

**Meramec Regional Planning Commission  
Transportation Advisory Committee**

Thursday, February 13, 2014  
4:00 p.m.

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members and Alternates Present:** Gary Brown, Ray Walden (Dent); John Kamler (Gasconade); John Petersen (Phelps); George Sanders, Darrell Duncan (Pulaski); John Casey and T.R. Dudley (Washington).

**Members and Alternates Absent:** Paul Watson, Kenny Killeen, Leo Sanders (Crawford); Darrell Skiles (Dent); Jerry Lairmore, John Tracy (Gasconade); Ray Schwartze, James Kleffner, Mark James (Maries); Paul Haslag, Dae Dudenhoeffer, Larry Kleithermes (Osage); John Butz, Jeff Davis, Larry Stratman, Gary Hicks, Randy Verkamp (Phelps); Bruce Harrill, Gene Newkirk (Pulaski); Marvin Wright, Cody Brinley and Mike Riddle (Washington).

**MoDOT Personnel, Ex-Officio Members and Guests:** Preston Kramer, Steve Engelbrecht and Michael Henderson (MoDOT); Dan Fuhrman (Phelps Co.); Gary Stevens (Phelps Co.); James Morgan (Mayor of Crocker); George Lauritson (Waynesville R-IV); Anita Ivey (Pulaski Co.) Mitch MacDonald (Pulaski Co.).

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

**Call to Order and Welcome:**

Chairman, John Petersen, called the February 13, 2014, Transportation Advisory Committee meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

**Approval of Oct. 10, 2013, TAC minutes:**

John Kamler made a motion to approve the December 12, 2013, minutes of the TAC meeting. Ray Walden seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Bleak Financial Forecast for MoDOT:**

Preston Kramer reported that MoDOT will not be adding any project to the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). He explained that construction projects are part of a five- year rolling plan. Most of the funding comes from the state gas tax. Additional funding comes from the federal level, which is set by the most recent transportation bill. These funds come from the Highway Trust Fund. There is less money coming in than going out, therefore, the fund will become insolvent this fall. Since fewer dollars are coming in than what is needed to maintain the existing system, there will be no new projects added to the STIP.

The cost-share program is quite successful, but it has been suspended and there will be no new applications for the time being. Current projects in the cost share program will continue and be completed because they were already programmed projects. All future dollars must go toward maintaining the system.

Mr. Kramer advised the TAC to not forget about the cost-share projects. The program will eventually come back so be prepared to submit when the cost share program is no longer suspended.

Preston reported that two additional projects planned to be completed with approved work on Highway 63 in Rolla, a right turn lane onto Bishop Ave and a cross walk at the Wal-Mart intersection have been cancelled due to lack of funding.

**Multi-modal Needs Identification for Sales Tax Purposes:**

Steve Engelbrecht introduced MoDOT Liaison, Mike Henderson, from the Central Office in Jefferson City. Mr. Engelbrecht reported that an initiative petition has been filed with Secretary of State's office for a one-cent sales tax for transportation to be placed on the November ballot. Associated with that sales tax MoDOT must provide a list of projects that the sales tax would fund.

Mr. Engelbrecht explained the steps in the process for identification and prioritization of multi-modal needs lists. He also mentioned a legislative bill has been introduced which would allow, if approved, the tax to go before the voters in November. This legislation would also require a list of projects funded by the tax.

He explained the first step in the process is for the RPCs to provide to MoDOT their process for identifying and prioritizing multi-modal projects within their region. This process is to be submitted to MoDOT by the end of February. RPCs will finalize their prioritization lists by mode and submit to MoDOT by April, 2014.

### **Proposed Multi-Modal Need Identification Process for the Meramec Region:**

Bonnie Prigge discussed the importance of beginning the needs identification process and that although legislation is currently being considered; the Initiative Process for the proposed sales tax is on hold awaiting the outcome of the legislation.

The process for multi-modal needs identification in the Meramec Region must be inclusive, transparent and accountable. These lists of identified needs will be included in the annual update of the Regional Transportation Plan.

Staff distributed a list of transportation needs by mode and asked TAC members to review it and add to it based on each county's needs. Ms. Prigge explained that the Regional Transportation plan details road and bridge needs in the region and the Safe Routes to School program gave the TAC a good idea of bike/pedestrian needs.

Mr. Kramer emphasized that if bill is approved it will be a vote of the people and it will succeed or fail based on the needs list put in front of the voters.

### **Review of Transportation Values System and Prioritization of Transportation Values:**

Each TAC member was asked to rank MoDOTs "On the Move" transportation values at the end of the meeting by placing 100 pennies in jars labeled with each value:

- Keep all travelers safe, no matter the model of transportation
- Invest in projects that spur economic growth and create jobs
- Take care of the transportation systems and services we enjoy today
- Give Missourians better transportation choices
- Other factors to consider.

Votes (pennies) will be tallied at the April 10, 2014, TAC meeting.

### **Allocating Your Transportation Dollar:**

Bonnie Prigge said it is important to know, how our region wants their transportation dollars allocated across modes. Input is needed from both the general public and the TAC. Everyone in attendance was given a paper ballot which identified all six modes of transportation; aviation, bike/ped, highways/bridges, ports, rail and transit. They were asked to divide one dollar across all six modes.

Lyle gave an overview of the multimodal assets of Meramec Region.

### **Review of Identified Multi-Modal Transportation Needs and discussion on Public Outreach:**

Bonnie Prigge asked the TAC to look at the contact list and think about needs and who can best give a voice to those needs.

She suggested combining like projects on the needs lists. For example: maintenance for all lettered routes instead of provide maintenance one specific road.

Rolla resident, Gary Stevens, mentioned people that can't drive and get out of their homes. Ms. Prigge agreed to add increased availability of Southeast Missouri Transportation Service (SMTS) and OATS to the needs list.

### **Needs Identification Open House:**

There will be a public forum in March to discuss multi-modal needs, location to be announced. In April the TAC will prioritize the needs at the April 10, 2014 meeting.

### **MoDOT Updates:**

Mr. Kramer reported that there is only one active construction project. Hwy. 50 passed the 50 percent complete point. The project is on-schedule and the last major project in the STIP.

Mr. Kramer reported that crews have been pushing a lot of snow. The snow will undoubtedly create more potholes. He explained that MoDOT is experience a salt shortage. Since salt is bought on contract in advance, emergency supplies must be purchased from an out-of-state vendor and the quality is subpar.

MoDOT applies salt, beet juice and abrasives to combat slick roadways.

Ms. Prigge reported that she's on a Local Public Agency's Statewide Advisory Committee and they're looking for ways to streamline the hiring process for consultants. One suggestion was having an on-call list of preapproved consultants for jobs costing \$100,000 or less. This can be incorporated into a website.

Communities may still go through the qualification process if their consultant isn't on the list.

Bonnie Prigge updated the TAC on the Blueprint for Safer Roadways. Fatalities in the Meramec Region are

less than last year, but Washington County is concerning due to its increase. Staff announced the Project Graduation funding for schools that completed Battle of Belt.

Preston said seatbelt usage at Potosi High was less than 50 percent, which is very concerning. Valley High was one the most improved at 100 percent.

**Next Meeting:** April 10, 2014, 4:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:** Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:31.

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TAC Chairman

Date