

**Meramec Region Transportation Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 25, 2015**

**Members Present:** Leo Sanders (Crawford), Gary Brown (Dent), Darrell Skiles (Dent), Ray Walden (Dent), Robert Parsons, (Dent Alt.), Nathan Schauf (Gasconade), Ray Schwartz (Maries), Vicki Bade (Maries), Ron Rowden (Maries), David Dudenhoeffer (Osage), Larry Kliethermes (Osage), John Petersen (Phelps Alt.), George Lauritson (Pulaski), James Morgan (Pulaski Alt.), John Casey (Washington), T. R. Dudley (Washington) and Marvin Wright (Washington), Larry Stratman (Phelps),

**Members Absent:** Larry Miskel (Gasconade Alt.), John Butz (Phelps), Jim White (Phelps), Cyndra Lorey (Phelps Alt.), Gary Hicks (Phelps Alt.), Randy Verkamp (Phelps Alt.), Gene Newkirk (Pulaski), Jeff Clark (Pulaski Alt.), Darrell Duncan (Pulaski Alt.), Cody Brinley (Washington Alt.), and Mike Riddle (Washington Alt.) Paul Watson (Crawford), John Kamler (Gasconade), Jerry Larimore (Gasconade), Deborth Mehmert (Osage), Bruce Harrill (Pulaski),

**Guests Present:** Preston Kramer, MoDOT Area Engineer, Kelly Wilson, MoDOT, Steve Engelbrecht, MoDOT, Bill Whitfield, MoDOT, Dave Silvester, MoDOT

**Staff Present:** Lyle Thomas, Kelly Sink-Blair, Roxanne Murphy and Bonnie Prigge.

**Call to Order & Welcome:** Chairman, Leo Sanders, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**Approval of December 10, 2015, TAC Minutes:** Changes requested to add Kenny Killeen and Larry Stratman as present and show Paul Watson as absent. Darrell Skiles made a motion, seconded by Ray Schwartze to approve the minutes with changes. Motion carried.

**Central District Update:** Dave Sylvester, MoDOT District Engineer, provided the TAC an overview of issues affecting the state and region. 1) Legislative Updates: little interest in passing any form of funding legislation. The House has shown support for Cost Share funding. It is the Highway Commission's priority to use Cost Share funds to maintain the system as opposed to expansion projects. 2) Funding Updates: With the FAST Act providing funding security over the next 5 years, MoDOT is in a better position to utilize its \$900 million cash balance to match federal funds and implement construction budgets from \$700 million to \$860 million over the next 5 years. With an improved economy, MoDOT is reaping some funding increases. Fuel tax funds and vehicles sales have boosted MoDOT funding by about \$45 million, which can match about \$160 million of federal funds. Due to this increase, the Highway Commission rescinded the 325 Plan at its January 2016 meeting. 3) Weather Update: the mild winter has resulted in a cost savings for MoDOT. MoDOT will use this savings to increase its maintenance budget and will get to address some minor roads with resurfacing.

John Casey and T.R. Dudley mentioned the possibility of additional taxes on new/used car sales. Dave Sylvester said this type of legislation is not moving in legislature. He also noted that legislation to transfer some state roadways to county ownership and to fund the Highway Patrol out of General Revenue is also stagnant.

**Highway Safety Legislative Update and Grassroots Campaign:** Bill Whitfield, Highway Safety Director, provided updates related to safety. The Highway Safety division focuses on the behavioral aspects of highway safety. He noted that there are more drivers on Missouri's roads today which results in more vehicle accidents. Missouri had made significant gains in the number of fatalities on its roads between 2005-2014, but lost some gains in 2015. Mr. Whitfield noted that speed-related crashes had increased. The Highway Safety Division works on many outreach programs, many through partnerships with law enforcement such as 'Click it or Ticket' and "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over." Combining high visibility enforcement with education has proven successful. There are several legislative bills that are related to highway safety but the main two are: 1) Primary Seat Belt Law. Currently, Missouri has a secondary seat belt law. Missouri has a seat belt use rate of 80% compared to the nation at 88.5% and it is estimated the law would increase the state's rate. 2) Texting Ban. The Highway Safety Division cannot access good numbers on this because it is

under-reported. Studies have shown that 50-60% of crashes are from distracted driving. The House has scheduled March 7, 2016 for a hearing on 5 different bills related to texting.

The SAVEMOLIVES website has weekly updates on pertinent legislation as well as a wealth of educational information.

MoDOT is not in favor of one bill to repeal Missouri's helmet law. It is estimated that motorcycle fatalities will increase if the law is repealed.

**FAST Act:** Preston Kramer, Area Engineer, gave a summary of the new federal FAST Act. Passed in December 2015, the FAST Act provides funding for the next 5 years. It retained all the programs from MAP-21, although changed the names of some. It did include a provision for tolling I-70, but not likely that MoDOT will utilize this. There is an increased importance on freight and two programs to specifically fund freight. Federal transit programs also received an increase in funding.

**Central District Partnering Opportunities:** Preston Kramer, Area Engineer, explained that under the FAST Act, asset management became a greater priority. The Central District fared well when determining a 10 year estimate on maintaining its roads and bridges as they are in their current state. As a result, the district can provide some funds for small partnering projects (which are not the same as the previous Cost-Share projects). The district is working with Owensville and Potosi on two potential projects. Mr. Kramer informed the group that if a community is interested, it should send him a proposal letter.

George Lauritson asked if engineering would be done by MoDOT. Mr. Kramer confirmed that engineering would be included in the total project cost and could be contributed by MoDOT as part of its contribution, or by the LPA as part of its contribution.

**Transportation Funding for LPAs:** Kelly Sink-Blair, MRPC, gave a presentation to the TAC on sources of transportation funding other than MoDOT. She reviewed the basic guidelines for several state and federal programs that can fund bridge, street, trails, sidewalks, etc.

**MoDOT Updates and Staff Reports:** Preston Kramer, MoDOT, said all the construction projects for 2015 have been completed. The crews are working on brush cutting, rock and ditch work they didn't have time for before. Kelly Wilson, MoDOT said the 2016 BRO and STIP applications will be coming out soon and they will follow the same method as used for previous distribution. Steve Englebrecht, MoDOT shared information on the process of drafting the new STIP.

**Member Reports:** None provided

**Next TAC Meeting:** April 14, 2016.

**Adjournment:** George Lauritson made a motion, seconded by T.R. Dudley, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.