

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

**JULY 11, 2024  
OZARK FOOTHILLS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**OZARK FOOTHILLS RPC, POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Brian Polk called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**II. Open for Public Discussion**

No public discussion ensued.

**III. Adoption of April 11, 2024 Minutes**

The minutes of the April 11, 2024 TAC meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Ron Keeney, Carter County, and second by Dennis Cox, Ripley County.

**IV. Missouri Department of Transportation Reports**

Tammy Hefner, MoDOT Southeast District, stated the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission will be meeting in Poplar Bluff on August 7<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held at Three Rivers College and is open to the public. She encouraged all in attendance to attend the meeting.

Melissa Rose, MoDOT Southeast District, introduced herself to the TAC. Ms. Rose is the new LPA contact for the Southeast District.

Joe Killian, MoDOT Southeast District, informed the TAC the 2025-2029 STIP was approved yesterday at the July meeting of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. The new plan is on the MoDOT website and an interactive website will be updated later in the month. There will be a High Priority Unfunded Needs meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup> at the SEMO RPC in Perryville. Mr. Killian encouraged all planning partners to attend the meeting. Lastly, pavement ratings for the year have been completed and work will soon begin for the next STIP.

Matt Wilkerson, MoDOT Southeast District, reviewed lettings and the MoDOT Cost Share Program information from a handout provided to the TAC. Lighting improvements and ITS maintenance at various locations in the district will occur. The demolition of buildings and removal along US Highway 67 in Butler County was let in June. Pavement resurfacing on US 60 in Butler County and a bridge deck replacement on Route U in Butler County are planned. A bridge replacement over Logan Creek on Route B and pavement resurfacing on Route H in

Reynolds County will begin shortly. State Highways 34 and 143 in Wayne County will see a scrub seal, as will Route AA in Reynolds and Wayne Counties.

Mr. Wilkerson covered the TAP applications and funding. The City of Poplar Bluff was awarded \$300,784 for the East Pine Crosswalk-Linc Park Connector sidewalk.

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

Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator Andrew Murphy stated the RPC is working on several applications for the open Community Development Block Group (CDBG) application cycle. Applications are due September 6, 2024 and RPC is working on paving projects for Butler County in Broseley, two projects in Ellington, Bunker, Ellsinore, Grandin, Fisk, Qulin, Poplar Bluff, and Williamsville. There are a couple other communities that haven't made a final decision yet on applying this year.

The US HUD Census released new data regarding low-to-moderate income standings, and unfortunately it was not good news for our area. The Cities of Bunker, Doniphan, Ellsinore, Fisk, Greenville and Williamsville do not meet the 51% LMI rate needed to meet the national objective to apply for CDBG grants. This means each community will have to survey their citizens for any projects to prove the national objective is met. Many of these cities have active projects that are planning to submit applications on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Surveys will begin immediately in these communities and once completed, are valid for four years.

An application was submitted requesting \$1,823,557 to the Delta Regional Authority's Critical Infrastructure Fund (CIF) for road improvements to Butzen Road, Harlo Dunn Road, and Rowe Parkway for The City of Poplar Bluff. The City is putting in just over \$202,000 of in-kind work in paving on Rowe Parkway as match for the project.

Carter County submitted a \$479,355 request to the States Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) for paving on County Road 330 next to the Royal Oak charcoal plant. CR330 connects FF Highway to the intersection of HH Highway and N Highway and is heavily traveled by residents, agricultural vehicles and heavy equipment coming into and out of the plant.

The CDBG MIT/MID Round is expected to open in September with a December application due date. The funds are tied to the 2017 flood and the 5 zip codes of Doniphan, Van Buren, Neosho, West Plains and Branson. Fifty percent of the funds will also be available for projects in counties that are adjacent to these zip codes. The RPC has an extensive list of projects and is expecting to submit around 30 applications to this round of funding.

