

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

**OCTOBER 24, 2013
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

EAST CARTER HIGH SCHOOL, ELLSINORE, MISSOURI

I. Call to Order

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

II. Open for Public Discussion

Frank Carroll, Butler County, read a prepared statement from Poplar Bluff Medical Partners expressing their support for the possible three-lane of PP Highway in Butler County leading to the soon to be constructed roundabout as well as a stop light at the intersection of Physicians Park Drive and PP Highway. The medical facility employs over 250 individuals and serves over 120,000 patients and visitors per year with expected growth and the potential for a larger hospital. Due to the amount of traffic, and future growth expectations, there are increasing safety concerns with the existing infrastructure.

III. Adoption of August 8, 2013 Minutes

Minutes from the August 8, 2013 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted with a motion by Ed Strenfel, Butler County, and second by Butch Anderson, Butler County.

IV. Guest Speaker

Bill Osborne, Director of Southeast Missouri Transportation Service (SMTS) Inc., thanked the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission for being a long-time partner in the area. Mr. Osborne has served 40 years with SMTS. The organization started in the 1970s serving the elderly and people with disabilities.

SMTS is a non-profit, one of Missouri's largest non-profit transportation providers, and is approved by the Federal Transit Agency. The Missouri Department of Transportation is also a big supporter of the organization and has been wonderful to work with. Mr. Osborne provided brochures and schedules to those in attendance. SMTS serves four of the five Ozark Foothills counties, operating in Butler, Carter, Reynolds, and Wayne Counties.

SMTS operates the transit service in the City of Poplar Bluff and operates in different localities providing public transportation from one-day a week to everyday. A wide variety of individuals utilize the service. Mr. Osborne encouraged those in attendance to speak with riders when they see a SMTS vehicle. Many in the area do not own a vehicle or belong to households without

sufficient transportation, and rely on public transportation to gain access to medical facilities, grocery stores, schools, and additional needs.

Chris Rutledge, MoDOT Southeast District, stated he has had a chance to speak with many local people in the area and is hearing of a growing need for public transportation as the population ages and the economy remains stagnant. SMTS helps to fulfill that need.

Harold Ellinghouse, Wayne County, asked if the number of riders has increased. Mr. Osborne stated the number has risen considerably over the past five years. The next 20 years is expected to see very large growth. Transit will be needed in rural areas as much as it is in the cities.

Bill Robison, Butler County, asked how the company serves the more rural areas. Bill Osborne explained that SMTS assigns a vehicle to the county and then splits the county into five areas. They then operate five days a week, serving each area once during the week. If an individual needs medical transportation on a day outside the service schedule, arrangements can generally be made.

Harold Ellinghouse asked if most people pay the one-dollar service fee or more than that amount. Most people pay just one dollar for a fixed route fee in the City of Poplar Bluff. A round trip costs an individual two dollars.

Frank Carroll asked how much of SMTS's operating expenses are covered by fees, and how much is subsidized. About 15 percent comes from fees, with the remainder coming from Medicaid, MoDOT, FTA, Division of Aging, Mental Health, etc.

V. Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) Reports

David Wyman, MoDOT Southeast District, provided updates for the *On the Move* campaign. The campaign is still ongoing as MoDOT has visited every county in the state, 93 communities in Southeast Missouri, and collected 7,500 comments. In November, the draft plan will be due to the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission. In addition, Governor Jay Nixon named Bryan Scott to serve on the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission. Mr. Scott works with The Boeing Company in St. Louis, MO.

Mr. Wyman announced that accidents on US Highway 67, when compared to the five years prior to 2012, have fallen 17 percent. Improvements to Highway 67 and Highway 160 are progressing, as is the intersection at Oak Grove Road and Business 67. The new bridge on Oak Grove Road in Poplar Bluff has been completed.

Mr. Wyman also provided information regarding MoDOT's Battle of the Belt campaign, which encourages students to wear seat belts. Only 66% of teenagers wear seatbelts when they are in a vehicle. This is also the 10th year that MoDOT has held their annual bridge building competition for area high schools. MoDOT provides the balsa wood kits to make bridges, and once the bridges are completed, there is a competition held in Cape Girardeau, MO to determine how much weight the bridges hold. Prizes go to those that hold the most.

Chris Rutledge announced that MoDOT is getting prepared for snowfall as winter approaches. Mowing is occurring on lettered roads and lots of shoulder work is occurring in the Ozark

Foothills region. This shoulder work shows the influence of the TAC as much of it was prioritized by the committee and shows how MoDOT and the TAC work together. Mr. Rutledge encouraged tonight's prioritization efforts as it allows MoDOT to learn which projects are important to the public.

VI. Report from Transportation Planning Coordinator

Andrew Murphy, Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator, provided updates on a variety of projects in the area. The City of Poplar Bluff is currently installing lighting on the Poplar Bluff Industrial Park Road within the city limits. Ozark Border Electric Coop. has agreed to install lighting for the remainder of the road.

