

## **Meramec Region Transportation Advisory Committee**

The Meramec Region Transportation Advisory Committee met at **4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 8, 2024**, 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/83547201855?pwd=Nm5PZHVzdkZiU0FxSHFSbEJMWGdPQT09>

Call-in information: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 835 4720 1855

Passcode: 178725

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

**GUESTS:** Dawn Bell, Preston Kramer, Steve Engelbrecht (Zoom)

**STAFF:** Anne Freand, Bonnie Prigge, Caitlin Jones (Zoom)

## **MEETING AGENDA**

**Call to Order & Welcome:** Steve Vogt, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

**Approval of December 14, 2023 TAC Minutes:** Vic Stratman motioned to approve minutes as submitted; Joey Auxier seconded. Minutes were approved.

**Forward 44 Planning/Environmental Study Update:** Preston Kramer, MoDOT, provided an overview and update on the I-44 study being completed for the section from Franklin/Jefferson County to the Oklahoma State line. He noted that two contractors had been selected; HG will handle the Oklahoma to Buckhorn section and Garver will handle the Buckhorn to St. Louis County section. Garver will also be the lead consultant. They are currently in Phase 1 of the process, which includes a review of previous studies and will validate the findings. They intend to divide the corridor into segments and identify the number of lives that can be saved using empirical evidence. Predictive analytics, especially in three counties that have a high number of deaths, will lean heavily into accident reduction. These counties include Pulaski, Phelps and Franklin counties.

**Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant:** Anne Freand discussed a grant application that was submitted in July 2023 for transportation planning work in the region. This grant will provide Federal funds to develop, complete, or supplement a comprehensive safety action plan in all eight counties. Staff will be meeting with FHWA in the next couple of weeks and anticipate work

beginning in late March/early April. Staff noted that meetings will be held in each of the counties and stakeholder committees will be developed to provide important input.

**Bridge Engineering Assistance Program (BEAP)** – Steve Engelbrecht, MoDOT, discussed the importance of the program that is used for bridges on local roads that are not a part of the MoDOT road system and are under the jurisdiction of local public agencies. Steve indicated that the public can do a web search on MoDOT's website and find information regarding the program. The committee discussed ideas about funding second priorities, unless additional top priorities were added.

**RAISE Planning Grant Update:** Bonnie Prigge provided an update on the application for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant related to the Rock Island Trail (MoRIT) and a benefit/cost analysis. MRPC is working with four different planning commissions across the state, as well as several communities and trail groups on the grant. If the grant is received, then the funds will allow for a cost/benefit analysis to be completed for the construction of the trail, which would be an economic generator for several towns and counties through our region.

**Show Me Zero Fatality Update:** Bonnie Prigge provided an update on regional numbers. The Meramec region did better overall in 2023, as compared to 2022, with 42 fatalities over the course of the year. Unfortunately, none of the region's counties had zero deaths. Overall, Missouri is also running lower than 2023 regarding fatalities for 2024. The group reviewed a number of other statistics related to fatalities such as age, helmet usage, alcohol use, etc.

**MoDOT Updates and Staff Reports (As time allows):** Bonnie Prigge and Steve Engelbrecht provided updates on upcoming due dates for grant applications. TAP applications will be open from March 1st through April 26th, TEAP applications will come out in August, and BRO applications will be reviewed in October of 2024. Preston Cramer gave construction updates for the region.

**Member Reports (As time allows):** Sherry Stites noted that tractor trailers, especially along I-44, do not have insurance but the cargo has insurance, which has become a big problem in the wrecks along the Interstate during construction. Ray Schwartze asked about workforce issues for MoDOT. Preston Kramer said that it is improving, and they have had the last four to five quarters of adding employees versus losing staff.

**Next TAC Meeting:** April 11, 2024

**Adjournment:** Charles Bassett motioned to adjourn the meeting; Vic Stratman seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.