

Railroad Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2009

Peter Davis called to order the meeting of the Railroad Advisory Board at 7:30 a.m., July 9, 2009 at the Water and Light Administration Utility Services Conference Room, 105 East Ash Street, Columbia, MO

The following persons were present:

Peter Davis, Chairperson

Greg Eiffert, Vice-Chair

Jack Blaylock, Member

Kee Groshong, Member

Bryan Ross, Member

Benny Lusk, Member

J. Kraig Kahler, Water and Light Director

Jim Windsor, Rates/Fiscal Manager

Christian Johanninger, Engineer II

Tad Johnsen, Power Production Superintendent

Dave Sprague, Railroad Operations Supervisor

Marilyn Thorpe, Administrative Support Supervisor

Tom Ogden, Member, Absent

Lynn Behrns, Centralia City Administrator

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER: Benny Lusk was introduced and welcomed to the board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the regular meeting of June 11, 2009 were approved unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Kee Groshong and second by Bryan Ross.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Kraig Kahler reiterated to the board, for the benefit of new member Benny Lusk, the situation with the Transload facility operated by Alternative Distribution Systems (ADS). He explained that the City had received a letter from Vaughn Prost, owner of the Transload facility. In the letter Mr. Prost said that ADS had defaulted on their agreement with him. According to the contract if ADS defaulted, the City was responsible for the monthly lease payments. Mr. Kahler said the City was now paying \$32,500 a month for the rent. He said ADS had informed him that they could continue to operate the facility for two more months, after that a new operator would need to take over. The Board asked what would happen at the end of the two months. Mr. Kahler said staff was going to meet with the employees that are presently there to see if they would continue to work there while the City goes out for Requested for Proposal to try and find another operator for the facility. Mr. Kahler said the City would be responsible for buying the facility if no operator is found in the next nine months. The price will be \$2.4 million. Any changes made would have to go before Council for their approval.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Jim Windsor said that the COLT is continuing to operate at a loss due to decline in traffic. He said coal traffic had picked up at the Power Plant. This will have a positive impact on revenue for the next couple of months.

TRAFFIC REPORT: Christian Johanningmeier told the board that as of the end of June there had been a total of 838 cars for the year. He said traffic was down 44% compared to last year or 58% compared to our best year in 2005. He said traffic was down over all commodities.

MARKETING: Mr. Kahler said Tina Worley was doing an intermodal study with MoDot. He said the report should be ready in the next two weeks. Staff will send a copy of the study to the board as soon as it is available.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Kahler said at the last meeting the board had discussed the possibility of generating additional revenue with car storage. He said staff was researching the possibility and would have a report at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Centralia sidewalk project – Christian told the board that at the last meeting Lynn Behrns, City Administrator for Centralia had requested on behalf of Centralia that the City of Columbia not close the Simms railroad crossing as was planned in the initial proposal. Christian said staff and two Board members met at the end of June and discussed the issue as directed by the Railroad Board. He said the consensus was the following:

- COLT authorizes Centralia to construct a 6' sidewalk and 4' chain link fence on COLT right-of-way between Singleton Street and Gano-Chance Road. COLT shall approve the design and plans before construction commences. The fence shall substantially be identical to the fence in place between Fay and Rogers Streets in Columbia. All expense shall be paid by the City of Centralia.
- The City of Centralia shall be responsible for the maintenance of the sidewalk, fence, and any other improvements. The City of Centralia shall also be responsible for mowing COLT right-of-way west of the fence and for any snow removal on the sidewalk.
- In exchange for use of railroad right-of-way, City of Centralia will allow closure of the Simms Street crossing to motor vehicles. The crossing should be closed as soon as practical so the motorists can establish desired habits with regards to the opening of the new school. A pedestrian crossing may remain at Simms Street.
- COLT shall install barricades at Simms Street and remove the Simms Street pavement from COLT right-of-way at COLT expense.
- COLT shall maintain the proposed pedestrian crossing at Simms Street located above the railroad ties at its expense. The City of Centralia shall maintain the remaining portions of the pedestrian crossing at Simms Street. Initial construction of the pedestrian crossing will be at the expense of the City of Centralia.
- Should the City of Centralia not agree to close Simms Street, the City of Centralia shall pay COLT to install flashing lights, gates, bells and associated circuitry at Simms Street.

Christian said if the board agreed with the proposed recommendations they would be forwarded to Council for approval. He said both the City of Columbia and Centralia would have to sign off on the agreement.

Jack Blaylock made a motion to recommend to Council they approve the six point summary as presented. The motion was seconded by Greg Eiffert. Mr. Behrns said he would take the proposal back to his Council. He said he had requested a traffic study be done by MoDot but did not know what the timeframe would be for its completion. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Highway 63 Bridge Crossing Update – Mr. Johanningmeier said the bids for the COLT Railroad Bridge at US 63 were opened July 1. He said the engineer’s estimate for the project was \$7.5 million. The bids came in well under that amount. He said they received nine bids with the lowest coming in at \$3,752,457.48. Emory Sapp, a local contractor, was the low bid. Christian said the current price of steel; foundation system; and mobilization all contributed to the low bids. He said after approval the contract should be signed in early August. Christian said the project should take around 14 months to complete. He said there may be a groundbreaking ceremony July 31. The board will be informed of date and time.

Mr. Johanningmeier told the board that previously Council had authorized the City Manger to execute agreements with the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission (MoDOT) regarding the construction of the bridge over US 63. He said the original agreement required the City to issue a notice to proceed to a contractor by June 15. The City had the design completed in time but they did not receive final approval from MoDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) until after the deadline. A supplemental agreement is needed from the City to issue a notice to proceed with the work no later than September 15, 2009. Jack Blaylock made a motion to recommend to Council they approve the supplemental agreement with the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission. The motion was seconded by Kee Groshong. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Other Business – Mr. Kahler asked if the board would like to recognize “Doc” Wulff at the next Railroad Board meeting in appreciation for his 23 years of service on the board. Board members concurred. Mr. Wulff will be contacted about the meeting.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting is August 13, 2009 at 7:30 am.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 a.m.