

**MINUTES
OF
THE OZARK FOOTHILLS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**APRIL 12, 2018
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

ZEPHRY CAFÉ, PIEDMONT, MISSOURI

I. Call to Order

Chairman Brian Polk called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. Open for Public Discussion

Vice-Chairman Donald Black thanked everyone for their support and efforts since the flooding last year. Carter County is meeting with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Friday and the county is expecting to learn about assistance for relocating the sheriff's office and jail, which offices will return to the courthouse, and final funding allocations for the county.

III. Adoption of December 11, 2017 Minutes

The minutes of the December 11, 2017 TAC meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Bill Kirkpatrick, Wayne County, and second by Darrell Dement, Reynolds County.

IV. Missouri Department of Transportation Reports

Mark Shelton, MoDOT Southeast District, announced this is National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week. People are more distracted while driving than ever before. Cell phones cause crashes and one nearly occurred on Highway 160 outside Doniphan recently. The driver was looking down at his phone and not at the flagger holding a stop sign as he was entering a work zone. Thankfully, no one was hurt. Mr. Shelton encouraged those in attendance to call their representatives to pass a statewide no texting and driving law. He also encouraged everyone in the room to set good examples for others in their lives, and put the phone down.

Elquin Auala, MoDOT Southeast District, reminded everyone that when MoDOT sends a reimbursement to a Local Public Agency (LPA), that agency has two business days to pay contractors. This is state law, and many communities are receiving fines for not paying contractors within the time frame. After some discussion, Vice-Chairman Black stated there was an LPA advisory meeting on April 19th and he would present the timeline for discussion.

Joe Killian, MoDOT Southeast District, stated he is finishing the county road inventory for the region. If there are any changes to those inventories, please let him know.

Mike Brandon, MoDOT Southeast District, announced project lettings in the region covering

work on Highway 160 in Ripley County, bridge work on Highways 49, HH, and Z in Wayne County, with another bridge job on Highway 67 in Wayne County scheduled for letting next month. Highways 51 and B in Butler County will be resurfaced.

Mr. Brandon provided a presentation over the Southeast District's Asset Management Program for Roads and Bridges. Asset Management maximizes the life of the asset and gives a better understanding of the network as a whole. This program drives resource allocation which improves the use of limited funds to maintain the system. It also is as a communication tool with planning partners and keeps MoDOT in compliance with MAP-21 requirements.

Overall, MoDOT's Southeast District has 1,402 bridges and 16,143 lane miles. 138 bridges are in critical condition with 840 in fair condition. With interstate lane miles, 95% are in good condition, 87% of Major routes are in good condition, followed by 85% of minor routes and 75% of low volume routes. Asset management allows MoDOT to project the life of an item based on historic deterioration rates and determine the appropriate treatment, time, and cost.

V. Transportation Planning Coordinator Report

Regarding the Poplar Bluff Railroad Overpass Project, Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator Andrew Murphy stated Union Pacific is currently signing their final agreement, which will increase their financial contribution to the project.

The 2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program list of awarded projects was announced in January 2018. Butler County was awarded \$171,081 for paving and drainage work in the unincorporated community of Rombauer. The City of Bunker was awarded \$210,343 for paving on Lincoln Avenue, Wilkins Avenue, and Tom's Creek Road.

The City of Ellington submitted an application to the 2018 CDBG program seeking \$250,000 for paving repair on sections of Main, 2nd, College, and Tubbs Avenue, along with drainage repair along Temple Avenue.

An application was submitted to MoDOT's Traffic and Highway Safety program to secure a part-time position within the Ozark Foothills RPC to assist local communities with navigating and passing primary seat belt ordinances. In addition, the position would work with local schools to encourage seat belt usage among students. The request was \$19,000.

