

**MINUTES
OF
THE OZARK FOOTHILLS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 12, 2023
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

OZARK FOOTHILLS RPC, POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI**

I. Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Vince Lampe called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Open for Public Discussion

No public discussion ensued.

III. Adoption of July 13, 2023 Minutes

The minutes of the July 13, 2023 TAC meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Ron Keeney, Carter County, and second by Jesse Roy, Ripley County.

IV. Missouri Department of Transportation Reports

Mark Coarkin, MoDOT Southeast District, stated the State's Highways and Transportation Commission met and approved the Unfunded Needs List earlier in the day. The updated list is already on MoDOT's website. There is currently one vacancy on the commission, and three other seats are pass their term. In the very near future there will be 4 new members on the commission and Mr. Coarkin encouraged those interested in serving to reach out. The new Missouri Hands-Free Law took effect August 28, 2023. It is a secondary offense and fines will not begin until 2025. Fines will be \$150 for the first offense, \$250 for the second offense, and \$500 for the third offense.

Elquin Auala, MoDOT Southeast District, informed the group that 15 TAP applications were received, but did not request the entire amount of funding. There is about \$1 million left in the Southeast District. All 15 projects are expected to be awarded with announcements going out in early November. MoDOT is soliciting feedback in the districts towards if the leftover funding should have a special call for projects or to roll the money into the next round of funding, which will have approximately 50% less funding than the previous two cycles.

Andrew Murphy, Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator, stated rolling the funding into the next round would be more beneficial to the region, as a project may not be developed this quickly. Conversations were held with several communities leading up to this year's grant round, however, only one entity from the region was able to submit an application.

Matt Wilkerson, MoDOT Southeast District, announced Buckle Up Phone Down Day is October 25th. He also provided funding information for the High School Showdown with registration due by October 18th. Mr. Wilkerson covered the handout of work zones and future lettings in the five county region and reminded everyone that next year's BRO call will only have one-year funding. He mentioned that after attending the MINK conference, one state in attendance had bundled many bridges together and applied for a RAISE grant.

Mike Brandon, MoDOT Southeast District, informed the committee the next deadline for the Cost Share program is April 12th. Work is already beginning on next year's STIP. Inflation is having a large impact on the STIP as this year's projects came in \$32 million over. A lot of these overages will be felt in FY25. Asphalt prices have continued to increase and there isn't expected to be much movement from the Unfunded Needs List to the STIP.

V. Transportation Planning Coordinator Report

Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator Andrew Murphy reported the regular cycle round of Community Development Block Grants and the MIT-MID rounds were expected to open in the fall of 2023. However, CDBG announced the FY23 and FY24 rounds will be opened together in April 2024 with an expected due date of August 2024. This will delay applications but there will be twice the amount of funding for community infrastructure, general infrastructure, water/wastewater, etc. The MIT-MID has been delayed until September 2024. Applications are expected to be due in December 2024.

The RPC submitted a RAISE application for Butler County Road 321 earlier this year. The application was not awarded, but the USDOT conducted a debrief and we were able to gain some feedback for a future application. There is room for improvement, but it's unlikely this project can score high enough to receive funding.

For MoDOT's TAP Application round, the City of Doniphan submitted an application requesting the maximum \$500,000.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is open with an early November due date. This program aims mostly at parks, and the RPC has submitted successful applications for playground equipment, ball fields, pickle ball courts, etc. The program can also build sidewalks and trails in parks. The application can request up to \$500,000 and is a 50/50 match requirement.

No updates for the MoDOT Recovery Committee as no meetings have occurred in 2023.

There were 27 applications submitted for BRO funding this past July and enough funding to award seven. All awards have been announced.

Mr. Murphy informed the group he attended the Missouri Highway Safety and Traffic Conference in Columbia, MO September 25-27. It was the first time attending in person since 2014, as he attended virtually in 2020 and 2021. The conference covered Hands-Free Missouri law changes, I-70 improvements, community partnerships, State of Safety in MO, Vulnerable Road Users, Community Oriented Transportation, MADD, Safe Across, B.R.A.K.E.S, Speeding, Changing impairment laws, networking, legal cannabis and driving and enforcement, etc.

VI. Old Business

No was no old business to discuss.

VII. New Business

The 2024 Meeting Schedule was provided. All in attendance were in agreement to continue meeting on the second Thursdays of January, April, July, and October at 6:00 pm.

VIII. General Discussion

Jesse Roy informed the group that he had been told 2024 will be the last in person LPA Person of Responsible Charge training. The training will move to an online only format. The training must be updated every two years, and Mr. Roy encouraged everyone to make sure they complete the training in person this year if they are hesitant of the online format.

IX. Adjournment

Ron Keeney moved to adjourn. Vice-Chairman Lampe adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER

October 12, 2023

Mr. Andrew Murphy	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Vince Lampe	Butler County
Mr. Don Anderson	Butler County
Mr. Jeff Darnell	Butler County
Mr. Bill Robison	Butler County
Mr. Ron Keeney	Carter County
Mr. Tom Wilder	Carter County
Mr. Jordan Collins	Carter County
Mr. Randal Jenkins	Carter County
Mr. Steve Chitwood	Reynolds County
Mr. Jesse Roy	Ripley County
Mr. Gary Emmons	Ripley County
Mr. Dennis Cox	Ripley County
Mr. Freddie Leroux	Ripley County
Mr. Jarret Ficke	Ripley County
Mr. Doug Wood	Wayne County
Ms. Elquin Auala	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Mike Brandon	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Matt Wilkerson	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Mark Coarkin	MoDOT Southeast District

THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Dennis LeGrand	Butler County
Mr. Eddie Williams	Reynolds County
Mr. Larry Pogue	Reynolds County
Ms. Denise Smith	Reynolds County
Mr. Darrell Dement	Reynolds County
Mr. Brian Polk	Wayne County
Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick	Wayne County
Ms. Angela Smith	Wayne County
Mr. Chad Henson	Wayne County