

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

**JANUARY 12, 2017
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

ELLINGTON CITY HALL, ELLINGTON, MISSOURI

I. Call to Order

Chairman Brian Polk called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

II. Open for Public Discussion

No discussion ensued.

III. Adoption of October 13, 2016 Minutes

Minutes of the October 13, 2016 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Mike Gossett, Carter County, and second by Darrell Dement, Reynolds County.

IV. Guest Speaker

Heath Pickerill, Director of The Missouri Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) located at the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, introduced himself and explained the Missouri LTAP program. The Federal Highway Administration and the Missouri Department of Transportation fund the program. It is one of 51 LTAP centers in the United States, and operates independently from the state or federal agencies.

Missouri LTAP is a statewide program delivering transportation, infrastructure, and workforce development training and resources to local government and related agencies. Customers include county and city public works, highway departments, townships, special road districts, local government agencies as well as some consultants and contractors. The program provides training and resources such as course notes, pamphlets/brochures, and a quarterly newsletter. Topics may include maintenance, safety, and management, as well as other related topics.

Trainings are offered at multiple locations around the state and can be scheduled based on agency needs and requests. Instructors are often retired MoDOT technicians and other professionals. Course fees are \$45 per person for Level I courses and \$55 per person for Level II and Level III courses. Some of the more popular courses include Work Zone Safety & Flagger Training, Gravel Road Maintenance, Tractor Mower Safety, and Snow and Ice Control.

For 2017, LTAP is offering new classes at Level II and III including Drug & Alcohol Awareness Training, Violence in the Workplace, Pavement Evaluation & Rating, Disaster Preparedness, and

Disaster Response. In addition, the MO-LTAP Scholars Program includes a Scholars Partnership Committee comprised of various organizations that provide input and help develop and monitor the growth of the program.

Another aspect of LTAP is its equipment loan program, through which local government agencies can borrow equipment such as a retroreflectometer, speed radar display sign, traffic counters, and material inspection equipment. This equipment is expensive and would only be used once or twice a year by an individual local government agency. The loan program allows various agencies to use the equipment without having to purchase it.

The Missouri LTAP Advisory Committee and the MoDOT Ambassadors Committee help to provide feedback and guidance to the program. The advisory committee is a mix of county, city, state, and federal officials that meet twice per year. Elquin Auala, MoDOT Southeast District, is the MoDOT Ambassador representing Southeast Missouri.

Lastly, Mr. Pickerill's office also manages the Missouri Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) which provides training and resources to the rural transit agencies throughout the state.

V. Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) Reports

Mark Shelton, MoDOT Southeast District, informed the TAC that the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission met on January 4, 2017 and provided good news to the districts. The financial forecast for MoDOT shows revenue to be higher than expected and the commission is releasing additional funds. This will amount to about \$10-13 million and will allow MoDOT to fully meet its asset management plan, and expand the system in small ways. These funds are not sufficient to finish the 4-laning of Highway 67 or other large projects, for example, but will allow MoDOT to complete some intersection redesigns and focus on other safety priorities.

In addition, the commission announced it will be reinstating the cost share program, though on a smaller level. For FY18, \$10 million will be available. That amount will increase to \$15 million in FY19 and \$25 million for FY20 and beyond.

Chairman Polk stated last year MoDOT was concerned about its ability to provide the match requirement to receive federal funding and asked if this remained a concern. Mr. Shelton explained that although revenue is larger than projected, MoDOT is deficit spending and will be utilizing their reserve revenue to meet the match requirement.

David Wyman, MoDOT Southeast District, provided a handout explaining transportation funding in Missouri, the monthly cost per driver, and how and where transportation revenue is spent.

Mr. Wyman updated the TAC on current projects and future bid lettings. Route U between Butler and Stoddard counties is now closed, as the bridge deck will be replaced. In March, bid letting will take place for the McKenzie Creek Bridge on Highway 49 in Wayne County, as well as over Hubble Creek on Highway 67. In Butler County, work addressing the bridge over Cane

Creek on Highway 158 will let as well as sidewalk repair in Poplar Bluff. In Reynolds County, the pavement will be improved and shoulders added along Highway 21 to Route K.

In May, the Highway 53 Bridge over the St. Francis River overflow in Butler County will be bid.

