

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

**MAY 12, 2016  
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**PATSY'S JOURNEYMAN RESTAURANT, DONIPHAN, MISSOURI**

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Open for Public Discussion**

No discussion ensued.

**III. Adoption of February 4, 2016 Minutes**

Minutes of the February 4, 2016 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Bill Kirkpatrick, Wayne County, and second by Darrell Dement, Reynolds County.

**IV. Guest Speaker**

Introductions were made as it was announced that the evening's guest speaker, Tami Hale, was also the newest member of the TAC, filling the vacancy for Ripley County.

Ms. Hale is relatively new to the area, having been in Doniphan for four years, and St. Louis for 15 years prior. She runs Doniphan Vitality, which was formed in early 2016. Doniphan Vitality is a place maker, using art, culture, and creativity to ignite positive change and economic growth. Their mission is to build partnerships to create a better place to live, work, and play.

Primary goals for the organization include main street development and creating a walkable community. This involves utilizing the greatest natural resource of the area, the Current River, and brings river tourists into the downtown area, thereby improving the desirability of downtown for business operations. Improving utilization of the FEMA buyout properties and other public greenspace by creating activities such as a butterfly garden, improving community health, and increasing social interaction are other goals for the community.

Doniphan Vitality is collaborating with the City of Doniphan and the Missouri Department of Conservation to design and plan reforestation, gardens, wildflowers, and butterfly habitats in public greenspaces. Sidewalks and multi-modal transportation play a role in designing public spaces for better utilization. In recent years, the City of Doniphan has invested over \$1 million to improve walkways, construct safe routes to school, build a community garden and composting station, and more.

From the north end of Doniphan to the riverfront is only 1.5 miles and could take less than 15 minutes by bike or 35 minutes walking. If Doniphan could be designed for people, through the installation of proper sidewalks and trails, the community could improve health and social equity, and attract more businesses, residents, and tourists. As of 2012, 54% of Ripley County sidewalks and 26% of other Ozark Foothills counties were in poor condition. There is room for growth and improvement. Such future ideas include rebuilding the low water crossing at Spring Street and building it with a pedestrian walkway. That walkway could connect safe sidewalks going up to Quick Creek Park to the north and Riverfront Park to the south.

Over the last month, Doniphan Vitality has been on a “wish list” tour asking people and businesses what they would like to see come to Doniphan. Over 50 items have been identified, including transportation items such as improving sidewalks throughout Doniphan, creating bike trails and infrastructure (bike racks, repair shop), repave the airport runway and fix runway lights, and offer public transit connectivity throughout Ripley and Butler Counties, making it possible to work and live without a car.

## **V. Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) Reports**

David Wyman, MoDOT Southeast District, provided packets of the draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission released the draft on May 11, 2016, and public comment is open until June 10, 2016. Comments can be made on the MoDOT website until that date.

Mr. Wyman stated the 2017-2021 STIP was mainly generated by MoDOT due to the need to focus on maintenance projects. The majority of the projects are pavement related or structurally deficient bridges. There are many bridges and projects in the bootheel, because there are many drainage ditches. Mr. Wyman explained that every county has projects, but some counties do have more projects than others. The funding forecast has improved as people are driving more and generating more fuel tax revenue. In addition, a long-range federal transportation bill was passed, and MoDOT has made the decision to spend funds from their reserve accounts. The STIP is robust with 740 projects and it is expected to climb to over 800 projects over the next 5 years.

David Reynolds, Carter County, asked when work would begin on bridges that are functionally deficient, but not structurally deficient. Mr. Wyman said he does not think it will be any time soon. Questioning the efficacy of the TAC, Mr. Reynolds asked if the TAC promoted a bridge that was structurally safe, but functionally deficient, would it move up on the list. It was explained that at this time, MoDOT cannot responsibly spend funds on bridges that are well built and pose no danger.

Mr. Wyman explained the new federal transportation bill, the FAST Act, does not provide for STP-Urban funds. Currently, those funds are being paid from MoDOT’s general revenue. It is expected that the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission will discontinue the program, affecting all cities over 5,000 in population.

Senate Bill 623, sponsored by Sen. Doug Libla, was amended from an increase of 1.5 cents on gasoline and 3.5 cents on diesel, to 5.9 cents on both. SB623 passed through the Missouri Senate

and out of the Missouri House subcommittee, but it appears will not be passed by the Missouri General Assembly before the end of session on May 13.

Lastly, Mr. Wyman mentioned that the very popular cost-share program will be re-implemented thanks to a one-time infusion of \$20 million from the Missouri General Revenue fund. This was passed by the Missouri General Assembly and signed by Governor Nixon, but will not be an annual infusion. Communities must provide at least 50% of the project cost to be eligible. The program is expected to be officially announced in July.

Jeff Darnell, Butler County, asked about the letter the counties received a few months ago stating there was \$26 million in additional revenue for bridge repair. The letter asked for recommendations for projects. Mr. Wyman said he believes those projects are programed as part of the FY2017 STIP.

