

**MINUTES
OF
THE OZARK FOOTHILLS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 5, 2015
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

PEG'S DINER, ELLSINORE, MISSOURI**

I. Call to Order

Chairman Brain Polk called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

II. Open for Public Discussion

No discussion ensued.

III. Adoption of August 13, 2015 Minutes

Minutes of the August 13, 2015 Transportation Advisory Committee meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Bill Kirkpatrick, Wayne County, and second by Butch Anderson, Butler County.

IV. Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) Reports

Elquin Auala, MoDOT Southeast District, stated the Off-System Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation (BRO) program has returned to previous standards for funding criteria. Individual counties can spend up to three additional years of funding for design, but can only use one year of additional funding at time of construction.

Mike Brandon, MoDOT Southeast District, announced MoDOT hired a new director, Patrick McKenna, from the New Hampshire DOT. Mr. McKenna served as Deputy Commissioner in New Hampshire where he acted as Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer, and Legislative Officer. He started his career working in a US Senate office before leaving government to run a small real estate company. Mr. McKenna serves on the boards of numerous non-profits and is involved with youth sports. He and his wife have three children, and he officially begins his role on December 7.

Joe Killian, MoDOT Southeast District, thanked the TAC for the recent prioritization of bridge and pavement projects that took place since the last TAC meeting. That prioritization was necessary as FY2015 funds exceeded expectations and will allow MoDOT to match federal funds for FY2017.

Projects were gathered from around the district by the regional planning commissions who then submitted those projects to MoDOT. Each district within MoDOT has submitted projects to central office and projects are expected to be awarded within the next two weeks. For the Ozark Foothills region, this includes four bridge projects. One in Butler County on Highway 158 over Cane Creek, and three in Wayne County that include the northbound Highway 67 ramp at the Highway 34 intersection, the Highway 49 bridge over McKenzie Creek north of Piedmont, and another Highway 49 bridge over the Black River.

Mr. Killian announced there was an additional \$28 million in revenue and \$14 million went to bridges while the other \$14 million went to pavement. For paving projects in the Ozark Foothills Region, Highway 21 from Centerville to Ellington in Reynolds County is the only project in the region.

Butch Anderson asked if the overlay project on US Highway 67 from the city limits of Poplar Bluff to US Highway 60 has been changed, as it was supposed to be completed in 2015 and has not started yet. Mike Brandon stated there have been numerous projects delayed due to the rainy construction season and this was one of those projects. The project will still happen, but later than originally planned.

Bill Kennon, Ripley County, asked how three bridges from Wayne County made the list of replacements when other counties had zero on the list. Mike Brandon and Joe Killian explained that the MoDOT bridge engineer ultimately has final say and he ranks all critical bridges as most critical to least critical. Some critical bridges MoDOT will be maintained as functional for a few more years, while some are past the point of repair.

Donald Black, Carter County, said the frustration starts with the prioritization process, because regardless of what listing of projects is turned in to MoDOT, MoDOT already knows what projects they are going to do. That makes many people see the prioritization process as a waste of time.

Mike Brandon stated that the TAC plays a role of letting MoDOT know which projects residents of the region most want to see completed. Joe Killian explained that bridge repair is based primarily on condition, and the first bridges to be repaired are those most in need of repair. Andrew Murphy, Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator, mentioned that the pavement and bridge prioritization that occurred between TAC meetings could be thought of as the TAC prioritizing the worst of the worst.

Mr. Killian announced newly awarded projects in the area. In September, Joe's Bridge and Grading was awarded the bridge repair over Highway 51 in Butler County. In October, a 28-mile resurfacing project was awarded for Highway 49 that begins in Iron County and extends into

Wayne County. Finally, in November, a guardrail project in Butler and Carter County was awarded.

Construction is ongoing on Route 34 in Wayne and Bollinger Counties. There will be lane closures for an overlay on Route 67 in Wayne County. The bridge replacement over McGee Creek on Route Z and the Route A overlay in Wayne County are complete.

The Route M bridge project in Carter County has been issued a Notice to Proceed.

In Butler County, dirt work and paving for the PP Highway roundabout is underway. The Oak Grove and Katy Lane intersection in Poplar Bluff has received new signals and widening is complete. Striping remains to be completed on Highway 51. The lane addition along Highway 160 in Butler and Ripley County is underway with base work and the rock foundation finished. Weather conditions may delay laying asphalt.

Mike Brandon noted that projects starting late might be the new norm as Missouri is no longer an attractive state for contractors. Doug Warren, Reynolds County, asked why contractors are leaving Missouri for work. Mr. Brandon said it has to do with funding. Adjacent states, such as Arkansas and Iowa, have passed recent transportation tax increases.

V. Transportation Planning Coordinator Report

Andrew Murphy explained the federal highway funding extension was set to expire on October 29, but an extension through November 20 was passed just before the deadline. The US House of Representatives passed a more permanent six-year bill today, but funding is only available for three years. The US Senate passed a six-year bill in July. Now those two bodies will meet in a conference committee to reconcile the two bills. The hope is to pass a long-term transportation funding plan by the end of the year.

Mr. Murphy announced that neither the Butler County nor Bunker CDBG applications for general infrastructure were awarded. He encouraged both communities to apply in the next round, and announced that the preliminary applications for 2016 will be due April 1. Communities should begin thinking of projects now and begin speaking with an engineer by the beginning of 2016. A preliminary engineering report from a state-certified engineering firm is required for the application.

Butler County received \$106,000 from the Delta Regional Authority to act as gap funding for an overpass to be constructed over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks near the Poplar Bluff Industrial Park.

