

The MHTC is a six-member board (confirmed by the Missouri Senate) that governs the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT). It has authority over all state transportation programs and facilities including bridges, highways, aviation, railroads, public transportation, ports and waterborne commerce.

Hillhouse's term ends March 1, 2017.

Need a ride? MO RIDES-Meramec can help!



MO RIDES-Meramec is a referral service that connects riders to transportation providers, whether you are in a rural area or "in town."

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. Transportation costs are covered by the rider.

MO RIDES-Meramec provides referral services for residents of Crawford, Dent, Gasconade, Maries, Osage, Phelps, Pulaski and Washington counties.

To find a ride:

- CALL Samantha Maddison at MRPC at 573-265-2993, Ext. 113, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

- VISIT www.morides.org

Click the county on the map in which you need a ride. Then click on the links of the transportation providers listed to find the one that is right for you. You will need to contact them to make a specific arrangement.

- Email Samantha Maddison at smaddison@meramecregion.org with our transportation need.

If you need help coordinating providers, MO RIDES-Meramec can help make reservations as well as coordinate multiple providers to get you to your destination.

Upcoming Meetings

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

- Feb. 16
- Apr. 13
- June 8

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

- Replacement of the bridge over Fourche A Renault Creek on Route AA in Washington County.

The priority list is an annual planning exercise for the TAC.

Also during the evening, the TAC reviewed a list of high severity accident locations and prioritized those for consideration for road safety audits.

The TAC also heard presentations from six cities in the Meramec Region – Belle, Potosi, St. James, Waynesville, Rolla and Salem – on sidewalk improvements through MoDOT's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

The top three, as ranked by the TAC, are:

- Replacement of sidewalks along Johnson Avenue to make the connection between the school and proposed Rock Island Trail in Belle;
- Sidewalk and accessibility connections between school, community center and park in Salem; and
- Accessibility and connectivity improvements to sidewalks and shoulders on Historic Route 66 in Waynesville.

The projects are among some 23 requests in MoDOT's 18-county central district.

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. Feb. 16 at MRPC, 4 Industrial Dr., St. James. Meetings are open to the public.

Speed limit lowered on Route 19 in Swiss

In an effort to increase safety on Missouri Route 19 in Swiss, the speed limit has been lowered from 55 mph to 45 mph. The lower speed limit is in effect between Routes N and F.

Signs noting the speed limit change have been installed, and a speed trailer alerting drivers to their speeds will be stationed in the area for a limited time after the first of the year.

The Missouri Department of Transportation reviewed the speed limit on Route 19 at the request of local law enforcement, first responders and elected officials and agreed the speed limit should be reduced.

"We are hopeful the lower speed limit will make traveling on this stretch of Route 19 safer," said MoDOT Central District Engineer David Silvester.

For more information, visit www.modot.org/central or call 1-888-ASK-MoDOT (275-6636).

Speed limit increasing on Highway 68

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) made the decision to increase the speed limit on Highway 68 from St. James to Vichy to 60 miles per hour (mph).

Both Maries County and Phelps County Commissions requested a speed study be conducted after recent improvements to the highway were completed, which included widening the road and installing new rumble strips.

"We thereafter conducted a thorough analysis of the roadway to determine what the most appropriate speed limit should be and concluded that the speed limit could be raised to 60 mph (currently 55 mph) without any adverse impacts," MoDOT Meramec Area Engineer Preston Kramer said in an email. "We've ordered the signs and hope to have them in and installed before spring of 2017."

MoDOT ran the idea by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and they agreed that the 5 mph increase would be appropriate.

The MRPC TAC is a transportation advisory committee . . . your transportation advisory committee! For many years, transportation users outside of the urban areas were planned for, not planned with. Citizens in rural areas had virtually no role in the development of the transportation plans affecting their community. That changed with the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), and its 1998 successor, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21). These acts require that long range transportation planning includes statewide public, private and governmental input—meaningful input—from the grass roots level which will be considered and used in the development of transportation plans. That same effort has continued with SAFETEA-LU - The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Safety Act: A Legacy of Users - in 2005 and MAP-21 - Moving ahead for Progress - in 2012.

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