

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

**FEBRUARY 28, 2013  
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**ZEPHYRS RESTAURANT, PIEDMONT, MISSOURI**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Brain Polk called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m.

**II. Open for Public Discussion**

No public discussion ensued.

**III. Adoption of November 8, 2012 Minutes**

Minutes from the November 8, 2012 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted with a motion by Bill Kirkpatrick, Wayne County, and second by Mike Gossett, Carter County.

**IV. Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) Reports**

Mark Shelton, MoDOT Southeast District, briefly discussed the *On the Move* campaign. The campaign is designed to incorporate an overview of Missouri's transportation system, which includes 31,000 miles of roadway. *On the Move* will allow the public to examine different funding scenarios and prioritizations for the state to assist the Missouri Department of Transportation in creating a 20-year long-term plan. Listening sessions regarding public input are being held across the state. One session was recently held in Cape Girardeau, MO and another scheduled for 5:00-7:00 pm on March 21, 2013 in Poplar Bluff, MO at the Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center. Results from the campaign are expected in late summer 2013.

Mr. Shelton next discussed the proposed one-cent sales tax recently proposed in the Missouri Senate as Senate Joint Resolution No.16 and in the Missouri House as House Joint Resolution No. 23. The proposed sales tax would exist with a 10-year sunset, and the revenue raised would help to fund all modes of transportation, not solely roads and highways. Over the 10-year period, the tax would generate \$8 billion with 5% distributed to cities and 5% distributed to counties in a similar manner as the County Aid Road Trust (CART) funds. Within the MoDOT's Southeast District, the 10-year period would generate \$465 million. Potential projects in the Southeast District would include making I-55 at Cape Girardeau six lanes, closing the gap at Highway 412, improvements to Highway 63 and finishing the four lane on Highway 67 to the Arkansas state

line. The sales tax increase would not apply to gas, food, or medicine, and would not affect existing CART fund allocations.

David Reynolds, Carter County, inquired as to what MoDOT would do if the sales tax did not pass. Mr. Shelton replied that if the increase fails, it would be many years before anything similar is placed on the ballot again. The priority would then be taking care of the system. Mr. Shelton also explained that the last gas tax increase occurred in 1992. Since that time the price of steel has doubled, the price of concrete has doubled, and the price of asphalt has tripled. The current state gas tax is only 17 cents per gallon and the federal gas tax is 18 cents per gallon. The vote for the sales tax will take place in November 2014, unless the Governor calls a special election.

Mr. Shelton also distributed handouts regarding the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety and provided a brief overview and purpose of the coalition. Highlights from the Coalition's work include the lowering of fatalities on Missouri roadways from approximately 1,250 in 2005, to fewer than 800 in 2011, with an uptick to over 800 in 2012. The new goal is to have fewer than 700 fatalities/year by 2016.

Additional subjects discussed included texting and driving as an issue becoming a serious concern similar to drinking and driving (three of the OFRPC counties (Butler, Ripley, and Wayne) are in the top 75% of alcohol related fatalities). Ensuring seatbelt use is the easiest way to increase survival in an automobile crash. Seven of 10 fatalities in the region between 2009 and 2011 were unbelted drivers. Currently, the number of fatalities is down 13% compared to this time last year.

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

Andrew Murphy, OFRPC Transportation Planning Coordinator, provided updates on a variety of projects in the area. The Poplar Bluff Industrial Park Bypass opened in August. The installation of street lights remain to be done before the project can be considered complete.

The Doniphan Sidewalk Project is moving along and the City Attorney for Doniphan is reviewing easements.

The engineer for the Doniphan Quick Creek Trail Project is working with MoDOT to advertise for construction bids.

The Carter County Paving Project has received approval for the environmental assessment and is going to bid in mid-March.

A Notice to Proceed for the Carter County Courthouse Paving Project should be issued soon.

The City of Piedmont has held their pre-construction meeting for the Sidewalk Improvement Project. Construction will start no later than March 10, 2013.

The preconstruction meeting was held on January 30, 2013 for the Old Greenville Trail Project. Construction began on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Ninety to ninety-five percent of the timber has been cleared with dirt work to begin after the spring rain season. Completion is expected by August.

