

Meramec Region Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2020

Members Present: Leo Sanders (Crawford), Gary Brown (Dent), Ray Walden (Dent), Darrell Skiles (Dent), Vic Stratman (Maries), Steve Vogt (Maries), Ray Schwartz (Maries), Darryl Griffin (Osage), Darin Pryor (Phelps), Randy Verkamp (Phelps), George Lauritson (Pulaski), Anita Ivey (Pulaski), John Casey (Washington), T.R. Dudley (Washington)

Guests Present: Kim Tipton (MoDOT), Steve Engelbrecht (MoDOT), Trent Brooks (MoDOT), Oscar Powers (Ex-Officio)

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

Call to Order & Welcome: Ray Walden, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:01pm.

Approval of December 12, 2019 TAC Minutes: Leo Sanders motioned, Gary Brown seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted.

MoDOT TMS Map Review: MoDOT Central District Traffic Engineer Trent Brooks demonstrated the Crash Statistics Map on the Transportation Management System through MoDOT. The map depicts MoDOT data on significant crash areas, causes and severity of incidents for any roadway in the region. MRPC and MoDOT noted that only certain people have access to see the detail crash information and a person has to be approved with a background check before receiving approval at an RPC level.

Highway 63 Spot Improvements Discussion: The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) reprioritized seven existing and new alignment projects and reprioritized eight spot improvement projects along Hwy 63. While the four-laning of Hwy 63 through the entire Meramec Region remains the top priority for the TAC, the committee has now identified a stretch in Osage County from Freeburg to Vienna as being the most critical stretch to be addressed should funds become available. The TAC originally prioritized from one end of 63 and moved to the other through the region. During this prioritization, the committee took into account accidents, fatalities, safety concerns and possibilities of passing. The last time the projects were prioritized by the TAC was 2009 and the projects were slated to cost approximately \$172 million.

The prioritization of the new and existing alignment projects is:

1. A 9-mile stretch south of Osage County Road 524 to south of Maries County Road 332;
2. A 5.5-mile stretch south of Maries County Road 332 to south of Maries County Road 325;
3. A 7-mile stretch south of the bridge over Maries River at Westphalia to south of Osage County Road 524;
4. A 5-mile stretch from Hwy 50 to south of the bridge over Maries River at Westphalia;
5. An 8-mile stretch from south of Maries County Road 325 to just north of Hwy 68;
6. A 2-mile stretch from just North of Hwy 68 to south of Maries County Road 443; and
7. An 8-mile stretch from south of Maries County Road 443 to Phelps County Super 2.

With the understanding that current funding levels do not support large-scale re-alignment projects, the TAC was asked to prioritize eight smaller projects along Hwy 63's existing alignment that would improve safety and traffic flow. These eight projects total approximately \$20 million

The prioritization of the spot improvement projects is:

1. Build a northbound passing lane north of Freeburg starting at Route JJ and extending for 1.7 miles. This would include a southbound left turn lane at Route JJ in Osage County;
2. Build a southbound passing lane south of Freeburg starting approximately at city limits and extending for 2.2 miles in Osage County;
3. Build a northbound passing lane north of Vienna starting approximately 0.5 miles north of Route AA and extending 2.4 miles in Maries County;
4. Build a northbound passing lane starting at Route 28 near Vichy and extending for 3.3 miles in Maries County. This includes turn lanes at Route 28 on Hwy. 63;
5. Build a two-way left turn lane from County Road 511 to Mill Street in Westphalia;
6. Extend the southbound climbing lane south of Westphalia to Route T in Osage County;
7. Rebuild the Hwy. 63 and Route E intersection in Osage County; and
8. Extend the southbound climbing lane at Route A to go around the corner ending at the straightaway in Maries County.

This differs slightly from the prioritization the TAC completed of the spot improvement projects in December. Staff noted that MoDOT is working on cost-benefit analyses of these projects at this time.

Asset Management: Steve Engelbrecht updated the TAC on ways that MoDOT utilizes asset management in planning of road and bridge improvements throughout the Meramec region. They review how many miles per year and square footage of bridge deck can be repaired. MoDOT focuses primarily on Taking Care of the System work.

Arrive Alive: Bonnie Prigge provided an update on Arrive Alive and crash statistics in the Central District. She also discussed Buckly Buddy events, Docudramas, the Buckle Up Phone Down Initiative and noted that there was currently no push for a primary seatbelt law in the legislature.

MoDOT Updates and Staff Reports (As time allows): Kim Tipton, MoDOT, noted that two bridges in Osage County were being worked on.

Member Reports (As time allows): Bonnie Prigge noted that 19 FLAP applications were submitted in Missouri with scoresheets due on February 28th.

Next TAC Meeting: April 9, 2020

Adjournment: George Lauritson motioned for adjournment, Gary Brown seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 5:38 pm.