

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

**MAY 14, 2015  
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**ELLINGTON CITY HALL, ELLINGTON, MISSOURI**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Brain Polk called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

**II. Adoption of February 26, 2015 Minutes**

Minutes of the February 26, 2015 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Wayne Gibbs, Carter County, and second by Vince Lampe, Butler County.

Chairman Polk requested everyone introduce himself or herself as there were new TAC members attending their first meeting. Introductions were made.

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

Matt Seiler, MoDOT Southeast District, stated that Senate Bill 540 had not moved out of the Missouri Senate. The bill would raise the tax on motor fuels beginning January 1, 2016. The tax on motor fuels other than diesel fuel would be raised by 1.5 cents per gallon to 18.8 cents per gallon. The tax on diesel fuel would be raised by 3.5 cents per gallon to 20.8 cents per gallon should the bill pass. This is a change from the original bill, which sought 2 cents per gallon for three consecutive years. The end of the legislative session is May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015; so, it is doubtful a fuel tax will pass.

Joe Loyd, Reynolds County, stated he was in Jefferson City during the past week and there was a rumor that a special session of the legislature may be called this summer and that the Governor was in favor of the special session.

Chairman Polk emphasized that the public needs to know they will be losing \$4.00 for every dollar because MoDOT will not be able to match federal funds beginning in 2017. Many in the general public perceive the loss of only one dollar, not realizing the match requirement to access federal transportation funding.

Mr. Seiler said it will take several years for the roads to deteriorate, but it will also take several years to rebuild them if new funding is not available. Maintaining roadways is safer and more economical than rebuilding those in poor condition.

Joe Killian, MoDOT Southeast District, provided updates on various projects in the Ozark Foothills Region. Shoulder work on Highway 106 in Reynolds County to the Shannon County line is coming to a close. Darrell Dement, Reynolds County, asked why the shoulder work was stopping at the city limits of Ellington. Mr. Killian said he would find out and let the TAC know.

Highway PP in Butler County has ongoing bridge widening and an overlay underway. An overlay of Highway WW in Poplar Bluff has been completed, but striping remains. The Ripley County Water District will be relocating water lines on Highway 160 in Ripley County. Traffic control has started on Route Z in Wayne County for a complete bridge replacement.

Projects awarded to contractors over the previous two months include the Highway 67/Oak Grove Road intersection in Poplar Bluff, as well as the resurfacing of Highway 67. The Highway PP roundabout, also in Butler County, is expected to start construction in June. Letting on five bridge projects will take place on May 15<sup>th</sup>, including Highway 51, two on Highway 142, and two on Highway 158 in Butler County.

David Reynolds, Carter County, asked about the status of M highway in Carter County. Work is ongoing and the bridge repair will let tomorrow. Donald Black, Carter County, stated he heard work would start in both July and September and wondered which was correct. Matt Seiler explained that the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission must provide approval, but he would expect the project to begin in July. Mike Gossett, Carter County, asked if the project would let as one or two projects. Mr. Seiler stated the project would let as one with both bridge replacement and shoulder work included.

Joe Killian stated there remains a lot of work to be conducted in the Ozark Foothills Region. Unfortunately, the draft 2016-2020 *Statewide Transportation Improvement Program* (STIP) includes few new projects. Mr. Killian distributed copies of the draft STIP showing bridge replacements in Wayne County, as well as a paving project in Wayne County and some bridge guardrail work along US Highway 67.

David Reynolds asked what happens to projects that are not included on the STIP that the TAC have already prioritized. MoDOT keeps them on record as they remain on the list of TAC prioritized projects, but will not move onto the STIP at the current time. They could be placed on a newer version, but with funding challenges, little new projects will be added. There is still benefit, however, for MoDOT to have up-to-date lists as funding could be provided on short notice.

Mr. Reynolds asked about the need of the TAC to keep reprioritizing the same projects. Chairman Polk explained once a project is placed on the STIP, the TAC no longer needs to prioritize that project moving forward. Andrew Murphy, Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator, said that the TAC has been instrumental in making projects happen. Every county in the region has benefited from the work of the TAC including Wayne County with work on Route 34, Ripley County with the expansion of Highway 160, Reynolds County with shoulder work on Highway 72, Carter County with the soon to be under construction M Highway, and the four-laning of Highway 67 in Butler County.

Mr. Killian announced Local Public Agency (LPA) basic training is now available online.

Finally, although not within the Ozark Foothills Region, a Shannon County bridge has been weight limited and 18-wheeler trucks can no longer cross the bridge. The detour east of this bridge is about 75 miles and sends trucks through Reynolds County. A temporary structure will be completed by May 22<sup>nd</sup> prior to Memorial Day weekend.

Chairman Polk informed the TAC that Wayne County had bid two BRO bridges simultaneously. The contractor is working on both bridges at the same time and the county has benefited financially as they have saved on materials and equipment.

#### **IV. Transportation Planning Coordinator Report**

Andrew Murphy spoke briefly about Senate Bill 540, and whether it had been passed into the House or was an amendment to a House Bill. Under MoDOT's reporting, it was determined the Senate Bill had not been voted out of the Senate and the likelihood of passing appeared poor.