Mr. Murphy next discussed the recent round of MoDOT grant applications and award recipients for the region. Both Doniphan and Butler County received MoDOT Transportation Alternatives Grants. Doniphan received \$99,100 to construct a sidewalk from Riverfront Park north to the Courthouse Square. Butler County received \$252,000 for reconstruction of the Historic Grand Depot Staircase at the Union Pacific Train Station in Poplar Bluff.

Through the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program, the City of Ellsinore received \$233,750 to construct sidewalks around the East Carter County School campus and ball fields. The City of Williamsville received \$237,280 for the construction of sidewalks, and the Reynolds County Health Center received \$25,000 in non-infrastructure funding. The City of Greenville is listed as second alternate within the state to have their project awarded should other recipients deobligate funding.

Safe Routes to School is a federal grant program that funds 100% of project costs. This is the last time that SRTS will provide 100% funds to a project. Beginning in the next grant cycle, the program will become an 80/20 match program similar to the Transportation Alternative Grants program.

Finally, the Wayne County Sheriff's department received \$2,000 for a new radar and portable breathalyzer test through the Law Enforcement Grant Program.

## **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. Joe Lloyd, Reynolds County, asked if any changes had been made since the previous meeting. The plan has had some minor edits and a new cover page added within the last three months, but the content remained the same. Mr. Murphy briefly described the plan rationale and requirement of the updated plan for transit providers.

The plan was adopted with a motion by Harold Ellinghouse, Wayne County, and second by Ed Strenfel, Butler County.

## **VII. New Business**

Andrew Murphy presented the updated Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to the TAC for review. He explained this plan would be presented for approval at the next TAC meeting. Updates to the plan include the most recent information available from MoDOT's Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), the full 2012 TAC project prioritization listing, updated U.S. Census information, new maps, and tables, and the newly completed regional Sidewalk Assessment. The plan is now 135 pages long.

Mike Gossett, Carter County, asked if the plan would be posted on the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission website. Mr. Murphy stated the Regional Transportation Plan and the Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan would both be placed on the website once finalized. Mr. Murphy also stated that the RTP would be distributed electronically to committee members upon request.

Mr. Murphy next explained that in December, he and Director Brady, along with representatives from three other planning commissions, met to present the respective region's prioritized projects from the November TAC meeting to MoDOT Southeast District personnel. Projects were then prioritized at the district level.

Mr. Murphy explained that the projects were presented for consideration to be placed in the MoDOT's next STIP. The draft STIP is typically released in March for public comment. Changes are made in April and the plan is officially adopted in June. A handout of the state-level Major Project Scoping Priorities for the 2014-2018 STIP was provided to the committee. This handout was presented at the February 14, 2013 State Planning Partners Meeting in Jefferson City.

Mark Shelton explained that the M highway project in Carter County, the Ozark Foothills TAC's number one priority in 2012, was likely to make it into the STIP and that the Southeast District was still compiling projects for the document.

Mr. Murphy reviewed the survey results from the recent Ag Expo held in Poplar Bluff in January. Mr. Murphy explained that he distributed *Arrive Alive* items (pens, pencils, coloring books, maps, etc.) at the exhibit. Attendees who filled out a survey answering what they felt was the most important transportation need in the region were entered into a drawing to win an *Arrive Alive* t-shirt. There were about 70 surveys completed with the 4-lane of 67 Highway to Arkansas as the most common identified need. Public transportation was a highly requested need as well.

## **VIII. General Discussion**

No general discussion was held.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Bill Kirkpatrick moved to adjourn. Harold Ellinghouse seconded the motion. Chairman Brian Polk adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

**TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

**February 28, 2013**

<b>Ms. Felicity Brady</b>	<b>Ozark Foothills RPC</b>
<b>Mr. Andrew Murphy</b>	<b>Ozark Foothills RPC</b>
<b>Mr. Ed Strenfel</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. Mike Gossett</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Wayne Gibbs</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. David Reynolds</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Joe Loyd</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Doug Warren</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Ms. Renee Horn</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Brian Polk</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Harold Ellinghouse</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Don Scowden</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Mark Shelton</b>	<b>MODOT Southeast</b>
<b>Mr. Kendal Barks</b>	<b>Public Attendee</b>

**THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

<b>Mr. Frank Carroll</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. John Bailiff</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. David Bowman</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Darrell Dement</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Ben Pickett</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. William Kennon</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Jerry Halley</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. David Johnson</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Steve Burke</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Nick Ederer</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Ms. Angela Smith</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>