


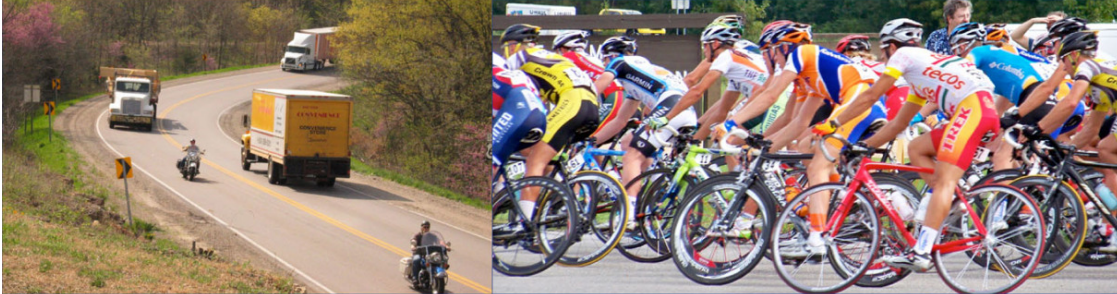
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**TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS**  
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Transportation Advisory Committee

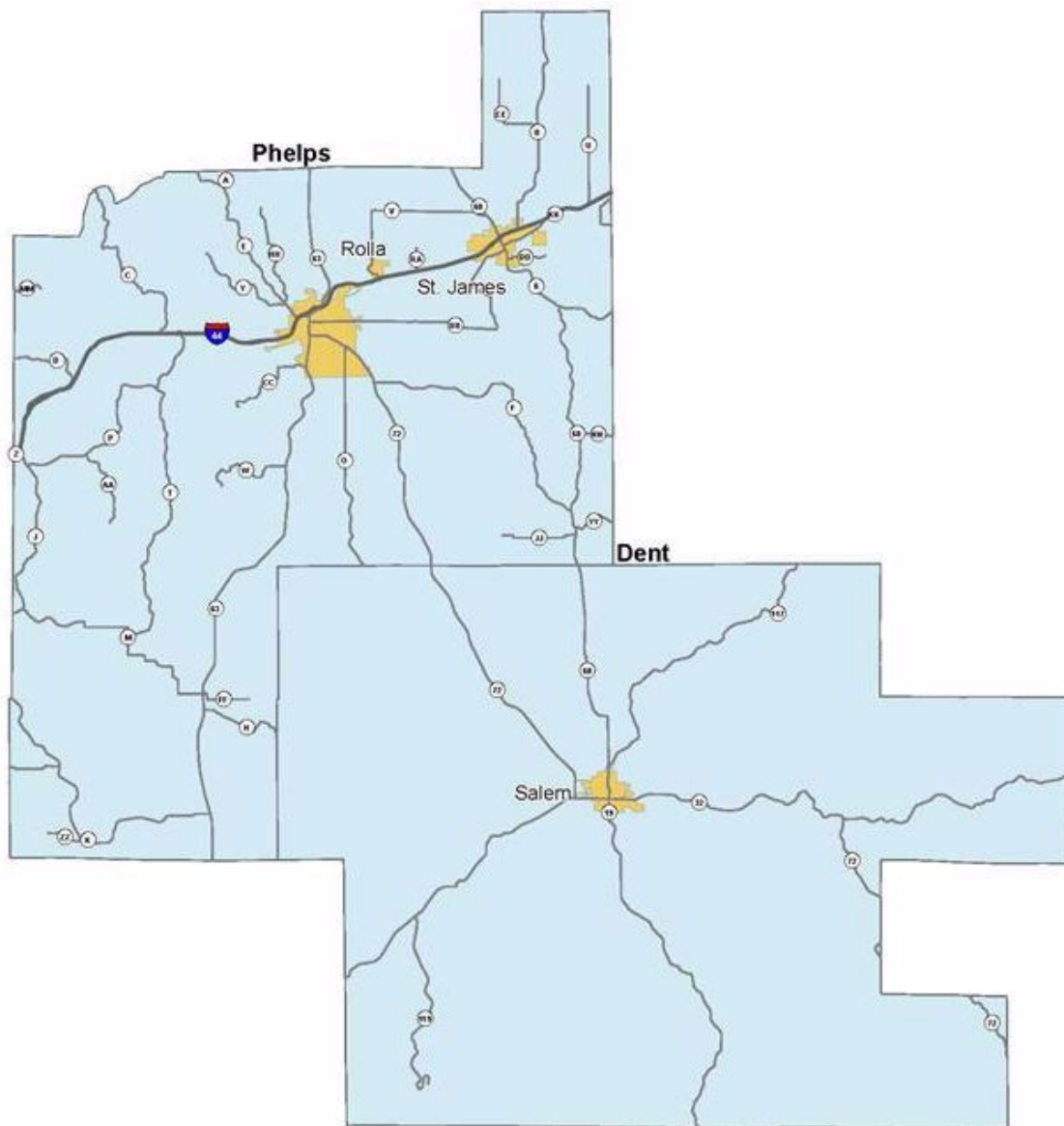


Representing Crawford, Dent, Gasconade, Maries, Osage, Phelps, Pulaski and Washington Counties



Summer 2021

## TAC learns of SMTS deviated fixed-route possibility for Phelps, Dent counties



The Meramec Regional Planning Commission's (MRPC) is studying the feasibility of a deviated fixed-route in Rolla with connections to St. James and Salem.

