

Meramec Region Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 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), Larry Kliethermes (Osage), George Lauritson (Pulaski)

Guests Present: Preston Kramer (MoDOT), Steve Engelbrecht (MoDOT)

Staff Present: Anne Freand, Caitlin Jones, Samantha Maddison, Kaitlyn Bland and Bonnie Prigge (MRPC)

Call to Order & Welcome: Ray Walden, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:12pm.

Approval of February 6, 2019 TAC Minutes: George Lauritson motioned, Vic Stratman seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Selection of Nominating Committee: Each year the TAC is required to approve a nominating committee of not less than four members to address new leadership for the group. Steve Vogt, Larry Kliethermes, Darryl Skiles and Vic Stratman volunteered to serve on the committee. George Lauritson motioned, Leo Sanders seconded. The nominating committee was approved as submitted.

Missouri's Circuit Safety Rider Program: Gidget Koestner with LTAP spoke to the TAC on developing the program direction and content for the Circuit Safety Rider program. The program aims to assist local planning agencies in the analysis of safety issues and helps determine possible low-cost solutions for implementation. Ms. Koestner noted that the Federal Highway Administration showed that 40% of fatalities are on locally owned roadways and between 2015 and 2017 52% of fatalities were roadway departures or run-off road accidents. They are taking a systemic approach to finding solutions for the state. Ms. Koestner noted LTAPs services are available to communities and counties throughout the region.

Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP): Preston Kramer and Steve Engelbrecht, MoDOT, spoke to the TAC regarding the rolling five-year program known as the STIP. MoDOT is currently operating under the FY2020-2024 STIP and would normally be in the process of adopting a FY2021-2025 STIP. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 situation, projected revenue is down approximately \$45 million. MoDOT notes that it would be irresponsible to adopt a new planning program with the current shortfalls. Preston noted that MoDOT is committed to the current STIP; however, some projects may ultimately be postponed to later quarters or years. It was encouraged that counties continue to prioritize projects and the planning process will continue.

2020 Regional Transportation Plan Update: Anne Freand, MRPC, provided the committee an update on changes to the FY20 RTP. Anne noted that the plan is a living document and chapters 5 and 6 will be updated along with most of the Appendices. A copy of the revised plan will be provided at the August 2020 meeting.

Road Safety Audit (RSA): Anne Freand, MRPC, updated the committee on the FY2020 Road Safety Audit which will be done at the intersection of Highway 100 and Highway J in Gasconade County. Ms. Freand noted that MoDOT suggested the intersection because it is high on the region's priority list;

however, funding for any project is unlikely in the near future. The purpose of the RSA is to identify low-cost options to improve safety at the intersection without engineering work being completed. Due to the current situation, Ms. Freand stated that the group intends to drive the roadway prior to meeting later in June to discuss alternatives.

FY2020/2021 Workplan Review: Anne Freand presented the FY 2020/2021 MoDOT Workplan to the TAC. Anne highlighted the changes to the new workplan and reviewed deliverables from the past year. The committee was asked to recommend approval to the MRPC board. George Lauritson motioned and Ray Schwartze seconded. Motion was approved as submitted.

Arrive Alive: Bonnie Prigge provided an update on Arrive Alive and crash statistics in the Central District. Additionally, the fatality rate for the region has not declined due to the decrease in traffic. While there are not as many vehicles on the road, highway patrol has stated that speeds have increased and negatively impacted safe driving. Bonnie also reviewed the plan update to the Blueprint and noted that the document will be more user-friendly.

MoDOT Updates and Staff Reports (As time allows): Steve Engelbrecht stated that MoDOT is currently proceeding with the FY20-24 STIP. Preston asked committee members to bring him local issues. He updated the TAC on current construction activities throughout the region. Bonnie Prigge informed the group that nine FLAP projects were funded, including two in Dent County, two in Washington County and one in Crawford County which are all on local roads. She also noted that Buckle Up Phone Down signs are in the foyer if anyone is interested in taking them back to their communities.

Member Reports (As time allows): George Lauritson brought up the recent wrecks on I-44 in Pulaski County and noted he would call Preston to speak further about the issues. Members raised concerns about licensing requirements for truck drivers that cannot fully operate a vehicle.

Next TAC Meeting: August 13, 2020

Adjournment: Leo Sanders motioned for adjournment, Vic Stratman seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 5:33 pm.