

## **Meramec Region Transportation Advisory Committee**

The Meramec Region Transportation Advisory Committee met at **4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2025** at the Meramec Regional Planning Commission, 4 Industrial Drive, St. James, MO.

### **Zoom Meeting Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85712803945?pwd=iHwMPtzcS2bGWYwbF5bgayLwDsnAQK.1>

By Phone: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 857 1280 3945

Passcode: 585246

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Mark Pfeiffer, Danny Brown, Sally Burbridge, A.J. Seay, Randy Blaske (Zoom), Tim Schulte, Vic Stratman, Steve Vogt, Patrick Kleffner, Dale Logan, Darryl Griffin, Larry Kliethermes, Sherry Stites, Dale Martin, Anita Ivey, Sean Wilson, Charles Bassett, Gene Newkirk, John Casey (Zoom), T.R. Dudley

**GUESTS:** Preston Kramer, Joanie Prenger

**STAFF:** Anne Freand, Bonnie Prigge, Caitlin Jones, Orin Pogue

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Call to Order & Welcome:** Sean Wilson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. He wished everyone a happy Father's Day.

**Approval of April 10, 2025, TAC Minutes:** Sherry Stites motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Larry Kliethermes seconded. The motion was approved.

**Update on TAP Applications:** Joanie Prenger, MoDOT, provided an overview of the current grant cycle for the Transportation Alternatives Program. She noted that applications along state highways were due to Preston Kramer the next day and all other applications were due to her by July 11<sup>th</sup>.

**FY 2025 MoDOT Workplan Review:** Anne Freand presented the annual work plan for 2025/2026, which includes four main tasks: administration, planning activities, professional development, and multimodal transportation. The multimodal portion of the plan was already approved by that committee in May. Anne noted that it is an 80/20 grant with MODOT providing 80% of the funds. Steve Vogt motioned to recommend approval of the work plan to the full MRPC board; Steve Black seconded. The motion was 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. Anne Freand announced that the board needs to select four non-officer volunteers for the nominating committee, who will meet 15 minutes early in August to review officer positions and consider nominations for the full board meeting. Sherry Stites, Vic Stratman, Steve Vogt and Charles Bassett volunteered to sit on the nominating

committee.

**2025 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update:** Anne Freand presented updates to the regional transportation plan, including updates to population characteristics, needs identification, and multimodal transportation information. She noted that updates to chapters 2.1, 5 and 6, as well as multiple appendices were completed. A review of the transportation website page shows that the updates can be found online.

**High Priority Unfunded Needs (HPUN) Update:** Staff reviewed the final list of updated roads/bridges and multimodal needs placed on the HPUN list for the Central District. Anne Freand discussed the high priority unfunded needs list, which is divided into three tiers, with projects ranging from potential to very long-term implementation. Anne noted that while there was little movement on the list this year, it remains an important resource for identifying potential projects for funding. Bonnie Prigge also mentioned ongoing efforts to improve outreach to state elected officials for project priorities.

**Road Safety Audit:** Anne Freand discussed the upcoming road safety audit for the intersection of Highway DD and U County, scheduled for late June, which will involve analyzing crash statistics and potential safety improvements. Dale Logan indicated that the intersection is not a high priority for the county. Anne stated that RSAs are oftentimes completed for rural areas where traffic might be lower, but accident rates are high. The final report will be completed by the August TAC meeting.

**Show Me Zero/Arrive Alive Fatality Update:** Bonnie Prigge presented the 2025 fatality report for the central district, noting a 20% decrease in fatalities compared to 2024, with Washington County leading at 6 fatalities. Bonnie mentioned the upcoming Highway Safety Conference in September and encouraged interested participants to register, offering scholarships for some attendees. Bonnie discussed the success of a recent conference and highlighted the availability of resources for promoting highway safety, including stencils and paint for "Buckle Up, Phone Down" messages. Caitlin Jones encouraged community organizations and businesses to participate in painting projects or displaying signs to raise awareness. Caitlin also mentioned ongoing bike and pedestrian safety programs for schools and offered to modify these programs for younger children and other groups. She praised the successful Park event in Waynesville, which attracted over 800 kids despite weather concerns.

**MoDOT Updates and Staff Reports (As time allows):** Joanie Prenger, MoDOT, provided an overview of Missouri Department of Transportation's (MoDOT) Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), explaining how to read and navigate the document using a county example. She demonstrated how to find project details, including award dates, estimated costs, and engineering expenses, emphasizing that MoDOT charges and gets reimbursed for engineering services similar to how local governments do for design and inspection. Joanie also highlighted the importance of understanding the STIP to avoid issues like simultaneous bridge closures and offered to answer questions or provide further assistance.

Joanie discussed the project list, explaining that while projects may shift in years due to importance or new additions, once in the STIP, they remain committed. She emphasized the importance of

checking the interactive map for project details and highlighted the Eastern Federal Lands grant application, which is 100% funded but requires careful planning due to potential overruns.

Preston Kramer mentioned the completion of the I-44 study and the increase in work zones this construction season, encouraging attendees to use travel information maps to navigate safely. He noted the progress on some projects, like the I-44 rebuild, while expressing concerns about delays on others, such as the Route 8 Bridge project, due to challenges with railroad cooperation. Preston also discussed ongoing construction projects in Missouri, including a bridge project near Belgrade that is only 5% complete, and a Hwy 50 overlay project that is 65% complete with an anticipated completion date of October 27. He noted that a high-priority intersection project at State Tech is 35% complete and mentioned that contractors typically return to fix driveways after major paving work. Preston also discussed a new east entrance project at State Tech, which will include two full-time stoplights and coordinated traffic signals. Sherry Stites mentioned ongoing concerns about pavement damage near Rolla and Preston noted that may be addressed in a future project.

Preston discussed the implementation of GPS units in state vehicles to improve driver behavior and mentioned ongoing construction and maintenance work leading to work zones. Sherry Stites asked about the use of remote-controlled robot mowers for mowing along certain highways. Preston was asked for an update on the Hwy C bridge in Belgrade, Washington County and he provided a timing update, stating that the contract end date is December 1st of the current year, with work still involving the removal of the old bridge. Preston also provided an update on the I-44 highway study, which divided the corridor into 13 segments prioritized based on accidents, congestion, freight, resiliency, and pavement condition. The recommendation to senior management was to work towards tier-one locations within the next 10 years.

The committee discussed the funding and improvements needed for Interstate 44, highlighting that the total cost to fix the entire 253-mile corridor, including flooding and safety locations, is \$7.4 billion. Preston explained that while some segments are already funded, like the Springfield section, other areas will require additional funding from the General Assembly or grants. Preston emphasized the importance of safety improvements, noting that the most critical segment is near the 50 interchanges, and detailed the cost estimates for specific flooding locations and safety upgrades. He also mentioned that public feedback from previous meetings prioritized safety, and the project team is working with consultants to identify high-accident locations for potential improvements. Preston discussed the anticipated maintenance of 6 lanes of pavement within the existing footprint for most of the corridor, with detailed design needed to determine whether acquiring land or building retaining walls is more beneficial. He mentioned that if funded, the project could be completed in 8 years.

**Member Reports (As time allows):** Bonnie Prigge encouraged public input on the state's long-range transportation plan by June 30, 2025. Anne Freand walked committee members through the online virtual public meeting on MoDOT's website.

**Next TAC Meeting:** August 14, 2025

**Adjournment:** Dale Logan motioned to adjourn; Larry Kliethermes seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.