

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

**JANUARY 14, 2021  
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**WebEx VIRTUAL/CALL-IN**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Brian Polk called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**II. Open for Public Discussion**

No public discussion ensued.

**III. Adoption of September 24, 2020 Minutes**

The minutes of the September 24, 2020 TAC meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Jesse Roy, Ripley County, and second by Dennis Cox, Ripley County.

**IV. Missouri Department of Transportation Reports**

Mark Croarkin, MoDOT Southeast District, informed the TAC that the STIP appears to be financially stable for the next five years. CARES Act funds have refunded approximately \$230 million to help cover losses of revenue that have occurred. Good news is also coming out of the state legislature as the two-cent per gallon incremental increase for five years is receiving interest and feedback early in the session.

Mike Brandon, MoDOT Southeast District, stated that districts are working on a draft unfunded needs lists, and will be working with the planning partners to complete those by March 1<sup>st</sup>. The plan is to create a two tier list of road and bridge projects. Tier one being \$500 million and tier two being \$2 billion for the state. The Southeast District share of this is 8.8%. In tier one the southeast District will have \$44.1 million available and for tier two \$176.2 million available (totaling \$220.3 million). Tier one could be lower to mid-size projects while tier 2 could include lower to large size projects. The district is working on a magnitude of costs for lists already submitted from planning partners.

Dave Wyman, MoDOT Southeast District, covered a handout with work zone updates for the region. Mr. Wyman also provided updates to the 4-laning of US Highway 67. The first 4 miles of new four lanes have secured funding. The Governor's Cost Share Program had reduced its awarded amount, but restored it, and miles 3 and 4 have been awarded funding through the traditional cost share program. A lot is going on all at once with the project, as a new Environmental Impact Study has been completed, along with some preliminary engineering design. MoDOT will be holding virtual meetings in the future to discuss alignments, changes,

right of way, etc. In addition to that happening concurrently, the Federal Highway Administration is involved as well since the section of highway is designated as future I-57.

Heather Glastetter, MoDOT Southeast District, is the regional contact for the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety. The coalition works to make roads safer. The Show-Me Zero plan works as a guide in reducing traffic fatalities. The goal of the plan, and the coalition, is to change the culture of safety in the state. No one can do it all, but everyone can do something. The Show-Me Zero plan is available on [savemolives.com](http://savemolives.com) for download, and a hard copy of the plan can be requested.

The Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety meets quarterly, with the next meeting scheduled for April 6, 2021 at 10 am. The meeting will be virtual due to the on-going COVID -19 pandemic. One of the largest goals of the coalition is to increase seat belt usage, as the Southeast District has a 35% usage rate. Currently Missouri has a secondary seat belt law, but changing the policy to a primary seat belt law at the state level is part of the legislative agenda. If any community has an interest in trying to put in place a primary seat belt ordinance at the local level, Ms. Glastetter would be able to provide data, sample ordinances, and assistance.

Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator Andrew Murphy mentioned that within the five-county Ozark Foothills region, only the City of Doniphan had a primary seat belt ordinance. David Wyman mentioned that counties can adopt the ordinance as well. Mark Croarkin stated he was glad to hear Doniphan had the ordinance in place, and that getting youth involved, to attend council meetings and advocate, can be a powerful motivator.

## **V. Transportation Planning Coordinator Report**

Andrew Murphy reported that six grant applications were submitted for paving proposals to the Missouri Department of Economic Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Bunker requested \$227,000 for a proposed project along Oak Street, 5th Street, 4th street, and the intersection of Main and 6th Street. Butler County requested \$180,000 for paving County Road 639 in Broseley. Ellington requested \$295,819 for paving Fairground Street, Manor Street, Logan Street, Park Street, Meadow Drive, King Street, Clark Street, 3rd Street, Alley between 3rd and 4th Street, 4th Street, 5th Street, 6th Street, Caleb Street, Lloyd Street, Baker Street, Tubbs Avenue, and Pratt Hollow Road. Ellsinore requested \$317,616 for paving along Walnut Street, Burch Street, Maple Street, Cherry Street, and Pine Street. Qulin requested \$256,792 for repairing and overlaying portions of First Street, Second Street, Fourth Street, Fifth Street, and a portion of Connecticut Street. Lastly, Williamsville requested \$234,386 for paving along Wayne St., South Main, East Middle, Biggerstaff, First, a section at West and White Oak St., and a section on East St. This will also consist of 3-inch asphalt on the more heavily traveled areas along School Street and around Williamsville Elementary School.

