

**MINUTES  
OF  
THE OZARK FOOTHILLS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
  
JULY 9, 2026  
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
  
OZARK FOOTHILLS RPC, POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Brian Polk called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

**II. Open for Public Discussion**

Chairman Polk opened the floor for public discussion. No public comments were brought forward at this time.

**III. Adoption of April 9, 2026 Minutes**

The minutes of the April 9, 2026 TAC meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Michael Williams, Ripley County, and second by Ron Keeney, Carter County.

**IV. Missouri Department of Transportation Reports**

Katy Bower, MoDOT Southeast District, provided a comprehensive regional update to the committee, highlighted by the following items: Past Lettings (May 2026): Pavement resurfacing projects on RT U (Butler/Stoddard Counties) and RT W (Butler County) were awarded to Apex Paving Co. A bridge deck replacement over Harviell Ditch on RT MM (Butler County) was awarded to Robertson Contractors, Inc.

Work Zone Updates: Updates were provided across various active construction sites in the region. Notably, all lanes are open with no delays on the US 67 freeway upgrade in Butler County and the US 67 Otter Creek bridge project in Wayne County. Pavement resurfacing projects on BU 60 (Poplar Bluff), US 160 (Butler County), and MO 34 (Wayne County) are operating with single-lane reductions and minimal delays. Bridge replacement projects on RT AA (Butler County) and MO 142 (Ripley County/Harris Creek) remain closed with signed detours in place.

Joe Killian, MoDOT Southeast District, stated the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission approved the 2027-2031 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) at their July meeting. Mr. Killian also mentioned the annual Unfunded Needs List Public Meeting will be taking place at the OFRPC on August 20th, All County Road inventories have been completed and approved. If changes are needed, please work with the County Assessor to show those changes and locations.

Elquin Auala, MoDOT Southeast District, announced her upcoming retirement, effective September 1, 2026. Ms. Auala expressed her appreciation to the committee and regional partners for their collaborative work with the TAC and MoDOT, noting that she has thoroughly enjoyed her time participating in the TAC meetings.

Chairman Polk announced this is likely his last TAC meeting as well, as he will be leaving the TAC when his Presiding Commissioner term is complete at the end of year. He will likely be out of town during the October meeting. He thanked MoDOT for their assistance over the years and stated he has seen many projects come to fruition through the local planning process that make the TACs vital for the region.

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

Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator Andrew Murphy updated the committee on the following items:

**FY26 CDBG Application Cycle:** The cycle opened in late April and applications are due by July 31, 2026. OFRPC is currently drafting 9 applications, 4 of which are roadway/paving projects benefiting the Cities of Doniphan, Neelyville, Qulin, and Wayne County.

**DRA SEDAP/CIF Application Cycle:** Applications for the State's Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) are due July 31, capped at a maximum request of \$500,000. Delta Regional Authority Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) applications are due August 24, capped at \$1,000,000. OFRPC held exploratory discussions with the City of Poplar Bluff regarding a downtown drainage improvement project.

A follow-up was provided regarding the Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) applications for Butler and Carter Counties that were previously lost by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Vince Lampe, Butler County, contacted Congressman Jason Smith's office. Both Mr. Lampe and Mr. Murphy have communicated with congressional staff, who are currently reviewing the matter. While FHWA is unlikely to reverse its stance on non-receipt, future application cycles are expected to have significantly clearer submission protocols.

The FY27 MoDOT Work Plan and Budget was officially approved by MoDOT, with regional operations shifting under the new plan effective July 1, 2026.

**USDOT Rural Road Safety Peer Exchange:** The FHWA and MoDOT will co-host an invitation-only peer exchange on July 28–29, 2026, in Kansas City, MO, focused on reducing rural transportation fatalities. Multimodal safety professionals from 8 states (MO, NJ, KY, MD, FL, LA, AR, HI) will gather to share data-driven strategies. Core topics include the Safe System Approach, data/technology utilization, post-crash emergency response, low-cost physical countermeasures, and building regional funding coalitions. Mr. Murphy announced he will be one of four individuals representing the State of Missouri at the conference.