An application was submitted on behalf of the Poplar Bluff Parks and Recreation Department to the Missouri Department of Natural Resource's Recreational Trails Program to construct a sidewalk/trail from where current sidewalks end at Maya's Mexican Restaurant, to the new Shelby Road intersection along Highway 67 and then along Highway 53 to the railroad overpass. The requested amount is \$173,854 and would tie into work already occurring in the area by MoDOT that is valued at over \$300,000.

The Delta Regional Authority's (DRA) 2018 State's Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) is open. Applications are accepted until funds have been depleted. Applications must meet a federal priority criterion such as innovation and small business development focusing on job creation and/or retention, regional approach, or the inclusion of multiple funding partners. In addition, applications should meet at least one regional

development plan goal including the creation of a competitive workforce, physical and digital connections, and/or reinforcing the concept of “sustainable communities.”

VI. Old Business

Mr. Murphy asked the committee to approve the Public Transit Human Services Transportation (PTHST) Plan which was presented for review at the previous meeting. Mr. Murphy briefly described the plan rationale and requirements of the updated plan, along with the role played by transit providers and the general public in updating the plan. The plan was adopted on a motion by Bill Kirkpatrick and second by Mike Gossett, Carter County.

VII. New Business

Mr. Murphy covered results from two surveys conducted at the Ag Expo in January. About 130 comments were collected regarding the most important transportation issues as identified by system users. Completing the 4-lane of Highway 67 to Arkansas, more public transportation options, more guardrails, resurfacing, and more sidewalks, were commonly identified.

The planning commission also conducted a Texting and Driving Survey at the Ag Expo. The survey was last conducted at the 2015 Ag Expo and results were similar as the average survey taker was a 49 year old female that does not text and drive. Those believing that it is dangerous to text and drive accounted for 89% of survey takers, while 88% always wear their seat belt. Nearly 50% had either been in an accident or almost been in an accident due to texting.

Mr. Murphy announced the Merchant’s Showcase event at Three Rivers College has ended. There is currently no planned event to collect transportation surveys until next year’s Ag Expo. Mr. Murphy asked that if anyone knew of an indoor event where it would be appropriate to set up a booth, conduct surveys, and provide some giveaway items, to please let him know.

Mr. Murphy presented the TAC a letter from MoDOT’s Historic Preservation Manager announcing the availability of the Little Black River Bridge over Highway 142 in Ripley County. The bridge is available for donation to “a State, locality or responsible private entity” providing certain conditions are met. The bridge has been in Ripley County since 1949.

Mr. Murphy next asked that each county prioritize project, maintenance, and multi-modal projects at the county level for vote at the July meeting. Mr. Murphy will hold public meetings in conjunction with county commission meetings at the end of June or beginning of July, and some editing of projects may take place at those meetings before the July vote. The TAC separated by county to form their lists of projects. The projects identified are listed below.

VIII. General Discussion

No general discussion ensued.

IX. Adjournment

Vince Lampe, Butler County, moved to adjourn. Chairman Polk adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

TAC Project Priority List

2018 Identified Needs by County

Butler County

1. I-57 Corridor Upgrades with emphasis from Highway 160 to the state line
2. Route T: 2 foot asphalt shoulders from Butler County line to Highway 60
3. Route M 2 miles west of Route 67 – Straighten Curves and level Hill

Carter County

1. Overlay and add shoulders to D Highway
2. Route N: Widen and eliminate one-lane bridge over Middle Brushy Creek
3. Route A: Eliminate narrow bridge in Ellsinore

Reynolds County

1. Replace Highway F Bridge
2. Add bike lane for TransAmerica Bike Trail on Highway 76 Bike Route
3. Highway K: Ellington to Annapolis, add shoulders

Ripley County

1. Between Naylor and Doniphan: Eliminate three one-lane bridges
2. Highway 142 West at Gatewood – Narrow bridge
3. State Route K: Straighten “S” curve