Mr. Murphy also provided an update on federal transportation funding. On May 11th, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx notified the states that funds for projects will be discontinued on May 31, 2015, unless an extension or new transportation funding bill is passed. Additionally, Secretary Foxx stated that Federal-aid reimbursements on all projects – including those under construction – will be halted completely, not delayed as they had been in past. The current funding bill, MAP-21, expires on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

The likelihood of passing a new transportation bill is poor. Matt Seiler stated the expectation is an 18-month extension of the current bill to fund transportation through the 2016 election cycle.

At the February TAC meeting, there was discussion of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) general infrastructure program. Mr. Murphy submitted six preliminary proposals to the program, one for the City of Bunker for paving repairs on three city streets, one for a low water crossing on Spring Street in the City of Doniphan, and four for Butler County including two paving projects and two drainage projects. Of those six, two were invited to submit full applications, a paving project on Butler County Road 558 and the paving project in Bunker. The City of Bunker is seeking \$203,261 to help with paving and safety improvements on Lincoln Avenue, Tom's Creek Road, and Wilkins Avenue. Butler County is seeking \$273,366.23 for paving and drainage improvements on CR558. This project is requiring a door-to-door LMI survey of those that live in the area. The survey is currently under way.

Mr. Murphy announced the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) has opened their State's Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) in a new-open cycle system. The DRA will accept applications until their funding has 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, and the inclusion of multiple funding partners. In addition, applications should meet a regional development plan goal to include the creation of a competitive, productive workforce, and physical and digital connections, as well as reinforcing the concept of "sustainable communities."

Mr. Murphy submitted an application for SEDAP funding on behalf of Butler County for approximately \$101,000 as gap funding for a potential overpass on the Industrial Park Road outside the city limits of Poplar Bluff. Currently Union Pacific trains cause delays for those

trying to enter or exit the industrial park via that route.

Lastly, Mr. Murphy mentioned that The Missouri Association of Councils of Government (MACOG) may be adding a new duty to the role of the TAC, the prioritization of Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) applications. Such applications have been taken every other year since 2012, with submission due in September and projects awarded in December. Under the current proposal, once all applications have been submitted, the TAC for each region in the state will review applications and prioritize them before they are presented to the selection committee.

In 2014, there were five applications submitted from the Ozark Foothills Region with three awarded. The cities of Van Buren and Poplar Bluff each submitted applications that were not funded. The City of Piedmont received approximately \$97,500 to construct sidewalks, Butler County received approximately \$250,000 for completion/restoration of the Historic Train Depot Staircase in Poplar Bluff, and the City of Poplar Bluff received \$400,000 for sidewalks connecting McLane Park along W Highway to Shelby Road. In the future, the TAC will assist in determining which projects are funded.

## **V. Old Business**

Mr. Murphy asked the TAC to vote to accept the updated version of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The draft of which was submitted for review in February. The RTP was adopted on a motion by Darrell Dement and second by Mike Gossett.

## **VI. New Business**

Mr. Murphy announced that the TAC has been without a Vice-Chairman after Harold Ellinghouse's resignation in November. Joe Loyd nominated Donald Black, with a second by David Reynolds. All were in favor. Donald Black will be the Vice-Chairman of the TAC through 2016. New officer elections will take place at the November 2016 meeting.

Mr. Murphy provided transportation survey results from the Merchant Showcase held April 25 at Three Rivers College. The top comments included finishing the 4-lane of US Highway 67 to Arkansas, fixing potholes, more public transportation, extending Shelby Road to Highway 53, removing one-land bridges, more stop signs/lights, and paving gravel county roads.

## **VII. Open for Public Discussion**

Chairman Polk announced this agenda item had been missed so the opportunity for public discussion was provided. No discussion ensued.

## **VIII. General Discussion**

No general discussion ensued.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Joe Loyd moved to adjourn. Chairman Brian Polk adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

**TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

**May 14, 2015**

<b>Mr. Andrew Murphy</b>	<b>Ozark Foothills RPC</b>
<b>Mr. Vince Lampe</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Jeff Darnell</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Gary McDonald</b>	<b>Butler County (Alternate)</b>
<b>Mr. Donald Black</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Mike Gossett</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. David Reynolds</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Wayne Gibbs</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Joe Loyd</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Ms. Renee Horn</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Darrell Dement</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. William Kennon</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. David Johnson</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Lonnie Hudson</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Brian Polk</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. John Berger</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Ms. Georgia Woods</b>	<b>Wayne County (Alternate)</b>
<b>Mr. Matthew Seiler</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Mr. Joe Killian</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Ms. Becky Gibbs</b>	
<b>Ms. Elizabeth Reynolds</b>	
<b>Mr. Jeff Woods</b>	

**THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

<b>Mr. Don Anderson</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Bill Robison</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Steve Bubanovich</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Doug Warren</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Ben Pickett</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Jerry Halley</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Chad Henson</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Ms. Angela Smith</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>