

**Meramec Region Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2015**

Members Present: Paul Watson (Crawford), Kenny Killeen (Crawford), Leo Sanders (Crawford), Nathan Schauf (Gasconade), Ray Schwartze (Maries), Vicki Bade (Maries), Dave Dudenhoeffer (Osage), Larry Kliethermes (Osage), Jeff Davis (Phelps), John Petersen (Phelps), Randy Verkamp (Phelps), George Sanders (Pulaski), Gene Newkirk (Pulaski), James Morgan (Pulaski), John Casey (Washington) and T.R. Dudley (Washington).

Members Absent: Gary Brown (Dent), Ray Walden (Dent), Darrell Skiles (Dent), John Kamler (Gasconade), Jerry Lairmore (Gasconade), Mark James (Maries), Paul Haslag (Osage), John Butz (Phelps), Larry Stratman (Phelps), Cyndra Lorey (Phelps), Gary Hicks (Phelps), Bruce Harrill (Pulaski), Jeff Clark (Pulaski), Darrell Duncan (Pulaski), Marvin Wright (Washington), Cody Brinley (Washington) and Mike Riddle (Washington).

Guests, MoDOT and Ex-Officio: Preston Kramer, Kelly Wilson, Steve Engelbrecht and Ken Bassett.

Staff Present: Lyle Thomas, Connie Willman, Bonnie Prigge and Shannon Coatney.

Call to Order and Welcome: Chairman Sanders called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Approval of December 11, 2014 Minutes: John Casey, made a motion, seconded by Kenny Killeen, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

MoDOT 325 Plan: In the absence of David Silvester, Preston Kramer reported on the MoDOT 325 Plan. In response to reduced funding, the plan will change the way MoDOT handles the repair and maintenance of transportation infrastructure in the future. In 2017, MoDOT's construction funding will drop to \$325 million. It will take all of the \$325 million in construction funding to keep primary roads (approximately 8,000 miles of Missouri's 34,000-mile system that connect cities across the state) in their current condition. Only limited maintenance will be completed on the remaining miles of supplementary roads.

Dudley shared an idea for future funding. He has investigated funding mechanisms in other states and suggested that a .5 % fee on each car sold in Missouri might be an answer to the funding dilemma. This type of fee would have to go to a vote and would only capitalize the 325 fund. The proposal would keep good elements of Amendment 7. Dudley will work to compile an information sheet for consideration by legislators and others.

Notification of Road and Bridge Closures: Kramer explained MoDOT's notification process to be used in the region if roads or bridges are required to be closed due to condition or safety concerns. MoDOT will notify officials well ahead if a bridge or road is scheduled for closing. In emergency situations, the county dispatch will be notified and MoDOT will request that they notify fire departments, school officials, highway patrol districts, etc.

Regional Transportation Plan--Goals and Objectives: Thomas reported that the RTP is being updated and is due to MoDOT at the end of June. He presented the revisions to the goals and objectives that include resiliency elements. Dudley made a motion, seconded by Kenny Killeen, to approve the revisions. Motion passed.

Bylaws Changes: Thomas presented changes to the Bylaws that included minor membership updates. Schwartz made a motion, seconded by Clark, to approve the changes as presented. Motion passed.

Statewide Planning Partners Meeting: Leo Sanders and Prigge reported on the Planning Partners' meeting that they and Lyle Thomas attended on February 2, 2015 in Jefferson City. Although this meeting did not include discussion of needs or projects and allocation of funding, it did include considerable information

about all modes of transportation, including rail and airports. Some legislators or their staff attended this meeting as well.

MoDOT Updates: Engelbrecht reported that MoDOT is going into the STIP cycle. He also noted that more scoping projects should be brought into STIP and new projects will be limited to the primary system. Maintenance of system will be limited in the coming years. Bridges on the secondary routes will receive limited maintenance and will be subject to load posting when needed to extend serviceability. MoDOT will be required to close bridges in the future if preventive maintenance and load posting are inadequate to ensure the safety of the traveling public.

Kelly Wilson reported that LPA projects are moving forward. Additionally, more funding may be available in the near future.

Kramer reported that the Phelps County Hwy. 8 bridge upgrades will begin in the spring. He also reported that MoDOT Director Dave Nichols will be retiring in May.

Committee members discussed the focus for prioritization for 2015. It will be important to look at the current needs list and discuss those that are on the supplementary routes. It was suggested that we include scenarios for primary routes and scenarios for supplementary routes.

Fatality Rate: Prigge reported that the fatality rate is higher this year in the state and the region. She distributed a report for the past several years. MRPC has been hosting workshops on how to conduct docudramas and safety days, Think First initiatives and the Buckle Buddy Program.

Speed Limit Increase: The committee briefly discussed an effort underway to increase the Missouri speed limit to 75.

Adjournment: Being no further business, Newkirk made a motion, seconded by Davis, that the meeting adjourns. Motion passed.