

COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

**September 28, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.
City Hall – Council Chamber**

A Council work session was held to review plans for I-229.

Attending: Mayor Bill McMurray and Councilmembers Brenda Blessing, PJ Kovac, Russell Moore, Marty Novak, Kent O'Dell and Gary Roach.

Chris Connally, Interim City Manager; Bryan Carter, City Attorney; Andy Clements, Public Works & Transportation Director; Tom Mahoney, Interim Administrative Services Director; Brady McKinley, Asst. Public Works & Transportation Director; Abe Forney, Airport Manager; Mary Robertson, Asst. to the City Manager/Communications & Public Relations Manager; Chance Gallagher, Transportation Planner; Ed Schilling, Multimedia Planner; Kim Eaton, Admin. Asst./Engineering Division; and Paula Heyde, City Clerk.

Mayor Bill McMurray called the meeting to order.

Andy Clements, Public Works & Transportation Director, gave a power point presentation on “I-229 Basic Requirements” (copy attached).

Mayor McMurray asked Mr. Clements what his recommendation is for the course of action going forward. Mr. Clements suggested taking another look at the concept of a connection to the airport and then see what options would be available if that were done to re-establish connections from 36th Highway to maintain freight traffic connection and help with economic development.

State Representative Bill Falkner spoke about the benefits of a bridge across the river to Rosecans Field. He believes this is the time to take a stronger look at that option and would like this bridge to be treated as its own entity as it provides options for rerouting traffic whatever is decided on I-229.

Brett Carolus, representative from Hillyard Inc., said they want what is best for downtown development and they need access to get their freight in and out safely; but it doesn't have to have interstate status. Option 2 was their preferred option of the six provided by MoDOT.

Robert Dempster, Chairman of the St. Joseph Area Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), said in June he asked MoDOT to come up with a rendering of a four-lane boulevard nicely appointed with aesthetics to open up additional area for riverfront park.

Kenny Reeder, 4000 River Road, said the bridge across the river will cost over \$100 million and he thought that ridiculous idea had been quelled. That bridge totally derails these conversations.

Chris Redline, District Engineer/MoDOT, said they did give the additional river crossing an honest look but it fell off for a variety of reasons. Number one it was extremely expensive and MoDOT would still have to take care of the downtown connections and there were some environmental issues as well.

Steve Wells, HG Consulting, said the feedback they received from the various stakeholders were not so much concerned about losing the interstate designation as long as they could get in and out of businesses similar to how they do today. They believe they can get a four-lane road there if that is what everyone wants but they could not do a boulevard setting along the entire route. Those details can be determined as we get into further design.

Mayor McMurray and Councilmember Russell Moore favored MoDOT's RA2 option. Councilmember Brenda Blessing favored the RA2 option with a four-lane road. Councilmembers PJ Kovac, Marty Novak, Kent O'Dell and Gary Roach favored repairing the bridge and maintaining interstate status. Mayor McMurray said, via emails, Councilmember Madison Davis favored Option RA2 and Councilmember Brian Myers favored Options RA2 or RA3.

Shannon Kusilek, MoDOT representative, addressed the maintenance cost of the existing structure.

Councilmember O'Dell said he was under the understanding that the MPO had to make the decision on this project and wondered where the MPO stands on this project. Mr. Clements said the MPO has to approve the final study and typically the City Council would want to know the MPO's decision before voting. If the MPO doesn't approve the final study, MoDOT can't move forward. The MPO has not yet made a recommendation on any of the options.

Mayor McMurray proposed waiting until the MPO has made a recommendation before offering a resolution of support. No objections were expressed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.



Minutes transcribed by Paula Heyde, CMC, City Clerk.

The background of the slide is a composite image. The upper portion shows a dark night sky filled with stars, with a prominent white meteor streak crossing from the left towards the center. The lower portion shows a silhouette of a rugged mountain range against a bright, orange and yellow sunset or sunrise sky.