The City of Poplar Bluff was awarded \$300,784 for the East Pine Linc Park Connector Sidewalk, constructing new sidewalk in East Poplar Bluff from existing Poplar Bluff Housing Authority sidewalk, crossing US Highway 60 (Pine Street) with a lighted crosswalk, to continuing to Linc Park, which is the only city park in Poplar Bluff without dedicated parking, making it a truly neighborhood park. This location on Highway 60 where the lighted crosswalk will be located also had a pedestrian fatality just over a year ago.

Mr. Murphy mentioned at the previous TAC meeting the RPC submitted a request to the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Planning grant to write a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for the 5-

county region that would include input from all 16 incorporated cities. Action Plans are comprehensive safety plans aimed at reducing and eliminating serious-injury and fatal crashes affecting all roadway users. The OFRPC proposed a 20-year plan that would cover the area through 2046 or 2047 depending on award date. The application has been awarded \$116,000 to write this plan over a two year period. The funds will be used to hire an additional staffer to develop the plan, and hopefully work on some additional plans in the office.

Mr. Murphy provided a handout with some information on an upcoming geospatial training and how to provide GIS data to Google Maps and Waze.

**VI. Old Business**

Mr. Murphy provided updates on Active Transportation Plans (ATP). An Active Transportation Plan is a comprehensive resource that documents existing conditions and guides the planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of bicycle and pedestrian programs, policies, guidelines, and infrastructure improvements.

Discussions have been held with MoDHSS and the University of Missouri (Mizzou) about hiring the planning commission to write an ATP. Mizzou has a High Obesity Program (HOP) grant that covers Ripley and Wayne Counties and DHSS has a SPAN grant that covers Butler County. Not much more information has been provided for the Ripley and Wayne Counties possible plans, but MoDHSS has been working to get the RPC and a city on board. DHSS is currently looking at working with the City of Qulin on writing an Active Transportation Plan, with the possibility of continuing over the next 2 years to include 2 other entities in Butler County.

The RPC is currently writing an ATP for the City of Poplar Bluff. The plan is outlined, mapping is complete for a sidewalk assessment and downtown map and some surveys have been completed as more community engagement will be sought. There is a meeting scheduled for August 19, 2024 at 1 pm at the Butler County Health Department with various stakeholders. The meeting will have survey results, and will help to finalize the plan outline. The Poplar Bluff Active Transportation Plan is expected to be complete by the end of 2024.

Mr. Murphy reported the RPC has updated its Title VI plan. The plan has been approved by both the OFRPC Board of Directors and MoDOT, as the plan is required from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as the cognizant federal agency. Updates occurred to the plan in April and May, a public meeting was held, and a 30-day public comment period passed, before the plan was finalized and approved at the June 13<sup>th</sup> OFRPC Board meeting. A copy of the plan was provided and if anyone would like to review digitally, the plan, along with the notice to the public, complaint procedures, and complaint form are all located on the OFRPC website. To sum up the plan, the Ozark Foothills RPC ensures every effort will be made to ensure non-discrimination in all programs and activities.

**VII. New Business**

The Missouri Association of Councils of Government (MACOG), a coalition of planning commissions in the State of Missouri, and MoDOT have decided to add a permanent multi-modal component to the TAC to ensure that multi-modal concerns are being addressed. Different options were presented on how to do this, and the Ozark Foothills TAC will be adding an

additional seat to each county’s representation. This seat needs to be held by someone that represents a multi-modal interest, be it someone that works in the field or a subject matter expert. For the purpose of the MoDOT Transportation Planning Framework, sidewalks and trails will not be considered multi-modal, but aviation, railroads, river ports, transit, and forms of non-motorized transportation are examples. Currently each of the five counties has five positions on the TAC. Moving forward as of July 1, 2024, each county we need to have a “multi-modal” representative, giving each county six members and 30 total TAC members. This new member will vote and attend all TAC meetings as a full member of the committee. The TAC will also create an Unfunded Needs List from our region of multi-modal projects in the area. This could include the projects on the current prioritized list, but would need additional projects added.