**BUILD Application Update:** It was noted that while CR321 did not receive funding, the Poplar Bluff South Connector (East Bypass Study) in Butler County was successfully funded for \$1,200,000. The project will cover a traffic study, preliminary engineering, and environmental permitting for a new roadway connecting Route 53 with Route AA. The final design will include

at least two 12-foot-wide lanes, 4-foot shoulders, a realigned intersection, and a new bridge spanning the Black River.

Lesley Rone, representing the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED), provided an update on recent state legislative activities. The passage of HB 3231 was noted, which establishes the Missouri Innovation, Public Safety, and Accountability Act to authorize the creation of local innovation zones. While DED will be responsible for overseeing the program, the exact criteria and regulatory framework are currently being finalized.

Attention was drawn to Constitutional Amendment 5 on the upcoming August ballot. If approved by voters, the amendment would phase out the state individual income tax and authorize expansions to the sales tax base. This restructuring would significantly impact programs operated by DED, though the exact restructuring and long-term outlook for these programs remain under evaluation.

## **VI. Safe Streets for All Comprehensive Safety Action Plan**

Rachel Coleman, Ozark Foothills Project Officer, provided an update on the progress and upcoming milestones for the regional Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Comprehensive Safety Action Plan:

**Task Force Progress:** The SS4A Task Force recently convened for its second official meeting. Planning is currently underway for a third round of meetings, which will be organized individually by county.

**Safety & Hazard Identification:** Ms. Coleman is compiling a comprehensive list of high-collision and hazardous regional locations. Moving forward, the Task Force will evaluate and rank these areas to determine safety priorities.

**Field Assessments & Walk Audits:** Ms. Coleman highlighted her attendance at the residential and commercial walk audits in Doniphan. Field observations noted that while the evaluation area is relatively small, certain historic downtown sections present significant spatial and structural challenges for achieving full ADA compliance.

**Local Coordination:** Ms. Coleman reviewed localized infrastructure data and feedback submitted by Carter County TAC member Ashley Newson regarding specific safety needs in Van Buren.

## **VII. Regional Multi-Modal Discussion**

Andrew Murphy led the regional multi-modal discussions, highlighting local active transportation efforts.

**Active Transportation Plan (MoDHSS) – Cities of Doniphan and Neelyville:** Two highly successful walk audits (one residential, one commercial) were completed in Doniphan this past May to evaluate pedestrian connectivity, safety, and accessibility. Partners in attendance included city leadership, the Ripley County Chamber, The Doniphan-Ripely County Library, OFRPC, Trailnet/MRT, the National Park Service, local TAC members, MoDOT Southeast

District, and MoDHSS. Gathered feedback is being integrated into the plan, which is slated for completion in September.

Additionally, under the final year of the MoDHSS SPAN grant, the City of Neelyville has partnered with the RPC to develop an Active Transportation Plan. Work is scheduled to begin in October 2026 with an estimated completion date of September 2027.

HOP Active Transportation Plans – Cities of Piedmont and Williamsville: The University of Missouri approached the RPC in late February regarding High Obesity Program (HOP) funding earmarked for counties meeting specific health criteria, which includes Ripley and Wayne Counties. Using a combination of rolled-over FY26 funds and new FY27 allocations, the university is fully funding the development of two active transportation plans. The Cities of Piedmont and Williamsville have both formally agreed to partner with the RPC to develop these local plans.

Roundtable: The floor was opened for multi-modal roundtable updates from committee members. Chad Henson, Wayne County, spoke in favor of regional active transportation developments, noting that the addition of new trails would be a highly beneficial asset to the local area.

## **VIII. Old Business**

No pending old business items were brought forward for discussion.

## **IX. New Business**

MoDOT will host a public comment meeting on the High Priority Unfunded Needs List on August 20, 2026, from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM at the OFRPC office. Committee members and the public are encouraged to attend and provide feedback.

Chairman Polk asked about changes to the 20% match requirement for BRO. MoDOT staff in attendance could not speak to that change, but did state the call for projects is expected to open any day.

