

Meramec Region Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2018

Members Present: Leo Sanders (Crawford), Rob Cummings (Crawford), Jared Boast (Crawford), Gary Brown (Dent), Ray Walden (Dent), Darrell Skiles (Dent), Robert Parsons (Dent Alt.), Jerry Lairmore (Gasconade), Robert Koerber (Gasconade), Ray Schwartz (Maries), Deb Mehmert (Osage), David Dudenhoefter (Osage), Jim White (Phelps), Larry Stratman (Phelps), Gary Hicks (Phelps Alt.), Mitch McDonald (Pulaski), George Lauritson (Pulaski), John Casey (Washington), and T. R. Dudley (Washington)

Members Absent: Danny Brown (Crawford Alt.), John Kamler (Gasconade), Nathan Schauf (Gasconade Alt.), Larry Miskel (Gasconade Alt.), Vicki Bade (Maries), Ron Rowden (Maries), Mark James (Maries), Larry Kliethermes (Osage), Darin Pryor (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.), Marvin Wright (Washington), Cody Brinley (Washington Alt.), and Mike Riddle (Washington Alt.)

Guests Present: Oscar Powers (FLW) 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 April 12, 2018 TAC Minutes: George Lauritson made a motion, T.R. Dudley seconded. Minutes were approved as presented.

Selection of Nominating Committee: The nominating committee met prior to the June 2018 TAC meeting to set nominations for the upcoming fiscal year. Staff presented the decisions of the nominating committee which included Ray Walden for Chairman, George Lauritson for Vice-Chair, and Darin Pryor for Secretary. Gary Hicks made a motion to approve the nominations as presented, T.R. Dudley seconded. The new officers were approved as submitted.

Regional Airport Updates: George Lauritson spoke to the committee regarding the Waynesville-St. Robert Regional Airport. The airport sees 8,000-9,000 passengers and offers service 4- flights per day. They are pursuing grants and need a new terminal, approximately 10,000 sq. ft., for possible jet service for two additional flights. Several major airlines are looking into the project. Marvin Wright presented information regarding the Washington County airport. He noted its limited size and their hopes to improve the 4500 x 75 ft. runway. The city and county hope to partner with industrial and commercial entities for an increase in the use of the airport. The airport has a new terminal building, with needs of a runway overlay and possible expansion. The Rolla Airport update included information on the new industrial park and new terminal. Fuel sales have increased and they are planning some overlays in 2020. A new t-hangar is planned for 2024.

MoDOT Update on BUILD Projects: Preston Kramer provided an update on BUILD projects and noted they are open to cities and counties and are highly competitive. A large freight related grant was previously submitted, but unfortunately MoDOT did not receive any dollars. A scaled down version has been submitted under the BUILD grant process. It is a \$60 million project but MoDOT is requesting \$12 million. The grant tends to favor rural areas over urban.

2018 Road Safety Audit: Anne Freand presented an update on the I-44 Road Safety Audit done on May 18, 2018. The group reviewed the west bound lanes from Doolittle to Highway 28 and provided recommendations for possible improvements. Most prominent was the use of a high friction surface treatment (HFST) for areas where wet weather crashes were more common. MoDOT noted that a higher than normal percentage of accidents were wet weather related and an HFST may provide better traction for vehicles. Other recommendations were increasing the length of deceleration/exit lanes, lengthening climbing lanes, cutting back foliage on curves to improve visibility, and possible education for trucking companies that have higher accident rates. Staff noted that participants noted several commercial vehicle accidents involved drivers where English was not the primary language and translation apps were used to communicate during various incidents. A final report is being done by Susan Summers with MoDOT.

Transportation Legislation Update: Bonnie Prigge reviewed the recent HB 1460 which is also known as the 10 cent fuel tax. The group discussed how the legislation will be presented and several noted that it is being advertised as a way to fund the highway patrol. Preston Kramer reviewed its possible impact based on the bucket illustration provided in the MoDOT Citizen's Guide to Funding.

MoDOT Updates and Staff Reports (As time allows): Staff noted that TAP projects have a deadline of August 31, 2018 and Preston or MRPC can answer any questions. Preston Kramer provided an update on current STIP projects such as paving and chip seals. A signs handout was presented to the Committee members regarding political signs in the right-of-way,

Member Reports (As time allows): Kristian Powers with Fort Leonard Wood provided an update on two different analysis of self-driving vehicles proposed for FLW; however, they are currently unfunded. Anne Freand updated the Committee on the Big BAM bicycle race coming through the Meramec Region later in June and noted the actions of local law enforcement and first responders to ensure the event runs smoothly. Bonnie Prigge provided a handout on updated Arrive Alive statistics and noted the overall numbers are down from last year but are still above the accident numbers from about five years ago.

Next TAC Meeting: August 9, 2018

Adjournment: Leo Sanders motioned to adjourn, Robert Koerber seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:0 p.m.