

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

**APRIL 13, 2023
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

OZARK FOOTHILLS RPC, POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI

I. Call to Order

Chairman Brian Polk called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

II. Open for Public Discussion

No public discussion ensued.

III. Adoption of January 12, 2023 Minutes

The minutes of the January 12, 2023 TAC meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Vince Lampe, Butler County, and second by Dennis Cox, Ripley County.

IV. Missouri Department of Transportation Reports

Mark Coarkin, MoDOT Southeast District, stated that transportation and transportation funding is a big topic at the capitol right now. Due to those discussions and potential funding changes the draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) will probably not go out in May, but will be delayed into June. Additional funding for projects on the Unfunded Needs List and work on I-70 is expected.

Mr. Coarkin also stated that there is movement to change the appropriation limits that are controlled by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. This could change how the planning process works. It would take a vote of the citizens in Missouri to change the appropriation, but it has passed in the Missouri House and is currently in the Missouri Senate.

Matt Wilkerson, MoDOT Southeast District, covered the MoDOT Ozark Foothills RPC Update handout. Route K in Reynolds County is having some curb work done, Route A in Carter County was let for pavement resurfacing, as was the US Highway 60 Bridge over the Current River at Van Buren. Expected on April 21st is the letting for a bridge replacement at Gatewood over Mill Creek in Ripley County that will cause a detour. The bridge deck will be laid tomorrow on the Business 60 Bridge over the Black River in Poplar Bluff. Also in Poplar Bluff are ADA sidewalk upgrades on Highway 53. The resurfacing of Highway 34 in Wayne County is moving along at a good pace.

Mr. Wilkerson also mentioned the MoDOT Cost Share program with a 50% match on project cost and projects must take place on the state system and be over \$200,000 in costs.

Additionally, the Freight Enhancement Program opened today, with a due date of May 19th. A 20% match is required for non-roadway projects, such as rail, waterway, airport, etc. that must tie into the state system. As a reminder, treat LPA projects as your own, try to maintain timelines and keep projects on schedule. Inflation has thankfully slowed, as projects over an 18 month period were coming in 30% over estimates, now coming in 3-5% over revised estimates.

The BRO program is expected to release a call for projects in early May. The application has been changed to make the project simpler to fill out and review. The TAP program is also expected to release a one-year call for projects later this year. Make sure to get the best estimate possible, as the local entity will be responsible for overages.

Chairman Polk asked when the FF Bridge project in Wayne County is scheduled to begin. Mr. Wilkerson stated as soon as the school year is over.

Mike Brandon, MoDOT Southeast District, stated that inflation has been a budget killer. Projects in the region have come in at \$20 million over original estimates. The draft STIP really won't be adding new projects, due to the increased inflation. Nothing is expected to be added to the Unfunded Needs List. Mr. Brandon informed the TAC of a new timeline for developing the Unfunded Needs List and that right now an estimated 10% increase will be added to all existing cost estimates.

Andrew Murphy, Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator, announced that since it had only been 6 months since the last edit to the Unfunded Needs List, and with the knowledge that none of the projects were moving onto this year's 5-year STIP, the Ozark Foothills region will keep the list the same. Currently the region has bringing two sections of Highway 67 to interstate standards in Butler County, Amtrak improvements, and airport runway extension in Butler County. In Carter County, pavement improvements and rumblestrips on Route C from Highway 60 to Route F and construction of helipads near Ellsinore and Fremont. In Reynolds County, Safety improvements from Route H to Highway 60 on Highway 21 and funding for Reynolds, Iron, and Shannon counties for the Transamerica bike trail. Ripley County's project is a bridge improvement over Briar Creek on Highway 21. Wayne County has rumblestrips from the south intersection of Highway 34 to Highway 67 on Highway 49. District wide funding for Transit and a trail program is also included.

Steve Chitwood, Reynolds County, asked about the best time to bring forward projects and where to begin conversations. It was stated that contacting the Area Engineer was the best starting point, and placing projects on the TAC list, which was being updated for 2023 tonight, is also recommended. Mr. Chitwood and others from Reynolds County expressed a severe area of concern on Highway 106, approximately 4.5 miles west of Ellington, where a flood washed away the road, and after extensive repair, has a large drop and nothing to stop someone from going over the edge. It's also a narrow location where two large trucks don't have enough room and a lack of shoulder at the area.

