

Meramec Region Transportation Advisory Committee

The Meramec Region Transportation Advisory Nominating Committee met at **3:30 p.m.** and the regular Transportation Advisory Committee met at **4:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 12, 2021** at the Meramec Regional Planning Commission, 4 Industrial Drive, St. James, MO.

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83794718628?pwd=ZVhsRjdCcXZjVjZwSWtaRTJPCeZDQT09>

Meeting ID: 837 9471 8628

Passcode: 300782

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Darrell Skiles (Zoom), Leo Sanders and John Casey (Zoom)

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Anne Freand

Anne Freand, MRPC, welcomed committee members and reviewed the purpose of the Nominating Committee. A fourth member, Charles Bassett, had volunteered but was not able to attend last minute. The group discussed if they could simply move up Darin Pryor to Chair, Steve Vogt to Vice-Chair and then pick a new Secretary. Anne Freand noted that was an acceptable possibility. Committee members discussed options for Secretary and decided on T.R. Dudley from Washington County as an option. The group also agreed to nominate Jared Boast from Crawford County as an alternative option should T.R. not be able to accept.

Darrell Skiles motioned to send Darin Pryor as Chair, Steve Vogt as Vice-Chair and T.R. Dudley as Secretary, with a backup of Jared Boast, to the full TAC Committee for nominations at the regular August 12, 2021 meeting at 4:00 p.m. Leo Sanders seconded. All were in favor; the motion was approved. The Nominating Committee adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

REGULAR TAC MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Cummings, Jared Boast, Leo Sanders and Danny Brown (Crawford); Gary Brown, Ray Walden and Darrell Skiles (Zoom) (Dent); Jerry Lairmore (Zoom) (Gasconade); Vic Stratman, Steve Vogt and Ray Schwartze (Maries); Darryl Griffin and Larry Kliethermes (Zoom) (Osage); Darin Pryor, Joey Auxier and Tom Coots (Zoom) (Phelps); George Lauritson, Glen Smith and Anita Ivey (Pulaski); and John Casey (Zoom) and T.R. Dudley (Zoom) (Washington)

GUESTS: Preston Kramer, James Beattie, Steve Engelbrecht and Kim Tipton (Zoom) (MoDOT)

STAFF: Anne Freand, Bonnie Prigge and Caitlin Jones (MRPC)

Call to Order & Welcome: George Lauritson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of June 10, 2021 TAC Minutes: Darin Pryor motioned; Gary Brown seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Nominating Committee: The nominating committee met prior to the August 2021 TAC meeting to set nominations for the next fiscal year. Leo Sanders presented the decisions of the nominating committee which included Darin Pryor for Chairman, Steve Vogt for Vice-Chair, and T.R. Dudley for Secretary. Ray Schwartze made a motion to approve the nominations as presented, Vic Stratman seconded. The new officers were approved as submitted. Darin Pryor, as new Chair, took over the meeting.

Tier 3 Road/Bridge and Multimodal Projects Prioritization: Steve Engelbrecht, MoDOT, provided an overview of the Tier 3 project prioritization process. The TAC previously identified projects for Tiers One and Two; however, MoDOT is adding a Tier Three in case additional funds become available for more transportation projects. Anne Freand, MRPC, then presented the top identified Road/Bridge and Multimodal needs identified within the Meramec Region. Anne reviewed a total of 11 Road and Bridge projects and 17 Multimodal projects based on existing priorities and newer projects identified by county stakeholders. Staff previously asked stakeholders to provide cost estimates or specify locations of projects; however, only a few responded. Anne spoke with MoDOT to try and get an estimate of costs for trails. James Beattie, MoDOT, noted that a multi-use trail approximately 8-10 feet in width would cost \$573,000. Staff provided TAC members score sheets for each of the project types and asked TAC members to select their top five projects for each list. Participants on Zoom were also provided copies of the score sheets ahead of time and were asked to email or provide their top priorities via Zoom chat. Anne noted that all votes would be tallied, and the final list of priorities would be presented to the full MRPC board for final approval. The top five Road and Bridge and the top 10 Multimodal needs would be presented to MoDOT for review as a part of the Tier 3 list development. A copy of the approved lists from the full MRPC board is attached to the minutes for reference.

