

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

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2025
OZARK Foothills REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
OZARK Foothills RPC, POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI**

I. Call to Order

Chairman Brian Polk called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. Open for Public Discussion

No public discussion ensued.

III. Adoption of July 10, 2025 Minutes

The minutes of the July 10, 2025 TAC meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Jesse Roy, Ripley County, and second by Vince Lampe, Butler County.

IV. Missouri Department of Transportation Reports

Katy Bower, MoDOT Southeast District, provided reports on Southeast District activities including past lettings. Recent contract awards included a low-water crossing replacement on Route KK in Wayne County for \$148,840.00 in August 2025. In September 2025, two bridge replacements on Route AA in Butler County and a bridge replacement on US 67 in Wayne County were designated as apparent low bidders to Robertson Contractors, Inc. for approximately \$1.88 million and \$2.83 million, respectively.

Work zone updates were given on various work zone projects, ranging from bridge deck replacement on Route U in Butler County, which is closed with a detour, to lighting improvements in multiple counties, where all lanes are open. Several projects, including pavement resurfacing on Route M and 67 in Butler County and the above low water crossing replacement on Route KK in Wayne County, have not yet started.

Joe Killian, MoDOT Southeast District, updated the TAC on the Missouri Transportation Finance Corporation (MTFC) and the MoDOT Cost Share Program. The next application deadlines for MTFC are December 16, 2025, and March 17, 2026. The next application deadlines for the Cost Share Program are October 3, 2025, and April 6, 2026. The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) 2025 Awardees were also recognized.

Chairman Polk reminded those in attendance that due to the City of Bunker having to pull a completed TAP application in 2016, that the OFRPC created a fund with the Ozark Foothills Regional Community Foundation to act as a match assistance fund for communities in the

region. The fund was established at the 50th Anniversary of the OFRPC in 2017 and was set to endow for 10 years before a committee would be established to look at the fund's ability to provide matching assistance.

V. Transportation Planning Coordinator Report

Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator Andrew Murphy announced five paving applications were submitted to the FY25 regular cycle for the Cities of Williamsville, Neelyville, Ellington, Qulin, and Wayne County. Applications included requests for \$632,449, \$395,483, \$647,249, \$623,277, and \$629,067.

Awards under the CDBG MIT/MID program were announced for the City of Doniphan and the City of Van Buren, along with Ripley County.

City of Doniphan, Low Water Crossing Improvements, General Infrastructure, \$920,314.00
City of Doniphan, Inflow and Infiltration Improvements, Public Facility, \$2,815,203.00
City of Doniphan, Sewer System Mapping and Camera, Planning \$150,000.00
City of Doniphan, Quick Creek Bank Stabilization, General Infrastructure \$1,363,999.00
City of Doniphan, Warning Sirens, Warning System, \$100,000.00
City of Van Buren, Paving Improvements, General Infrastructure, \$1,265,108.00
City of Van Buren, Comprehensive Plan, Planning, \$55,500.00
City of Van Buren, Sidewalk Improvements, General Infrastructure, \$2,341,689.00
Ripley County, 160 E-10 Paving, General Infrastructure, \$1,637,355.00

The Delta Regional Authority SEDAP program received an application from the City of Ellington for \$500,000 acting as match to a grant/loan award from DNR for a wastewater project. The DRA held a special Disaster Recovery round and the OFRPC submitted three transportation projects. These include Wayne County, \$1,014,721 for a low water crossing on Brushy Creek, Butler County CR321 Phase I Paving for \$2,315, 716, Carter County Low Water Crossing CR327 for \$1,093,662.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is open with a November 14, 2025 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.

Three Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) grants are being prepared, including a \$607,641.54 paving project for Butler County leading to Beaver Lake Recreation Area and two projects for Carter County, one seeking \$662,685 to pave and widen CR151 and another for a multi-use trail from Van Buren to the Big Spring Campground in the National Park Service's Ozark National Scenic Riverways with a total cost of \$1,571,000.

VI. Safe Streets for All Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

Robert Augsdorfer, Community Planning Specialist, provided handouts of maps for the 5-county region. Mr. Augsdorfer asked the TAC to identify problem areas on the maps. Discussion ensued regarding development of county-wide Task Forces, with each county needing 10 members to meet quarterly over the next year. The first quarterly Task Force meeting will occur before the

end of the year in each county. Walk Audits will also be conducted in each city as part of the development of the SS4A plan. Walk Audits probably won't begin until the Spring, but Poplar Bluff and Qulin both have fairly current Walk Audits conducted, and one will be conducted for the City of Doniphan as part of their Active Transportation Plan.

VII. Old Business

The Qulin Active Transportation Plan (ATP) is complete and the city adopted the plan earlier this month at their September City Council meeting. Mr. Murphy provided a hard copy of the plan, and the plan is available on the OFRPC website as well. Work should start with the City of Doniphan in October on development of an ATP for that city, with that plan finalized in September 2026.

MoDOT held a High Priority Unfunded Needs List meeting for the Southeast District at the OFRPC conference room on August 28, 2025. It was a small turnout, which these meetings usually are. Online comments were taken through September 11, 2025 and based on the last couple of years, the annual update should be approved by November 2025.

MoDOT also held a Highway 53 public meeting at the OFRPC on September 23, 2025. This meeting had a great turnout with over 30 members of the public attending from 4-7pm. The project will see the installation of a turn lane from Highway 142/WW Highway/Highway 53 intersection to CR306 and an additional turn lane at Route UU in Butler County.

VIII. New Business

The 2026 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.

IX. General Discussion

No general discussion ensued.

X. Adjournment

Jesse Roy moved to adjourn. Chairman Polk adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER

September 25, 2025

Mr. Alan Lutes	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Andrew Murphy	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Robert Augsdorfer	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Vince Lampe	Butler County
Mr. Ralph Stucker	Butler County
Mr. Gary Pride	Butler County
Mr. Bill Robison	Butler County
Mr. Ron Keeney	Carter County
Mr. Tom Wilder	Carter County
Mr. Eric McSpadden	Carter County
Mr. Jordan Collins	Carter County
Mr. Randal Jenkins	Carter County
Mr. Steve Chitwood	Reynolds County
Mr. Eddie Williams	Reynolds County
Mr. Darrell Dement	Reynolds County
Mr. Craig Foster	Reynolds County
Mr. Jesse Roy	Ripley County
Mr. Gary Emmons	Ripley County
Mr. Michael Williams	Ripley County
Mr. Jarret Ficke	Ripley County
Mr. Brian Polk	Wayne County
Mr. Doug Wood	Wayne County
Mr. Chad Henson	Wayne County
Mr. Steve Foster	Wayne County (alternate)
Ms. Barb Potter	Wayne County (alternate)
Mr. Tylar Pinkley	Wayne County
Ms. Elquin Auala	MoDOT Southeast District
Ms. Katy Bower	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Joe Killian	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Randy Potter	Guest

THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Larry Wells	Butler County
Mr. Jeff Darnell	Butler County
Ms. Ashley Newson	Carter County
Mr. Larry Pogue	Reynolds County
Ms. Alicia Baker	Reynolds County
Mr. Dennis Cox	Ripley County
Mr. Freddie Leroux	Ripley County
Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick	Wayne County
Mr. Lee Hillis	Wayne County