

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

**APRIL 11, 2019  
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**OZARK FOOTHILLS RPC, POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Brian Polk called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

**II. Open for Public Discussion**

With several new members joining the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), Chairman Polk asked for introductions from all in attendance.

**III. Adoption of January 10, 2019 Minutes**

The minutes of the January 10, 2019 TAC meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Bill Kirkpatrick, Wayne County, and second by Jesse Roy, Ripley County.

**IV. Missouri Department of Transportation Reports**

David Wyman, MoDOT Southeast District, stated that springtime means safety at MoDOT. Work Zone Safety Awareness Week is coming up, and Mr. Wyman encouraged everyone to slow down, plan ahead, stay off the phone, and pay attention. In 2017, 799 workers were killed nationwide in work zone accidents.

Mr. Wyman also stated there are several potential funding scenarios currently at the state level. The Governor's Bridge Program has been modified in the House, with a small decrease in funding and some funds being drawn from general revenue. A possible bonding program is also being discussed. Senator Doug Libla has submitted legislation to raise the fuel tax two cents per year for three years, for six cents total. It is unlikely for any of these scenarios to pass in the General Assembly until the final days of the session in mid-May.

Chris Crocker, MoDOT Southeast District, was introduced to the TAC having taken over the role of LPA contact from Elquin Auala. Ms. Auala has accepted the role of Area Engineer for the south central portion of the state, reaching over to include Reynolds County. Mr. Crocker stated the LPA team is currently considering handling of the upcoming federal funds rescission, which will have a large effect on the BRO program. There are six possible scenarios being discussed at the state level, along with some options on how to restructure the program to avoid future rescissions.

Mr. Wyman provided updates on a variety of projects in the region. The resurfacing of

Highway 21 in Iron and Reynolds County was awarded for \$19.5 million. Highway B in Ripley County was awarded for \$320,000; and Highway Y in Carter for \$380,000. Slope repairs on Highway 60/67 corridor was awarded for \$433,000. Several similar projects have been completed the past few years. Paving repairs and rumblestrips will be made to nearly 35 miles of Highway 142 in Ripley and Oregon County at a cost of \$6.8 million. Route F in Reynolds will see slope repair from the April 2017 flood at a cost of \$144,000. Highway 103 in Carter will have a sand seal applied. Later this month, the City of Poplar Bluff will see a project to time the stop lights within city limits to assist with traffic congestion. Lastly, the new Highway 53 Bridge over the St. Francis River between Butler and Dunklin counties is close to opening.

Mike Brandon, MoDOT Southeast District, stated MoDOT is finalizing the 2020-2024 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). The STIP will include a large number of overlays, bridge re-decking, and shoulder projects – all asset management type projects.

Chairman Polk asked if further detail could be provided on the BRO program, the rescission, and proposed changes. Mr. Polk stated that none of the scenarios he has heard are good for the counties. Both Chairman Polk and Joy Loyd, Reynolds County, expressed concern that smaller and more rural counties are being punished for being poor, and those counties maintaining low balances, are getting penalized equally compared to those spending their BRO balances.

Elquin Auala, MoDOT Southeast District, mentioned that this will not be the first time a rescission occurred. Two years ago a small rescission occurred, but it was so small that most counties probably didn't even notice. The rescission is the federal government taking back a percentage of funds that have not been spent or obligated to projects. Statewide, millions of dollars have not been obligated.

Andrew Murphy, Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator, stated he attended his first LPA Advisory Committee meeting in January following the previous TAC meeting. The next LPA Advisory Committee meeting is Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. It was stated at the meeting in January, that the Advisory Committee's goal in 2019 is to address the BRO program and to ensure funds are spent. A presentation was given on how Kansas selects projects for their BRO program. Kansas has a statewide competitive application that is similar to the MoDOT TAP program. Recipients that are awarded cannot apply the following year. Another example that was reviewed came from Michigan, where BRO funds are distributed regionally, such as along RPC district lines, and the funds are spent within that region, but not awarded to individual counties.