TEAP Application Review: Kim Tipton, MoDOT, provided an update on the application process and reviewed the requirements for the application. She noted that the deadline is August 31st and the funds could be used for ADA improvements, etc. Kim also pointed out that previous TEAP rounds were funded at \$10,000 with MoDOT reimbursing a total of \$8,000. This year applicants can receive \$15,000 with MoDOT reimbursing a total of \$12,000. No applications for the region have been received yet.

Final Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Update: Steve Engelbrecht, MoDOT, provided an update on the current STIP for FY2022 that was approved earlier this summer. Anne Freand presented MoDOT's STIP webpage that has an interactive map where people can view the current STIP and upcoming projects in the region. She also noted that if you click on a project, it will highlight the specific work and cost associated.

<https://www.modot.org/statewide-transportation-improvement-program-stip>

Road Safety Audit (RSA) Update: Anne Freand reviewed the information regarding the Road Safety Audit for the intersection of Robart Road and Highway E in Washington County held on June 28, 2021. A copy of the report was presented, and Anne identified some of the low-cost improvements that could be done to the intersection including paving the specific ROW entrance on Robart Road, digging ditches for gravel to flow into, improving intersection signage and tree trimming. Anne also noted that the upcoming RSA could be done at any point in the year and staff was happy to receive recommendations from TAC members for the next review.

Fuel Tax Update: Preston Kramer, MoDOT, updated the TAC on the recently signed Fuel Tax approved by the Missouri legislature and signed by Governor Parsons. He noted that the 2.5 cent increase will take effect on October 1st and will increase an additional 2.5 cents at the start of each fiscal year (July 1st) until the state has an additional 12.5 cents of gas tax revenue. Preston reminded the TAC that the additional gas tax, not the original 17 cent tax, will be eligible for refunds and encouraged everyone to keep their receipts for the next five years in case of audit. The refunds will be requested via a form provided by the Department of Revenue; however, Preston does not believe the form has been created yet. He also noted that people with boats that fill up at local gas stations are able to request a current refund on the gas tax since the boat is not driven on the local roads.

Show Me Zero Fatality Update: Bonnie Prigge provided an update on regional numbers regarding fatalities for motor vehicles and motorcycles. As of August 8th, the region had 26 fatalities, which was just under 2020's 27 fatalities. Bonnie noted that 10 of those had happened on I-44 near the Leasburg exit. MoDOT would be looking into the causes of the crashes and see if there were any correlations or things that could be improved for the safety of travelers. Bonnie also noted that since the repeal of the motorcycle helmet law, she had reviewed the crash statistics and approximately half of the fatalities were not wearing a helmet. She reminded all TAC members to Buckle Up, Phone Down.

MoDOT Updates and Staff Reports (As time allows): Kim Tipton just reminded everyone of the August 31st deadline for TEAP applications. Preston Kramer gave an update on road projects for construction season. He noted projects on Route N in Osage, various chip and seals throughout the region, Route U in Washington County, and Route 68/F/K in Phelps and Dent counties. Preston also stated that MoDOT is in its second round of maintenance mowing and would follow it up with the third and final round for the season. Cost-share projects were also discussed, and Preston stated that it has been a long time since any regional entities had submitted an application to MoDOT. The program is fully funded, and Preston would like to see some cost-share opportunities presented.

George Lauritson asked about the speed limit review on I-44 around St. Robert and Waynesville and Preston stated that a high-friction surface treatment had been placed in that area within the last year. MoDOT hopes that the treatment will address many of the wet weather accidents taking place and Preston noted that reducing the speed limit hasn't been the biggest help to Rolla. MoDOT will review the effectiveness of the treatment in the meantime.

Member Reports (As time allows): Vic Stratman asked the group about private signage along state routes and lighting that impacts drivers, especially at night. Anne Freand discussed that

MoDOT does require permits for on and off-premises signs along state routes; however, she was unaware of any regulations regarding lighting. Anne did note that if the sign is in a local jurisdiction, there is a chance the city has a nuisance or light limitation that could be enforced.

Preston Kramer confirmed that MoDOT does have a permit process; unfortunately, on-premise signage does not have regulations that address lumens/lighting. He noted, and Anne agreed, that the best way to address the situation would be for local officials and/or neighbors to speak with the local business to try and redirect the lighting so it does not have a negative impact on motorists.

Next TAC Meeting: October 14, 2021

Adjournment: Vic Stratman motioned for adjournment; George Lauritson seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 5:43 pm.