovations in which the owner has a proprietary interest, pursuant to § 610.021 (15).