

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

**APRIL 14, 2022
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

OZARK FOOTHILLS RPC, POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI/WebEx CONFERENCE

I. Call to Order

Chairman Brian Polk called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

With approval of the committee, the order of the Agenda was requested to be changed to move the Missouri Department of Transportation Reports to before New Business. All in attendance were in favor.

II. Open for Public Discussion

No public discussion ensued.

III. Adoption of January 13, 2022 Minutes

The minutes of the January 13, 2022 TAC meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Jesse Roy, Ripley County, and second by Dennis Cox, Ripley County.

IV. Transportation Planning Coordinator Report

Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator Andrew Murphy reported seven CDBG grant applications were submitted for paving proposals to the Missouri Department of Economic Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

The City of Piedmont submitted a \$496,750 grant request that will improve streets and drainage along Cherry Street, Barnes Street, Fourth Street, Eckles Street, French Street, Apache Drive, Green Street, First Street, Beckville Road, Scenic View Lane, Big Bend Blvd, South Main Street, East Daniels Street, Sheryl Street, Corrigan Street, Park Street, Second Street, West Green Street, West Piety Street, West Fir Street, Sixth Street, Sparks Street, Chippewa Drive, Town & Country Drive, Sunny Hill Drive, and Third Street.

The City of Greenville submitted a \$487,774 grant request to improve Sycamore Street, Walnut Street, Maple Street, Pine Circle, and Dogwood Drive.

The Village of Mill Spring submitted a \$189,822 grant request to pave 5th street and Sidney Street.

Carter County submitted for a paving project for the unincorporated community of South Van Buren for \$469,707. The project would have paved Walnut, West Pine, West Oak, Pender, Gibbs, House, Bell, Crafton, Barnes, Dogwood, East Pine, Carter, Olive, Hard Rock, and Skyline Drive. Unfortunately, unbeknownst to the county and the regional planning commission, the county was ineligible to receive funding for FY21. The project included a door-to-door survey for the region and the proposed project will be resubmitted in the next funding cycle.

The City of Van Buren submitted a \$451,438 grant request for paving Dogwood Drive, Reed Lane, Riverview Drive, Jason Avenue, and Sharon Drive.

Butler County submitted a Phase II paving project for the unincorporated community of Harviell for \$142,601. The proposed project will pave Second Street from Mangold to Washington, Third Street from Mangold to Washington, Washington Street from Second Street to Third Street and Washington Street from East Main to Fifth Street, East Main from Mangold Street to Washington Street, Fifth Street from Foster Street to Washington Street.

The City of Neelyville submitted a \$477,051 grant request for paving improvements on First Street, Second Street, Main Street, Shackelford Street, and Circle Drive.

The FY23-26 Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) grant applications were due February 1, 2022. This round of funding required no match from the applicant and projects will be 100% funded. The OFPRC submitted two applications for funding. The first application was for Carter County Road 201 Paving Phase II that will pave approximately 1.5 miles and requested \$441,829 in funding. The second application was on behalf of Butler County for sections of County Roads 434 and 436 that pick up from TT Highway and leads to Beaver Lake Recreation Area. This project requested \$504,000 and will pave, widen, and address drainage for about .87 miles.

Mr. Murphy announced the Delta Regional Authority's (DRA) 2022 States Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) Application Cycle opened March 2, 2022 and closes June 5, 2022. DRA's focus is on Transportation Infrastructure, Basic Public Infrastructure, Healthcare, Workforce Development, and Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Tier 1 projects must meet each of the following three federal priorities, as outlined in the Eligibility Guidelines: 1) job creation and/or retention utilizing a participation agreement, 2) include other sources of public and/or private funds, and 3) have a regional impact. Each state will be required to spend 50 percent of the state allocation on Tier 1 projects, before recommending Tier 2 projects for funding. Tier 2 projects will encompass all other eligible projects.

Joint TAC/County Commission meetings were held in March to allow an opportunity for members of the public to meet with their local TAC members and provide feedback regarding the prioritization process.

The MoDOT Recovery Committee announced the hiring of new personnel to be the lead Senior Emergency Management Specialist that will manage FEMA public assistance and FHWA Emergency Relief programs. With this new position in place, MoDOT is expected to move more quickly in developing plans and methods to work with FEMA.

Mr. Murphy has been working with the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety to further the Buckle Up Phone Down campaign by providing yard signs and metal signs to post on existing

posts. Over 150 signs have been requested in the OFRPC region. All signs are given at no cost. Agencies must install the signs themselves. These signs are intended to be placed in areas like parking lots and exits to convey the message before drivers get onto an active roadway. Photos of the signs were shown as well as recent installations of the signs at Clearwater Lake. If anyone would like signs for their agencies or businesses, let Mr. Murphy know, and he will arrange for the signs to be delivered.

