

## **Meramec Region Transportation Advisory Committee**

The Meramec Region Transportation Advisory Committee met at **4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 9, 2022** at the Meramec Regional Planning Commission, 4 Industrial Drive, St. James, MO.

### **Zoom Meeting Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84507793587?pwd=QjV2bXNWWGEwZXVlWWFJUnJBtXkvQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 845 0779 3587

**Passcode:** 017454

**One tap mobile:** +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Rob Cummings, Jared Boast, Danny Brown, Gary Brown, Ray Walden, Darrell Skiles, Tricia Heaney (Zoom), Vic Stratman, Steve Vogt, Ray Schwartze, Darryl Griffin, Larry Kliethermes, Joey Auxier, Tom Coots, Dale Martin, Charles Bassett, T.R. Dudley and John Casey (Zoom)

**STAFF:** Anne Freand, Bonnie Prigge, Caitlin Jones, Scott Hayes (MRPC), Athena Sores, Michael White, Kim Tipton, Steve Engelbrecht and Preston Kramer (MoDOT)

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Call to Order & Welcome:** Steve Vogt, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

**Approval of April 14, 2022 TAC Minutes:** Vic Stratman motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Charles Bassett seconded. The minutes were approved.

**Selection of Nominating Committee:** According to the TAC Bylaws the chairman of the committee is to appoint a nominating committee of not less than four members, to present names for consideration as officers at the August meeting. No individual currently holding the position of officer may be a member of the nominating committee. During the course of the annual election, nominations may also be made from the general membership. Officers will be elected for one-year terms and will serve until their successors are qualified. No officer may hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms.”

Current officers are:

Darin Pryor (Phelps)	1 <sup>st</sup> term as Chairman
Steve Vogt (Maries)	1 <sup>st</sup> term as Vice-Chairman
T.R. Dudley (Washington)	1 <sup>st</sup> term Secretary

Charles Bassett, Vic Stratman, Joey Auxier and Larry Kliethermes volunteered to participate in the committee. Charles Bassett motioned to accept the volunteers; Joey Auxier seconded. All volunteers were approved.

**FY 2023 MoDOT Workplan Review:** Anne Freand reviewed the FY 2023 Workplan submitted to MoDOT in May 2022. The MRPC Board will be asked to approve the plan at the June 9, 2022

meeting. Anne reviewed the three sections of the plan and tasks that are generally assigned to the transportation work done in the Meramec Region. T.R. Dudley motioned to recommend approval of the Work Plan to the full MRPC Board; Ray Schwartz seconded. The FY 2023 Work Plan was recommended for approval, as submitted.

**Federal Highway Emergency Relief (FHWA ER) program:** Athena Sones, MoDOT, presented information (via Zoom) about the FHWA ER program and how local public agencies may obtain reimbursements after disasters. Athena noted that money is available for post-disaster areas, so long as there is a Governor or President's declaration. The funds are to be used for roadways that have sustained more than \$5,000 in damage (\$700,000 statewide) and that damage has to be reported approximately 4-5 days after the event. Damage can include debris removal, etc. Repair and construction can only be for restoration or replacement of what was there before the damage. No major improvements can be made. Additionally, only federally eligible roadways maintained by local jurisdictions are eligible for the funds. Athena provided a map that identifies which roadways are eligible (e.g. Rte 66 through the city of Bourbon, etc.).

**SMTS Deviated Fixed-Route Study Update:** Anne Freand, MRPC, reviewed the final SMTS Deviated Fixed-Route Study which was presented to the Rolla City Council on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> and will be presented to the St. James City Council on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Anne noted the proposed main route around Rolla and the potential secondary route between St. James and Rolla's downtown. Anne stated that after the presentation in Rolla, SMTS indicated they wanted to start a possible route in the spring, but it was dependent on the availability of buses and drivers. Additionally, Anne reminded the TAC that the final routes identified in the plan would likely not be the routes taken by SMTS after spending months driving around Rolla.

**Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP):** Steve Engelbrecht and Preston Kramer from MoDOT gave a brief updated on the STIP, which is currently posted for public comment on the MoDOT website. <https://www.modot.org/statewide-transportation-improvement-program-stip>. The pair discussed some of the projects listed in the Meramec region and noted that the document should be approved at by July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. Bonnie Prigge asked if any of the conditional uses listed in the draft STIP were still conditional or not since the gas tax was not repealed. MoDOT noted that the items previously considered conditional were no longer conditional and would be in the STIP pending board approval.

**2022 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update:** Bonnie Prigge requested that this item be postponed until the August 2022 meeting.

**Road Safety Audit (RSA):** Anne Freand asked the TAC to identify locations for the upcoming Road Safety Audit to be completed before the end of June 2022. She noted that T.R. Dudley was the only person to turn in a location eligible for a road audit. It was clarified that RSA's are not engineering studies and are used to identify possible low-cost safety improvements when no other options are currently available. The committee agreed to review the intersection of Highway 21 and Delbridge Road in Washington County. Anne Freand noted that intersection does not have a high accident county but is still an area of concern for the county. Anne stated that the RSA would be completed before the end of the fiscal year.

**Public Transit Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan (PTHSTCP) Update:**

Anne Freand reviewed the grant details and timeline for updates to the Public Transit Plan due in early 2023. Bonnie Prigge noted that it will be a tight turn around for the project and staff will start the plan in the late summer. Approximately four planning sessions will be held and the document will be used by all transit agencies in the area to apply for grant funding.

**TAP Grant Update:** Kim Tipton, MoDOT, discussed changes to the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for the current grant round. The grant is due July 15, 2022 and is a two-year grant round this time. Applicants still have an 80/20 match and can apply for a minimum of \$100,000, up to \$500,000. The state has \$3.8 million to allocate each year. Kim also noted that ARPA funds can be used for match and projects have to be started within 23 months of being awarded. Rails to Trails are also eligible improvements for this grant round. The other changes include that schools and non-profits can apply, but they are still required to have a LPA trained person on staff. Kim noted that since that isn't very common, she still recommends that schools or NPs partner with communities to complete the work.

**Arrive Alive Update:** Caitlin Jones, MRPC, provided an update on fatalities in the Meramec Region. As of the meeting, the region had 17 fatalities, which is three more than the previous year. 58% of those were unbuckled.

**MoDOT Updates and Staff Reports (As time allows):** Central District engineers updated TAC members on local projects. MoDOT discussed the BRO program (Bridges off-system) and stated the applications would come out the following Monday. Unlike in the past, the BRO program would now be handled similar to the TAP process, where applications are submitted, the local TACs review and prioritize them for each RPC and then the final decisions are discussed at a state level within each district. Applications will be due July 22, 2022 and it will be a 3-year program. MoDOT stated that the bridge committee for each district will be made up of one RPC representative and a member of the TAC. Kim Tipton noted that \$2 million would be taken off the top of the funds for large and emerging needs bridges. The group also discussed that low-water crossings would be eligible for BRO funds again but stated that the application will provide more clarification on how to address them.

Preston Kramer gave an update on the construction season and informed the group that the Highway 89 bridge was behind schedule. Due to supply chain issues, a part of the bridge construction was behind on delivery, which would delay the bridge opening to one-lane traffic until around August 6, 2022, approximately three weeks later than originally scheduled.

**Member Reports (As time allows):** Bonnie Prigge informed the committee that FLAP (Federal Lands Access Program) applications are still under review and the sub-committee is still in the decision-making process.

**Next TAC Meeting:** August 11, 2022

**Adjournment:** Danny Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting; Larry Kliethermes seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.