

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

**APRIL 10, 2025  
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**OZARK FOOTHILLS RPC, POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Brian Polk called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

**II. Open for Public Discussion**

No public discussion ensued.

**III. Adoption of January 9, 2025 Minutes**

The minutes of the January 9, 2025 TAC meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Vince Lampe, Butler County, and second by Jesse Roy, Ripley County.

**IV. Missouri Department of Transportation Reports**

Elquin Auala, MoDOT Southeast District, asked those in attendance to look over the MoDOT handout covering several projects and past and future lettings. If there are any questions on those, MoDOT will look into them and get answers. In Reynolds County, Highway B is closed and MoDOT is trying to get one lane open, but they are unsure how long that will take. MoDOT is also getting a message board on Highway 72 so people know Highway B is closed.

Melissa Rose, MoDOT Southeast District, stated there were no BRO or TAP updates at this time. Ripley County did receive funding from BRO during the last call for projects.

Mike Brandon, MoDOT Southeast District, covered some of the lettings on the handout including Highway 67 in Wayne County and future lettings such as Business Highway 60 in Poplar Bluff, which will be overlaid, but will not utilize a road diet.

MoDOT is preparing to release the Draft STIP for public comment. There will not be many projects coming off the Unfunded Needs Lists. The STIP will focus on maintaining the system without a lot of new major projects.

Chairman Polk asked the counties in attendance how many bridges each lost during the recent flood, with Reynolds County losing 4 or 5, and Ripley and Wayne Counties each having one bridge washed away.

Mr. Brandon congratulated Mark Coarkin on his promotion from SE District Engineer to his

new role as Assistant Chief Engineer for the state. His position will not be replaced immediately. There have been several changes within MoDOT with lots of retirements and new people in new roles and Mr. Brandon wanted to thank everyone for working with them during all the transitions.

## **V. Transportation Planning Coordinator Report**

Andrew Murphy, Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator, stated the OFRPC region had five awarded projects from the FY23/FY24 super cycle. The City of Qulin's Nutrition Center received \$547,764 for an expansion project. The City of Fisk received \$622,449 for street paving, The City of Bunker received \$620,168 for street paving, The City of Ellsinore received \$347,027 for street paving, and Butler County received \$191,058 for a phase II paving project in Broseley.

The Ozark Foothills RPC submitted 42 applications to CDBG MIT/MID grant cycle. The CDBG MIT/MID funding is tied to the 2017 flood event and applications were submitted in January. The State of Missouri is currently reviewing this round and the expected award date has been postponed, probably to the summer. These projects include low water crossings, pavement, sidewalks, trails, river cleanup, safe rooms, tornado sirens, generators, comprehensive plans and more.

The City of Poplar Bluff was awarded \$1,823,557 from the EDA's PWEAA program to make road improvements to Butzen Road, Rowe Parkway, and Harlo Dunn Road in the Poplar Bluff Industrial Park after being transferred into the program from the Delta Regional Authority.

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 Delta Regional Authority (DRA) SEDAP Application Cycle usually opens in March with a late June due date. DRA has informed us they have been appropriated their funding for the FY2025, but they have to get all the Governor's from the 8 states together, and with the severe weather and new Governor's this has not been completed so the SEDAP round is behind normal schedule. 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. 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 FY 2025 CDBG grant round was supposed to open in April 2025 but is expected to be delayed due to the departure of the CDBG Program Manager in March and the slower review

process of the ongoing CDBG MIT/MID round. A timeline or how long the delay could be has not been provided.

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.

Since the previous TAC meeting, Ozark Foothills RPC's new Community Planning Specialist tasked with writing the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan through the Safe Streets 4 All grant has been diving headfirst into learning about safety in the region, has completed a variety of trainings, and is currently meeting with all the cities in the region to introduce himself and cover what a Safety Action Plan is. He has already met with each county, and after reviewing a lot of other plans, creating an outline, etc., he will start scheduling county wide meetings this quarter and has been working on a public survey to gain feedback.

