

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

**APRIL 11, 2024
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

OZARK FOOTHILLS RPC, POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI

I. Call to Order

Chairman Brian Polk called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

II. Open for Public Discussion

No public discussion ensued.

III. Adoption of January 11, 2024 Minutes

The minutes of the January 11, 2024 TAC meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Jesse Roy, Ripley County, and second by Dennis Cox, Ripley County.

IV. Missouri Department of Transportation Reports

Tammy Hefner, MoDOT Southeast District, announced that she had taken the position of Assistant District Engineer previously held by Chris Rutledge. Currently, the Executive Team at MoDOT is finalizing the Draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). The public comment period for the plan is expected to open in June. State legislators are looking at additional funding for the Highway 67 South corridor. The City of Poplar Bluff is working with MoDOT on the Cost Share to try to have a letting in September for part of the project.

Matt Wilkerson, MoDOT Southeast District, reviewed a handout covering updates, past lettings, work zones, and cost share information. Scrub seals in Wayne County on MO 34 and MO 143 were let in January alongside Route AA in both Reynolds and Wayne Counties. Route B in Carter County also had a bridge replacement awarded over Ten Mile Creek. Route U in Butler County and Route B in Reynolds County were awarded in March for a bridge deck replacement and bridge replacement respectively. The Next application deadline for the Cost Share Program is July 19, 2024.

Elquin Auala, MoDOT Southeast District, announced Melissa Rose is the new LPA Contact for the Southeast District. She was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior training. MoDOT TAP applications are due by April 26th. If the project is on MoDOT ROW, the deadline has passed for the area engineer to provide a letter of approval. Projects entirely on local right of way still have time to be submitted. BRO applications will most likely be taken in October. The lists of eligible bridges are available on the website, or reach out to Melissa, Matt or her.

Mike Brandon, MoDOT Southeast District, stated the district is currently working on the Unfunded Needs List and will let everyone know when a draft is available. The STIP was impacted a lot by inflation and only one project is moving from the Unfunded Needs List to the STIP in the upcoming draft. Only about half of resurfacing and bridge projects were added to the STIP as originally planned as inflation is increasing costs. It looks like higher prices are here to stay. Projects will still move off of lists, but it may be slower than the last few years. A public meeting will be held in the mid-July to mid-August range for the Unfunded Needs List and will most likely occur in Perryville.

Joe Killian, MoDOT Southeast District, said if any counties have questions about the county road inventory please reach out and he will be happy to address those questions. He was able to speak to a couple of counties tonight. Every county in Missouri has a map available on the MoDOT website. Some aren't as up to date as others, but every county is listed. Mr. Killian stated that if any cities have changed boundaries through annexation, and has geospatial data showing the new boundaries, MoDOT would be able to apply the data in updating maps.

V. Transportation Planning Coordinator Report

Mr. Murphy announced Butler County submitted a RAISE application to the FHWA for Butler County Road 321 for paving, widening, drainage, etc. estimated at \$5,811,141. The roadway connects Highway 142 with an outer road off of the current Highway 67 and future I-57 and is traveled heavily by large trucks.

The Ozark Foothills RPC submitted a request to the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Planning grant to write a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for the 5-county region that would include input from all 16 incorporated cities. Some federal grants are now requiring cities and counties to have a comprehensive safety action plan on file to receive certain implementation grants from the USDOT. This plan, should it be awarded, and once completed after 2 years, would make all 16 cities and 5 counties eligible.

Action Plans are comprehensive safety plans aimed at reducing and eliminating serious-injury and fatal crashes affecting all roadway users. The OFRPC proposed a 20-year plan that would cover the area through 2046 or 2047 depending on award date and requested funding of \$116,000.

The 2024 Delta Regional Authority (DRA) SEDAP Application Cycle opened in March 2024 and closes summer 2024. 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.

DRA's Critical Infrastructure Fund (CIF) applications are open as well. The CIF looks to make investments that support projects that address flood control, basic public infrastructure, and transportation infrastructure improvements. The applications are accepted on a rolling basis and projects are competitive in the entire DRA region. Projects can request up to \$2 million.

The OFRPC is working on one CIF application for the City of Poplar Bluff to repair Butzen Drive and Harlo Dunn roads, plus the intersection at Butzen and Rowe Parkway. A final cost estimate is all that remains for this project.

MoDOT's Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) applications are being accepted with an April 26th due date. The program requires a 20% cash match. The City of Poplar Bluff is submitting an application for a pedestrian crosswalk, flashing signal, and sidewalk to connect the existing sidewalk at the Poplar Bluff Housing Authority across US Highway 60 to Linc Park on the east side of Poplar Bluff. The City of Ellington is looking into applying to the program as well.

Mr. Murphy announced that MoDOT has requested an RPC and TAC representative to serve on the 2024 Transportation Alternative Program selection committee. The deadline to submit the names of the RPC and TAC representative is April 30th, with a virtual meeting planned for May 7th for pre-scoring and receipt of applications, submission of scoring due by May 21st, and an in person meeting to score and select awardees on May 23rd. The previously identified BRO scoring committee agreed to score the TAP applications and a volunteer will to attend the meeting will be sought prior to April 30th.

