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TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS

A publication of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission
Transportation Advisory Committee



Representing Crawford, Dent, Gasconade, Maries, Osage, Phelps, Pulaski and Washington Counties



Spring 2017

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Newly elected vice chairman Trudy Matlock runs the Mobility Management Advisory Group meeting in the absence of the chairman at her first meeting as vice chairman Feb. 14. Pictured above: Jack Heusted (left) with OATS, Inc., Trudy Matlock with the Department of Mental Health and Division of Developmental Disabilities, Susan Steinbeck with Gasconade County Special Services and Darin Pryor, an engineer with the city of Rolla.

[Mobility Management Advisory Group elects new vice chairman](#)



Preston Kramer, Meramec area engineer with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), recently shared the recently released "Citizen's Guide to Transportation Funding" with members of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission's (MRPC) Transportation Advisory Group (TAC) Feb. 16.

TAC learns about transportation funding

Most drivers in Missouri spend more on their cell phone each month than they do on transportation funding, Preston Kramer, Meramec area engineer with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), told members of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission's (MRPC) Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) at its Feb. 16 meeting. The average Missouri driver pays about \$30 per month in state and federal fuel taxes and fees. Kramer was sharing information from the recently released "[Citizen's Guide to Transportation Funding](#)."

In an effort to educate and inform Missourians on the current status and future direction of their transportation system, MoDOT created the "Citizen's Guide to Transportation Funding" that takes the complex issues of the state's transportation revenue, expenditures, system condition and unfunded needs and explains them in clear and easy-to-understand terms.

"The Citizen's Guide was created to better educate our customers on how their transportation system is funded, where that funding goes and what is done with it and how transportation funding in Missouri compares to our neighbors and nationwide," Kramer said.

The Mobility Management Advisory Group (MMAG) unanimously elected Trudy Matlock as its new vice chairman at its monthly meeting Feb. 14 at Meramec Regional Planning Commission (MRPC), #4 Industrial Drive, St. James. Chairman Amy Heyer resigned moving Harold Selby, St. James city administrator, into the chair position, causing the vice-chairman vacancy.

"The MMAG plays an integral role in the development of new mobility/transportation programs, such as MO RIDES," Kelly Sink-Blair, MRPC planning and development manager said. "Representatives from transit, social services and local government come together to help guide mobility coordination to best serve the residents of the Meramec Region."

Matlock works as the quality enhancement lead at the Department of Mental Health and Division of Developmental Disabilities Rolla satellite office. She has been involved with the MMAG since it was formed in October 2015.

The advisory group meets on the second Tuesday of every month. Times vary from afternoon to lunch meetings, so please call MRPC at 573-265-2993 to verify meeting times.



Buckle up - phone down

The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety and MoDOT are challenging state agencies and Missouri businesses to join the Buckle Up - Phone Down movement. The challenge is simple: when you get into any vehicle, buckle up your safety belt. If you are a driver, put the cellphone down.

Right now, Missouri has a "no texting" law for drivers under 21 years old. But we are challenging all drivers to honor that ban no matter what their age. In 2016, 940 people were killed in Missouri traffic crashes - 686 were vehicle drivers and passengers, with 63 percent being unbuckled. When a driver is texting and driving, they are 23 times more likely to be in a critical incident.

With stats like that, it's time for businesses, communities, government agencies and individuals to accept the challenge. So far, 105 people have taken the pledge - 24 of those individual's businesses have also pledged their support.

Sign up here to take the challenge - [Buckle Up - Phone Down](#).

Route 19 Bridge Over Second Creek Close for Replacement

Work to replace the Route 19 bridge over Second Creek will begin the morning of Monday, March 20. The bridge, which is located approximately eight miles north of Owensville, will be closed to traffic for 60 days until construction of the new bridge is completed.

Included on the "Citizen's Guide to Transportation Funding" is a transportation calculator, which figures an individual's monthly contribution with just four simple questions. For example, if you drove approximately 20,000 miles in the state of Missouri last year, your car gets 20 miles per gallon, is gas-fueled, and you didn't purchase a car last year, your contribution would be \$32.79/month. This does not take into consideration the hidden costs of transportation from operating your vehicle on roads in poor condition, such as accelerated vehicle depreciation, additional vehicle repair costs, increased fuel consumption and increased tire wear.

"We currently spend about \$1.4 billion annually towards our roads and bridges, but while we are treading water here in the Meramec Area, we are not statewide," Kramer explained about the current state transportation situation. "In the more rural areas of Missouri (primarily north of Route 36), we will not be able to maintain the current conditions of roads and bridges. An investment of an additional \$50 million annually would allow us to maintain the current conditions of our roads and bridges statewide. Any additional funding on top of that could be used on projects that increase safety and promote economic development."

Currently, Missouri has the 7th largest highway system in the United States. However, Missouri is ranked 47th nationally in revenue per mile.

"We will continue to do everything we can with what we have, but there are many, many projects and unmet transportation needs that our customers want that we cannot provide and will not be able to provide because we cannot afford to." Kramer said.

For those interested in seeing what their contribution to the state's transportation funding is, visit www.modot.org/guidetotransportation/.

