

**MINUTES
OF
THE OZARK FOOTHILLS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JULY 14, 2022
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

OZARK FOOTHILLS RPC, POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI**

I. Call to Order

Chairman Brian Polk called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m.

II. Open for Public Discussion

No Public Discussion ensued.

III. Adoption of April 14, 2022 Minutes

The minutes of the April 14, 2022 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

Matt Wilkerson, MoDOT Southeast District, reviewed lettings from May 2022 including US 67 in Butler County, future lettings on Route U in Reynolds County, and covered numerous work zone updates from various projects in Butler, Carter, and Wayne Counties. Mr. Wilkerson also informed the TAC on the Railroad Crossing Elimination program through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and that applications are due by October 4, 2022.

BRO program applications are due Friday July 22, 2022. With updated guidelines from MoDOT, only bridges in poor condition are eligible. Funding for the program will no longer be distributed to individual counties, but to each of MoDOT's seven districts. Applicants in each district will apply, and a Regional Bridge Committee will select awarded projects.

The Ozark Foothills TAC will need to meet in August to review applications submitted in the 25-county Southeast District. The TAC will also nominate a current representative to serve on the Regional Bridge Committee, which will meet in September to select projects.

Mark Croarkin, MoDOT Southeast District, stated he is excited for the Highway 67 expansion, and thanked the TAC for their work on the Unfunded Need List. Several projects moved from that list to the recently approved Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which is the largest STIP ever.

Mike Brandon, MoDOT Southeast District, informed the TAC the STIP was approved on July 6th, and includes roughly \$10 billion worth of projects statewide. As part of the 5-year

plan, the first three years are fully funded, and years four and five are 50% funded. There are 400 projects and \$889 million worth of construction funding for the Southeast District, which is the largest investment ever. Mr. Brandon also mentioned the Governor's special funding for low volume routes, which will see \$5 million in funding on Route U in Reynolds County.

Eddie Williams, Reynolds County, brought up several locations where the county is experiencing compaction issues at bridges and culverts in the county. MoDOT will look at the locations and consider options such as speed limit changes.

V. Transportation Planning Coordinator Report

Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator Andrew Murphy reported that paving applications submitted to the CDBG general infrastructure category were awarded for the City of Greenville for \$487,774, City of Piedmont for \$496,622, Village of Mill Spring for \$189,802, and Butler County for their Harviell Paving Phase II for \$146,601. The planning commission is still waiting to hear back on paving projects for the City of Van Buren and Carter County for the unincorporated community of South Van Buren.

2022 CDBG Applications are expected to open in early fall 2022.

MoDOT Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Applications are due July 15th. Lots of conversations were held with communities in the region, but ultimately with costs coming in higher than expected on other projects, there was a lot of concern about the 20% match requirement. The City of Poplar Bluff will be the region's only applicant with a project on Vine Street repairing sidewalks and addressing utility work.

No updates for the MoDOT Recovery Committee as Mr. Murphy missed the June meeting, and the May meeting only lasted a few minutes as there was severe weather in part of the state at the time of the meeting.

Mr. Murphy will be attending the NADO Rural Transportation Conference next week in Kansas City, MO from July 19-21. There will be lots of breakout sessions over the 3 days covering rural transportation planning, technology, partnerships, pedestrian focus, GIS, etc.

Mr. Murphy announced the RPC will be updating the Public Transit Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan (PTHSTP) sometime after August 1st. The RPC wrote the original PTHSTP for our region in 2008 and the plan is updated every five years. The last update was June 2018, so our next update is due by June of 2023. The plan can be found on the OFRPC website. A draft of the plan will be ready to present at our January TAC meeting and the TAC will be asked to approve the update at the April 2023 TAC meeting. The OFRPC Board will be asked to adopt the plan at the June 2023 Board meeting and then submitted to MoDOT with an approved plan lasting through June 2028.

The plan is required by federal law and outlines how transit agencies, social service agencies, municipalities and other transportation providers can most efficiently and effectively work together to improve regional mobility for individuals with special transportation needs including seniors, people with low incomes, and people with disabilities.

VI. Old Business

Mr. Murphy encouraged everyone to continue to keep an eye out for any BIL programs that may be of interest. A handout was provided at the previous meeting on some programs, and so far only one of those programs has taken applications. Unfortunately, the Rural Transportation program, along with some others that have been released have had minimum \$5 million grant requests, which outside of the state system, is above what most of our communities are capable of, especially if a 20% match is required.

