

**MINUTES
OF
THE OZARK FOOTHILLS TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 10, 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 6:20 p.m.

II. Open for Public Discussion

No public discussion ensued.

III. Adoption of July 11, 2024 Minutes

The minutes of the July 11, 2024 TAC meeting were reviewed. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Jesse Roy, Ripley County, and second by Vince Lampe, Butler County.

IV. Guest Presentation

Matt Mittendorf, Business Development Manager for Missouri Petroleum, provided a presentation over asphalt preservation techniques covering crack sealers, emulsions, underseals, chip seals, slurry seals and micro surfacing. These techniques can extend the life of roadways. Roadways use to last 15-20 years, now only last 12-15 years. A shift in mindset is required to start protecting roadways more efficiently before they deteriorate to extend their useful life. Preservation treatments need to be used on roads that are in moderate condition and this allows major issues to be delayed. Best types of projects for preservation are larger projects to get the most bang for the buck with the treatment and cost of application. Many treatments, like emulsions, are environmentally friendly and cost-effective for paving and preservation efforts.

Filling cracks when they first appear is important. Approximately 75% of unsealed cracks develop into potholes within three years, while only one percent of sealed cracks will in the same time frame. The traveling public expects a smooth and safe road. Preservation saves money and saves time when compared to full rehabilitation projects. It's important to keep up with pavement conditions survey and knowing PASER and PCI scores for the proper treatment.

V. Missouri Department of Transportation Reports

Melissa Rose, MoDOT Southeast District, stated BRO applications are due November 15th. Awards will most likely be announced after the new year.

Elquin Auala, MoDOT Southeast District, stated the Route B bridge project over Logan

Creek in Reynolds County will begin in March 2025.

Matt Wilkerson, MoDOT Southeast District, covered the handout of work zones and future lettings in the five county region. This included US 67 in Butler County upgrading to freeway standards for future I-57 and was awarded to H. R. Quadri for \$26,443,934 and Route B in Butler County for a bridge replacement over Drainage Ditch 1. A future letting for Route B in Ripley County is expected later this month to scrub seal from US 160 to MO 142. Additional various work zone updates were covered in Butler, Reynolds and Wayne Counties.

Mike Brandon, MoDOT Southeast District, announced that October 30th had been declared BUPD Day for 2024. He also informed the TAC the next deadline for the Cost Share program is April 11, 2025 and reviewed the Missouri Transportation Finance Corporation. All FHWA functionally classified highways are eligible except local and rural minor collectors.

VI. Transportation Planning Coordinator Report

Ozark Foothills Transportation Planning Coordinator Andrew Murphy informed those in attendance that OFRPC staff submitted 9 CDBG paving applications. One on behalf of Butler County in the unincorporated community of Broseley and the Cities of Fisk, Qulin, Neelyville, Poplar Bluff, Ellsinore, Bunker, Ellington, and Williamsville. The Broseley project requested \$191,059 to assist with paving Butler County Road 650. The City of Fisk requested \$622,449 for paving in the community. The City of Qulin requested \$623,277 for paving projects. The City of Neelyville requested \$395,483 for paving around the city. The City of Poplar Bluff requested \$607,174 for paving of various streets. The City of Ellsinore requested \$325,027 for paving. The City of Bunker requested \$625,168 for various paving. The City of Ellington requested \$617,249 for paving in the community. The City of Williamsville requested \$632,449 for paving

Four of these communities, Bunker, Ellsinore, Fisk, and Williamsville required door-to-door surveys to prove over 51% LMI as the Census Data dropped all communities below 50%. The 4 surveys showed Bunker, Ellsinore, and Williamsville had LMI rates in the 80th percentiles and Fisk was over 90% LMI. There was a tremendous amount of help from the communities in completing these surveys, as due to the amount of applications and lack of notice of LMI rate change from the State of Missouri, staff provided mostly technical assistance.

The CDBG MIT/MID Application round opened October 7th with a January 17, 2025 deadline. This MIT/MID funding is tied to the 2017 flood event that we have been waiting to open since 2021. The OFRPC has around 30 projects expected to submit to the round. Along with the LMI change and surveys mentioned previously, the City of Doniphan will have to have an income survey completed as they also fell below 50% LMI by Census data.

An application was submitted for \$433,796 to the State's Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) from the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) for Carter County for paving CR330 near the Royal Oak charcoal plant.

An application was also submitted for \$1,823,557 on behalf of the City of Poplar Bluff to DRA's Critical Infrastructure Fund (CIF) to make road improvements to Butzen, Rowe, and Harlo Dunn Road in the Poplar Bluff Industrial Park.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is open with a November 15th due date. This program aims mostly at parks, and the RPC has submitted successful applications for playground equipment, ball fields, pickle ball courts, etc. The program can also build sidewalks and trails in parks. The application can request up to \$500,000 and is a 50/50 match requirement.

The OFRPC was awarded an \$116,000 Safe Street for All (SS4A) grant by the USDOT to create a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for the 5-county region. A kickoff event and multiple webinars and office hours have occurred this past quarter. We have completed the grant agreement and are currently waiting on approval from the FHWA to begin the project. The total length of the grant will be 30 months, with plan development and completion taking approximately 24 months. The grant agreement is expected to be approved in the next quarter.

Mr. Murphy stated he has just started on the update to the Regional Transportation Plan. The plan is updated every 2 years and was last updated in June 2023. A draft update will be presented to the TAC for review in January 2025 and to the OFRPC Board in March 2025. The TAC will be asked to approve the update at the April 2025 meeting and the Board in June 2025, when the new plan will take effect. The June 2023 Update was quite large, so this update will be fairly minor.