Mr. Murphy stated there were six scenarios proposed to address the rescission; and, counties in the Ozark Foothills region will lose funds under all six scenarios-some more than others. Mr. Murphy also stated that MoDOT is looking at four scenarios for how to distribute BRO funds in the future. He hopes to learn more next week.

Angela Smith, Wayne County, asked if we needed to raise concern to our federal representatives. David Wyman said yes, as MoDOT administers the money, but does not have influence on the rules or regulations.

Chairman Polk asked if the TAC should come together and submit a letter. MoDOT

representatives stated that a letter from the TAC as a whole as well as individual letters helps to show concern. State representatives can also be contacted; however, their role will be limited as this is federal funding. The rescission is expected to occur on July 1, 2020.

A question arose regarding the ability of counties to give BRO funds to other counties. Ms. Auala stated that can be done, all that is needed is the signatures of all six county commissioners. There is, however, no guarantee a county will ever get those funds back in return.

Joe Killian, MoDOT Southeast District, provided a presentation over the MoDOT website. Tips for navigating the website were provided, along with the location of a number of features. Mr. Killian explored the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission page, showing current members, background, meeting dates/agenda, and minutes. Links to social media accounts and emergency information, doing business with MoDOT, and digital versions of city, county, and the Official State Highway Map were explored.

Additionally, the Traveler Information Map, showing weather conditions, real-time traffic conditions, traffic cameras and commuter lots were reviewed. How to access the current and previous STIPs, locating projects by region or county, modifications, and projects in scoping were also shown. The LPA page, listing information regarding BRO, TAP, LPA training opportunities, bid information, and more was covered.

## **V. Transportation Planning Coordinator Report**

Mr. Murphy stated there wasn't much to report on the Poplar Bluff Industrial Park Railroad Overpass as weather prevented work from occurring for a large part of the previous quarter.

Butler County was awarded a 2018 CDBG General Infrastructure grant for the unincorporated community of Harviell. The county will receive \$174,986 to pave several gravel streets in the community.

The City of Ellington received \$52,066 in CDBG emergency funding to act as the 15% match for FEMA public assistance funding used to pave various flood-damaged city streets resulting from the April 2017 flood.

Mr. Murphy announced an application submittal on behalf of the City of Doniphan to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for \$26,321. The program requires a 50/50 match if awarded, and will help to construct new pickleball courts, a pavilion, softball netting, and additional features at Riverfront Park.

Mr. Murphy also submitted a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) proposal to DNR on behalf of the City of Piedmont for \$81,331. Funds, if awarded, will be used to construct a trail extension that will run through existing greenway space from Ash Street to Handy Park. This project has been identified on the TAC's multi-modal list.

Mr. Murphy is currently working on paving applications for the cities of Fisk, Quilin, and Butler County for the unincorporated community of Broseley. Broseley will require a door-to-door survey of residents in the community to determine Low and Moderate Income status. The deadline

for completed preliminary engineering reports to be submitted to the planning commission for proposed projects is Monday April, 15, 2019.

Mr. Murphy announced he held joint TAC/County Commission meeting within each county leading up to the April TAC meeting. No members of the public attended any of the meetings.

## **VI. Old Business**

Mr. Murphy asked the TAC consider approving the updated version of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the draft of which was submitted for review in January and placed on the OFRPC website. The 2019 RTP was adopted on a motion by Mike Gossett, Carter County, and second by Jesse Roy.

## **VII. New Business**

Mr. Murphy reported results from the transportation survey that was conducted at the Ag Expo on January 18 and 19, 2019 at the Black River Coliseum. Approximately 130 comments were collected, on par with last year, with public transportation, pedestrian transportation, and guardrail concerns receiving the most comments.