Although outside the realm of transportation, the State of Missouri has a number of programs coming out this year for various grant programs supported with Missouri's ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds. For all programs, funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026.

Some programs may see multiple grant rounds, and some may be one time only. There are planned programs for drinking water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure which all had deadlines of July 14th, and upcoming applications for lead service line inventory, broadband infrastructure, cell towers, grants to port authorities, tourism, an entertainment industry grant, community revitalization, industrial site development, small business grant, nonprofit grant, agriculture, workforce training, public safety, emergency medical services, fire protection, local law enforcement and county jail improvements. If interested in any of these, please let the RPC know, and as more information becomes available, we can assist in determining a viable project.

VII. New Business

The committee divided into five groupings separated by county. Ballots for projects, maintenance, and multi-modal needs were presented for use in the prioritization process and the voting procedure was explained. Each individual could cast five votes; a minimum of one had to be used for a project in a county outside of the voter's county of representation. Each TAC member could then cast the remaining four votes to any project or projects he or she desired. An opportunity was provided for any TAC member to discuss one of their identified projects. Discussion ensued and needs were then prioritized. The ballot sheets with the total number of votes for each project are attached.

VIII. General Discussion

No general discussion ensued.

IX. Adjournment

Jesse Roy moved to adjourn. Chairman Polk adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

OZARK FOOTHILLS TAC PROJECT PRIORITIES

# of Votes	Project/ Description	AADT	Commercial Volume	Number of Crashes	Injuries	Fatalities	
21	Butler: 4-lane Highway 67 from Highway 160 to the state line	7,085	1,740	232	95	3	
1	Butler: Construct a round-a-bout at the intersection of Highways 67/C/V	6,296	2,309	61	39	1	
	Butler: Move and straighten Twin Springs Hill on Route M and shoulders on W Highway from PB to Route KK	1,388 1,333	488 449	6 177	3 49	0 4	
12	Carter: Overlay and add shoulders to D Highway	698	134	18	6	0	
9	Carter: Overlay and add shoulders on C Highway from Highway 60 to county line	356	160	21	10	1	
5	Carter: RT N Widen and eliminate one-lane bridge over Middle Brushy Creek	335	87	8	4	0	
2	Reynolds: Guardrails on Highway 21, from Highway H to Highway 60	1806	435	112	40	2	
2	Reynolds: Shoulder on Highway N from Highway 21 to Johnson Shut-Ins	616	115	28	12	0	
	Reynolds: Add paved shoulder for bike and pedestrian traffic through Reynolds Co. for Hwy 76 Bike Route	864	92	265	99	11	
40	Ripley: Repair Highway 21 South at Briar Creek – Dip in road from flooding	1,734	471	9	4	0	
1	Ripley: Low water crossing on Highway K between CR K-5 and K-6	644	270	1	0	0	
5	Ripley: Highway 160 – Repair poor construction so people do not get sea sick	6,224	1,278	601	256	15	
17	Wayne: Safety Shoulders on Highway 49 from Highway 67 to Mill Spring and Piedmont to Iron County line and widen existing box culverts	318	104	454	140	4	
	Wayne: Low water Dip on C Highway approximately 1 mile northwest of C & E Junction	170 392	33 42	0 4	0 2	0 1	
	Wayne: Repair small bridge on A Highway (1/2 mile west of Hwy 67) with large box culvert	792	207	14	7	0	

