

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

**NOVEMBER 13, 2014  
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**PEG'S DINER, ELLSINORE, MISSOURI**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Brain Polk called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

**II. Open for Public Discussion**

Arnold Jarrett, an elected Ripley County Road Commissioner from District 3, addressed the Ozark Foothills Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) regarding Highway 142 between Doniphan and Thayer at Gatewood. Where Highway 142 turns onto V Highway there is a narrow bridge that runs over a creek. This area is heavily traveled with school buses, tractor-trailers, and other large vehicles. Mr. Jarrett requested that the area be reviewed for possible bridge solutions. David Wyman, MoDOT Southeast District, said he would look at the area in question.

Bill Robison, Butler County, arrived to the TAC meeting from a Highway 67 meeting in Corning, Arkansas. Mr. Robison gave a brief update to the TAC regarding where the State of Arkansas stands in regard to finishing the 4 lane of Highway 67 in Arkansas. He presented the TAC with maps showing alternate routes the highway could take. Arkansas has been conducting a planning study for many years and is now looking at starting an environmental review. There are currently no funds in Arkansas's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), so this project will not happen soon. Hopefully, in the next few years Arkansas will add the project to their STIP.

Much discussion from the meeting dealt with the layout of the road and how the road will travel around Pocahontas and Corning. There is discussion of making the highway five lanes. Mr. Robison expressed concern about constructing five lanes and would prefer to see a divided 4 lane. This would be more beneficial in the long term as it will be much easier to upgrade a divided 4 lane to interstate standards. There is currently a 15-day comment period open for all interested individuals to express their thoughts and concern.

**III. Adoption of August 14, 2014 Minutes**

Minutes of the August 14, 2014 TAC meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Bill Kirkpatrick, Wayne County, and second by Joe Lloyd, Reynolds County.

Chairman Polk asked for everyone to introduce themselves as there were new faces to the TAC. He introduced Chad Henson, who was replacing long-time member Harold Ellinghouse.

#### **IV. Guest Speaker**

Dan Overbey, Executive Director of the Southeast Missouri Port Authority, provided handouts, and brochures for the SEMO Port before speaking about the importance of the ports role in moving a wide variety of freights. Mr. Overbey mentined the different ports in Missouri, on both the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.

Port Authorities began in Missouri in 1975 when state law allowed counties to create ports. The SEMO Port was created by Scott and Cape counties and is located in Scott City. The Board of Directors has 9 members that alternate every year. Mr. Overbey has been the Executive Director of the SEMO Port Authority for 21 years.

Ports are great resources that make shipping easier and cheaper for products not subject to time constraints. One semi-truck can carry 25 tons of goods. Compare this with one barge carrying 1,800 tons, and the advantage is obvious. If barges were not used for shipping goods, there would be 838 more trucks per hour on I-55 in Missouri.

Barges carry basic raw materials including grain, coal, rock, cement, fertilizer, and other goods that are not easily perishable. One barge takes between 12-15 days to travel from Scott City, Missouri to New Orleans, compared with a semi-truck taking roughly 11 hours. Even though it is slower, the savings are great due to the amount that can be shipped at one time.

The primary role of the SEMO Port Authority is to develop land. The authority has railroad tracks and infrastructure valued at more than \$20 million. Businesses that store goods and ship from the port are worth more than \$60 million. It is not uncommon to have over a million bushels of grain stored at any one time.

Mr. Overbey showed pictures of the port through the years and invited anyone in the room to stop by for a tour if they are in the area. Wayne Gibbs, Carter County, asked if the port was affected when the Bird's Point Levee was operated by the Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Overbey stated the SEMO Port was not directly affected, but was indirectly affected due to how much farmland was lost.

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

David Wyman informed the TAC that MoDOT is looking at winter operations and that the agency was able to buy more salt in preparation for winter weather. He mentioned that salt prices were much higher than normal, consequently, MoDOT will be stretching what they have for as long as possible.

Route M in Carter County will let in May 2015. Mr. Wyman said this is a tremendous project that shows exactly how the TAC is designed to work. The project was brought forward by the TAC, and modified with the TAC's input to make it more feasible.

Butler County will see work on Route PP next year with a roundabout at the Route PP/Township Line intersection, as well as bridge widening over Pike Creek and an overlay.

In Ripley County, MoDOT is moving forward with the Highway 160 project and will be adding more passing lanes.

Highway 34 in Reynolds County will be let in February 2015 for improvements along the highway to Piedmont.

Also in February, Route Z will be let in Wayne County.

Mr. Wyman informed the TAC that he was in Jefferson City earlier today and funding is a huge concern moving forward. The construction program for this year and next year should be fine, but in July 2016, MoDOT is going to be \$20 million dollars short when providing its 20 percent match for federal dollars. In 2017, that shortage will increase to \$100 million. MoDOT will stretch every dollar as far as they can.

Elquin Auala, MoDOT Southeast District, informed the TAC that the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funding applications are due by noon tomorrow, November 14. Twenty-one projects have been turned in for the Southeast District, and only three of those are from the Ozark Foothills region. The district will have \$3 million to provide in grant awards.