At the October meeting, Mr. Murphy plans to present by-law changes for approval adding this new “multi-modal” position to each county’s TAC. Appointment would follow the same style as other TAC members, the Presiding Commissioner appoints after consultation with the Mayors from his or her county. Mr. Murphy asked that each presiding commissioner find someone by the October meeting. Once the TAC approves the by-law changes, the multi-modal representatives would be made official members in October 2024.

Mr. Murphy reminded the TAC that officer terms are for 4 years and officers are nominated/elected at the last meeting of the year to begin terms the following January. In October the TAC will ask for volunteers or nominations of members to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair through 2028.

Finally, 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. The ballot sheets with the total number of votes for each project are attached.

**VIII. General Discussion**

No general discussion ensued.

**IX. Adjournment**

Ron Keeney moved to adjourn. Chairman Polk adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

## OZARK FOOTHILLS TAC PROJECT PRIORITIES

# of Votes	Project/ Description	AADT	Commercial Volume	Number of Crashes	Injuries	Fatalities	
20	<b>Butler:</b> 4-lane Highway 67 from Highway 160 to the state line	7,085	1,740	232	95	3	
	<b>Butler:</b> Move and straighten Twin Springs Hill on Route M	1,388	488	6	3	0	
	<b>Butler:</b> Add shoulders on W Highway from PB to Route KK	1,333	449	177	49	4	
21	<b>Carter:</b> Turning Lane, west bound Highway 60 at both Business 60 and James Street in Van Buren	1,551 3,504	64 394	0 0	0 0	0 0	
	<b>Carter:</b> Overlay and add shoulders on C Highway from Highway 60 to county line	356	160	21	10	1	
	<b>Carter:</b> Straighten hill on Highway E in Hunter	279	8	0	0	0	
	<b>Reynolds:</b> Widen, resurface, and add shoulders on Highway B	296	32	1	1	0	
	<b>Reynolds:</b> Guardrails on Highway 106 west of Ellington	818	232	72	25	2	
25	<b>Reynolds:</b> Widen shoulder on Highway 106	818	232	72	25	2	
20	<b>Ripley:</b> Highway 21 South at Briar Creek – Bridge Replacement	1,734	471	9	4	0	
	<b>Ripley:</b> Low water crossing on Highway K between CR K-5 and K-6	644	270	1	0	0	
5	<b>Ripley:</b> Highway 160 – Repair poor construction so people do not get sea sick	6,224	1,278	601	256	15	
24	<b>Wayne:</b> Highway 34 East of CR236 approx. 300 yards, small bridge replacement over Gizzard Creek	611	27	35	14	1	
	<b>Wayne:</b> Low water Dip on C Highway approximately 1 mile northwest of C & E Junction	170 392	33 42	0 4	0 2	0 1	
	<b>Wayne:</b> Safety Shoulders on Highway 49 from Highway 67 to Williamsville	318	104	454	140	4	

*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.*

## OZARK FOOTHILLS TAC MAINTENANCE PRIORITIES

# of Votes	Project/Description	AADT	Commercial Volume	Number of Crashes	Injuries	Fatalities	
	<b>Butler:</b> Resurface Route O	252	42	24	7	0	
	<b>Butler:</b> Repair/Resurface Butzen Drive			0	0	0	
16	<b>Butler:</b> Resurface Route NN	758	16	21	13	0	
21	<b>Carter:</b> 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	
	<b>Carter:</b> Overlay Highway V & H in East Carter County	390 232	96 35	13 14	9 7	1 1	
	<b>Carter:</b> Add Shoulders and rumblestrips to Highway 103	1609 275	242 10	15	10	1	
25	<b>Reynolds:</b> Highway 72 overlay from 72/21 Junction to 72/32 Junction	670	246	177	90	5	
	<b>Reynolds:</b> 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	
	<b>Reynolds:</b> Secondary Roads overlay and chip & seal Hwy A (Hwy 49 to County Line), Hwy U from Hwy 21 to end of State Maintenance, and Hwy W from Hwy K to end of Maintenance	94 929 68	18 269 12	0 10 0	0 5 0	0 0 0	
25	<b>Ripley:</b> Add Shoulders on Highway 160 W from Doniphan to C Highway	1,080	295	146	93	1	
	<b>Ripley:</b> Overlay EE Highway	200	41	2	2	0	
	<b>Ripley:</b> Overlay O Highway	265	27	1	1	0	
28	<b>Wayne:</b> HWY 49 Resurface from Williamsville to Iron County Line	1,628	126	395	123	4	
	<b>Wayne:</b> Overlay Highway P from Highway E to County Line	273	15	1	1	1	
	<b>Wayne:</b> Overlay Highway EE from Highway 67 to gravel	172	20	0	0	0	