The committee divided into five county-specific working groups to prioritize regional project, maintenance, and multi-modal needs. Mr. Murphy explained the official voting procedure: each TAC member was allotted five total votes. To ensure regional collaboration, a minimum of one vote had to be cast for a project outside of the member's representative county. The remaining four votes could be distributed at the member's discretion. Time was allotted for members to present and discuss specific needs before ballots were cast. Voting concluded, and the final prioritized sheets reflecting total vote counts are attached to these official minutes.

## **X. General Discussion**

No general discussion ensued.

## **XI. Adjournment**

Vince Lampe moved to adjourn. Chairman Polk adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

## OZARK FOOTHILLS TAC PROJECT PRIORITIES

| # of Votes | Project/ Description                                                                                  | AADT           | Commercial Volume | Number of Crashes | Injuries | Fatalities |  |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------|------------|--|
| 12         | <b>Butler:</b> 4-lane Highway 67 from Highway 160 to the state line                                   | 7,085          | 1,740             | 232               | 95       | 3          |  |
|            | <b>Butler:</b> Move and straighten Twin Springs Hill on Route M                                       | 1,388          | 488               | 6                 | 3        | 0          |  |
|            | <b>Butler:</b> Add shoulders on PP Highway from Roundabout to Highway 60                              | 4,240          | 1,833             | 94                | 21       | 0          |  |
| 15         | <b>Carter:</b> Turning Lane, west bound Highway 60 at both Business 60 and James Street in Van Buren  | 1,551<br>3,504 | 64<br>394         | 0<br>0            | 0<br>0   | 0<br>0     |  |
|            | <b>Carter:</b> Overlay and add shoulders on C Highway from Highway 60 to county line                  | 356            | 160               | 21                | 10       | 1          |  |
|            | <b>Carter:</b> Widen Pike Creek Bridge on M Highway                                                   | 1,861          | 84                | 0                 | 0        | 0          |  |
| 1          | <b>Reynolds:</b> Straighten Curve on 72 Hwy, ½ mile from 21/72 junction for approximately 5 miles     | 1,392          | 305               | 4                 | 5        | 1          |  |
| 24         | <b>Reynolds:</b> Guardrails on Highway 106 west of Ellington                                          | 818            | 232               | 72                | 25       | 2          |  |
| 6          | <b>Reynolds:</b> Widen shoulder on Highway 106                                                        | 818            | 232               | 72                | 25       | 2          |  |
| 4          | <b>Ripley:</b> Turning lane on Highway 21 turning east onto Highway 160                               | 3,324          | 2,052             | 48                | 15       | 1          |  |
| 48         | <b>Ripley:</b> Highway 21 South at Briar Creek – Bridge Replacement                                   | 1,734          | 471               | 9                 | 4        | 0          |  |
|            | <b>Ripley:</b> Low water crossing on Highway K between CR K-5 and K-6                                 | 644            | 270               | 1                 | 0        | 0          |  |
|            | <b>Wayne:</b> Bridge on Hwy 49 over railroad just off 34/49 intersection and state highway shed       | 1,921          | 173               | 0                 | 0        | 0          |  |
|            | <b>Wayne:</b> Highway 34 East of CR236 approx. 300 yards, small bridge replacement over Gizzard Creek | 611            | 27                | 35                | 14       | 1          |  |
| 30         | <b>Wayne:</b> Safety Shoulders on D Highway                                                           | 979            | 297               | 100               | 33       | 3          |  |

*This Report contains information that is protected from disclosure by federal law, 23 USC Section 409 and the MO Open Records Law (Sunshine Act), Section 610.021 RSMo. Please review MoDOT's policy and procedure manual on the Sunshine Act before releasing any of the information contained herein.*

