# Meramec Region Transportation Advisory Committee

The Meramec Region Transportation Advisory Committee met at **4:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 10, 2023** at the Meramec Regional Planning Commission, 4 Industrial Drive, St. James, MO. Please plan to attend this meeting.

**Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84037509626?pwd=TityV08xMWg5RStyQ21LMWhtTW01QT09>

Call-in information: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 840 3750 9626

Passcode: 851016

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Cummings, Jared Boast, Danny Brown, Gary Larson, Vic Stratman, Steve Vogt, Ray Schwartze, Darryl Griffin, Larry Kliethermes, Darin Pryor, Sherry Stites, Tom Coots, Charles Bassett, Anita Ivey, Sean Wilson, John Casey, T.R. Dudley, John Kamler (Zoom), Randy Blaske (Zoom), Tim Schulte (Zoom), Patricia Heaney (Zoom), Jerry Lairmore (Phone)

GUESTS: Preston Kramer (MoDOT), Joanie Prenger (MoDOT), Steve Engelbrecht (MoDOT- Zoom)

STAFF: Anne Freand, Caitlin Jones, Bonnie Prigge, Orin Pogue, Finn Meggitt

# MEETING Minutes

**Call to Order & Welcome:** Darin Pryor, Chairman, was initially absent so Vice-Chair Steve Vogt called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

**Approval of June 8, 2023 TAC Minutes:** Ray Schwartze motioned to approve minutes as submitted; Sherry Stites seconded. Minutes were approved.

**Selection of Nominating Committee:** Members appointed to the nominating committee were: Vic Stratman (Maries), Charles Bassett (Pulaski), Sherry Stites (Phelps), and Anita Ivey (Pulaski). A brief meeting of the committee will be held before the next TAC meeting to determine nominations. Current officers are Darin Pryor (Phelps), Chairman; Steve Vogt (Maries), Vice-Chairman; and T. R. Dudley (Washington), Secretary; Ray Schwartze motioned to accept and approve nominations for the committee; Gary Larson seconded. All nominations were approved.

**BRO Application Review:** MRPC presented the bridges selected in MoDOT’s BRO program to the committee. The bridges selected for funding were High Point Road over Brush Creek in Crawford County for $344,000, Rohlfing Road over Little Berger Creek in Gasconade County for $871,000, and County Road 611 over the Maries River for $2,654,940.

**Active Transportation Planning:** Orin Pogue was reintroduced to the committee by Anne Freand. Orin Pogue updated the committee on the completed active transportation plans along the Rock Island Trail communities of Belle, Bland, and Rosebud. The committee was also updated on progress on the Potosi Active Transportation plan that is currently ongoing. Orin noted that he is working with the communities on their final spending requirements and copies of the plans will be distributed to communities in the next month.

**Road Safety Audit (RSA) Update:** Anne Freand gave an update on the Road Safety Audit (RSA) process. A presentation was given discussing the Holtsman and Cave Roads between Rte O and Rte Y in Pulaski County and some of the safety concerns in the area. The meeting at the Gasconade River Baptist church selected by commissioner Bassett was discussed and the solutions that came out of that meeting such as cleaning signs, cutting back vegetation, a guardrail along Cave Rd., and possible new signage were presented to the committee.

**STIP Update**: Steve Engelbrecht from MoDOT gave an update on the STIP for FY24-28. Steve asked communities to provide input for updated urban area boundaries from the 2020 census. Anne Freand provided a copy of the region’s STIP updates and Preston Kramer noted that not many projects were added due to the rise in inflation and cost of construction.

**Transportation Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP) Update:** Joanie Prenger from MoDOT presented information on TEAP grants. TEAP grants are small grants designed to assist in solving traffic flow issues that are due on September 9, 2023. A given example was the Owensville school district which required assistance with traffic flow and MoDOT assisted in solving the issue. The committee was reminded that TAP grants are due August 24, 2023.

**Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant:** Anne Freand presented information about a grant application that was submitted in July 2023 for transportation planning work in the region. This grant would provide Federal funds to develop, complete, or supplement a comprehensive safety action plan. T.R. Dudley also noted that data from the Travel Safe Zone in Washington County would be provided to the committee, if needed.

**Show Me Zero Fatality Update:** Bonnie Prigge provided crash fatality information for the region. The number of fatalities was 22 compared with 27 at this point last year. Information about the type of fatalities such as pedestrians, no seatbelt, motorcyclists, and motorcyclists with no helmet were provided to the committee. Information about a Highway Safety Conference on September 25-27 in Columbia was provided. Committee members were told that Steve Engelbrecht can help with lodging and food for that conference. Caitlin Jones talked about the Buckle Up and Phone Down Program and noted that BUPD day is Oct. 25, 2023 this year. Signs for the program are also available.

**MoDOT Updates and Staff Reports (As time allows):** Central District representative Kramer updated the committee on the status of projects in the region. A state impact letter on TAP grants was presented. The Highway Commission is meeting in Rolla on September 7th and the afternoon is an open meeting at the Alumni Center on Pine Street in Downtown Rolla. The 2.8 billion dollars for widening I-70 was discussed and how that impacts the environmental study on I-44 that will commence once the project on I-70 is completed. Incarcerated crews are returning for mowing and picking up litter for MoDOT. Information on passenger rail safety being a priority was presented. Two Amtrak routes do pass through the region and MoDOT will be focusing on decreasing crashes involving passenger rail. New signs are available for railroad crossings through grants that can be applied for by communities. Updates on projects in the Meramec Region included the Gasconade River bottom project that was completed, the Rte Y bridge is scheduled to be completed the next week, and updates on the I-44 shoulder widening project were given. On Thursday nights the East bound lane will be closed in the future so the lane can be fixed. Barricades will be moved to create more space on that east bound lane. MoDOT plans to put up more message boards. The MoDOT app was also highly recommended by MoDOT staff and committee members.

**Member Reports (As time allows):** Committee members asked about the status of the new Missouri bill to ban driving with a cell phone as a secondary offence and questions about the year and a half time frame for the law to come into effect were also presented to MoDOT staff. Sherry Stites provided insurance information and explained what the state’s logic was in the delay for punishments to start, and not just warnings.

**Next TAC Meeting:** October 12, 2023

**Adjournment:** Charles Bassett motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:29 p.m.; Ray Schwartze seconded. The meeting was adjourned.