The Doniphan Sidewalk Project's final plans and specifications were reviewed by MoDOT.

The Doniphan Quick Creek Trail Project has been completed. The city is currently working on the close out process.

The Doniphan Quick Creek Park LWCF/RTP projects are progressing. The LWCF portion has seen the construction of a ball field, dugouts, and backstop. Work sodding the field is being conducted now. The RTP project was awarded to Southern Paving. They have completed the excavation, grading, and installed all base rock.

Construction for the Carter County Courthouse Sidewalk Project is close to being completed.

The City of Piedmont's Sidewalk Improvement Project has had a change order approved by MoDOT. The city is currently realigning a sewer line. Once finished, an additional pile will need to be driven, abutments constructed, pre-fabricated bridges placed, and sidewalk tie-ins completed to the walk bridge.

The Old Greenville Trail Project has been completed and final inspections are being scheduled with both MoDOT and the Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Murphy followed up on the announcement at the previous TAC meeting in August that the RPC would be working on increasing awareness of Missouri's Transportation Planning Framework. Since August, Mr. Murphy has provided 13 presentations to the areas Kiwanis Clubs, Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs, economic development committees, and Farm Bureaus. He expects to provide 2-5 more presentations by the end of the year depending on scheduling and interest.

Mr. Murphy also provided *Arrive Alive* items and prepared a safety presentation covering seat belt use for the Reynolds County MU Extension Office's grand opening of their new office. The office is located across from the Reynolds County Courthouse.

Lastly, Mr. Murphy announced that he had attended two conferences in September and was pleased to see TAC members at both. Mr. Murphy and Frank Carroll attended the Transportation Infrastructure Conference in Jefferson City, MO sponsored by MoDOT and Missouri S&T University. In late September, Mr. Murphy and Bill Robison attended the Fourth Annual Southeast Missouri GIS Symposium in Cape Girardeau, MO.

VII. Old Business

Felicity Brady, Ozark Foothills RPC Executive Director, was to speak on safety issues on Highway 67 North near State Highway N. This topic was discussed at the August 2013 meeting, and in the absence of Director Brady, the topic was tabled.

VIII. New Business

Mr. Murphy presented the Calendar Year 2014 TAC meeting schedule. It is likely the scheduled November 2014 meeting could be moved to an earlier date depending upon MoDOT's scheduling of next year's district-wide Transportation Planning meeting.

Next, the committee divided into five groupings separated by county. Ballots for projects and maintenance needs were presented for use in the prioritization process and the voting procedure was explained. Each individual could cast five votes; a minimum of one had to be used for a project in a county outside of their own. Each TAC member could then disseminate the remaining four votes to any project or projects he or she desired.

Each county was afforded the opportunity to present their priorities to the committee. Butler County drew attention to the four-lane of Highway 67 to the Arkansas State Line. Carter County presented their project on Route N. Reynolds County focused on the Highway F Bridge. Ripley County brought forward eliminating two one-lane bridges on Highway 142. Wayne County focused on replacing the bridge over McKenzie Creek north of Piedmont.

Discussion ensued and project and maintenance needs were then prioritized. Andrew Murphy and David Wyman tallied the votes. Mr. Murphy then presented the results to the committee. The ballot sheets with the total number of votes for each project are attached.

IX. General Discussion

No general discussion ensued.

X. Adjournment

Ed Strenfel moved to adjourn. Chairman Brian Polk adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

OZARK FOOTHILLS TAC PROJECT PRIORITIES

# of Votes	Project/ Description	AADT	Truck Volume	Average Crashes per year	Injuries 3 year avgs	Fatalities 3 year avgs	Pavement Condition
23	Butler: 4 lane HWY 67 From US 160 south to Arkansas state line	5,008	1132	36.31	7.33	0.67	Very Poor
	Butler: Modify Highway PP to Township Line up to & thru the intersection and continue west	6,197	662	25.32	4.67	0.67	Very Poor
	Butler: Construct an east bound exit ramp off Highway 60 east onto Business 60	7,035	291	3.33	0.67	0.00	Very Poor
22	Carter: RT N Widen and eliminate one-lane bridge over Middle Brushy Creek	410	47	2.67	2.00	0.00	Very Poor
	Carter: RT A Eliminate narrow bridge in Ellsinore	1,256	139	0.00	0.00	0.00	Very Poor
	Carter: RT M Widen to the end of pavement	874	98	3.66	1.00	0.00	Very Poor
25	Reynolds: HWY F Replace Highway F Bridge	134	14	0.00	0.00	0.00	Very Poor
	Reynolds: HWY 21 Add shoulders from Centerville to Glover	1,053	117	3.98	0.00	0.00	Very Poor
	Reynolds: HWY K Add shoulders from Ellington to Annapolis	366	41	5.00	2.67	0.00	Very Poor
	Ripley: RT K Straighten "S" curve	580	67	3.67	0.00	0.00	Very Poor
13	Ripley: MO-142 Eliminate two one-lane bridges: Rt. 142 Ditch No. 2 Bridge over Harris Creek	1,210 1,196	82 75	2.33 3.33	1.00 1.33	0.33 0.00	Very Poor Very Poor
	Ripley: HWY 160 Turn lanes on highway 160, east of Current River and traffic lights	5,104	812	7.00	1.00	0.00	Very Poor
16	Wayne: MO-49 Replace bridge over McKenzie Creek north of Piedmont	1648	247	5.33	1.67	0.00	Very Poor
1	Wayne: RT A Straighten and widen roadway to Rte. 49 N	751	89	10.64	1.67	0.67	Very Poor
	Wayne: MO-49 Straighten and widen from Rte. A west to 67	784	116	8.65	3.00	0.00	Very Poor
	Wayne: RT C Raise Rt C where it crosses Bear Creek	246	26	5.49	0.33	0.33	Very Poor

