

**Meramec Region Transportation Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
December 10, 2020**

**Zoom Meeting Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84920567872?pwd=VWhGV3VkTU1YZmFHRWYzOFY3K2FDQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 849 2056 7872

**Passcode:** 884161

**Call-In Information:** +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

**Nominating Committee Attendance:** Darrell Skiles, Steve Vogt, Larry Kliethermes, and Vic Stratman

**Nominating Committee Agenda:** The committee met at 2:00pm via phone conference to discuss new nominations for TAC officers to be approved at the 3:00pm meeting. Darrell Skiles motioned for George Lauritson move up to Chair, Darin Pryor move up to Vice-Chair and Steve Vogt become Secretary. Vic Stratman seconded. The nominations were approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

**TAC Members Present:** Rob Cummings (Crawford), Jared Boast (Crawford), Leo Sanders (Crawford), Gary Brown (Dent), Ray Walden (Dent), Darrell Skiles (Dent), John Kamler (Gasconade), Jerry Lairmore (Gasconade), Mark Wallace (Gasconade-Alt), Vic Stratman (Maries), Steve Vogt (Maries County), Ray Schwartz (Maries), Ron Kempker (Osage), Darryl Griffin (Osage), Larry Kliethermes (Osage), Darin Pryor (Phelps), Gary Hicks (Phelps), George Lauritson (Pulaski), Anita Ivey (Pulaski-alt.)

**Guests Present:** Preston Kramer (MoDOT), Kim Tipton (MoDOT), Steve Engelbrecht (MoDOT), James Beattie (MoDOT)

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

**Call to Order & Welcome:** Ray Walden, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:03pm.

**Nominating Committee:** The nominating committee met prior to the December 2020 TAC meeting to set nominations for the remainder of the fiscal year. Staff presented the decisions of the nominating committee which included George Lauritson for Chairman, Darin Pryor for Vice-Chair, and Steve Vogt for Secretary. Darrell Skiles made a motion to approve the nominations as presented, Vic Stratman seconded, and Steve Vogt abstained. The new officers were approved as submitted.

**Approval of August 13, 2020 TAC Minutes:** George Lauritson motioned; Anita Ivey seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**TAP Application Review:** Kim Tipton, MoDOT, provided an update on the one-year Transportation Alternatives Program that was recently brought back by MoDOT. The due date for projects is January 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. Awards should be presented by March 31<sup>st</sup>. It will consist

of similar projects as in years past and the Central District hopes to receive around \$948,790 in funds. Additionally, LPA training or current certifications will be required and electronic signatures will be necessary for any paperwork submittals.

**Transportation Needs Prioritization:** Each county chose a representative to discuss the top needs and Anne Freand shared the locations and pictures of each need on Zoom. Preston Kramer provided input when necessary. Committee members then decided the expansions of Highways 63 and 50 to four-lane corridors remain the number one and two regional transportation priorities. The proposed projects on Highway 63 and Highway 50 have topped the regional priority list for several years. The TAC then voted to prioritize these additional needs on a regional level using a Typeform survey created by MRPC staff. 20 TAC attendees voted via online survey to create the prioritized list. Staff noted that the prioritized list would be reviewed and approved later in evening by the Meramec Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) board and then shared with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) Central District office for the projects for consideration for inclusion in MoDOT's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

In addition to the projects on Highways 63 and 50, other items topping the TAC's priority list as high priority, in order of priority, are listed below. A complete list of priorities is attached to the minutes:

- Dent – Rt TT Low Water Crossing/Bridge over Crooked Creek
- Osage – US 50 Hwy Expansion and CR801/50/CC at State Tech
- Phelps – IS-44/Hwy V Interchange
- Osage – US 63 Two-way left-turn thru Westphalia
- Gasconade – Rt 19 Safety concerns near school and industrial park
- Osage – US 63 Safety Improvements to Rt E intersection/passing lanes N of Freeburg
- Dent – Rt 19 Bridge over Gladden Creek

#### **Review of MODOT Legislative Priorities and Review of MRPC Letter to Legislators**

**Encouraging Fuel Tax Increase:** Bonnie Prigge presented the letter written by MRPC as discussed by the TAC at the August 2020 meeting. The letter highlights the TAC's support for a clean and simple bill supporting an increase to the gas tax. George Lauritson motioned, Darin Pryor seconded, and the letter was approved as presented. Bonnie noted the letter would go to the MRPC Board for final approval.

**Show Me Zero Fatality Update:** Bonnie Prigge provided an update on the new State Highway system safety plan "Show Me Zero" that is available for review. She also noted that MRPC just completed a weekly Facebook post update where the region went from 31 to 41 fatalities when comparing the past two years. Caitlin Jones, MRPC, noted that additional copies of the safety plan can be provided by MRPC at request.

**Upcoming Changes in BRO program:** Bonnie Prigge briefly overviewed changes that MODOT is planning in the BRO program over the next three years. Julie Stottlemeyer will provide a formal presentation at February's TAC meeting. Bonnie noted that the previous review looked at the square footage of deficient bridges and that will be changing to the square footage

of poor rated bridges. Counties will be allocated funding based on the total square footage of the poor rated bridges in their county starting in 2023.

**MoDOT Updates and Staff Reports (As time allows):** Kim Tipton reminded everyone of TAP deadlines as previously noted. Steve Engelbrecht stated that MoDOT is starting to look at pavement cycles for patches and repairs. Preston Kramer extended appreciation for the counties' flexibility during 2020. He noted that the 2020 construction season is wrapping up and the Rt. N bridge partial replacement in Maries County should be complete.

**Member Reports (As time allows):** Once all voting was completed, Anne Freand presented the preliminary set of TAC priorities for the committee's approval. Gary Hicks motioned to accept Hwy 63 and Hwy 50 as the top one and two priorities for the region, George Lauritson seconded, the motion was approved. Following that motion, George Lauritson motioned to recommend the results of the priority survey to the MRPC Board, Vic Stratman seconded, the motion was approved.

**Next TAC Meeting:** February 11, 2021

**Adjournment:** Darryl Griffin motioned for adjournment; Darin Pryor seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 4:49 pm.