Wayne County

1. Low Water Dip on C Highway approximately 1 mile northwest of C & E Junction
2. Safety Shoulders on Highway 49 from Highway 67 to Mill Spring and widen existing box culverts
3. Repair small bridge on A Highway (1/2 mile west of Highway 67) with large box culvert

TAC Maintenance Priority List

2018 Identified “Maintenance Needs” by County

Butler County

1. Resurface Route F from Route 160 to end of State Maintenance
2. Resurface Route Z from Route B north to end of State Maintenance
3. VV Highway – Resurface entire route

Carter County

1. Overlay Y Highway near Fremont
2. Redesign median crossover of Highway V & Highway A at Highway 60 in Ellsinore
3. Overlay Highway V & H in East Carter County

Reynolds County

1. Overlay B Highway
2. Overlay O Highway
3. Overlay KK Highway from Bunker to TT Junction

Ripley County

1. Add Shoulders on Highway 160 W from Doniphan to C Highway
2. E Highway South from 142 E to Arkansas State Line
3. Overlay EE Highway

Wayne County

1. Highway 49: Resurface from Williamsville to Iron County Line
2. Overlay Route 49 from Highway 67 to west junction of Route A
3. Overlay Route A from west junction of Highway 49 to US Highway 60 East

TAC Multi-Modal Priority List

2018 Identified “Multi-Modal Needs” by County

Butler County

1. Extend the Poplar Bluff airport runway
2. Improve Amtrak Depot service facility
3. Pedestrian Overpass over UP Railroad along Highway 53

Carter County

1. Construct new helipads
2. Improve road to the Van Buren Airport
3. Ramps for various sidewalks in Van Buren

Reynolds County

1. Add bike lane for TransAmerica Bike Trail on Highway 76 Bike Route
2. Reopen railhead at Buick Mine
3. Sidewalk repair/construction in Bunker on main and 4th Streets

Ripley County

1. Remove trees from west end of runway and improve runway light at Doniphan Airport
2. Add/repair sidewalks on Walnut Street, from Summit to Highway Street, for safe pedestrian and wheelchair access to north end shopping center
3. Add sidewalks on Highway Street, from Lafayette to Walnut Street, for safe pedestrian and wheelchair access to north end of shopping center

Wayne County

1. Extend pedestrian trail to tie Handy Park to existing trail system in Piedmont
2. Sidewalk construction on Cemetery Road in Williamsville
3. Wayne County cross-county walk/bike trail

TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER

April 12, 2018

Mr. Andrew Murphy	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Vince Lampe	Butler County
Mr. Dennis LeGrand	Butler County
Mr. Don Anderson	Butler County
Mr. Bill Robison	Butler County
Mr. Gary McDonald	Butler County (Alternate)
Mr. Donald Black	Carter County
Mr. Mike Gossett	Carter County
Mr. Wayne Gibbs	Carter County
Mr. Darrell Dement	Reynolds County
Ms. Tami Hale	Ripley County
Mr. Gary Emmons	Ripley County (Alternate)
Mr. Brian Polk	Wayne County
Ms. Angela Smith	Wayne County
Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick	Wayne County
Mr. Doug Wood	Wayne County
Mr. Mark Shelton	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Joe Killian	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Mike Brandon	MoDOT Southeast District
Ms. Elquin Auala	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Steve Halter	Poplar Bluff Chamber
Ms. Becky Gibbs	Guest
Ms. Lynn Schultz	City of Williamsville

THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Jeff Darnell	Butler County
Mr. David Reynolds	Carter County
Mr. Jordan Collins	Carter County
Mr. Joe Loyd	Reynolds County
Mr. Eddie Williams	Reynolds County
Mr. Doug Warren	Reynolds County
Ms. Renee Horn	Reynolds County
Mr. William Kennon	Ripley County
Mr. David Johnson	Ripley County
Mr. Jerry Halley	Ripley County
Mr. Lonnie Hudson	Ripley County
Mr. Chad Henson	Wayne County