

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

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

WebEx VIRTUAL/CALL-IN

I. Call to Order

Ozark Foothills Assistant Director Andrew Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. Open for Public Discussion

No public discussion ensued.

III. Adoption of October 12, 2023 Minutes

The minutes of the October 12, 2023 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

Elquin Auala, MoDOT Southeast District, covered a handout with work zone updates for the region, including an October letting for pavement resurfacing on US 60 in Butler County, future lettings on scrub seal projects on Route 34 and Route 143 in Wayne County, Route AA in Reynolds and Wayne Counties, a bridge replacement over Ten Mile Creek on Route B in Carter County and pavement markings on US Highways 60 and 67 in Carter, Butler, and Wayne Counties. The Next application deadline for the Cost Share Program in April 12, 2024.

Ms. Auala stated the next TAP Call for Projects should be issued around March 1st with a due date of April 26th. The TEAP will open in August with a mid-September due date. Lastly the next BRO cycle should open October 1st and applications will be due mid-November.

Mike Brandon, MoDOT Southeast District, stated that LPA projects and cost share projects need steady progress so funds can be obligated. He also announced Daniel Hegeman and Francis Slay have been appointed by Gov. Mike Parson to serve on the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. Mr. Hegemon is the Chair of the St. Joseph MPO and a former Missouri State Senator. Mr. Slay served as the Mayor of St. Louis for 16 years.

Governor Mike Parson is providing the State of the State Address on January 24. Over 1,300 bills have already been filed for the upcoming legislative session, which is near record level.

Mr. Brandon mentioned the Annual Statewide Planning Partnership meeting is being held in Jefferson City on February 29th this year. One of MoDOT's priorities for their legislative

agenda is a focus on safety. This will include enhancing laws already in place to protect workers, along with reestablishing the motorcycle helmet law, tweaking the graduated driving license law, and having MoDOT personnel classified as first responders.

V. Transportation Planning Coordinator Report

Mr. Murphy announced Butler County will be resubmitting the RAISE application for the Butler County Road 321 paving and improvement project. The commission received feedback from last year's application and will be implementing FHWA's advice.

The MoDOT Traffic and Highway Safety Grant Program supports projects that reduce the number and severity of traffic crashes occurring on Missouri roadways thereby preventing fatalities and injuries. Areas of emphasis include alcohol- and/or drug-impaired driving, speeding, safety belt and child safety seat use, inattention or distracted driving, young drivers, mature drivers, and traffic crash data collection and analysis. The grant funding cycle corresponds with the federal fiscal year. The FY25 Highway Safety Grant application is open and is due by March 1, 2024.

The Department of Natural Resource's Recreational Trails Program (RTP) applications are open with a February 21st 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.

Mr. Murphy announced joint TAC/County Commission meetings will 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 before the regional prioritization in July.

Mr. Murphy mentioned the annual statewide planning partnership meeting will be held on Thursday February 29, 2024 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.

VI. Old Business

No old business to discuss.

VII. New Business

No new business to discuss.

VIII. General Discussion

No general discussion ensued.

IX. Adjournment

Dennis Cox moved to adjourn. Chairman Brian Polk adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER

January 11, 2024

Mr. Andrew Murphy	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Jesse Roy	Ripley County
Mr. Gary Emmons	Ripley County
Mr. Dennis Cox	Ripley County
Mr. Jarret Ficke	Ripley County
Mr. Brian Polk	Wayne County
Ms. Angela Smith	Wayne County
Mr. Mike Brandon	MoDOT Southeast District
Ms. Elquin Auala	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. Bill Robison	Butler County
Mr. Ron Keeney	Carter County
Mr. Tom Wilder	Carter County
Mr. Randal Jenks	Carter County
Mr. Jordan Collins	Carter County
Mr. Steve Chitwood	Reynolds County
Mr. Eddie Williams	Reynolds County
Mr. Larry Pogue	Reynolds County
Ms. Denise Smith	Reynolds County
Mr. Darrell Dement	Reynolds County
Mr. Freddie Laroux	Ripley County
Mr. Doug Wood	Wayne County
Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick	Wayne County
Mr. Chad Henson	Wayne County