# OZARK FOOTHILLS TAC MAINTENANCE PRIORITIES

| # of Votes | Project/Description                                                                                                                                                                       | AADT            | Commercial Volume | Number of Crashes | Injuries    | Fatalities  |  |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|--|
|            | <b>Butler:</b> Resurface Route O                                                                                                                                                          | 252             | 42                | 24                | 7           | 0           |  |
| 48         | <b>Butler:</b> Widen Township Line                                                                                                                                                        | 5,218           | 3,068             | 188               | 60          | 5           |  |
|            | <b>Butler:</b> Resurface Route NN                                                                                                                                                         | 758             | 16                | 21                | 13          | 0           |  |
| 17         | <b>Carter:</b> Redesign median crossover of Highway V & Highway A at Highway 60 in Ellsinore                                                                                              | 1,644<br>1,196  | 322<br>260        | 17<br>18          | 13<br>21    | 0<br>3      |  |
|            | <b>Carter:</b> Overlay Highway V & H in East Carter County                                                                                                                                | 390<br>232      | 96<br>35          | 13<br>14          | 9<br>7      | 1<br>1      |  |
|            | <b>Carter:</b> Add Shoulders and rumblestrips to Highway 103                                                                                                                              | 1609<br>275     | 242<br>10         | 15                | 10          | 1           |  |
| 33         | <b>Reynolds:</b> Highway 72 overlay from 72/21 Junction to 72/32 Junction                                                                                                                 | 670             | 246               | 177               | 90          | 5           |  |
|            | <b>Reynolds:</b> Repair bridges over Black River on Hwy 21 where bridges connect with the highway                                                                                         | 1,434<br>792    | 69<br>276         | 0                 | 0           | 0           |  |
|            | <b>Reynolds:</b> Secondary Roads overlay and chip & seal Hwy A (Hwy 49 to County Line), Hwy U from Hwy 21 to end of State Maintenance, and Highway W from Highway K to end of Maintenance | 94<br>929<br>68 | 18<br>269<br>12   | 0<br>10<br>0      | 0<br>5<br>0 | 0<br>0<br>0 |  |
| 12         | <b>Ripley:</b> Overlay A Highway                                                                                                                                                          | 821             | 61                | 1                 | 1           | 0           |  |
|            | <b>Ripley:</b> Add Shoulders on Highway 160 W from Doniphan to C Highway                                                                                                                  | 1,080           | 295               | 146               | 93          | 1           |  |
|            | <b>Ripley:</b> Overlay O Highway                                                                                                                                                          | 265             | 27                | 1                 | 1           | 0           |  |
|            | <b>Wayne:</b> HWY 49 Resurface from Piedmont to Iron County Line                                                                                                                          | 775             | 299               | 62                | 25          | 1           |  |
| 30         | <b>Wayne:</b> Overlay Highway P from Highway E to County Line                                                                                                                             | 273             | 15                | 1                 | 1           | 1           |  |
|            | <b>Wayne:</b> Overlay Highway EE from Highway 67 to gravel                                                                                                                                | 172             | 20                | 0                 | 0           | 0           |  |

*This Report contains information that is protected from disclosure by federal law, 23 USC Section 409 and the MO Open Records Law (Sunshine Act), Section 610.021 RSMo. Please review MoDOT's policy and procedure manual on the Sunshine Act before releasing any of the information contained herein.*

# OZARK FOOTHILLS TAC MULTI-MODAL PRIORITIES

| # of Votes | Project/Description                                                                                                            | AADT |  |  |  |  |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--|--|--|--|
|            | <b>Butler:</b> Extend the Poplar Bluff airport runway                                                                          |      |  |  |  |  |
| 30         | <b>Butler:</b> Improve Regional Airport terminal capacity                                                                      |      |  |  |  |  |
|            | <b>Butler:</b> Pedestrian Overpass over UP Railroad along Highway 53                                                           |      |  |  |  |  |
|            | <b>Carter:</b> Sidewalks in Ellsinore from intersection of Highway A & V (Post Office) to East Carter Schools to US Highway 60 |      |  |  |  |  |
| 10         | <b>Carter:</b> Sidewalks from College Ave to Commercial Drive in Van Buren                                                     |      |  |  |  |  |
| 6          | <b>Carter:</b> Construct new helipads                                                                                          |      |  |  |  |  |
|            | <b>Reynolds:</b> Add bike lane for TransAmerica Bike Trail on Highway 76 Bike Route                                            |      |  |  |  |  |
|            | <b>Reynolds:</b> Sidewalk repair/construction in City of Ellington                                                             |      |  |  |  |  |
| 34         | <b>Reynolds:</b> Sidewalk repair/construction in Bunker on Main and 4 <sup>th</sup> Streets                                    |      |  |  |  |  |
| 30         | <b>Ripley:</b> Sidewalks on Highway 142 E (Walnut Street) and west on Washington Street to Courthouse                          |      |  |  |  |  |
|            | <b>Ripley:</b> Sidewalks from the Courthouse to Highway 160 on Jefferson Street                                                |      |  |  |  |  |
|            | <b>Ripley:</b> Finish sidewalks on Walnut to Highway 160 and then on Y Highway to Leroux St.                                   |      |  |  |  |  |
| 30         | <b>Wayne:</b> Sidewalk construction from French to Winn Street to accommodate a crosswalk on Highway 34 in Piedmont            |      |  |  |  |  |
|            | <b>Wayne:</b> Sidewalk repair/construction in City of Greenville                                                               |      |  |  |  |  |
|            | <b>Wayne:</b> Sidewalk repair/construction along AA Highway in Williamsville                                                   |      |  |  |  |  |