Butch Anderson, Butler County, asked about the safety concerns submitted in response to that same letter. Mr. Wyman stated that safety funds are being used to address shoulder issues. The Traffic Department within MoDOT decides where safety funds are to be spent, and this is often based on statistics of roadway run-offs, fatalities, etc. Mr. Anderson thanked MoDOT for the redesign of the Highway 67 and Township Line intersection.

Donald Black, Carter County, asked for an update on the M Highway project. My Wyman stated HR Quadri was selected as the contractor and will begin shoulder work in one month dependent on the bridge replacement.

Elquin Auala, MoDOT Southeast District, stated that BRO funds for 2016 still have not been provided to the local communities, but should be soon. This year's funds will be 6-15% less than previous years due to obligation limits.

Ms. Auala also announced that Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) applications will be accepted in the fall. Selection and ranking will be different than in previous years and only sidewalks and trails will be eligible.

Joe Killian, MoDOT Southeast District, provided maps of the MoDOT Southeast District STIP projects. Mr. Killian reminded TAC members of the value of the TAC, and that projects take time. The M Highway project was 10 years in the making for Carter County, and is now under construction. He encouraged members to be persistent and noted that improvements to Highways 21, 72, 34, 67, and 160 all originated with the TAC.

Donald Black stated that it appeared Carter and Ripley Counties had few projects when compared with the rest of the area. Mr. Killian explained this could be viewed as a blessing because Carter County has no structurally deficient bridges.

## **VI. Transportation Planning Coordinator Report**

Andrew Murphy, Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator, spoke briefly about Senate Bill 623. Its likelihood of passing appears poor.

Mr. Murphy provided updates on the Primary Safety Belt and All-Driver Texting Ban legislation discussed at the prior TAC meeting. The prospect of that legislation passing also appears poor.

Most of the final design has been completed on the Poplar Bluff Industrial Park Road Overpass. Currently, the project is working toward gaining necessary right-of-way clearance.

At the February TAC meeting, there was discussion of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) general infrastructure program. Mr. Murphy submitted eight preliminary proposals to the program, one for the City of Bunker, one for the City of Doniphan, three for Butler County, one for the City of Neelyville, Paving Birch Street in the Village of Mill Spring, and various paving in the City of Piedmont. Of those eight, three were invited to submit full applications, the paving project on Butler County Road 558, the Mill Spring paving project, and the Piedmont paving project. The City of Piedmont is seeking \$385,945. The Village of Mill Spring is seeking \$189,518. Butler County is seeking \$286,345. The Butler County project requires a door-to-door LMI survey of the area. The survey was completed this past Tuesday.

Mr. Murphy announced the Delta Regional Authority's (DRA) 2016 State's Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) is open. The DRA will accept applications until their funds have been depleted. Applications must meet a federal priority criterion such as innovation and small business development focusing on job creation and/or retention, regional approach, and the inclusion of multiple funding partners. In addition, applications should meet a regional development plan goal to include creation of a competitive, productive workforce, physical and digital connections, and reinforcing the concept of "sustainable communities."

## **VII. Old Business**

Amendment of the TAC meeting schedule, as well as during which meeting the prioritization would occur, was discussed. After discussion, with a motion by Bill Kennon, Ripley County, and second by Bill Kirkpatrick, the TAC meeting schedule was moved to a quarterly schedule of January-April-July-October, with the prioritization process occurring in October this year. The dates will be revisited to possibly move the prioritization meeting to July during 2017.

## **VIII. New Business**

Mr. Murphy provided transportation survey results from the Merchant Showcase held April 23rd at Three Rivers College. Top comments included more public transportation, widening Highway 53, fixing bumps on Highway 142, potholes, and inconsistent right of way at the Highway 60 intersections at Ellsinore.

## **IX. General Discussion**

No general discussion ensued.

## **X. Adjournment**

Vince Lampe, Butler County, moved to adjourn. Chairman Brian Polk adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

**TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

**May 12, 2016**

<b>Mr. Andrew Murphy</b>	<b>Ozark Foothills RPC</b>
<b>Mr. Vince Lampe</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Don Anderson</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Jeff Darnell</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Bill Robison</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Donald Black</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Mike Gossett</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. David Reynolds</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Johnathan Collins</b>	<b>Carter County (Alternate)</b>
<b>Mr. Darrell Dement</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. William Kennon</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Jerry Halley</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Lonnie Hudson</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Ms. Tami Hale</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Brian Polk</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Chad Henson</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Joe Killian</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Mr. David Wyman</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Ms. Elquin Auala</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Ms. Gloria Dement</b>	

**THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

<b>Mr. Steve Bubanovich</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Wayne Gibbs</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Jordan Collins</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Joe Loyd</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Doug Warren</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Eddie Williams</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Ms. Renee Horn</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. David Johnson</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Ms. Angela Smith</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. John Berger</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>