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## OZARK FOOTHILLS TAC MULTI-MODAL PRIORITIES

# of Votes	Project/ Description	AADT				
20	<b>Butler:</b> Extend the Poplar Bluff airport runway					
	<b>Butler:</b> Improve Amtrak Depot service facility					
	<b>Butler:</b> Pedestrian Overpass over UP Railroad along Highway 53					
9	<b>Carter:</b> Construct new helipads					
8	<b>Carter:</b> Sidewalks in Ellsinore from East Carter Schools to US Hwy 60					
8	<b>Carter:</b> Sidewalks from College Ave to Commercial Drive in Van Buren					
	<b>Reynolds:</b> Add bike lane for TransAmerica Bike Trail on Highway 76 Bike Route					
25	<b>Reynolds:</b> Sidewalk repair/construction in City of Ellington					
	<b>Reynolds:</b> Sidewalk repair/construction in Bunker on Main and 4 <sup>th</sup> Streets					
25	<b>Ripley:</b> Sidewalks on Highway 142 E (Walnut Street) and west on Washington Street to Courthouse					
	<b>Ripley:</b> Sidewalks from the Courthouse to Highway 160 on Jefferson Street					
	<b>Ripley:</b> Ellington to Van Buren to Grandin to Doniphan bike trail extension that ties in with TransAmerica Trail in Ellington					
20	<b>Wayne:</b> Sidewalk construction on Cemetery Road in Williamsville					
	<b>Wayne:</b> Sidewalk repair/construction in City of Greenville					
	<b>Wayne:</b> Sidewalk repair/construction along AA Highway in Williamsville					

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**TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

**July 11, 2024**

<b>Mr. Alan Lutes</b>	<b>Ozark Foothills RPC</b>
<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. Jordan Collins</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. Eddie Williams</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Ms. Alicia Baker</b>	<b>Reynolds County (alternate)</b>
<b>Ms. Wanda Carder</b>	<b>Reynolds County (alternate)</b>
<b>Mr. Darrell Dement</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Mr. Dennis Cox</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Freddie Leroux</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Jarret Ficke</b>	<b>Ripley County</b>
<b>Mr. Matthew Rodgers</b>	<b>Ripley County (alternate)</b>
<b>Mr. Bobby Carpenter</b>	<b>Ripley County (alternate)</b>
<b>Mr. Brian Polk</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Doug Wood</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Lee Hillis</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Mr. Chad Henson</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>
<b>Ms. Barb Potter</b>	<b>Wayne County (alternate)</b>
<b>Ms. Tammy Hefner</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Mr. Joe Killian</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Mr. Matt Wilkerson</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Ms. Melissa Rose</b>	<b>MoDOT Southeast District</b>
<b>Ms. Gloria Dement</b>	<b>Guest</b>
<b>Mr. Steve Foster</b>	<b>Guest</b>
<b>Mr. Randy Potter</b>	<b>Guest</b>

**THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

<b>Mr. Dennis LeGrand</b>	<b>Butler County</b>
<b>Mr. Larry Pogue</b>	<b>Reynolds County</b>
<b>Ms. Denise Smith</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. Bill Kirkpatrick</b>	<b>Wayne County</b>