With Donald Black no longer serving on the Transportation Advisory Committee, a vacancy exists for the role of Vice-Chairman. Volunteers were asked to fill the term, which will run through the last meeting of 2020. No volunteers came forward; a motion and second to appoint a committee member was accepted. On a motion by Chad Henson, Wayne County, and second by Jeff Darnell, Butler County, Vince Lampe, Butler County was nominated for Vice-Chairman. All in attendance voted in favor of Vince Lampe assuming the role of Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Murphy asked that each county prioritize project, maintenance, and multi-modal projects at the county level for vote at the July meeting. The TAC separated by county to form the lists of projects. The projects identified are upon the attached pages.

## **VIII. General Discussion**

No general discussion ensued.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Vince Lampe moved to adjourn. Chairman Polk adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

## TAC Project Priority List

### 2019 Identified Needs by County

#### Butler County

1. 4-lane Highway 67 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 – Add Shoulders and level hill or reroute County Road 459/M Highway Junction and straighten Twin Springs Hill

#### Carter County

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

#### Reynolds County

1. Highway K: Ellington to Annapolis, add shoulders
2. Add bike lane for TransAmerica Bike Trail on Highway 76 Bike Route
3. Guardrails on Highway 106 at landslide area

#### Ripley County

1. Between Naylor and Doniphan: Eliminate three one-lane bridges
2. Highway 142 West at Gatewood – Narrow bridge
3. Repair Highway 21 South at Briar Creek – Dip in Road from flooding

#### 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 Piedmont to Iron County line 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

### 2019 Identified “Maintenance Needs” by County

#### Butler County

1. Resurface Route O
2. Resurface Route JJ
3. Resurface Route NN

#### Carter County

1. Redesign median crossover of Highway V & Highway A at Highway 60 in Ellsinore
2. Overlay Highway V & H in East Carter County
3. Add Shoulders and rumblestrips to Highway 103

#### Reynolds County

1. Overlay O Highway
2. Repair 3 bridges over Black River on Highway 21 where bridges connect with Highway
3. Highway 72 overlay from 72/21 Junction to 72/32 Junction

#### Ripley County

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

### 2019 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. Sikewalk repair/construction in City of Ellington
3. Sidewalk repair/construction in Bunker on main and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets

#### Ripley County

1. Add/repair sidewalks on Walnut Street, from Summit to Highway Street, and Highway Street, from Lafayette to Walnut Street, for safe pedestrian and wheelchair access to north end of shopping center
2. Sidewalks on Highway 142 E (Walnut Street) and west on Washington Street to Courthouse
3. Ellington to Van Buren to Grandin to Doniphan bike trail extension that ties in with TransAmerica Trail in Ellington

#### 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. Sidewalk repair/construction in City of Greenville

**TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

**April 11, 2019**

<b>Mr. Andrew Murphy</b>	<b>Ozark Foothills RPC</b>
<b>Mr. Vince Lampe</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Dennis LeGrand</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Don Anderson</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Jeff Darnell</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Bill Robison</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Ron Keeney</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Mike Gossett</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Wayne Gibbs</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Ms. Becky Gibbs</b>	<b>Carter County (alternate)</b>
<b>Mr. Tom Wilder</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Joe Loyd</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Eddie Williams</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Ms. Renee Horn</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Jesse Roy</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Ms. Tami Hale</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Dennis Cox</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Gary Emmons</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Ms. Rickie Maples</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Brian Polk</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Ms. Angela Smith</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Chad Henson</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Doug Wood</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. David Wyman</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Mr. Joe Killian</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Mr. Mike Brandon</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Ms. Elquin Auala</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Mr. Chris Crocker</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Mr. Steve Halter</b>	<b>Poplar Bluff Chamber</b>
<b>Mr. Jay Lancaster</b>	<b>City of Sikeston Bootheel TAC</b>

**THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

<b>Mr. Jordan Collins</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Doug Warren</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Darrell Dement</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>