## **VI. Old Business**

The Active Transportation Plan for the City of Poplar Bluff is complete and is available on the OFRPC website. The survey from January was incorporated into the plan and the City of Poplar Bluff accepted the plan and will work it into their new Comprehensive Plan.

For the City of Qulin's Active Transportation Plan, a public survey just closed this past Monday and a paper survey is still available. Results from those surveys will be utilized in the plan to help identify potential projects, areas of concern, main mode of transportation in the community and more.

After presenting the draft for review in January, and submitting to the OFRPC Board for review in March, Mr. Murphy asked the TAC to adopt the updated 2025 Regional Transportation Plan. Once approved by the TAC and OFRPC Board in June, this will be the updated plan for the region. The plan was adopted on a motion by Jesse Roy and second by Michael Williams, Ripley County. All in attendance were in favor.

## **VII. New Business**

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**

Jesse Roy moved to adjourn. Chairman Brian Polk adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

## **TAC Project Priority List**

### **2025 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 PP Highway from Roundabout to Highway 60**

#### **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. **Widen Pike Creek Bridge on M Highway**

#### **Reynolds County**

1. **Rumblestrips on Highway 21/Highway 72/Highway V**
2. **Guardrails on Highway 106 west of Ellington**
3. **Widen shoulder on Highway 106**

#### **Ripley County**

1. **Turning lane on Highway 21 turning east onto Highway 160**
2. **Highway 21 South at Briar Creek – Bridge Replacement**
3. **Low water crossing on Highway K between County Road K-5 and K-6**

#### **Wayne County**

1. **Highway 34 East of CR236 approximately 300 yards, small bridge replacement over Gizzard Creek**
2. **Safety Shoulders from Piedmont to Iron County Line on Highway 49**
3. **Safety Shoulders on D Highway**

## **TAC Maintenance Priority List**

### **2025 Identified “Maintenance Needs” by County**

#### **Butler County**

1. **Resurface Route O**
2. **Widen Township Line**
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 at Centerville where bridges connect with the highway**
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 JJ Highway**
3. **Overlay O Highway**

#### **Wayne County**

1. **Highway 49: Resurface from Piedmont 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**

### **2025 Identified “Multi-Modal Needs” by County**

#### **Butler County**

1. **Extend the Poplar Bluff airport runway**
2. **Improve Regional Airport terminal capacity**
3. **Pedestrian Overpass over UP Railroad along Highway 53**

#### **Carter County**

1. **Sidewalks in Ellsinore from intersection of Highway A & V (Post Office) to East Carter Schools to US Highway 60**
2. **Sidewalks from College Ave to Commercial Drive in Van Buren**
3. **Construct new helipads**

#### **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 from French to Winn Street to accommodate a crosswalk on Highway 34 in Piedmont**
2. **Sidewalk repair/construction in City of Greenville**
3. **Sidewalk repair/construction along AA Highway in Williamsville.**

## **TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

**April 10, 2025**

<b>Mr. Alan Lutes</b>	<b>Ozark Foothills RPC</b>
<b>Mr. Andrew Murphy</b>	<b>Ozark Foothills RPC</b>
<b>Mr. Vince Lampe</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Ralph Stucker</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Larry Wells</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Jeff Darnell</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Gary Pride</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Bill Robison</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Tom Wilder</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Randal Jenkins</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Eric McSpadden</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Jordan Collins</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Ms. Ashley Newson</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Steve Chitwood</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Eddie Williams</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Craig Foster</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Jesse Roy</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Gary Emmons</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Michael Williams</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Jarret Ficke</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Freddie Laroux</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Brian Polk</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Doug Wood</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Chad Henson</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Tylar Pinkley</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Ms. Barb Potter</b>	<b>Wayne County (alternate)</b>
<b>Mr. Mike Brandon</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Ms. Melissa Rose</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Ms. Elquin Auala</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Mr. Randy Potter</b>	<b>Guest</b>
<b>Ms. Lori Dunlap</b>	<b>Guest/Missouri DED</b>

## **THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

<b>Mr. Ron Keeney</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Larry Pogue</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Ms. Alicia Baker</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Darrell Dement</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Dennis Cox</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Lee Hillis</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>