Mr. Coarkin added that MoDOT has been opening up timelines for projects and are increasing the length of project timelines and when projects begin construction. This is an attempt to help with costs and supply issues.

V. Transportation Planning Coordinator Report

Andrew Murphy reported the OFRPC submitted a RAISE application to the FHWA for Butler County Road 321 for paving, widening, drainage, etc. for an estimated \$4,659,641. The roadway connects Highway 142 with an outer road of the current Highway 67 and future I-57 and is traveled heavily by large trucks. This is the first year projects under \$5 million could be submitted to the program.

Mr. Murphy announced the Delta Regional Authority's (DRA) 2023 States Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) Application Cycle will open in spring 2023 and close in summer 2023. DRA's focus is on Transportation Infrastructure, Basic Public Infrastructure, Healthcare, Workforce Development, and Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Tier 1 projects must meet each of the following three federal priorities, as outlined in the Eligibility Guidelines: 1) job creation and/or retention utilizing a participation agreement, 2) include other sources of public and/or private funds, and 3) have a regional impact. Each state will be required to spend 50 percent of the state allocation on Tier 1 projects, before recommending Tier 2 projects for funding. Tier 2 projects will encompass all other eligible projects.

Joint TAC/County Commission meetings were held in March to allow an opportunity for members of the public to meet with their local TAC members and provide feedback regarding the prioritization process.

The MoDOT Recovery Committee has not met since November and does not currently have a meeting schedule for 2023.

Mr. Murphy provided information on the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety and their meeting schedule. The coalition is a partnership of safety advocates throughout the state who have come together for a common purpose: to end traffic fatalities and serious injuries on public roadways. The group is heavily involved with the Buckle Up Phone Down campaign by providing yard signs and metal signs to post on existing posts, Project Prom funding to local high schools, Battle of the Belt challenges, and various informational and branded items. The group is currently meeting in a hybrid style in Sikeston on the 2nd Tuesday at 10am and the 2nd Wednesday in West Plains or Mountain Grove at 10 am in the months of January, April, July, and October.

VI. Old Business

Mr. Murphy asked the committee to approve both the Public Transit Human Services Transportation (PTHST) Plan and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which were posted on the OFRPC website, provided via e-mail prior to the meeting, and presented to the Ozark Foothills Board of Directors in March. Mr. Murphy briefly described the plan rationales and requirements of the updated plans, along with the role played by transit providers and the general public in updating the PTHST Plan. The plans were adopted on a motion by Jesse Roy, Ripley County and second by Ron Keeney, Carter County.

VII. New Business

Mr. Murphy presented a Request for Proposals for a Community Active Transportation Plan. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). The Missouri Department of Health

and Senior Services, Division of Administration, is issuing an RFA Community Active Transportation Planning for the provision of supporting Regional Planning Commissions' development of active transportation plans for communities within their service areas. The goal of the plans is to increase access to safe physical activity by enhancing opportunities for multimodal transportation that links community members to everyday destinations via connected routes. Last year the award was up to \$15,000 each to support the development and/or update of at least one community's active transportation plans. The awarded RPC's will work to increase physical activity in at least one community in their region by improving active transportation accessibility. The planning commission asked for feedback and thoughts from the TAC regarding this opportunity. Is there a community in the region that might be interested or a viable option for such plan? Mr. Murphy asked that any thoughts or ideas about the opportunity of an Active Transportation Plan be emailed.

After discussion, each county submitted the county-wide priorities for projects, maintenance, and multi-modal needs. See attached list below.

VIII. General Discussion

No general discussion ensued.

IX. Adjournment

Angela Smith, Wayne County, moved to adjourn. Chairman Polk adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

TAC Project Priority List

2023 Identified Needs by County

Butler County

1. 4-lane Highway 67 from Highway 160 to the state line
2. Move and straighten Twin Springs Hill on Route M
3. Add shoulders on W Highway from Poplar Bluff to Route KK

Carter County

1. Overlay and add shoulders to D Highway
2. Overlay and add shoulders on C Highway from Highway 60 to county line
3. Route N: Widen and eliminate one-lane bridge over Middle Brushy Creek

Reynolds County

1. Highway F bridge/low water crossing flooding
2. Guardrails on Highway 106 west of Ellington
3. Widen shoulder on Highway 106

