

**MINUTES  
OF  
THE OZARK FOOTHILLS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
  
JANUARY 12, 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 6:00 p.m.

**II. Open for Public Discussion**

Introductions were made from those in attendance. Reynolds County has a new Presiding Commissioner, Steve Chitwood. Reynolds County Associate Commissioner, Larry Pogue, also has joined the committee as a new member.

**III. Adoption of August 18, 2022 Minutes**

The minutes of the August 18, 2022 TAC meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Ron Keeney, Carter County, and second by Vince Lampe, Butler County.

**IV. Missouri Department of Transportation Reports**

Elquin Auala, MoDOT Southeast District, informed the group that Route U in Reynolds County was awarded in July 2022, but work has not started on the project. Route K in Reynolds County will also see softening of shoulders and widening. Ms. Auala also informed the group that Douglas County will not be following through with their BRO awarded project, so Reynolds County will receive BRO funding for their top project.

Matt Wilkerson, MoDOT Southeast District, announced the Butler County Highway 67 resurfacing was let in August 2022. Work on that project is expected to start by August 2023. Highway 53 in Butler County also let an overlay in October 2022. US Highway 60 in Carter County has pavement surfacing as does Route V in Ellsinore.

In November 2022 the Route FF Bridge in Wayne County was let. Work on the bridge will begin after the school year, as the project will create a full closure. The Route 34 Bridge over Black River at Leeper will open by the end of next week. In Poplar Bluff, the Business Highway 60 Bridge will begin working on the substructure and girders over the next month.

Joe Killian, MoDOT Southeast District, mentioned that work on STIP development is in full process. The rise in inflation is making that project more difficult than normal.

Chairman Polk asked what will happen on the BRO projects when they come in over budget.

It was stated that funds will get pulled future years, similar to the projects in the STIP. This will be avoided as much as possible, but is guaranteed to happen to some level due to the increasing inflation costs.

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

Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator Andrew Murphy reported two paving applications were submitted to the CDBG General Infrastructure category for Butler County Broseley Paving Phase II and for Carter County South Van Buren Paving. The latter request is for \$502,690 with the county putting in cash and in-kind valued at \$50,000 for a total project cost of \$552,690. The Butler County Broseley Paving Phase II application is seeking \$163,321 with the county putting in cash and in-kind valued at \$45,885 for a total project cost of \$209,206.

The planning commission is working on a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) application for Butler County for County Road 321 near Harviell and Cane Creek. The RAISE application this cycle has lowered the minimum request from \$5 million to \$1 million dollars for projects in rural areas with an 80/20 match requirement. The application is due in late February.

The MoDOT FY24 Traffic and Highway Safety Grant application opened today and is due by March 1, 2023. 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.

Missouri DNR's Recreational Trails Program (RTP) applications are open with a February 23, 2023 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.

Mr. Murphy announced joint TAC/County Commission meetings will 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. During the April TAC meeting, each county will prioritize their lists of projects at the county level before the regional prioritization and voting occurs in July.

Mr. Murphy announced the annual statewide planning partnership meeting will be held on Thursday February 23, 2023, in Jefferson City. At the meeting, all RPCs and MPOs in the state will meet with all MoDOT districts and central leadership to review goals for the upcoming year. Panel discussions will be featured for best practices.

The MoDOT Recovery Committee December meeting was cancelled with not much to report from the previous quarter.

## **VI. Old Business**

No old business to discuss.

## **VII. New Business**

Mr. Murphy presented the 2023 meeting schedule. The schedule will continue to see meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of January, April, July, and October. In April, the TAC will see the counties prioritize projects at the county level, and a full regional vote will take place in July.

Mr. Murphy has been working on the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan update since September 2022. The plan is updated every 5 years and the current plan expires in June 2023. Typically the plan takes a full year to complete. However, MoDOT did not provide the notice to proceed until September 8, 2022, putting the update 3 months behind schedule, with the same June 30, 2023 expiration date. In October staff held a meeting with transit and human services providers, asked for their assistance in editing our existing surveys to be completed by their organization and the surveys for their clients/ridership/general public. Those surveys were sent out in mid-October and an online SurveyMonkey was created. Eight public meetings were held in the first 3 weeks of November. One meeting was held at the planning commission office for Butler County, and at nutrition centers in Carter, Reynolds, Ripley, and Wayne Counties. We also held 3 virtual meetings and discussed the plan at the December 2022 OFRPC Board meeting. In total, with help from several organizations including SMTS and BATS, Ripley County Transit, Reynolds County Sheltered Workshop, Ripley County Senior Citizens Club, SEE Inc., The FCC, Boys and Girls Club, and the Poplar Bluff Housing Authority, we were able to finish with approximately 363 completed surveys from riders and the general public. Double the 180ish surveys gathered from the 2018 updated and surpassing our internal goal for survey collection.

The timeline for the surveys was extended for about 2 weeks into December. This was done both to gather additional rider surveys and provider surveys. We ended with 7 out of 10 transit and service agencies in our region completing the provider survey. However, the extension of the surveys and running into the holiday time period, we are about another month behind schedule on the update. Normally, a draft of the update would be presented, but that draft will now be ready in March for the OFRPC Board meeting. At that time the update will be placed on the website and e-mailed to the TAC, for their review prior to the April 2023 TAC Meeting. The plan will then be voted on by the OFRPC Board of Directors in June and submitted to MoDOT by June 30, 2023.

One additional public meeting will be held in February, along with a 30-day public comment period that will run February 1, 2023-March 3, 2023. This is a large update as nearly all the data from the surveys has changed, and all the Census Data is different from the 2018 update, and many of the agencies are operating on completely different schedules post-pandemic, with ridership down still around 20% from pre-pandemic levels.

The Ozark Foothills Regional Transportation Plan was last updated in June 2021, and is due for its next update in June 2023. Normally a draft version would be presented tonight and the TAC would be asked to review and vote to accept at the next meeting. However, due to the PTHSTP

update, the draft will not be ready until March. The draft version will be posted on the OFRPC website and the link e-mailed to TAC members. The draft will be presented to the OFRPC Board at the March Board meeting. TAC members will be asked to review the document prior to the April meeting and vote to accept the draft in April

**VIII. General Discussion**

No general discussion ensued.

**IX. Adjournment**

Vince Lampe moved to adjourn. Chairman Polk adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

**TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

**January 12, 2023**

<b>Mr. Andrew Murphy</b>	<b>Ozark Foothills RPC</b>
<b>Mr. Vince Lampe</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Don Anderson</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Jeff Darnell</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Bill Robison</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. Randal Jenkins</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Steve Chitwood</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Larry Pogue</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Eddie Williams</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Ms. Denise Smith</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Darrell Dement</b>	<b>Reynolds 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>Mr. Doug Wood</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Ms. Angela Smith</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Ms. Vera Bishop</b>	<b>Wayne County (alternate)</b>
<b>Ms. Elquin Auala</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Mr. Matt Wilkerson</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Mr. Joe Killian</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Ms. Marcia Chitwood</b>	<b>Guest</b>
<b>Mr. Roger Bishop</b>	<b>Guest</b>

**THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

<b>Mr. Dennis LeGrand</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Jordan Collins</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Mr. Wayne Gibbs</b>	<b>Carter County</b>
<b>Ms. Rickie Maples</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Ms. Tami Hale</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Chad Henson</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>