

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

**JANUARY 13, 2022
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

WebEx VIRTUAL/CALL-IN

I. Call to Order

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

II. Open for Public Discussion

No public discussion ensued.

III. Adoption of October 14, 2021 Minutes

The minutes of the October 14, 2021 TAC meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Jesse Roy, Ripley County, and second by Bill Robison, Butler County.

IV. Missouri Department of Transportation Reports

Dave Wyman, MoDOT Southeast District, provided a legislative update. MoDOT is watching closely the talk of trying to repeal Senate Bill 262, which is the motor fuel vehicle tax increase that is being phased in over five years. Governor Mike Parson is providing the State of the State Address on January 19th and MoDOT hopes to gain insight of the administration's priorities. State dollars will be needed to match federal dollars for future projects.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, IIJA, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), will have a large financial impact on moving projects forward. Over the next 5 years, MoDOT is looking at over \$7 billion dollars' worth of funding coming into Missouri. This is approximately \$2.5 billion more than in previous years. The Unfunded Needs List developed with assistance from the regional planning commissions and their TACs will see several projects move forward.

Safety is a concern, and 2021 was not a good year for safety. Fatalities at the state level are unofficially 1,001, a 3% increase over 2020. The Southeast District saw a decline of eleven fatalities, but recent seat belt data shows a usage rate of only 17.7% for the Southeast District.

Mr. Wyman covered a handout with work zone updates for the region, including Route T in Butler and Wayne Counties, Highway 67 in Wayne County, and a future letting on Highway 34 over the St. Francis River for deck replacement of the bridge. Mr. Wyman also informed the TAC of a virtual Highway 67 public hearing for 4-laning scheduled on February 3, 2022 from 4 to 6 pm.

Mike Brandon, MoDOT Southeast District, stated the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) is looking strong with the increase in funding. The plan will meet all Asset Management goals and move nearly all Tier 1 projects off the Unfunded Needs List. There will be some revisions made and other projects added, but Ozark Foothills region should see several projects that have been prioritized for a number of years move forward.

V. Transportation Planning Coordinator Report

Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator Andrew Murphy reported that grant applications are due January 31st for paving proposals to the Missouri Department of Economic Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The planning commission is preparing seven paving applications in total, including Butler County Phase II paving in Harviell, Carter County for paving in South Van Buren, the Cities of Greenville, Neelyville, Piedmont, and Van Buren, and the Village of Mill Spring. There was an active survey for Butler County from 2018, but Low to Moderate income surveys had to be completed in South Van Buren and Greenville.

The FY23-26 Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) grant application is due February 1, 2022. Butler County is looking at submitting for paving on County Road 402 and Carter County for Phase II paving on County Road 201. It was announced shortly before Christmas that this year's round has been changed to 100% funding with no match requirement due to the signing of the bipartisan infrastructure bill.

Brain Polk asked if it was too late to put a project together for Wayne County. Chairman Polk stated some conversations have already occurred with engineers. Mr. Murphy stated if he can have a cost estimate and project scope by Tuesday that would provide two weeks to put the application together and would be doable.

The Department of Natural Resource's Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) applications are open with a February 16th deadline. In Missouri, RTP grants are open to local and state governments, school districts, non-profit and for-profit organizations. Missouri receives between \$1 and \$1.5 million per fiscal year. The maximum amount awarded is \$250,000 for trail projects and \$25,000 for educational projects. Sponsors must have a minimum 20 percent match, which can be cash or in-kind. Projects must be open to the public for 25 years.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has the same February 17th deadline. It's a 50/50 match program with a maximum request amount of \$250,000. Grants are open to local government and public schools. Playgrounds, trails, parks, and ball fields are examples of possible projects.

The City of Poplar Bluff was officially awarded \$250,000 for the 2021 Recreational Trails Program grant application to build new trail along the north side of PP Highway from Lurlyn Drive to the PP Highway/67 Highway Intersection.

Mr. Murphy announced joint TAC/County Commission meetings will hopefully be occurring in March. These meetings allow an opportunity for members of the public to meet with their local TAC members and provide feedback regarding the prioritization process. During the April meeting, each county will prioritize their lists of projects at the county level before the regional

prioritization in July.

Mr. Murphy announced the annual statewide planning partnership meeting will be held on Wednesday February 16, 2022. Right now, the meeting is scheduled in-person in Jefferson City. At the meeting, all RPCs and MPOs in the state meet with all MoDOT districts and central leadership to review goals for the upcoming year.

Mr. Murphy stated he had his last LPA Advisory Committee back in October after serving for three years. The good news is that Ripley County Presiding Commissioner Jesse Roy has been appointed to a three-year term running through 2024. The TAC may ask Commissioner Roy for updates from the committee when information is available.

The MoDOT Recovery Committee created back in August 2021 has continued to meet monthly, and virtually, and will do so through 2022. This group is being tasked with making sure MoDOT works with LPAs, FEMA, and SEMA, to capture every federal dollar available after a disaster situation. The committee will work on developing policies, procedures, possibly electronic applications, etc. to make sure FEMA/SEMA timelines are followed and MoDOT can receive full federal reimbursement. The December meeting was cancelled and the previous meeting conflicted with training, so Mr. Murphy did not have updates.

VI. Old Business

No old business to discuss.

VII. New Business

Mr. Murphy presented a Request for Proposals for a Community Active Transportation Plan. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is offering 12 Missouri Regional Planning Commissions up to \$15,000 each to support the development and/or update of at least one community's active transportation plans. The awarded RPC's, with the assistance of Missourians for Responsible Transportation (MRT), will work to increase physical activity in at least one community in their region by improving active transportation accessibility. The planning commission asked for feedback and thoughts from the TAC regarding this opportunity. Is there a community in the region that might be interested or a viable option for such plan? Mr. Murphy asked that any thoughts or ideas about the opportunity of an Active Transportation Plan be emailed.

VIII. General Discussion

No general discussion ensued.

IX. Adjournment

Dennis Cox, Ripley County, moved to adjourn. Chairman Polk adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER

January 13, 2022

Mr. Andrew Murphy	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Bill Robison	Butler County
Mr. Jesse Roy	Ripley County
Mr. Gary Emmons	Ripley County
Mr. Dennis Cox	Ripley County
Mr. Brian Polk	Wayne County
Mr. Mike Brandon	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. David Wyman	MoDOT Southeast District

THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Vince Lampe	Butler County
Mr. Don Anderson	Butler County
Mr. Dennis LeGrand	Butler County
Mr. Jeff Darnell	Butler County
Mr. Ron Keeney	Carter County
Mr. Tom Wilder	Carter County
Mr. Wayne Gibbs	Carter County
Mr. Jordan Collins	Carter County
Mr. Joe Loyd	Reynolds 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. Doug Wood	Wayne County
Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick	Wayne County
Mr. Chad Henson	Wayne County
Ms. Angela Smith	Wayne County