Joe Killian, MoDOT Southeast District, provided a *Freight On the Move* presentation. MoDOT has been developing a freight plan in conjunction with the Missouri Department of Economic Development, other state agencies, and the private sector. One trillion dollars of freight passes through Missouri each year, with \$14 billion shipped internationally.

Once this plan is finalized, it will be incorporated into the Long-Range Transportation Plan. The freight plan will be a “living document” that will be updated on a consistent basis. The plan was produced with the help of a steering committee comprised of representatives from MoDOT, the private sector, river ports, airports, trucking, etc.

Six outcomes resulted from the planning effort: 1) An inventory of freight assets and assessment of needs, 2) a defined statewide freight network, 3) a prioritization process framework, 4) a prioritized project list, 5), a competitiveness measure, and 6) an action plan and implementation strategies. MoDOT will place focus on projects that are ready to move forward and examine the Tracker measure related to freight.

The cost of shipping one ton of soybeans to New Orleans from Missouri is \$12. This makes Missouri very competitive, as shipping from Illinois costs about \$25 per ton.

At this point, the draft plan has ten recommendations to improve Missouri’s freight.

1. Maintain and improve the freight network.
2. Use freight prioritization framework to assist decision-makers.
3. Expand collaboration with DED and other partners.
4. Develop supportive freight and land use guidance.
5. Increase public awareness about freight.
6. Continue engaging statewide economic development partners.
7. Host an annual freight roundtable.
8. Consider developing a rail public-private partnership.
9. Identify and preserve critical multimodal nodes.
10. Partner with others involved in the certified site program.

Lastly, Mr. Killian mentioned that any comments or questions regarding the plan can be directed to him. The plan can be viewed in full at [www.mofreightplan.org](http://www.mofreightplan.org).

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

Andrew Murphy, Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator, informed the TAC that the Poplar Bluff Industrial Park Road project is now completely finalized and closed out.

The Doniphan Sidewalk Project has the box culvert placed, the sidewalks are finished, and the project is currently being closed out.

Piedmont Sidewalk Project has been completed and is closed out.

Mr. Murphy and Felicity Brady, Executive Director of the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission, are currently working on a CDBG grant application for the City of Williamsville. The City is seeking \$240,000 to help construct a pedestrian overpass over Williams Creek on Highway 49.

Finally, MoDOT has launched a web page noting unexpected bridge closings at [www.modot.org/bridges](http://www.modot.org/bridges). Included on the page are inspection photos, the reason for the bridge closure, corrective actions to be taken, an action funding plan, a map of the bridge location and recommended detours by way of state highways.

## **VII. Old Business**

Andrew Murphy is working on updating the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and will have a draft copy available for the TAC's review at the February meeting. This will be a large update to the plan as roughly 30 pages of information have already been added. Mr. Murphy estimates the plan will be 185 pages in length when finished. Much of the new information is being incorporated from existing plans that the Ozark Foothills RPC has already conducted, including the Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan (PTHST) and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

## **VIII. New Business**

Mr. Murphy presented the proposed Calendar Year 2015 TAC meeting schedule. Chairman Polk informed the TAC that the Statewide Missouri Commissioner's meeting would be taking place the week the February TAC meeting is scheduled. It was decided to move the February meeting back one week to February 19, 2014.

A handout was provided regarding *The Federal Lands Access Program*. This program was created by the "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act" (MAP-21) to improve state and local transportation facilities that provide access to and through federal lands for visitors, recreationists, and resource users. More information can be found at the following website <http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/>.

Proposed projects or studies must be located on a public highway, road, bridge, trail or transit system that is located on, is adjacent to, or provides access to Federal lands for which the facility

title or maintenance responsibility is vested with a State, county, city, township, tribal, municipal, or local government. A 20% matching share is required for this program.

There have been many questions regarding the TAC's role moving forward since MoDOT will have very limited funding. Mr. Murphy read a statement from Ben Reeser, MoDOT Central Office, regarding what MoDOT will be looking for from the TAC:

“Continue identifying and prioritizing transportation needs: As we move forward, it remains important for the TACs to maintain a fresh list of the region's transportation priorities. Although additional funding isn't anticipated at this time, we need to stay in tune with the needs for each region so we have a good foundation if/when funding becomes available. The priorities identified during the Constitutional Amendment 7 process is a great place to start with your next prioritization since it included preservation, major projects, and all transportation modes.

Enhance processes to include all transportation modes: We discussed the need to improve the planning framework process to account for all modes of transportation. We need to better identify what data is used to prioritize non-highway investments. We want to build on the momentum and lessons learned from developing the Constitutional Amendment 7 project list.

Help establish system performance expectations and targets: We also discussed MoDOT and RPCs/TACs working together to define performance measurements and targets for the transportation system. As you know, the cornerstone of MAP-21 was establishing a performance management process. Many of the nationwide performance measures deal with maintaining the existing system. We will need your help to determine performance targets so we invest our resources wisely. For example, how do we balance investments between road conditions, bridge replacements, and safety? More details will be available in the coming months as the federal rulemaking process evolves.”