MoDOT released the 2020 Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) applications. The grant cycle will see approximately a fifty percent reduction in available funding. Applications are due January 29, 2021. The only entity applying in the Ozark Foothills region is the City of Poplar Bluff. The city has proposed to create a connector trail that is 1.85 miles in length that will essentially connect the Mark Twain National Forest Service's Wolf Creek Trail, which is 21 miles of walking/hiking/bicycling trails, with the Shelby Road trail system.

The Department of Natural Resource's Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) applications are open with a February 17<sup>th</sup> deadline. In Missouri, RTP grants are open to local and state governments, school districts, non-profit and for-profit organizations. Missouri receives between \$1 and \$1.5 million per fiscal year. The maximum amount awarded is \$250,000 for trail projects and \$25,000 for educational projects. Sponsors must have a minimum 20 percent match, which can be cash or in-kind. Projects must be open to the public for 25 years.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has the same February 17<sup>th</sup> deadline. It's a 50/50 match program with a maximum request amount of \$250,000. Grants are open to local government and public schools. Playgrounds, trails, parks, and ball fields are examples of possible projects.

The Traffic and Highway Safety Application from MoDOT opened January 12, 2021 with a March 1, 2021 deadline. The program supports projects that reduce the number and severity of traffic crashes occurring on Missouri roadways thereby preventing fatalities and injuries. Areas of emphasis include alcohol- and/or drug-impaired driving, speeding, safety belt and child safety seat use, inattention or distracted driving, young drivers, mature drivers, and traffic crash data collection and analysis. The grant funding cycle corresponds with the federal fiscal year, which runs from October 1st through September 30th.

Mr. Murphy announced joint TAC/County Commission meetings will hopefully be occurring in March. These meetings allow an opportunity for members of the public to meet with their local TAC members and provide feedback regarding the prioritization process. With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it will probably be another 4-5 weeks before those meetings are planned. Additionally, the prioritization process will move back to its normal schedule this year. During the April meeting, each county will prioritize their lists of projects at the county level before the regional prioritization in July.

Mr. Murphy announced the annual statewide planning partnership meeting will be held on Wednesday February 10, 2021. Instead of meeting in Jefferson City, the meeting will be conducted virtually. At the meeting, all RPCs and MPOs in the state meet with all MoDOT districts and central leadership to review goals for the upcoming year. Normally, the meeting sees about 150 in attendance. There will be 500 virtual seats open. All TAC members are invited to participate in the meeting this year. Sign-in information has been sent to the TAC.

Mr. Murphy stated the The LPA Advisory Committee met virtually this morning. The biggest piece of information was the change to the eligibility of bridges. This year, a new list will be based on poor condition, still by county, but a new formula. Functionally obsolete bridges will no longer be listed. Under current ratings, anything 4 and under will be included as poor. This will follow the FHWA approach for asset management looking at the deck, superstructure, substructure, and culvert.

The Southeast district has a lot of deficient bridges, but not many poor bridges, and the Southeast district will feel the largest impact of the change in formula. A transition period will exist; anything on the 2020 BRO bridge list based on deficiency can have BRO funds and soft match credit used until December 31, 2023. A new list will come out in October 2021, and will only list poor bridges, not deficient bridges.

## **VI. Old Business**

Mr. Murphy announced the 2021 Ag Expo has been cancelled due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

## **VII. New Business**

Mr. Murphy presented The Ozark Foothills Regional Transportation Plan 2021 update to the TAC for review. The plan is due for update in June 2021. The document is available on the OFRPC website under the transportation planning section. At the April meeting, the TAC will be asked to formally accept the plan's update. The plan will also be presented to the OFRPC Board in March, with approval in June 2021. The current plan, adopted in June 2019, was a large update, and the update after this, scheduled for June 2023, will also be a large update, as most of the 2020 Census data will be released throughout 2022. Thus, this year's update is fairly minor.

## **VIII. General Discussion**

No general discussion ensued.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Jesse Roy moved to adjourn. Chairman Polk adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

**TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

**January 14, 2021**

<b>Mr. Andrew Murphy</b>	<b>Ozark Foothills RPC</b>
<b>Mr. Bill Robison</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Jesse Roy</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Gary Emmons</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Dennis Cox</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Brian Polk</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Ms. Angela Smith</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Mark Croarkin</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Mr. Andrew Meyer</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Mr. Mike Brandon</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>Ms. Elquin Auala</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Ms. Heather Glastetter</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>

**THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

<b>Mr. Vince Lampe</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Don Anderson</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Dennis LeGrand</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Jeff Darnell</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Ron Keeney</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Tom Wilder</b>	<b>Carter 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. Eddie Williams</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Ms. Denise Smith</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Ms. Renee Horn</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Darrell Dement</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Ms. Rickie Maples</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Ms. Tami Hale</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Doug Wood</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Chad Henson</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>