Mr. Murphy covered the Zombies Against Drunk Driving event that was held on October 30 at the Kiwanis haunted house at Kinyon School in Poplar Bluff. During the event, a law enforcement officer and volunteers dressed as zombies provided koozies, key-chains, and other items with highway safety messages on them to attract participants. Additionally, the fatal vision

“drunk” goggles were worn by participants to see the consequences of driving while intoxicated. Each zombie had a story of how they had died in a drunken driving accident turning them into a zombie.

VI. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

VII. New Business

Mr. Murphy presented the proposed Calendar Year 2016 TAC meeting schedule. Meetings will occur on the second Thursday of February, May, August, and October. The last meeting of the year was moved to October at MoDOT’s request to have the prioritization process complete before November.

Mr. Murphy announced that since 2015 began, every county has had at least one new member join the TAC. This has been an unusually large turnover and a couple of the newer members were not available to attend tonight’s meeting. He announced that Ripley County is the only county with a vacancy on their TAC membership.

Next, Mr. Murphy led the group in the development of county-specific project priorities. This year the process was the same as last year with each county developing a list for multi-modal projects as well as highway/bridge and maintenance needs. Each county ranked three projects as #1 - #3 for each of the three lists. Discussion ensued and needs were prioritized. The completed lists are attached.

VIII. General Discussion

No general discussion ensued.

IX. Adjournment

Donald Black moved to adjourn. Chairman Brian Polk adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Ozark Foothills Region

Project Priority List

Butler County

1. **Route M 2 miles west of Route 67 – Curves and Hill**
2. **Route PP from Township Line to Lakeview County Road – Add Shoulders**
3. **Route T: 2 foot asphalt shoulders from Butler County Line to Highway 60**

Carter County

1. **Route N: Widen and Eliminate one-lane bridge over Middle Brushy Creek**
2. **Route A: Eliminate Narrow Bridge in Ellsinore**
3. **Widen Bridge/Culvert on A Highway at corner curve in Ellsinore**

Reynolds County

1. **Replace Highway F Bridge**
2. **Highway 21: Centerville to Glover, add shoulders**
3. **Highway K: Ellington to Annapolis, add shoulders**

Ripley County

1. **State Route K: Straighten “S” curve**
2. **Between Naylor and Doniphan: Eliminate three one-lane bridges**
3. **Improvement Highway 142 West at Gatewood – Narrow bridge**

Wayne County

1. **Highway 49: Replace bridge over McKenzie Creek north of Piedmont**
2. **Highway 49/Highway A: Straighten and widen from Highway 67 to 60 and from Williamsville to Iron County Line.**
3. **Repair/Replace Highway 34 bridge across Black River: North of Leeper, West of 34/49 junction**

Ozark Foothills Region
Project Maintenance List

Butler County

1. **HH Highway: Resurface from Highway 142 to Highway 53**
2. **Resurface Route F: From Route 160 to end of State Maintenance**
3. **Resurface Route N: From Route 53 to Route 51**

Carter County

1. **Overlay: Y Highway near Fremont**
2. **Z Highway: Overlay**
3. **Overlay A Highway Ellsinore**

Reynolds County

1. **B Highway: Overlay**
2. **O Highway: Overlay**
3. **Highway 49 Overlay Centerville to Highway 32 junction**

Ripley County

1. **BB Highway: Overlay**
2. **EE Highway: Overlay**
3. **C Highway: Overlay**

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**

Ozark Foothills Region
Multi-Modal Project List

Butler County

1. **Extend the Poplar Bluff Airport Runway**
2. **Improve Amtrak Depot Service Facility**
3. **Extend trail from Shelby/Oak Grove to McLane Park/ and West to Wolf Creek trail**

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 on North Highway 21 to Highway 106**
2. **Reopen railhead at Buick Mine**
3. **Bike Lane on Highway 106 Ellington to Eminence**

Ripley County

1. **Remove trees from west end of Doniphan Airport runway**
2. **Fix landing lights at Doniphan Airport**
3. **Install fence at airport to keep out deer**

Wayne County

1. **Sidewalk repair/construction in Piedmont (Main Street/Various)**
2. **Sidewalk repair/construction in Greenville (Various)**
3. **Wayne County Cross-County walk/bike trail**

TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER

November 5, 2015

Ms. Felicity Ray	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Andrew Murphy	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Vince Lampe	Butler County
Mr. Don Anderson	Butler County
Mr. Jeff Darnell	Butler County
Mr. Bill Robison	Butler County
Mr. Gary McDonald	Butler County (Alternate)
Mr. Donald Black	Carter County
Mr. David Reynolds	Carter County
Mr. Wayne Gibbs	Carter County
Mr. Mike Gossett	Carter County
Mr. Jordan Collins	Carter County
Mr. Joe Loyd	Reynolds County
Mr. Doug Warren	Reynolds County
Mr. Eddie Williams	Reynolds County
Mr. William Kennon	Ripley County
Mr. Jerry Halley	Ripley County
Mr. David Johnson	Ripley County
Mr. Lonnie Hudson	Ripley County
Mr. Brian Polk	Wayne County
Mr. Chad Henson	Wayne County
Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick	Wayne County
Ms. Angela Smith	Wayne County
Mr. Joe Killian	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Mike Brandon	MoDOT Southeast District
Ms. Elquin Auala	MoDOT Southeast District
Ms. Elizabeth Reynolds	
Ms. Becky Gibbs	

THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Steve Bubanovich	Butler County
Mr. Darrell Dement	Reynolds County
Ms. Renee Horn	Reynolds County
Mr. John Berger	Wayne County