The Community Development Block Grant rounds for FY23 and FY24 opened on April 8, 2024 and have a September 6, 2024 due date. For the general infrastructure category, paving, drainage, sidewalks, pedestrian bridges, etc. are eligible expenses. Projects will have a \$500,000 max award request with engineering fees, inspection, and grant administration on top of the \$500,000. Conversations have been held with Butler County, Fisk, Qulin, Neelyville, Greenville, Doniphan, Naylor, Bunker and Ellington so far regarding paving 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.

Mr. Murphy spoke regarding the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. The Coalition is a partnership of safety advocates throughout the state who have come together for a common purpose: to end traffic fatalities and serious injuries on public roadways. Each MoDOT district has its own Coalition. They are currently meeting in a hybrid style in Sikeston on the 2nd Tuesday at 10am and the 2nd Wednesday in West Plains or Mountain Grove at 10 am. This month however, they are meeting on the 3rd Tuesday. The coalition is involved with Project Prom funding to local high schools, the Buckle Up Phone Down signs, which are available upon request, various informational and branded items, Battle of the Belt challenges, etc.

VI. Old Business

No old business to discuss.

VII. New Business

Mr. Murphy spoke covering Active Transportation Plan (ATP) development in the region. An Active Transportation Plan is a comprehensive resource that documents existing conditions and guides the planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of bicycle and pedestrian programs, policies, guidelines, and infrastructure improvements. Back in December 2023, representatives

from MO DHSS and the University of Missouri-Columbia met with 5 regional planning commissions and MoDOT regarding funding to pay the RPCs to complete Active Transportation Plans in counties that DHSS and Mizzou received grants from Centers for Disease Control. Grants were awarded to DHSS and Mizzou for counties that met certain criteria. Butler County is included in the DHSS State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) grant and Ripley and Wayne Counties are included in the University of Missouri High Obesity Program (HOP) grant.

MO DHSS is in the process of contracting with the OFRPC to write three Active Transportation Plans over the next three years beginning October 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2027. The OFRPC is also writing an ATP for the City of Poplar Bluff through a grant from the Butler County Health Department. This plan will be completed by December 2024 and will be the first Active Transportation Plan in the 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

Chad Henson, Wayne County, moved to adjourn. Chairman Brian Polk adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

TAC Project Priority List

2024 Identified Needs by County

Butler County

1. 4-lane Highway 67 from Highway 160 to the state line
2. Move and straighten Twin Springs Hill on Route M
3. Add shoulders on W Highway from Poplar Bluff to Route KK

Carter County

1. Turning Lane, west bound Highway 60 at both Business 60 and James Street in Van Buren
2. Overlay and add shoulders on C Highway from Highway 60 to county line
3. Straighten hill on Highway E in Hunter

Reynolds County

1. Widen, resurface, and add shoulders on Highway B
2. Guardrails on Highway 106 west of Ellington
3. Widen shoulder on Highway 106

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. Highway 34 East of CR236 approximately 300 yards, small bridge replacement over Gizzard Creek
2. Low Water Dip on C Highway approximately 1 mile northwest of C & E Junction
3. Safety Shoulders on Highway 49 from Highway 67 to Williamsville

TAC Maintenance Priority List

2024 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 O Highway

Wayne County

1. Highway 49: Resurface from Williamsville to Iron County Line
2. Overlay Highway P from Highway E to County Line
3. Overlay Highway EE from Highway 67 to gravel

TAC Multi-Modal Priority List

2024 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. Sidewalks on Highway 142 E (Walnut Street) and west on Washington Street to Courthouse
2. Sidewalks from the Courthouse to Highway 160 on Jefferson Street
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 11, 2024

Mr. Alan Lutes	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Andrew Murphy	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Vince Lampe	Butler County
Mr. Jeff Darnell	Butler County
Mr. Ron Keeney	Carter County
Mr. Tom Wilder	Carter County
Mr. Randal Jenkins	Carter County
Mr. Jordan Collins	Carter County
Mr. Steve Chitwood	Reynolds County
Mr. Eddie Williams	Reynolds County
Mr. Darrell Dement	Reynolds County
Mr. Jesse Roy	Ripley County
Mr. Gary Emmons	Ripley County
Mr. Dennis Cox	Ripley County
Mr. Jarret Ficke	Ripley County
Mr. Freddie Laroux	Ripley County
Mr. Brian Polk	Wayne County
Mr. Doug Wood	Wayne County
Mr. Chad Henson	Wayne County
Mr. Steve Foster	Wayne County (Alternate)
Ms. Barb Potter	Wayne County (Alternate)
Mr. Mike Brandon	MoDOT Southeast District
Ms. Elquin Auala	MoDOT Southeast District
Ms. Tammy Hefner	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Joe Killian	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Matt Wilkerson	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Randy Potter	Guest
Ms. Gloria Dement	Guest

THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Don Anderson	Butler County
Mr. Dennis LeGrand	Butler County
Mr. Bill Robison	Butler County
Mr. Larry Pogue	Reynolds County
Ms. Denise Smith	Reynolds County
Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick	Wayne County
Ms. Angela Smith	Wayne County