

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

**JANUARY 9, 2020
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
SYCAMORE HILLS COUNTRY CLUB, DONIPHAN, MISSOURI**

I. Call to Order

Chairman Brian Polk called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

II. Open for Public Discussion

Vince Lampe, Butler County, informed the TAC that he had spoken with Executive Director Felicity Ray prior to the meeting. Director Ray sent her regards to the TAC.

Chairman Polk informed the TAC, for the benefit of any that might have heard the news, that Director Ray is stepping down from the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission and a new Executive Director would be in place in the next 3-4 weeks.

III. Adoption of October 10, 2019 Minutes

The minutes of the October 10, 2019 TAC meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Vince Lampe and second by Dennis Cox, Ripley County.

IV. Missouri Department of Transportation Reports

David Wyman, MoDOT Southeast District, announced that Southeast District Engineer Mark Shelton would be retiring March 1, 2020. Other personnel announcements included the hiring of a Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety Coordinator, Heather Glastetter.

The Missouri General Assembly is back in session and several bills involving safety have been pre-filed. Various bills regarding a statewide primary seat belt law, repeals of the current Missouri helmet law, and bans on electronic devices will be up for debate in 2020. MoDOT is keeping a close eye on the legislation, along with legislation that could increase transportation funding. Sen. Doug Libla has filed a bill that would raise gas tax by two cents and diesel by five cents.

The Governor's Cost-Share program awarded \$50 million to 40 projects, including three in the Southeast District. The City of Poplar Bluff received an award to help with the four-lane of Highway 67. In addition, the City of Poplar Bluff also received a traditional cost-share program agreement. These two awards combined will ensure the construction of 4-miles of four-lane highway on US Highway 67 from the Highway 160/158 intersection south.

Mike Brandon, MoDOT Southeast District, provided a handout with work zone updates for Highway 142 in Oregon and Ripley Counties, which is on hold for the winter. The next Cost-Share application deadline is April 24, 2020. Lettings from November 2019 included resurfacing along Route J, Route CC, and Route JJ in Butler County. Resurfacing projects also were awarded for Ripley County along Route A and Route E. In December 2019, pavement improvements on the northbound lane of US Highway 67 from CR 211 to 0.75 miles from Route JJ in Wayne County were awarded. Later in January 2020, Business 60 from Route W to 2nd Street in Butler County will see conduit installation.

Mr. Brandon provided some safety statistics as well. The seatbelt usage rate in Missouri is 87%, which is behind the national average of 90%. In the Southeast District, the usage rate is only 75%.

Chris Crocker, MoDOT Southeast District, announced that the rescission had been appealed on November 21, 2019. Nationally, this prevented \$7.6 billion in cuts to funding; of this, approximately \$350 million would have been lost for the State of Missouri. Current BRO balances for each county were provided as well.

Discussion of BRO funding distribution took place. MoDOT is currently reviewing keeping the same method of deficient bridge square footage, but instead of providing the funds to the individual county, funds would be distributed to the districts, who would work with the TACs and RPCs for distribution. There will still be rules and regulations to work out. Several in attendance expressed concern over the funding being delivered to the districts, and not to each county. How would this affect a county such as Carter, which currently does not receive any funding? More details are expected from MoDOT later this year.

MoDOT will begin completing a LPA Risk Assessment on any public entity that receives federal funding and continue as long the entity receives federal funding. The assessments will be performed annually and a negative assessment could result in a performance plan or loss of eligibility. The risk assessment is similar to a report card, with scores of A, B, C, and D. Mr. Crocker stressed he did not believe any LPAs in the region would lose eligibility. Additionally, MoDOT is now required to obtain a copy of the canceled check for all payments made by the LPA to vendors for all Federal Aid projects.

V. Transportation Planning Coordinator Report

Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator Andrew Murphy informed the TAC two applications were submitted to the Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) on behalf of Carter County. The first is seeking \$325,338 for completion of paving along County Road 201, while the second is for bridge replacement of a low water crossing where state maintenance of Highway E ends and County Road 236 begins. This project is requesting \$291,134.

Mr. Murphy provided handouts for a number of grant opportunities. The Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), which usually opens in January, has not opened yet, so due dates are unknown, but expected to be in April/May. A 20% match is preferred, but not necessarily required. The applicant's prior audits, financial statements, and current budget are submitted with the application to demonstrate financial capacity. The grant applicant should

commit currently unencumbered budgeted funds to the project. The application is a long and competitive process. Past projects have included paving, drainage, low water crossings, bridge repair/replacement and pedestrian bridges. A door-to-door survey of people that live in the area and will benefit from the project is required if the community does not meet Low-to-Moderate Income status based on HUD Census Data.