OZARK FOOTHILLS TAC MAINTENANCE PRIORITIES

# of Votes	Project/Description	AADT	Commercial Volume	Number of Crashes	Injuries	Fatalities	
17	Butler: Resurface Route O	252	42	24	7	0	
	Butler: Repair/Resurface Butzen Drive			0	0	0	
1	Butler: Resurface Route NN	758	16	21	13	0	
16	Carter: Redesign median crossover of Highway V & Highway A at Highway 60 in Ellsinore	1,644 1,196	322 260	17 18	13 21	0 3	
1	Carter: Overlay Highway V & H in East Carter County	390 232	96 35	13 14	9 7	1 1	
12	Carter: Add Shoulders and rumblestrips to Highway 103	1609 275	242 10	15	10	1	
43	Reynolds: Highway 72 overlay from 72/21 Junction to 72/32 Junction	670	246	177	90	5	
1	Reynolds: Repair bridges over Black River on Hwy 21 where bridges connect with Highway and also on Hwy KK at West Fork Mine	1,434 792	69 276	0	0	0	
	Reynolds: Secondary Roads overlay and chip & seal Hwy A (Hwy 49 to County Line), Hwy U from Hwy 21 to end of State Maintenance, and Highway W from Highway K to end of Maintenance	94 929 68	18 269 12	0 10 0	0 5 0	0 0 0	
2	Ripley: Add Shoulders on Highway 160 W from Doniphan to C Highway	1,080	295	146	93	1	
	Ripley: Overlay EE Highway	200	41	2	2	0	
	Ripley: Overlay T Highway	432	88	19	8	1	
19	Wayne: HWY 49 Resurface from Williamsville to Iron County Line	1,628	126	395	123	4	
	Wayne: Overlay Route 49 from Highway 67 to west Junction of Route A	340	34	72	30	1	
3	Wayne: Overlay Route A from west junction of Highway 49 to US Highway 60 East	782	78	50	15	1	

OZARK FOOTHILLS TAC MULTI-MODAL PRIORITIES

# of Votes	Project/ Description	AADT				
20	Butler: Extend the Poplar Bluff airport runway					
	Butler: Improve Amtrak Depot service facility					
1	Butler: Pedestrian Overpass over Railroad along Highway 53					
1	Carter: Construct new helipads					
14	Carter: Sidewalks in Ellsinore from East Carter Schools to US Hwy 60					
10	Carter: Sidewalks from College Ave to Commercial Drive in Van Buren					
22	Reynolds: Add bike lane for TransAmerica Bike Trail on Highway 76 Bike Route					
2	Reynolds: Sidewalk repair/construction in City of Ellington					
	Reynolds: Sidewalk repair/construction in Bunker on Main and 4 th Streets					
25	Ripley: 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					
	Ripley: Sidewalks on Highway 142 E (Walnut Street) and west on Washington Street to Courthouse					
	Ripley: Ellington to Van Buren to Grandin to Doniphan bike trail extension that ties in with TransAmerica Trail in Ellington					
17	Wayne: Sidewalk construction on Cemetery Road in Williamsville					
2	Wayne: Sidewalk repair/construction in City of Greenville					
1	Wayne: Sidewalk repair/construction along AA Highway Williamsville					

This Report contains information that is protected from disclosure by federal law, 23 USC Section 409 and the MO Open Records Law (Sunshine Act), Section 610.021 RSMo. Please review MoDOT's policy and procedure manual on the Sunshine Act before releasing any of the information contained herein.

TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER

July 14, 2022

Mr. Alan Lutes	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Andrew Murphy	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Vince Lampe	Butler County
Mr. Don Anderson	Butler County
Mr. Dennis LeGrand	Butler County
Mr. Jeff Darnell	Butler County
Mr. Ron Keeney	Carter County
Mr. Tom Wilder	Carter County
Mr. Randal Jenkins	Carter County
Mr. Jordan Collins	Carter County
Mr. Joe Loyd	Reynolds County
Mr. Eddie Williams	Reynolds County
Ms. Gina Loyd	Reynolds County (alternate)
Ms. Renee Horn	Reynolds County
Mr. Jesse Roy	Ripley County
Mr. Gary Emmons	Ripley County
Mr. Dennis Cox	Ripley County
Ms. Deborah Roy	Ripley County (alternate)
Ms. Deb Emmons	Ripley County (alternate)
Mr. Brian Polk	Wayne County
Mr. Doug Wood	Wayne County
Ms. Angela Smith	Wayne County
Ms. Kathy Street	Wayne County (alternate)
Mr. Mark Croarkin	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Mike Brandon	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Matt Wilkerson	MoDOT Southeast District

THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Bill Robison	Butler County
Mr. Wayne Gibbs	Carter County
Mr. Darrell Dement	Reynolds County
Ms. Denise Smith	Reynolds County
Ms. Rickie Maples	Ripley County
Ms. Tami Hale	Ripley County
Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick	Wayne County
Mr. Chad Henson	Wayne County