

Meramec Region Multi-Modal Transportation Advisory Committee

The Meramec Region Transportation Advisory Committee met at **10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 29, 2025** 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/85988478232?pwd=WWa5pVKEck0bqGqV7a0VS6OmRHxQwH.1>

Meeting ID: 859 8847 8232

Passcode: 803253

Call-in information: 312-626-6799

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Darrin Bacon, Michael Burbank, Daniel Smith, Amy Stringer, Sam Rhodes, Ken Kwantes, Tracy Jones

GUESTS: Alex Schroeder, MoDOT Rail

STAFF: Bonnie Prigge, Anne Freand, Orin Pogue

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order & Welcome: Sam Rhodes, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Anne Freand requested that everyone go around the room and on Zoom and introduce themselves.

Approval of February 13, 2025 MMTAC Minutes: Daniel Smith motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Amy Stringer seconded. All were in favor. Minutes were approved.

Update on MoDOT Rail Crossings Project: Alex Schroeder, Administrator of Railroads for MoDOT, provided an update on rail crossing projects in the region. He explained that MoDOT receives about \$7.5 million annually for rail crossing improvements, which is limited given the number of crossings in the state. Alex discussed ongoing and planned projects in Crawford, Phelps, and Washington counties, including crossing upgrades, bridge rehabilitations, and a new overpass on MO-47 near Cadet. He also addressed concerns about project delays and safety issues. Sam Rhodes raised the need for reestablishing freight access in Washington County and mentioned the strategic importance of the Pea Ridge mine for rare earth minerals.

High Priority Unfunded Needs (HPUN) Update: Staff discussed the multimodal high priority and funded needs list for the central district of Missouri. No projects were added or removed from the list this year due to lack of completed construction and inflation. The list serves as a tool for identifying regional priorities when applying for various transportation grants. Different modes of transportation (aviation, rail, transit) are funded separately, with rail having a limited state budget of \$7.5 million. The group also discussed the unexpected construction of an \$8.6 million rail overpass on MO-47, funded by MoDOT rail safety money, and the potential for

future rail access projects tied to economic development opportunities.

The discussion continued to focus on the high-priority and funded multimodal needs in the central district, particularly those in the MRPC region. The Rock Island trail conversion project was highlighted, with partial funding of \$6.8 million in place, though full funding would require \$107 million. Various communities along the trail, including Owensville, Gerald, and Belle, have received grants or raised funds for their sections. The group also reviewed other projects on the list, such as sidewalk connections and bike paths. Anne Freand clarified that this list is static and does not include their most recent vote, as new projects are only added when others have been funded and then removed.

The group discussed the challenges of securing funding for transportation projects, particularly for smaller counties and cities that struggle with matching funds. Bonnie Prigge explained how regional planning commissions work together to rank and prioritize projects for funding consideration by the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT). The importance of having projects listed on state priority lists is emphasized, as this influences funding decisions at both state and federal levels. The group also discussed the need for more specific transit project proposals to improve advocacy efforts and potentially secure more funding.

Safe Streets and Roads 4 All Update: Anne Freand discussed the Safe Streets and Roads for All action plan, which focuses on road, bridge, bike, and pedestrian safety across 8 counties. The plan analyzes crash statistics, particularly fatalities and serious injuries, to identify high-risk areas. Public input is being gathered through surveys and meetings to identify safety concerns. The discussion included an overview of crash statistics by county, time of day, and type of vehicle, with a notable focus on ATV/UTV accidents in Washington County. The plan will use a prioritization matrix to rank safety improvement projects based on factors such as location in high-injury networks, disadvantaged communities, and lack of existing safety facilities.

Anne Freand also discussed the ongoing development of a regional safety action plan by MRPC. Orin is working on clarifying data for the plan, which will identify high-risk areas and potential safety improvement projects. The draft plan is expected in December, with final submission to federal authorities by March 2026. Once approved, local entities can apply for implementation funds for specific safety projects identified in the plan. The process involves statistical analysis and input from various stakeholders, including first responders.

Review of MRPC Multimodal Workplan: Anne Freand reviewed, and the committee approved MRPC's work plan for the next fiscal year, which outlines tasks related to maintaining the multimodal transportation advisory committee and updating regional transportation plans. Daniel Smith motioned to approve the work plan; Amy Stringer seconded. The work plan was approved.

Member Reports (As time allows): Committee members discussed additional issues with each of their modes. SMTS noted they have had to cut routes due to decreases in funding. Ken Kwantes talked about connections related to the Acorn Trail and finishing up ADA transitions in Rolla. Amy Stringer talked about the need for more vans and standard routes. OATS noted that they are trying to increase coverage with State Tech in Osage County.

Next MMTAC Meeting: September 2025

Adjournment: Daniel Smith motioned, and Amy Stringer seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.