

**MINUTES
OF
THE OZARK FOOTHILLS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JANUARY 10, 2019
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

THE FLOAT STREAM RESTAURANT, VAN BUREN, MISSOURI**

I. Call to Order

Chairman Brian Polk called the meeting to order at 6:23 p.m.

II. Open for Public Discussion

No discussion ensued.

III. Adoption of October 11, 2018 Minutes

The minutes of the October 11, 2018 TAC meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Darrell Dement, Reynolds County, and second by Butch Anderson, Butler County.

IV. Missouri Department of Transportation Reports

David Wyman, MoDOT Southeast District, announced that although Proposition D, the ten-cent gas tax increase, did not pass, MoDOT is still operating. With a significant winter weather storm expected in the next few days, Mr. Wyman stated MoDOT spent \$45 million on average each year from 2013-2018 on winter weather operations. This included using over 29,000 tons of salt, over three million gallons of salt brine, 1,500 snowplows, and more.

Mr. Wyman also spoke to the Adopt-A-Highway program, which has operated in Missouri since 1987. The program is typically a person, group, or organization adopting a mile of highway and keeping it free from litter, but can encompass other components such as mowing along a section of roadway. There are 5,200 groups that have adopted 6,200 miles of roadway in Missouri. MoDOT spends roughly \$6 million a year on litter clean up, and these groups are influential in keeping costs down. In order to participate, the group must agree to clean up the area they are adopting at least four times a year for three years.

Mike Brandon, MoDOT Southeast District, announced his office is currently working on the 2020-2024 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). Approval of the next STIP will be delayed one month this year due to significant turnover on the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, with the draft plan expected to be open for comment in June. Approval is slated for July 2019.

Mr. Brandon provided a number of updates upon projects throughout the region. Resurfacing

Route 49 from Route 34 to Route 67 in Wayne County was let in November to Pace Construction for \$1,274,000. The total length of improvement is just over 22 miles. January lettings will take place on January 18, 2019 for Route 21 in Iron and Reynolds County. The resurfacing project will take place from Route 49 East to south of Centerville. The project is approximately 19.5 miles and will include rumblestrips. Also letting in January, is a near 5-mile long project on Route B in Ripley County from Route 160 to Route 142. Current work zone projects include the replacement of the Route 67 bridge over Cedar Creek in Wayne County, sand seal projects on Route Y in Ripley County and Route 103 in Carter County, the Route 53 bridge replacement over the St. Francis River and overflow in Butler and Dunklin counties, slide repairs along Route 67 in Wayne County, and the installation of deck slab drains on Stanley Creek along Route Z in Wayne County.

The next application deadline for the Cost Share Program is April 26, 2019. Projects must be on the state system. The total MoDOT contribution peaks at 50%, unless the project is coordinated with the Missouri Department of Economic Development, which can render the project eligible for 100% funding. The proposed total project cost must exceed \$200,000.

Chris Rutledge, MoDOT Southeast District, informed the TAC he attended the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission meeting that occurred earlier in the day in Jefferson City. Mr. Rutledge stated fewer vehicles were sold in Missouri than predicted, so the financial forecast for MoDOT has been lowered for the next couple of years based on new data. He stated it's an interesting time for planning financially, as the current federal transportation bill is a 6-year bill, but placed the majority of the funding in the first 5 years. Even though the FAST Act is current, it's funding level has decreased. MoDOT is formulating two plans as they move forward: Plan A-assuming funding is not interrupted and meets expectations, and Plan B-decreasing projections and number of funded projects.

Mr. Rutledge stated MoDOT has been able to do a great deal of improvements on low volume routes of the past few years. This has been a high point for the district, and was discussed at the Highways and Transportation Commission meeting. Lastly, Mr. Rutledge stated MoDOT is hiring a new area engineer that will cover the western part of the district and will encompass Reynolds County as well. He hopes to introduce the new area engineer at the next Ozark Foothills TAC meeting.

Elquin Auala, MoDOT Southeast District, reminded everyone that LPA Person of Responsible Charge certifications are good for two years, so many people will need to recertify at some point this year. Ms. Auala recommended that each city and county have two people certified.

Andy Meyer, MoDOT Southeast District, introduced himself to the TAC as the new Assistant Director of the Southeast District, taking over for Matt Seiler, who retired in 2018. Mr. Meyer stated the planning partners and transportation advisory committees have brought forward a number of projects to MoDOT over the years, and he looks forward to continuing that partnership.

V. Transportation Planning Coordinator Report

Regarding the Poplar Bluff Railroad Overpass Project, Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator Andrew Murphy announced that Butler County is undergoing a 30-day

notice for a railroad crossing closure. After the comment period and crossing closure, additional funding for the project from Union Pacific and MoDOT will become available. Roughly 50% of funding has been expended on the 4.3 million dollar project.

Mr. Murphy announced Reynolds County was awarded \$85,914 in CDBG emergency funds to act as the 20% match for the replacement of two low water crossings in the county. The remaining 80% of funding is from MoDOT's BRO program.