I-229 BASIC REQUIREMENTS

What St. Joseph Needs Assure Its
Needs Are Addressed

Final Solution Needs to Accommodate

- Freight Traffic
 - As experienced during the recent I-229 closure for maintenance, freight and other traffic did not use other paths – it moved to 4th and 6th streets that were bumper to bumper throughout the closure
 - It isn't reasonable to expect traffic using a 4-lane industrial road (Stockyards) and interstate to deviate via U.S. 36 instead of using a direct path for two miles thru Downtown
 - Modeling is a good tool, but it is obvious that traffic will not behave in the manner predicted in this case
- Attractive & serve as a downtown gateway and enhance the aesthetics of Downtown
 - The highway should not look like Stockyards Expressway
- Preserve grade-separated access to Riverfront Park for pedestrians
 - It isn't reasonable to try to make the Park more attractive but force kids and families to get to the park via crossing a busy 2 or 4 lane highway to reach it
- No reduction in the size of the very narrow width of Riverfront Park
 - There's no benefit to removing a bridge if the majority of the Park is covered with a road as a result

In The Real World--

The screenshot shows a news article on the 175 News-Press website. The article title is "I-229 routine work to complete different projects on double bridge" by Margie Huddell. The page features a large photo of a bridge under construction. Several overlays are present: a red banner at the top with the text "Your Vote Matters! In-depth coverage for 24h a day"; a blue navigation bar with "175 News-Press NOW" and "News Sports Obituaries More"; a social media share icon; a light blue tooltip that says "Checking back? Since you viewed this item previously you can read it again..."; a yellow advertisement for "Game Birds" by "JIMMY BROS., LLC" with contact information for Karl J. Maffey; a green advertisement for horse care services; a "Be a hero storyteller with the help of smart design features" banner for OneDrive; and a "PAY NOW" button.

Your Vote Matters! In-depth coverage for 24h a day

175 News-Press **NOW** News Sports Obituaries More

EDITION 57° SIGN UP LOG IN

REPOST

I-229 routine work to complete different projects on double bridge

By Margie Huddell News-Press NOW

Checking back? Since you viewed this item previously you can read it again...

Game Birds
JIMMY BROS., LLC
Karl J. Maffey, Owner
890 23rd St. Newell, W. Va. 26051
jim@jimmybros.com
Chickens, Hens and Bantams to Quail
785-547-6702
We Deliver!
Flight/Weather Conditioned Birds

Animals are part of your family and we're here for them. We have curbside pick-up and local delivery available. Call us for details. 816-233-8800

Be a hero storyteller with the help of smart design features
Plus 1 TB of OneDrive cloud storage

PAY NOW

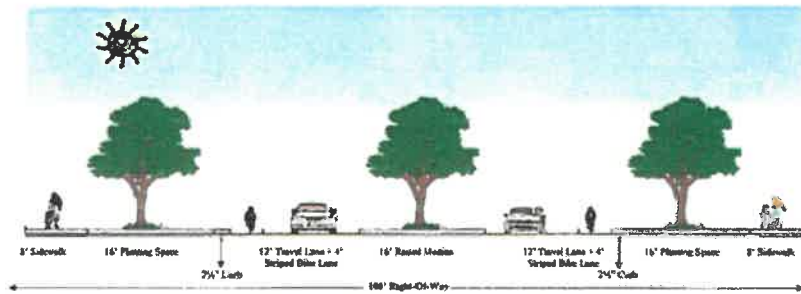
Not the Goal in Downtown-



Downtown



Want This



FACT CHECKING

Roadway shown is 2-lane

- Perhaps 50' wide
- Not Boulevard appearance which is closer to 108'
- Rural highway with sidewalks thru downtown
- 3rd busiest road in city with 2 lanes



Data Concerns

- MPO has made multiple comments about freight truck traffic being under-counted
- MODot obtained truck data from a service that relies upon GPS data from commercial trucks
 - The problem is that most of the truck traffic is agricultural traffic and those trucks do not use GPS
 - Essentially, this would mean that the photo here is of a truck that doesn't exist in the study data
 - This photo is of two trucks from Holt County that are heading south on I-229 that do not have GPS
- Model assumes traffic @ I-229/I-29 will use 36 instead but most of the traffic south of junction will head south still even if the model is correct in the end
 - Most local traffic will divert to 6th and 4th streets



Where to Put it - Park Should Survive

