

Meramec Region Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2018

Members Present: Rob Cummings (Crawford), Jared Boast (Crawford), Leo Sanders (Crawford), Gary Brown (Dent), Ray Walden (Dent), Darrell Skiles (Dent), John Kamler (Gasconade), Robert Koerber (Gasconade), Ray Schwartz (Maries), David Dudenhoeffer (Osage), Larry Kliethermes (Osage), Darin Pryor (Phelps), Gary Hicks (Phelps Alt.), Mitch McDonald (Pulaski), George Lauritson (Pulaski), John Casey (Washington), Marvin Wright (Washington), and T. R. Dudley (Washington)

Members Absent: Danny Brown (Crawford Alt.), Robert Parsons (Dent Alt.), Jerry Lairmore (Gasconade), Nathan Schauf (Gasconade Alt.), Larry Miskel (Gasconade Alt.), Vicki Bade (Maries), Ron Rowden (Maries), Mark James (Maries), Deb Mehmert (Osage), Jim White (Phelps), Larry Stratman (Phelps), John Butz (Phelps Alt.), Randy Verkamp (Phelps Alt.), Cyndra Lorey (Phelps Alt.), Bruce Harrill (Pulaski), Gene Newkirk (Pulaski), Larry Helms (Pulaski Alt.), Glen Smith (Pulaski-Alt.), Cody Brinley (Washington Alt.), and Mike Riddle (Washington Alt.)

Guests Present: Oscar Powers (FLW), Kim Tipton (MoDOT), Jerica Holtsclaw (MoDOT), Steve Engelbrecht (MoDOT), and Preston Kramer (MoDOT Area Engineer)

Staff Present: Anne Freand (MRPC), Bonnie Prigge (MRPC), and Caitlin Jones (MRPC)

Call to Order & Welcome: John Casey, Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:04pm.

Approval of February 15, 2017 TAC Minutes: Ray Walden made a motion, George Lauritson seconded. Minutes were approved as presented.

Selection of Nominating Committee: Staff asked the Committee for four members to sit on the Nominating Committee for new officers. It was noted that a new chairman and vice-chairman will need to be nominated since John Casey and Dave Dudenhoeffer are both in their second terms. Larry Stratman is currently in his first term as secretary. Gary Hicks, Darrell Skiles, Leo Sanders, and Marvin Wright volunteered to sit on the committee. Staff noted that they would likely meet prior to the June TAC meeting or hold a conference call in order to nominate new officers.

Autonomous Vehicles and Missouri's Roadways: Jerica Holtsclaw, MoDOT, presented on autonomous vehicles and noted how they are already a part of our driving experience and will play a role in the future of transportation in Missouri. In fact, the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is including the autonomous vehicle discussion in its Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which is now available for public review. The LRTP established the same goals as the 2014 plan with the addition of one new goal – to improve reliability and reduce congestion on Missouri's transportation system. As part of the LRTP, MoDOT has begun preparing for autonomous and connected vehicles.

There are five levels of autonomous vehicles. Level one includes vehicles with driver assistance systems such as cruise control. Level two is on the road today, includes vehicles with lane departure assistance, smart cruise control that can slow down when approaching other vehicles and more. In five to 10 years, conditional automation is expected where a vehicle can perform most tasks with the expectation that a passenger will respond to a request to intervene. Most manufacturers, according to Holtsclaw, are attempting to skip to level four – vehicles that can perform all driving tasks even if a passenger does not

respond to a request to intervene. Finally, level five includes vehicles that can perform all driving tasks under all road and environment conditions that a human can.

With autonomous and connected vehicles, there are both pros and cons, according to Holtsclaw. Some of the pros include an increase in number of vehicles able to be on the road at one time; the technology can be used for public shuttles or shared vehicles; semi-trucks become more efficient because they can caravan by connecting to the first truck with a driver and the others follow, and safety becomes greater as the room for human error is taken out of the equation. At this point, there are some obvious problems, however – cybersecurity, privacy, and who is responsible when an autonomous vehicle fails.

Missouri's answer to autonomous vehicles for now is to take its lead from federal legislation. MoDOT is looking at ways to improve infrastructure to accommodate for these vehicles, but are hesitant to invest too much into technology or legislation for autonomous vehicles, as it could be out of date as soon as it's installed.

Review of the 2018-2019 Transportation Planning Work Plan: Anne Freand reviewed the Transportation Work Plan for the upcoming fiscal year that will be presented to MoDOT in May and early June. She noted that the financials were not included in the draft as final numbers have to be calculated by the Fiscal Department prior to submittal. A vote and recommendation is required of the TAC Committee prior to approval by the MRPC Board. T.R. Dudley made a motion to approve the Work Plan as presented, Darrell Skiles seconded. Motion was approved.

Update on Legislative Activities: Bonnie Prigge provided an updated on traffic safety and noted that the primary seatbelt law appears to be going nowhere. There was additional discussion on sobriety checkpoints, motorcycle helmet, texting and driving, and motor fuel tax legislation items.

MRPC Staff Reports: Bonnie Prigge provided a fatality update for the region and noted that there were several traffic related deaths in the month of April. Work Zone Awareness Week begins April 30th. There were also 9 project graduation grants and 1 for a docudrama in the region. MRPC staff is working with local schools on the docudrama training. Anne Freand noted that she still needed registrants for an upcoming Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) to be held on April 28th and 29th.

2018 Construction Projects: Preston Kramer provided an overview of active projects and reviewed those projects that would be starting in the next few months.

MoDOT Updates and Staff Reports (As time allows): Nothing additional was provided at this time.

Member Reports (As time allows): T.R. Dudley noted that there had been two more fatalities in Washington County at a Hwy 185 intersection. MoDOT staff noted that a potential cost-share project could be done if there was an engineering answer to address the issues at the intersection. Robert Koerber asked MoDOT about noise issues with northbound Hwy 19 coming into Hermann. John Kamler provided an update on the school road project on Hwy 19 and discussed the cost-share options. He noted that there were 44 MS&T students working on 10 projects in the area. Caledonia is also seeing road improvements outside of the white lines on the roadways.

Next TAC Meeting: June 14, 2018

Adjournment: Robery Koerber motioned to adjourn, Gary Hicks seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:29pm.