*This Report contains information that is protected from disclosure by federal law, 23 USC Section 409 and the MO Open Records Law (Sunshine Act), Section 610.021 RSMo. Please review MoDOT's policy and procedure manual on the Sunshine Act before releasing any of the information contained herein.*

## **TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

**July 9, 2026**

|                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Mr. Alan Lutes</b>       | <b>Ozark Foothills RPC</b>         |
| <b>Mr. Andrew Murphy</b>    | <b>Ozark Foothills RPC</b>         |
| <b>Ms. Rachel Coleman</b>   | <b>Ozark Foothills RPC</b>         |
| <b>Mr. Vince Lampe</b>      | <b>Butler County</b>               |
| <b>Mr. Larry Wells</b>      | <b>Butler County</b>               |
| <b>Mr. Ralph Stucker</b>    | <b>Butlr County</b>                |
| <b>Mr. Bill Robison</b>     | <b>Butler County</b>               |
| <b>Mr. Gary Pride</b>       | <b>Butler County</b>               |
| <b>Mr. Jeremy Manning</b>   | <b>Butler County (alternate)</b>   |
| <b>Mr. Ron Keeney</b>       | <b>Carter County</b>               |
| <b>Mr. Erik McSpadden</b>   | <b>Carter County</b>               |
| <b>Mr. Randal Jenkins</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. Larry Pogue</b>      | <b>Reynolds County</b>             |
| <b>Ms. Alicia Baker</b>     | <b>Reynolds County</b>             |
| <b>Ms. Marica Chitwood</b>  | <b>Reynolds County (alternate)</b> |
| <b>Mr. Darrell Dement</b>   | <b>Reynolds County</b>             |
| <b>Mr. Jesse Roy</b>        | <b>Ripley County</b>               |
| <b>Mr. Dennis Cox</b>       | <b>Ripley County</b>               |
| <b>Mr. Freddie Leroux</b>   | <b>Ripley County</b>               |
| <b>Mr. Jarret Ficke</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. 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>Ms. Barb Potter</b>      | <b>Wayne County (alternate)</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Steve Foster</b>     | <b>Wayne County (alternate)</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Tylar Pinkley</b>    | <b>Wayne County</b>                |
| <b>Mr. Mike Brandon</b>     | <b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Joe Killian</b>      | <b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>    |
| <b>Ms. Katy Bower</b>       | <b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>    |
| <b>Ms. Elquin Auala</b>     | <b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>    |
| <b>Ms. Melanie Elmore</b>   | <b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Randy Potter</b>     | <b>Guest</b>                       |
| <b>Ms. Gloria Dement</b>    | <b>Guest</b>                       |
| <b>Ms. Tanya Pinkley</b>    | <b>Guest</b>                       |
| <b>Mr. John Baker</b>       | <b>Guest</b>                       |
| <b>Ms. Lesley Rone</b>      | <b>Missouri DED</b>                |

**THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

|                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Mr. Jeff Darnell</b>     | <b>Butler County</b>   |
| <b>Mr. Tom Wilder</b>       | <b>Carter County</b>   |
| <b>Mr. Jordan Collins</b>   | <b>Carter County</b>   |
| <b>Mr. Craig Foster</b>     | <b>Reynolds County</b> |
| <b>Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick</b> | <b>Wayne County</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Lee Hillis</b>       | <b>Wayne County</b>    |