VII. Old Business

Mr. Murphy informed the TAC that he, Brian Rosener, and Rachel Coleman attended an Active Transportation Plan training in August conducted by MoDHSS. The RPC has moved forward with MoDHSS in development of an Active Transportation Plan in Butler County. It's possible this could be the development of 3 plans in the county over a 3 year period, with one plan per year. The City of Qulin has agreed to work with the RPC and MoDHSS on the creation of an ATP for the City. The RPC was able to begin work a bit early on the plan in September and completed some assessment measures provided by the Centers for Disease Control and public hearings. Amber Hornbeck in the office is taking the lead on this project.

The RPC has not heard from the University of Missouri regarding their HOP (High Obesity Program) grant. They did have representatives at the August training, and stated they do plan to move forward with working with regional planning commissions for development of Active Transportation Plans in the counties they have a grant for. The HOP grant covers Ripley and Wayne County for our region.

Separately, OFRPC has been working with the Butler County Health Department on an ATP for the City of Poplar Bluff. Brian Rosener has been the lead on this project and we are still on schedule to be finished by the end of 2024. Brian has updated the Poplar Bluff sidewalk inventory and assessment for the city, and has held a number of public meetings to solicit feedback.

MoDOT has requested more representation from multi-modal representatives in the TAC/Planning Framework Process. RPCs were provided three possible ways to achieve this, and the option that made the most sense of the Ozark Foothills region was to have each of the five counties' add a new seat on their county representation with each new seat filled by a multi-modal representatives/subject-matter experts who have an understanding of multi-modal transportation needs in the region.

Later tonight the TAC will vote to adopt new by-laws expanding TAC membership to 30 total members with 6 from each county and one member from each county based on multi-modal representation.

VIII. New Business

A by-law amendment allowing for multi-modal representation and the expansion to 6 members per county was presented to the TAC for their approval. The proposed language was read aloud as follows:

Under Article III – Membership, Subsection 2, the number of voting members will be changed from 25 to 30. Also, under Article III under Subsection 3, the word “and” would be removed with the following added to the end of the first sentence “and one (1) member representing multi-modal interests.”

A motion to adopt the proposed change in by-laws was made by Jesse Roy and second by Ron Keeney, Carter County. With no further discussion, the motion carried with 12 “yeah” votes and 0 “nah” votes. Reynolds, Ripley, and Wayne Counties had multi-modal representatives in attendance. Mr. Craig Foster has joined the TAC on behalf of Reynolds County and is the Transportation Director for Southern Reynolds County R-II Schools. Mr. Michael Williams has joined the TAC on behalf of Ripley County. Mr. Williams is the Ripley County Clerk, serves on the Board of Directors for Ripley County Transit and has experience with SB40 Boards as the County Clerk. Mr. Tylar Pinkley has joined the TAC on behalf of Wayne County and works with a railroad company. Vince Lampe, Butler County Presiding Commissioner, also announced that Mr. Gary Pride, Airport Director for the City of Poplar Bluff, will join the TAC on behalf of Butler County.

Mr. Murphy announced that TAC officer terms were coming to an end in 2024, with new four year terms to begin in 2025-2028. On a motion by Ron Keeney, and second by Jesse Roy, the reappointment of Brian Polk, Wayne County, as Chairman, and Vince Lampe, Butler County, as Vice-Chairman, was passed unanimously.

The 2025 Meeting Schedule was provided. All in attendance were in agreement to continue meeting on the second Thursdays of January, April, July, and October at 6:00 pm.

IX. General Discussion

Jesse Roy inquired if anyone from the region applied to serve on the LPA Advisory Committee. Mr. Roy is ending his 3-year term at the end of, 2024, and for the past 8 years someone from the region has served on the committee. No one in attendance applied to the committee or knew of applications from the Ozark Foothills region.

X. Adjournment

Ron Keeney moved to adjourn. Chairman Polk adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

TAC ATTENDANCE ROSTER

October 10, 2024

Mr. Alan Lutes	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Andrew Murphy	Ozark Foothills RPC
Mr. Vince Lampe	Butler County
Mr. Don Anderson	Butler County
Mr. Ron Keeney	Carter County
Mr. Randal Jenkins	Carter County
Mr. Steve Chitwood	Reynolds County
Mr. Craig Foster	Reynolds County
Mr. Jesse Roy	Ripley County
Mr. Gary Emmons	Ripley County
Mr. Freddie Leroux	Ripley County
Mr. Jarret Ficke	Ripley County
Mr. Michael Williams	Ripley County
Mr. Brian Polk	Wayne County
Mr. Chad Henson	Wayne County
Mr. Steve Foster	Wayne County (alternate)
Ms. Barb Potter	Wayne County (alternate)
Mr. Tylar Pinkley	Wayne County
Ms. Elquin Auala	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Mike Brandon	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Matt Wilkerson	MoDOT Southeast District
Ms. Melissa Rose	MoDOT Southeast District
Mr. Randy Potter	Guest
Mr. Matt Mittendorf	Guest

THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Dennis LeGrand	Butler County
Mr. Jeff Darnell	Butler County
Mr. Bill Robison	Butler County
Mr. Tom Wilder	Carter County
Mr. Jordan Collins	Carter County
Mr. Eric McSpadden	Carter County
Mr. Eddie Williams	Reynolds County
Mr. Larry Pogue	Reynolds County
Ms. Alicia Baker	Reynolds County
Mr. Darrell Dement	Reynolds County
Mr. Dennis Cox	Ripley County
Mr. Doug Wood	Wayne County
Mr. Bill Kirkpatrick	Wayne County
Mr. Lee Hillis	Wayne County