Ripley County

1. Highway 21 South at Briar Creek – Bridge Replacement
2. Low water crossing on Highway K between County Road K-5 and K-6
3. Highway 160 – Repair poor construction so people do not get sea sick

Wayne County

1. Safety Shoulders on Highway 49 from Highway 67 to Mill Spring and Piedmont to Iron County line and widen existing box culverts
2. Low Water Dip on C Highway approximately 1 mile northwest of C & E Junction
3. Highway 34 East of CR236 approximately 300 yards, small bridge replacement over Gizzard Creek

TAC Maintenance Priority List

2023 Identified “Maintenance Needs” by County

Butler County

1. Resurface Route O
2. Repair/Resurface Butzen Drive
3. Resurface Route NN

Carter County

1. Redesign median crossover of Highway V & Highway A at Highway 60 in Ellsinore
2. Overlay Highway V & H in East Carter County
3. Add Shoulders and rumblestrips to Highway 103

Reynolds County

1. Overlay 72 Highway from 72/21 Junction to 72/32 Junction
2. Repair bridges over Black River on Highway 21 where bridges connect with Highway and also on Highway KK at West Fork Mine
3. Secondary Roads overlay and chip & seal Highway A (Highway 49 to County Line), Highway U from Highway 21 to end of State Maintenance, and Highway W from Highway K to end of Maintenance

Ripley County

1. Add Shoulders on Highway 160 W from Doniphan to C Highway
2. Overlay EE Highway
3. Overlay T Highway

Wayne County

1. Highway 49: Resurface 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

TAC Multi-Modal Priority List

2023 Identified “Multi-Modal Needs” by County

Butler County

1. Extend the Poplar Bluff airport runway
2. Improve Amtrak Depot service facility
3. Pedestrian Overpass over UP Railroad along Highway 53

Carter County

1. Construct new helipads
2. Sidewalks in Ellsinore from East Carter Schools to US Highway 60
3. Sidewalks from College Ave to Commercial Drive in Van Buren

Reynolds County

1. Add bike lane for TransAmerica Bike Trail on Highway 76 Bike Route
2. Sidewalk repair/construction in City of Ellington
3. Sidewalk repair/construction in Bunker on main and 4th Streets

Ripley County

1. Add/repair sidewalks on Walnut Street, from Summit to Highway Street, and Highway Street, from Lafayette to Walnut Street, for safe pedestrian and wheelchair access to north end of shopping center
2. Sidewalks on Highway 142 E (Walnut Street) and west on Washington Street to Courthouse
3. Ellington to Van Buren to Grandin to Doniphan bike trail extension that ties in with TransAmerica Trail in Ellington

Wayne County

1. Sidewalk construction on Cemetery Road in Williamsville
2. Sidewalk repair/construction in City of Greenville
3. Sidewalk repair/construction along AA Highway in Williamsville.

TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER

April 13, 2023

Mr. Andrew Murphy	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Vince Lampe	Butler County
Mr. Bill Robison	Butler County
Mr. Jeff Darnell	Butler County
Mr. Ron Keeney	Carter County
Mr. Tom Wilder	Carter County
Ms. Debi Reynolds	Carter County (alternate)
Mr. Steve Chitwood	Reynolds County
Mr. Larry Pogue	Reynolds County
Ms. Denise Smith	Reynolds County
Mr. Darrell Dement	Reynolds County
Mr. Jesse Roy	Ripley County
Mr. Gary Emmons	Ripley County
Mr. Dennis Cox	Ripley County
Mr. Freddie Leroux	Ripley County
Mr. Brian Polk	Wayne County
Mr. Doug Wood	Wayne County
Mr. Chad Henson	Wayne County
Ms. Angela Smith	Wayne County
Mr. Steve Foster	Wayne County (alternate)
Mr. Mike Brandon	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Mark Coarkin	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Matt Wilkerson	MoDOT Southeast District

THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Don Anderson	Butler County
Mr. Dennis LeGrand	Butler County
Mr. Jordan Collins	Carter County
Mr. Randel Jenkins	Carter County
Mr. Wayne Gibbs	Carter County
Mr. Eddie Williams	Reynolds County
Mr. Jarret Ficke	Ripley County
Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick	Wayne County