OZARK FOOTHILLS TAC MAINTENANCE PRIORITIES

# of Votes	Project/Description	AADT	Truck Volume	Number of Crashes 3 year avgs	Injuries 3 year avgs	Fatalities 3 year avgs	Pavement Condition
7	Butler: Resurface VV Highway to end of state maintenance	390	45	0.00	0.00	0.00	Very Poor
11	Butler: TT Highway Overlay	412	47	0.00	0.00	0.00	Very Poor
	Butler: Correct sight distance at HWY M and CR 459 Intersection	1,564	172	12.66	4.33	0.00	Very Poor
5	Carter: Remove head hazardous tree from lettered routes						
	Carter: Z HWY Overlay	34	4	0.00	0.00	0.00	Very Poor
19	Carter: Caution Light at Rte. 60 and Rte. A intersection	5,301	474	12.34	2.67	0.00	Very Poor
	Caution Light at Rte. 60 and Rte. V intersection	4,580	421	6.67	1.67	0.00	Very Poor
21	Reynolds: B HWY Overlay	248	26	2.66	1.33	0.00	Very Poor
	Reynolds: O HWY Overlay from HWY 21 to Rte. K	334	35	0.33	0.33	0.00	Very Poor
	Reynolds: HWY 21 Overlay from Centerville to Ellington	1,911	239	17	4.33	0.33	Very Poor
12	Ripley: BB HWY Overlay	324	35	1.00	0.33	0.00	Very Poor
	Ripley: EE HWY Overlay	144	16	0.33	0.00	0.00	Very Poor
	Ripley: HWY C Overlay	154	16	1.00	0.33	0.00	Very Poor
21	Wayne: HWY 49 Resurface and add shoulders from Piedmont to Iron County Line	1,848	221	11.32	3.67	0.00	Very Poor
2	Wayne: Highway P Add shoulders from Rte. E to Bollinger County Line	245	27	5.33	3.00	0.00	Very Poor
2	Wayne: Highway T Resurface	1,872	209	9.33	3.67	0.00	Very Poor

TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER

October 24, 2013

Mr. Andrew Murphy	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Ed Strenfel	Butler County
Mr. Don Anderson	Butler County
Mr. Jeff Darnell	Butler County
Mr. Frank Carroll	Butler County
Mr. Bill Robison	Butler County
Mr. John Bailiff	Carter County
Mr. Mike Gossett	Carter County
Mr. David Reynolds	Carter County
Ms. Elizabeth Reynolds	Carter County (Alternate)
Mr. Joe Loyd	Reynolds County
Mr. Doug Warren	Reynolds County
Mr. Eddie Williams	Reynolds County (Alternate)
Ms. Renee Horn	Reynolds County
Mr. Darrell Dement	Reynolds County
Mr. William Kennon	Ripley County
Mr. David Johnson	Ripley County
Mr. Brian Polk	Wayne County
Mr. Don Scowden	Wayne County
Mr. Harold Ellinghouse	Wayne County
Mr. Clifford Smith	Wayne County (Alternate)
Mr. Chris Rutledge	MoDOT Southeast
Mr. David Wyman	MoDOT Southeast
Mr. Joe Killian	MoDOT Southeast
Ms. Elquin Auala	MoDOT Southeast
Mr. Bill Osborne	SMTS Inc.

THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. David Bowman	Carter County
Mr. Wayne Gibbs	Carter County
Mr. Ben Pickett	Reynolds County
Mr. Jerry Halley	Ripley County
Mr. Steve Burke	Ripley County
Mr. Nick Ederer	Ripley County
Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick	Wayne County
Ms. Angela Smith	Wayne County