Southeast Missouri Transportation Systems (SMTS) has contracted with MRPC to conduct the feasibility study for the potential new route. A fixed route bus system is characterized by a designated travel route with set schedules and stops where passengers can board and deboard. A deviated fixed-route allows for pick-ups within ¼ mile of fixed stops. This bus service would be modeled after the Bluff Area Transit Service (BATS) in Poplar Bluff and the Connect Service in St. Francois County, both of which are operated by SMTS. Both systems have fees ranging from \$1 per boarding, \$3 all-day passes, as well as pre-paid punch cards with discounted prices. While the Rolla service would not be identical to BATS or Connect in the number of stops or pricing, it will likely operate very similar, if such a service is found to be feasible. The study is also looking at connector routes from Salem to Rolla and from St. James to Rolla.

"With the problems employers are facing in finding employees, this could provide reliable transportation for those who want to work but don't have a vehicle," MRPC Executive Director

Bonnie Prigge said during the meeting.

Currently, MRPC is accepting public input on the possible route and stops from Phelps and Dent counties via two online surveys that can be found at [www.meramecregion.org/surveys/](http://www.meramecregion.org/surveys/). One survey is for the general public, and the other is for students attending college in the Rolla area.

For more information, please contact Anne Freand, MRPC planning department manager, via email at [afreand@meramecregion.org](mailto:afreand@meramecregion.org) or via phone at 573-265-2993 ext. 105.

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**Know before you go what the road conditions are like and where to avoid road work. Check out the MoDOT Traveler Map or download the app today!**

MoDOT Traveler Map

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## Commission approves FY2022-2026 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, on July 1, approved the FY [2022-2026 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program \(STIP\)](#). It includes transportation projects for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026.

The STIP is the Missouri Department of Transportation's list of 1,434 highway and bridge projects that are planned by state and regional agencies. The draft STIP was released in May for public review and comment. It focuses on taking care of the state's existing transportation system by annually investing in 704 lane miles of interstate pavements, 1,387 miles of major route pavements, 2,733 miles of minor route pavements and 228 bridges.

Meramec Region Crash Fatalities		
<i>(As of July 20)</i>		
County	2021	2020
Crawford	6	1
Dent	0	2
Gasconade	2	1
Maries	1	3
Osage	0	3
Phelps	2	2
Pulaski	4	4
Washington	5	7
<b>Meramec Region Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Missouri Total</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>518</b>

Source: MO State Highway Patrol, MoDOT



MRPC works to update the region weekly on the growing number of fatalities within our counties and in the state compared to 2020. Right now the region is almost in line with the numbers from 2020 at 20

fatalities, but even one fatality is too many. Remember to always buckle up and put the phones down when behind the wheel.

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## Take the Pledge: #BUPD



The challenge is simple: When you get into any vehicle, buckle up your safety belt. If you are a driver, put the cellphone down. Turn it off if you have to.

[www.modot.org/BuckleUpPhoneDown/](http://www.modot.org/BuckleUpPhoneDown/)



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The STIP details an annual construction program that averages \$1.1 billion per year for the five-year period. It was developed assuming a federal funding level consistent with the last year of the FAST Act and includes the federal surface transportation funding provided by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), which was enacted on Dec. 27, 2020. Other funding assumptions include redirected CARES Act monies and bond issuances in 2023 and 2026 to be repaid with dedicated motor vehicle sales tax revenue which is deposited in the State Road Bond Fund per the Amendment 3 legislation.

“The STIP is our commitment to Missourians of the projects that will be developed and delivered over the next five years,” MoDOT Director Patrick McKenna said. “This STIP represents the investment the Commission made several years ago to focus on asset management including more funding available for minor and low volume minor roads. Over the next three years, 50% of all state minor and low volume minor roads and bridges will be worked on. Overall, the STIP includes an estimated \$5.5 billion over the next five years in projects spread out across the state on interstates, major and minor roads and bridges.”

The STIP also includes detailed project information for non-highway modes of transportation and a section detailing planned operations and maintenance activities for the next three years. This additional information is provided to allow Missourians to more easily see how their transportation funding is invested.

For information pertaining to the Central District portion of the STIP, please visit [https://www.modot.org/sites/default/files/documents/Sec0404Central\\_4.pdf](https://www.modot.org/sites/default/files/documents/Sec0404Central_4.pdf).

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