Elquin Auala, announced that 21 applications were submitted for funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program. Unfortunately, two had to withdraw from consideration-- both being in the Ozark Foothills region. Consequently, Poplar Bluff remained the only application from the region. That project was awarded, as were seven others. Seven projects, including Poplar Bluff, were fully funded, with one project only partially funded.

David Wyman introduced Jerrod Jernigan to the TAC. Jerrod was chosen to complete the MoDOT Apex Program and is currently cross training. He is based out of the Poplar Bluff construction office.

VI. Transportation Planning Coordinator Report

Andrew Murphy, Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator, stated that the Poplar Bluff Industrial Park Road Overpass Project is in the process of purchasing three of the five properties needed and are scheduled to close towards the end of January. The fifth property involved a redesign and has been submitted to the county and Nortek for acceptance.

The City of Poplar Bluff was awarded \$337,751 to install a pedestrian bridge over Pike Creek through the Transportation Alternatives Program. Mr. Murphy mentioned that Piedmont removed their application from consideration due to the closure of Wal-Mart. Furthermore, the City of Bunker was not awarded a 2016 Taum Sauk Fund grant, which was needed for the 20% match requirement.

Two Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) applications were submitted. Butler County is requesting \$175,574.80 with which to pave sections of County Road 543, while Carter County is requesting \$247,880 to pave a section of County Road 201.

Mr. Murphy announced the annual Statewide Planning Partnership meeting will be held on Thursday March 9, 2017, in Jefferson City. At the meeting, all RPCs and MPOs in the state will meet with all districts of MoDOT and central leadership to review goals for the upcoming year.

Lastly, Mr. Murphy announced that the CDBG General Infrastructure program is now open with an application deadline of April 3rd. The preliminary application process has been discontinued; so a full application will have to be submitted for each project. The application is a long and competitive process. Past projects have included paving, drainage, low water crossings, bridge repair/replacement and pedestrian bridges.

VII. Old Business

Mr. Murphy reminded the TAC that 2017 meeting schedule is the second Thursday of January, April, July, and October.

VIII. New Business

Mr. Murphy announced he would once again be attending the annual Ag Expo on January 20 & 21, 2017 at the Black River Coliseum in Poplar Bluff. He will have a transportation survey present and will hand out *Arrive Alive* and other promotional items.

Mr. Murphy introduced the draft update to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RTP was last updated in June 2015, and is due for its update in June 2017. The new version is available for review until the April TAC meeting, at which time the TAC will be asked to approve the plan. Mr. Murphy had a printed copy available and stated he could provide digital copies as requested.

The plan has 20 fewer pages due to the removal of older 2000 Census data. The sidewalk inventories for Doniphan and Poplar Bluff have been updated. New functional classification maps are included, and some statistics have been updated. Much of the demographic data has remained the same due to the timing of the plan update coming before any major new data releases.

IX. General Discussion

No general discussion ensued.

X. Adjournment

Chad Henson, Wayne County, moved to adjourn. Chairman Brian Polk adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER

January 12, 2017

Mr. Andrew Murphy	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Vince Lampe	Butler County
Mr. Dennis LeGrand	Butler County
Mr. Jeff Darnell	Butler County
Mr. Bill Robison	Butler County
Mr. Donald Black	Carter County
Mr. Mike Gossett	Carter County
Mr. David Reynolds	Carter County
Mr. Wayne Gibbs	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. Darrell Dement	Reynolds County
Mr. William Kennon	Ripley County
Mr. David Johnson	Ripley County
Ms. Tami Hale	Ripley County
Mr. Brian Polk	Wayne County
Mr. Chad Henson	Wayne County
Mr. Mark Shelton	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Chris Rutledge	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Joe Killian	MoDOT Southeast District
Ms. Elquin Auala	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. David Wyman	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Jerrod Jernigan	MoDOT Southeast District
Ms. Becky Gibbs	Guest
Mr. Heath Pickerill	Missouri LTAP

THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Don Anderson	Butler County
Mr. Jerry Halley	Ripley County
Mr. Lonnie Hudson	Ripley County
Ms. Angela Smith	Wayne County
Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick	Wayne County
Mr. John Berger	Wayne County