Mr. Murphy spent a few moments covering the OFRPC Facebook page, showing several recent posts and explaining the function of spreading the word of grant programs, interesting news, press releases, the recycling center, etc. on the page.

V. Old Business

No old business to discuss.

VI. Missouri Department of Transportation Reports

David Wyman, MoDOT Southeast District, announced this would be his last TAC meeting, as he has accepted a new position at MoDOT. He introduced Matt Wilkerson as the new Area Engineer. Mr. Wyman mentioned that part of the reason he is changing positions is because of the work of the TAC, and the increased funding for transportation. There are 399 jobs in the proposed STIP for the Southeast District over the next five years. His new position is that of Project Manager, and he will be involved with several projects moving forward.

Elquin Auala, MoDOT Southeast District, reminded the TAC that each Area Engineer is now handling their area's LPA and BRO program. The BRO program is seeing several changes, as funding for bridges is changing from poor and deficient, to essentially just poor. All areas now have fewer bridges eligible for BRO funding, but the funding amount is still the same. The funds will not be sent to individual counties, but to the districts. More information should become available in June, but a committee will be organized to assist with which bridges will be selected.

Chad Henson, Wayne County, inquired as to how the committee will be made up. At this time, it is unknown.

Chairman Polk asked if counties are going to lose existing soft match. Counties will keep their entire soft match. Chairman Polk is interested in serving on the committee that will work with BRO funding.

Butch Anderson, Butler County, expressed concern of the committee and how membership will be distributed. The funds will go to each MoDOT district, so the committee will be made up of people that live and work in the Southeast District.

New Area Engineer, Matt Wilkerson, MoDOT Southeast District, covered the MoDOT Ozark Foothills RPC Update handout. Past lettings in January and February included Route 34 in Wayne County for a bridge deck replacement, Business 60 in Butler County for a bridge replacement over the Black River in Poplar Bluff, and Route U in Carter County for a resurfacing project. In May 2022, the letting is scheduled for US Highway 67 in Butler County

to add lanes and outer roads from 0.5 miles north of US Highway 160 to County Road 360.

Mike Brandon, MoDOT Southeast District, stated that some projects from the Unfunded Needs List have been recommended for the upcoming STIP. Those include the Route N bridge replacement over Middle Brushy Creek in Carter County, the Route D adding rumblestrips from County Road 123 to Business 60 in Carter County, and the Route A bridge replacement over Small Creek in Wayne County.

VII. New Business

Mr. Murphy covered a handout of key programs from the recently passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. A total of \$40 billion in dedicated funding for bridges is in the new law. This funding includes \$12.5 billion for the *Bridge Investment Program*, which is a competitive program to replace, rehabilitate, preserve, or protect some of the nation's most important and economically significant bridges. The rest of the funds fall under the *Bridge Formula Program*, which provides formula funding to States to replace, rehabilitate, preserve, protect, and construct bridges on public roads. Notably, the program includes a 15% (\$4 billion) set aside for off-system bridges.

The Federal Lands Access Program will see nearly \$1.5 billion in funding of the next four years. The Program invests in the Nation's infrastructure by funding and supporting transportation facilities owned by state, county, local, and tribal governments, which provide access to lands owned and operated by the Federal Government.

The Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program will see funding of \$1 billion over the next 4 years. Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program will support projects to improve and expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas to increase connectivity, improve the safety and reliability of the movement of people and freight, and generate regional economic growth and improve quality of life. Ninety percent of funds are for projects greater than \$25 million.

The National Culvert Removal, Replacement, & Restoration Grant will also see \$1 billion in funding. The Office of the Secretary's National Culvert Removal, Replacement and Restoration program provides supplemental funding for grants to a State, local government, or an Indian Tribe on a competitive basis for projects that replace, remove, and/or repair culverts or weirs.

Lastly, the Delta Regional Authority funding will increase from approximately \$25 million per year to \$150 million. The DRA's existing programs focus on public infrastructure improvements, workforce development, and business development. The Delta Regional Authority coverage area in Missouri is the 8th Congressional District, which encompasses the Ozark Foothills Region.

After discussion, each county submitted the county-wide priorities for projects, maintenance, and multi-modal needs. See attached list below.

VIII. General Discussion

No general discussion ensued.