The City of Ellington is still waiting to hear about a CDBG emergency application to act as match for FEMA funding for paving various flood-damaged city streets. The planning commission and Butler County are also waiting to hear about a CDBG General Infrastructure application for the unincorporated community of Harviell. The grant request is for \$174,986 dollars and proposes to pave several gravel streets in the community.

Mr. Murphy provided handouts he had created advertising a number of grant opportunities that have been posted on the OFRPC Facebook page. The Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) usually opens in January with a deadline of April 1st. A 20% match is preferred, but not necessarily required. The applicant's prior audits, financial statements, and current budget are submitted with the application to demonstrate financial capacity. The grant applicant should commit currently unencumbered budgeted funds to the project. The application is a long and competitive process. Past projects have included paving, drainage, low water crossings, bridge repair/replacement and pedestrian bridges. A door-to-door survey of people that live in the area and will benefit from the project is required if the community does not meet Low-to-Moderate Income status based on HUD Census Data.

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, which runs from October 1st through September 30th.

The Department of Natural Resources' Recreational Trails Program (RTP) which typically opens in January/February with applications due in February/March opened this year a bit early on December 15th with a February 15th 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 has been increased this year to \$250,000 from \$150,000 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 is open with the same timeline and February 15th 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, ball fields, are examples of possible projects.

Mr. Murphy announced joint TAC/County Commission meetings will be occurring in March beginning this year. These meetings have typically been held in June/early July to allow an

opportunity for members of the public to meet with their local TAC members and provide feedback regarding the prioritization process. With the prioritization meeting now occurring in July instead of October, these meetings should occur prior to the April TAC meeting. 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 Thursday February 8, 2019, in Jefferson City. At the meeting, all RPCs and MPOs in the state will meet with all MoDOT districts and central leadership to review goals for the upcoming year. Panel discussions will be featured for best practices.

Mr. Murphy stated he has been selected to serve on MoDOT's Statewide LPA Advisory Committee for a three-year term lasting through 2021. There are quarterly meetings in Jefferson City one week after scheduled TAC meetings in January, April, July, and October. Approximately fifteen people from across the state serve on the committee, with five rotating off each year. As a member of the advisory committee, members have the opportunity to contribute to the development of policies, improve communication and influence the direction of Missouri's local transportation program.

VI. Old Business

No old business.

VII. New Business

Mr. Murphy introduced the draft update to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RTP was last updated in June 2017, and is due for its next update in June 2019. The draft version is available for review until the April TAC meeting, at which time the TAC will be asked to approve the plan. Mr. Murphy had a printed copy available. The draft version is also available on the OFRPC website. Chapter 4 (Existing Transportation Management) & Chapter 7 (Financing – covering funding sources, the FAST Act, roads/bridges, public transit, railroad, etc.) have been completely updated.

The Ag Expo will take place this year on January 18th and 19th at the Black River Coliseum in Poplar Bluff. This is the 33rd year of the event. Mr. Murphy will make available a variety of handouts and will conduct surveys requesting what citizens of the region view as the most important transportation needs in the area.

VIII. General Discussion

Chairman Polk introduced new Ripley County Presiding Commissioner Jesse Roy to the TAC. Mr. Roy replaced long time TAC member Bill Kennon, who retired in 2018.

IX. Adjournment

Vince Lampe, Butler County, moved to adjourn. Chairman Polk adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER

January 10, 2019

Mr. Andrew Murphy	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Vince Lampe	Butler County
Mr. Dennis LeGrand	Butler County
Mr. Don Anderson	Butler County
Mr. Jeff Darnell	Butler County
Mr. Mike Gossett	Carter County
Mr. Jordan Collins	Carter County
Mr. Wayne Gibbs	Carter County
Ms. Becky Gibbs	Carter County (alternate)
Mr. Joe Loyd	Reynolds County
Mr. Eddie Williams	Reynolds County
Mr. Doug Warren	Reynolds County
Ms. Renee Warren	Reynolds County (alternate)
Mr. Darrell Dement	Reynolds County
Mr. Jesse Roy	Ripley County
Ms. Tami Hale	Ripley County
Mr. Dennis Cox	Ripley County (alternate)
Mr. Gary Emmons	Ripley County (alternate)
Mr. Brian Polk	Wayne County
Ms. Angela Smith	Wayne County
Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick	Wayne County
Mr. Chad Henson	Wayne County
Mr. Doug Wood	Wayne County
Mr. Chris Rutledge	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Andy Meyer	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Mike Brandon	MoDOT Southeast District
Ms. Elquin Auala	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. David Wyman	MoDOT Southeast District
Ms. Lynn Schultz	City of Williamsville
Ms. Rickie Maples	Guest
Ms. Gloria Dement	Guest

THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Bill Robison	Butler County
Mr. Ron Keeney	Carter County
Ms. Renee Horn	Reynolds County
Mr. Jerry Halley	Ripley County
Mr. David Johnson	Ripley County
Mr. Lonnie Hudson	Ripley County