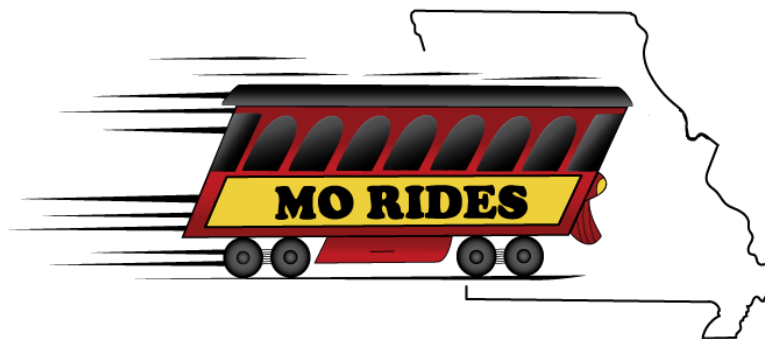
In other business, the TAC:

- Heard an update on the Coalition for Roadway Safety's education initiatives;
- Received updates on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan (PTHSTCP) and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) meeting coming up;
- Learned of progress on 2017 MoDOT construction projects. The Hwy. 42 bridge and Pulaski County roundabout are currently in process and work, including brush removal, pipes and ditch repair around Hwy. V in Phelps County, is beginning.
- Received an update on Rolla's Transportation Development District (TDD) and reviewed the projects to include the reshaping of Hwy. 63 and the west side commercial development. They are in the process of selling bonds and tax credits and acquiring property along the Hwy. 72 extension; and
- Heard a request from Larry Helms of Pulaski County that signage be placed on Hwy. PP where it changes from blacktop to gravel as several people are being incorrectly directed along this route and not slowing down in time for the pavement change.

Persons needing more information on MRPC's Transportation Advisory Committee may contact MRPC at (573) 265-2993. The group will meet again at 4 p.m. April 13 at MRPC, 4 Industrial Dr., St. James. Meetings are open to the public.

Formed in 1969, MRPC is a voluntary council of governments serving Crawford, Dent, Gasconade, Maries, Osage, Phelps, Pulaski and Washington counties and their respective cities. A professional staff of 25, directed by the MRPC board, offers technical assistance and services, such as grant preparation and administration, housing assistance, transportation planning, environmental planning, ordinance codification, business loans and other services to member communities.

To keep up with the latest MRPC news and events, visit the MRPC website at www.meramecregion.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/meramecregion/.



MO RIDES starts voucher program for qualified individuals

MO RIDES - Meramec, a transportation referral service administered by Meramec Regional Planning Commission (MRPC), is kicking off its Mobility Voucher Program (MVP) beginning March 1. The program provides a \$10 voucher to assist individuals, who meet

Electronic message boards will be in place in the area to warn motorists of the closure. A signed detour will also be in place.

The signed detour routes around the bridge are:

- Route 19 North: East on Route 28 and then north on Route 50 back to Route 19.
- Route 19 South: South on Route 50 and then west on Route 28 back to Route 19.

Click here for the [Gasconade Route 19 Bridge Replacement Map](#).

Roadway repairs to impact areas around I-44 in Rolla

Contractors working for the Missouri Department of Transportation will begin a grading and pavement project at the Phelps County Route V interchange along I-44 in Rolla on Monday, Feb. 20. New concrete pavement will be installed to accommodate a high concentration of truck traffic through the area. One lane of Route V will be closed between I-44 and Hypoint Boulevard during the work. The project is scheduled for completion in May.

MoDOT appreciates the patience of motorists during the work.

For more information about this project or other transportation-related matters, please call 1-888-ASK-MoDOT (275-6636) or visit www.modot.org/central. Follow the [MoDOT Central Missouri District](#) on Facebook for project updates.

Upcoming Meetings

2017 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) board meetings dates will be

- April 13
- June 8
- Aug. 10

Meetings start at 4 p.m.

For more information about upcoming meetings, contact Bonnie Prigge at 573-265-2993 or bprigge@meramecregion.org

eligibility criteria, with paying for ride fares. For example if a ride fare is \$15, the voucher will cover \$10 and the rider is responsible for the remaining \$5.

Through MRPC, MO RIDES – Meramec coordinates efforts with existing transportation providers to find affordable transportation for people who need a ride to work, medical appointments, shopping, church or anywhere they wish to go. The referral service is at no cost to the rider, however riders must pay for the cost of the ride.

To receive a transportation voucher from MVP, participants must reside within MO RIDES eight-county service area – Crawford, Dent, Gasconade, Maries, Osage, Phelps, Pulaski and Washington. They must also meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a member of a low-income household (individual income of less than 200% of the poverty level), or
- Have a verified disability, or
- Be age 65 or older,
- Agree to participate in the program evaluation assessment process, and
- Abide by the MVP rules.

There is a limit of two vouchers per rider for the life of the program. An adult must accompany riders under the age of 18.

“Access to transportation is crucial to residents in our rural areas, so being able to link a provider to someone needing a ride is key, however, there are times when that rider simply cannot afford the ride – and they still need to go to the doctor,” MRPC Executive Director Bonnie Prigge said. “The voucher program will help address that issue.”

The voucher program is funded through donations, which are matched through a MoDOT transit grant up to \$25,000. MO RIDES is currently seeking donations or funding opportunities for the remainder of the MoDOT match funds.

“Our funds are very limited at this time, and we are hopeful more organizations will donate to the cause so we can leverage our full grant,” Prigge said.

For more information on MO RIDES, finding a ride or how to donate to the voucher program, contact Samantha Maddison at 573-265-2993 Ext. 113 or via email at smaddison@meramecregion.org. You can also visit www.morides.org for more information or to find information on rides outside the eight county service area.

This message was sent to smaddison@meramecregion.org by cjones@meramecregion.org

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