The MoDOT Traffic and Highway Safety Grant Program supports projects that reduce the number and severity of traffic crashes occurring on Missouri roadways thereby preventing fatalities and injuries. Areas of emphasis include alcohol- and/or drug-impaired driving, speeding, safety belt and child safety seat use, inattention or distracted driving, young drivers, mature drivers, and traffic crash data collection and analysis. The grant funding cycle corresponds with the federal fiscal year, which runs from October 1st through September 30th.

The Department of Natural Resources' Recreational Trails Program (RTP) has a February 14th deadline. In Missouri, RTP grants are open to local and state governments, school districts, non-profit and for-profit organizations. Missouri receives between \$1 and \$1.5 million per fiscal year. The maximum amount awarded is \$250,000 for trail projects and \$25,000 for educational projects. Sponsors must have a minimum 20 percent match, which can be cash or in-kind. Projects must be open to the public for 25 years.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is open with the same February 14th deadline. It's a 50/50 match program with a maximum request amount of \$250,000. Grants are open to local government and public schools. Playgrounds, trails, parks, and ball fields are examples of possible projects.

Mr. Murphy announced joint TAC/County Commission meetings will be occurring in March. These meetings allow an opportunity for members of the public to meet with their local TAC members and provide feedback regarding the prioritization process. During the April meeting, each county will prioritize their lists of projects at the county level before the regional prioritization in July.

Mr. Murphy announced the annual statewide planning partnership meeting will be held on Thursday January 23, 2020, in Jefferson City. At the meeting, all RPCs and MPOs in the state will meet with all MoDOT districts and central leadership to review goals for the upcoming year. Panel discussions will be featured for best practices.

The next LPA Advisory Committee meeting is January 16th in Jefferson City. The committee will be reviewing and scoring the statewide consultant selection list for all MoDOT pre-approved categories.

VI. Old Business

No old business.

VII. New Business

Mr. Murphy announced he will be at the 2020 Ag Expo at the Black River Coliseum in Poplar Bluff on January 31st-February 1st. Once again surveys for the general public to identify

transportation issues for the region will be available.

VIII. General Discussion

Chairman Polk asked if it was known who would be applying for the Southeast District Engineer position with Mark Shelton retiring. Applications have not yet been made available.

Chairman Polk stated that the TAC has always tried to have the prioritization meeting in Ellsinore, at a central location, and when not in Ellsinore, it has been moved to Grandin. However, it has become difficult to have meetings in these locations due to restaurant closures, no catering, and not enough space. Chairman Polk asked if there would be any concerns with moving the prioritization meeting (which is the July meeting currently) to the OFRPC office in Poplar Bluff.

Andrew Murphy explained this move would do a number of things. First, the dinner starting on time and not an hour between the first and last person being served, as took place this past July. Second, enough room for the meeting which typically has between 30-38 people in attendance. Third, enough room for the 25 TAC members to spread out to be able to vote. Fourth, internet access, which the lack thereof at some meeting locations has caused questions which could have been answered immediately to be delayed. Lastly, the availability of air conditioning in July, which has not always been guaranteed.

After a brief discussion, all in attendance were in favor of conducting the TAC's prioritization meeting at the OFRPC office.

IX. Adjournment

Jesse Roy moved to adjourn. Chairman Polk adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER

January 9, 2020

Mr. Andrew Murphy	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Vince Lampe	Butler County
Mr. Don Anderson	Butler County
Mr. Dennis LeGrand	Butler County
Mr. Jeff Darnell	Butler County
Mr. Bill Robison	Butler County
Mr. Mike Gossett	Carter County
Mr. Jesse Roy	Ripley County
Mr. Gary Emmons	Ripley County
Mr. Dennis Cox	Ripley County
Ms. Rickie Maples	Ripley County
Ms. Tami Hale	Ripley County
Mr. Brian Polk	Wayne County
Mr. Chad Henson	Wayne County
Mr. Doug Wood	Wayne County
Mr. Mike Brandon	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. David Wyman	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Chris Crocker	MoDOT Southeast District
Ms. Elquin Auala	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Bill Kennon	Guest

THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Ron Keeney	Carter County
Mr. Wayne Gibbs	Carter County
Mr. Jordan Collins	Carter County
Mr. Tom Wilder	Carter County
Mr. Joe Loyd	Reynolds County
Mr. Eddie Williams	Reynolds County
Mr. Doug Warren	Reynolds County
Ms. Renee Horn	Reynolds County
Mr. Darrell Dement	Reynolds County
Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick	Wayne County
Ms. Angela Smith	Wayne County