Next, Mr. Murphy led the group in the development of county-specific project priorities. This year will be the first year the TAC will develop a list for Multi-modal projects as well as highway/bridge and maintenance needs. Each county will rank three projects 1-3 for each of the three lists. Discussion ensued and needs were prioritized. The completed lists are attached.

## **IX. General Discussion**

No general discussion ensued.

## **X. Adjournment**

Bill Kirkpatrick moved to adjourn. Chairman Brian Polk adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Ozark Foothills Region

Project Priority List

Butler County

1. **Four Lane Highway 67 south to Arkansas State Line**
2. **Modify Highway PP from Township Line to Route TT – Add Shoulders**
3. **Full access interchange at Township Line and Highway 67**

Carter County

1. **Route N: Widen and Eliminate one-lane bridge over Middle Brushy Creek**
2. **Route A: Eliminate Narrow Bridge in Ellsinore**
3. **Widen Bridge/Culvert on A Highway at corner curve in Ellsinore**

Reynolds County

1. **Replace Highway F Bridge**
2. **Highway 21: Centerville to Glover, add shoulders**
3. **Highway K: Ellington to Annapolis, add shoulders**

Ripley County

1. **State Route K: Straighten “S” curve**
2. **Between Naylor and Doniphan: Eliminate three one-lane bridges**
3. **Improvement Highway 142 West at Gatewood – Narrow bridge**

Wayne County

1. **Highway 49: Replace bridge over McKenzie Creek north of Piedmont**
2. **Highway 49/Highway A: Straighten and widen from Highway 67 to 60.**
3. **Raise Route C where it Crosses Bear Creek**

Ozark Foothills Region  
Project Maintenance List

Butler County

1. **Sight Distance on Highway M & CR 459 Intersection**
2. **T Highway: Two foot shoulders to US 60**
3. **HH Highway: Resurface from Highway 142 to Highway 53**

Carter County

1. **Remove Dead Hazardous Trees from Lettered Routes**
2. **Z Highway: Overlay**
3. **Clean out Culverts on N Highway**

Reynolds County

1. **B Highway: Overlay**
2. **O Highway: Overlay**
3. **Highway 21: Overlay from Centerville to Ellington**

Ripley County

1. **BB Highway: Overlay**
2. **EE Highway: Overlay**
3. **C Highway: Overlay**

Wayne County

1. **Highway 49: Resurface and add shoulders from Williamsville to Iron County Line**
2. **Overlay Route 49 from Highway 67 to west junction of Route A**
3. **Overlay Route A from west junction of Highway 49 to US Highway 60 East**

Ozark Foothills Region  
Multi-Modal Project List

Butler County

1. **Extend the Poplar Bluff Airport Runway**
2. **Improve Amtrak Depot Service Facility**
3. **Extend trail from Shelby/Oak Grove to McLane Park/Shoulder added to PP Highway West to Wolf Creek trail**

Carter County

1. **Construct new helipads**
2. **Improve road to the Van Buren Airport**
3. **Ramps for various sidewalks**

Reynolds County

1. **Add bike lane on North Highway 21 to Highway 106**
2. **Reopen railhead at Buick Mine**

Ripley County

1. **Remove trees from west end of Doniphan Airport runway**
2. **Fix landing lights at Doniphan Airport**
3. **Install fence at airport to keep out deer**

Wayne County

1. **Build walk/bike trail in Williamsville**
2. **Sidewalk repair/construction in Piedmont (Main Street/Various)**
3. **Wayne County Cross-County walk/bike trail**



**TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

**November 13, 2014**

<b>Ms. Felicity Brady</b>	<b>Ozark Foothills RPC</b>
<b>Mr. Andrew Murphy</b>	<b>Ozark Foothills RPC</b>
<b>Mr. Don Anderson</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Bill Robison</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Steve Bubanovich</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Donald Black</b>	<b>Carter County (Alternate)</b>
<b>Mr. David Reynolds</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Wayne Gibbs</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Joe Loyd</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Doug Warren</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Ms. Renee Horn</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Ron Wakefield</b>	<b>Reynolds County (Alternate)</b>
<b>Mr. William Kennon</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Jerry Halley</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. David Johnson</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Lonnie Hudson</b>	<b>Ripley County (Alternate)</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>Ms. Angela Smith</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Matthew Seiler</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Mr. David Wyman</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Mr. Joe Killian</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Mr. Mike Brandon</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Ms. Elquin Auala</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Mr. Dan Overbey</b>	<b>SEMO Port Authority</b>
<b>Ms. Elizabeth Reynolds</b>	
<b>Ms. Becky Gibbs</b>	<b>Carter County Clerk</b>

**THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

<b>Mr. Ed Strenfel</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Jeff Darnell</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. John Bailiff</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Mike Gossett</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Darrell Dement</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Ben Pickett</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Steve Burke</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Nick Ederer</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Fred Bennett</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>