

**Meramec Region Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2021**

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 869 0831 8789

Passcode: 044525

Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

TAC Members Present: George Lauritson (Pulaski), Dale Martin (Phelps), Vic Stratman (Maries), Darryl Skiles (Dent), Ray Schwartz (Maries), Steve Vogt (Maries), Gary Hicks (Phelps), Charles Bassett (Pulaski), Darin Pryor (Phelps), Larry Kliethermes (Osage), Ray Walden (Dent), Gary Brown (Dent)

Guests Present: Preston Kramer (MoDOT), Kim Tipton (MoDOT), Steve Engelbrecht (MoDOT), Andrew Seiler (MoDOT), Julie Stotlemeyer (MoDOT)

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

Call to Order & Welcome: George Lauritson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:21pm.

Approval of December 10, 2020 TAC Minutes: Ray Schwartz motioned; Steve Vogt seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Changes to Agenda: Bonnie Prigge proposed to add an item to discuss fuel tax proposals to the agenda before the staff updates. Ray Schwartz motioned; Larry Kliethermes seconded. Agenda was amended as proposed.

Upcoming Changes to the BRO Program: Julie Stotlemeyer with MoDOT presented on upcoming changes to the BRO (Bridge Replacement Off-System) program. Currently, there is an 80/20 match with approximately \$21 million allocated annually. \$1 million is set aside for inspections and \$20 million allocated with \$4 million in local match. As the program stands right now, money is allocated based on deficient bridges. However, the program is going to change to include poor condition bridges instead of deficient bridges which will change the amount of square footage required to be updated and replaced.

TAP Application Evaluation: Anne Freand presented that the Meramec Region had five applications for TAP to rank and prioritize: Salem, St. Robert (Eastlawn), St. Robert (Marshall), Waynesville, and Rolla. Ray Walden spoke on Salem's application, George Lauritson briefly discussed both applications for St. Robert, Darin Pryor reviewed the Route E and Anne Freand presented for Waynesville. Staff asked that the TAC members complete the online survey to rank the projects from "1" to "5" with "1" being the highest priority. Based on the online survey results, the following projects were ranked in priority order: Salem, Rolla, St. Robert (Eastlawn), St. Robert (Marshall), and Waynesville.

Project Ranking for High-Priority Unfunded Needs: Based on the regional prioritization completed in December 2020, Highway 63 and Highway 50 are the region's #1 and #2 priorities, respectively. Bonnie Prigge noted that MoDOT is requesting the TAC to provide a short list of High-Priority Unfunded Needs to be considered for inclusion in this year's report. The projects could be undertaken if additional transportation dollars become available. Anne Freand noted that the TAC prioritized projects on Highway 63's proposed new alignment and the existing alignment in February 2020. At the time, the TAC chose to prioritize projects on the existing alignment over those proposed on new alignment. Anne provided an overview of the top two projects from each section and noted that Highway 50 was based on the annual need identified by Osage County. The link to the prioritization survey was provided to the TAC at the meeting. Based on the online survey results, the following projects were ranked in priority order: Highway 63 projects on existing alignment, Highway 63 projects on new alignment, and Highway 50 (CR 801/Rt CC @ State Tech).

Proposed Fuel Tax Legislation: Bonnie Prigge discussed proposed legislation being proposed at the state level. The proposal includes gas tax rebates similar to South Carolina. Bonnie noted that she will provide a link to the TAC as an example of how their program works.

Arrive Alive Update: Bonnie Prigge provided an update on the current fatality numbers for the state and noted that the region's rate saw an increase over last year.

Update on proposed Highway 63 Alliance: Bonnie Prigge provided an update on the Highway 63 Alliance being discussed for counties along the Highway 63 corridor. At this point, the group is discussing working with an attorney to formalize the alliance. The group also discussed the potential to apply for federal grants to fund planning studies for the corridor. Bonnie noted that additional meetings are scheduled for March and she will provide an update at the next TAC meeting.

MoDOT Updates and Staff Reports (As time allows): Preston Kramer gave updates of construction projects on the region to include a signal project in Washington County among other work. Steve Engelbrecht noted that MoDOT is working on the STIP planning, bridge assessments and will hold a MoDOT Planning Meeting the following day. Kim Tipton also reminded everyone that MoDOT is going to require electronic signatures on all documents.

Member Reports (As time allows): Gary Hicks noted that the BRO project is moving forward in Phelps County. Charles Bassett was also introduced as the newest Pulaski County TAC member and commissioner.

Next TAC Meeting: April 8, 2021

Adjournment: Ray Walden motioned for adjournment; Gary Hicks seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 4:37 pm.