

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

**AUGUST 18, 2022
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

OZARK FOOTHILLS RPC, POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI

I. Call to Order

Chairman Brian Polk called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. Open for Public Discussion

No Public Discussion ensued.

III. Adoption of July 14, 2022 Minutes

The minutes of the July 14, 2022 TAC meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Jesse Roy, Ripley County, and second by Vince Lampe, Butler County.

IV. Missouri Department of Transportation Reports

Matt Wilkerson, MoDOT Southeast District, stated work was to begin soon on the Highway 60 Bridge in Poplar Bluff. US Highway 60 is also seeing various repairs from Poplar Bluff into Howell County. Highway 34 near Patterson will be closing for 24 hours, from 5 am to 5 am for bridge repair. Currently, the plan is to close the Tuesday before Labor Day, weather permitting. Brian Polk asked if notifications could be placed on the radio. Mr. Wilkerson will check into the possibility.

Elquin Auala, MoDOT Southeast District, stated the Governor Cost Share applications are due September 30th. Applications are expected to be available on the MoDOT website any day and projects must have an Economic Development criteria included.

V. Transportation Planning Coordinator Report

Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator Andrew Murphy reported that paving applications submitted to the CDBG general infrastructure category were not awarded for the City of Van Buren and Carter County for the unincorporated community of South Van Buren. Mr. Murphy encouraged Carter County to resubmit in the upcoming year. The City of Van Buren will be ineligible for the FY22 grant round.

2022 CDBG Applications are expected to open in late September to early October 2022.

The MoDOT Recovery Committee is looking to combine their recovery workgroup and the

recovery committee to form a much larger entity with finance, planning, etc. in one group. The committee is also looking at creating a resource request form for the different districts to request assistance or equipment from another district. MoDOT will also be looking at switching GIS field phone applications for a considerable cost savings for 800 employees to have a mobile application to assist with disaster assessment, GPS tags, debris management, etc.

Mr. Murphy announced the RPC has submitted their application for updating the Public Transit Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan (PTHSTP) to MoDOT. Work will begin as soon as a notice to proceed is issued.

VI. Old Business

No old business to discuss.

VII. New Business

The TAC has been tasked by MoDOT to rate all 40 BRO applications that have been submitted in the Southeast District. A scoring sheet and each application have been provided.

After discussion, the consensus of the TAC was that the Ozark Foothills TAC should not be rating applications from areas outside our region, which included 32 of the 40 applications. Rating projects outside the region will not reflect a fair or accurate score, as the TAC does not know the impact of the bridge replacement on the location. The process as outlined by MoDOT is ludicrous, with scores that will not reflect reality. Even within the applications, the information is not adequate to fairly score. The fairness of counties with large soft match was discussed. A random lottery was mentioned as having more fairness than this process.

After discussion, the TAC believed the process is illegitimate, the scoring process is poorly developed, and TAC members don't know the area, pavement, curves, and economic impact, to score the applications. The TAC scored the 8 projects from the Ozark Foothills region, and gave the other 32 the score of zero.

VIII. General Discussion

Elquin Auala asked if the TAC would have been happy if only MoDOT made the selection. Jesse Roy stated not everyone would have been happy with any process.

Brian Polk will be the voting member on the Regional Bridge Committee for the Ozark Foothills region. That committee will be meeting on September 6th at the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission office and will include representatives from the other three RPCs and MPO in the Southeast District. The BRO program will have \$2.6 million for FY22 and \$2.9 million each year for FY23 and FY24 that will be programmed at the meeting. Beginning in FY25 \$4 million will be programmed each year.

IX. Adjournment

Jesse Roy moved to adjourn. Chairman Polk adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER

August 18, 2022

Mr. Alan Lutes	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Andrew Murphy	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Vince Lampe	Butler County
Mr. Don Anderson	Butler County
Mr. Robby Moore	Butler County (alternate)
Mr. Jeff Darnell	Butler County
Mr. Steve Halter	Butler County (alternate)
Mr. Ron Keeney	Carter County
Mr. Jesse Roy	Ripley County
Mr. Gary Emmons	Ripley County
Mr. Dennis Cox	Ripley County
Mr. Jason Baker	Ripley County (alternate)
Mr. Jarret Ficke	Ripley County (alternate)
Mr. Brian Polk	Wayne County
Mr. Doug Wood	Wayne County
Ms. Angela Smith	Wayne County
Mr. Chad Henson	Wayne County
Ms. Kathy Street	Wayne County (alternate)
Ms. Elquin Auala	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Matt Wilkerson	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Steve Foster	Guest/ Wayne Co. Assoc. Comm

THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Dennis LeGrand	Butler County
Mr. Bill Robison	Butler County
Mr. Tom Wilder	Carter County
Mr. Randal Jenkins	Carter County
Mr. Jordan Collins	Carter County
Mr. Wayne Gibbs	Carter County
Mr. Joe Loyd	Reynolds County
Mr. Eddie Williams	Reynolds County
Ms. Renee Horn	Reynolds County
Mr. Darrell Dement	Reynolds County
Ms. Denise Smith	Reynolds County
Ms. Rickie Maples	Ripley County
Ms. Tami Hale	Ripley County
Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick	Wayne County