IX. Adjournment

Dennis Cox moved to adjourn. Chairman Polk adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

TAC Project Priority List

2022 Identified Needs by County

Butler County

1. 4-lane Highway 67 from Highway 160 to the state line
2. Construct a round-a-about at the intersection of Highways 67/C/V
3. Move and straighten Twin Springs Hill on Route M and shoulders on W Highway from Poplar Bluff to Route KK

Carter County

1. Overlay and add shoulders to D Highway
2. Overlay and add shoulders on C Highway from Highway 60 to county line
3. Route N: Widen and eliminate one-lane bridge over Middle Brushy Creek

Reynolds County

1. Guardrails on Highway 21, from Highway H to Highway 60
2. Shoulder on Highway N from Highway 21 to Johnson Shut-Ins
3. Add paved shoulder for bike and pedestrian traffic through Reynolds County for Highway 76 Bike Route

Ripley County

1. Highway 21 South at Briar Creek – Bridge Replacement
2. Low water crossing on Highway K between County Road K-5 and K-6
3. Highway 160 – Repair poor construction so people do not get sea sick

Wayne County

1. Safety Shoulders on Highway 49 from Highway 67 to Mill Spring and Piedmont to Iron County line and widen existing box culverts
2. Low Water Dip on C Highway approximately 1 mile northwest of C & E Junction
3. Repair small bridge on A Highway (1/2 mile west of Highway 67) with large box culvert

TAC Maintenance Priority List

2022 Identified “Maintenance Needs” by County

Butler County

1. Resurface Route O
2. Repair/Resurface Butzen Drive
3. Resurface Route NN

Carter County

1. Redesign median crossover of Highway V & Highway A at Highway 60 in Ellsinore
2. Overlay Highway V & H in East Carter County
3. Add Shoulders and rumblestrips to Highway 103

Reynolds County

1. Overlay 72 Highway from 72/21 Junction to 72/32 Junction
2. Repair bridges over Black River on Highway 21 where bridges connect with Highway and also on Highway KK at West Fork Mine
3. Secondary Roads overlay and chip & seal Highway A (Highway 49 to County Line), Highway U from Highway 21 to end of State Maintenance, and Highway W from Highway K to end of Maintenance

Ripley County

1. Add Shoulders on Highway 160 W from Doniphan to C Highway
2. Overlay EE Highway
3. Overlay T Highway

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

TAC Multi-Modal Priority List

2022 Identified “Multi-Modal Needs” by County

Butler County

1. Extend the Poplar Bluff airport runway
2. Improve Amtrak Depot service facility
3. Pedestrian Overpass over UP Railroad along Highway 53

Carter County

1. Construct new helipads
2. Sidewalks in Ellsinore from East Carter Schools to US Highway 60
3. Sidewalks from College Ave to Commercial Drive in Van Buren

Reynolds County

1. Add bike lane for TransAmerica Bike Trail on Highway 76 Bike Route
2. Sidewalk repair/construction in City of Ellington
3. Sidewalk repair/construction in Bunker on main and 4th Streets

Ripley County

1. Add/repair sidewalks on Walnut Street, from Summit to Highway Street, and Highway Street, from Lafayette to Walnut Street, for safe pedestrian and wheelchair access to north end of shopping center
2. Sidewalks on Highway 142 E (Walnut Street) and west on Washington Street to Courthouse
3. Ellington to Van Buren to Grandin to Doniphan bike trail extension that ties in with TransAmerica Trail in Ellington

Wayne County

1. Sidewalk construction on Cemetery Road in Williamsville
2. Sidewalk repair/construction in City of Greenville
3. Sidewalk repair/construction along AA Highway in Williamsville.

TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER

April 14, 2022

Mr. Andrew Murphy	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Don Anderson	Butler County
Mr. Dennis LeGrand	Butler County
Mr. Ron Keeney	Carter County
Mr. Tom Wilder	Carter County
Mr. Jordan Collins	Carter County
Mr. Randel Jenkins	Carter County
Mr. Joe Loyd	Reynolds County
Mr. Jesse Roy	Ripley County
Mr. Gary Emmons	Ripley County
Mr. Dennis Cox	Ripley County
Mr. Brian Polk	Wayne County
Mr. Doug Wood	Wayne County
Mr. Chad Henson	Wayne County
Ms. Angela Smith	Wayne County
Mr. Mike Brandon	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. David Wyman	MoDOT Southeast District
Ms. Elquin Auala	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Matt Wilkerson	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Steve Foster	Guest
Mr. Clifford Smith	Guest
Mr. Steve Bubanovic	Guest

THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Vince Lampe	Butler County
Mr. Bill Robison	Butler County
Mr. Jeff Darnell	Butler County
Mr. Wayne Gibbs	Carter County
Mr. Eddie Williams	Reynolds County
Ms. Denise Smith	Reynolds County
Ms. Renee Horn	Reynolds County
Mr. Darrell Dement	Reynolds County
Ms. Rickie Maples	Ripley County
Ms. Tami Hale	Ripley County
Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick	Wayne County