



Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 16, 2019
Library Station

Attending: Dennis Pyle (Barry), Todd Wiesehan (Christian), Brent Young (Christian), Roger Bradley (Dallas), J. Howard Fisk (Greene), Joel Keller (Greene), Jon Holmes (Lawrence), Max Springer (Lawrence), Rick Davis (Polk), Jerry Harman (Stone), Steve Seaton (Stone), Rick Ziegenfuss (Taney), Buddy Roberts (Taney), Randy Owens (Webster), Stan Whitehurst (Webster)

Andy Thomason (Ozarks Transportation Organization), Zeke Hall (MoDOT), Jason Ray (SMCOG), Megan Clark (SMCOG), Beth Schaller (MoDOT), Dana Louderbaugh (Fair Grove), John Dowdy (Kimberling City), Larry Sutton (Rogersville), Wayne Blades (Stone), Hank Smythe (Stone), Carl Carlson (Olsson Associates), Jeremy Pruet (Office of Billy Long), Adam Olinger (SMCOG), Bailey DeJonge (SMCOG), Thomas Hughes (SMCOG)

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Wiesehan at 9:00 a.m.

1. Introductions & Pledge

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda made by Rick Davis, motion seconded by Howard Fisk. All yeas. Motion carried.

3. Approval of minutes:

Motion to approve the November 14, 2018 meeting minutes made by Buddy Roberts, motion seconded by Dennis Pyle. All yeas. Motion carried.

4. District Prioritization Results

Megan Clark presented the road and bridge final rankings from the Southwest District Prioritization meeting in December 2018. The McDonald County I-49 extension connecting Missouri and Arkansas was funded through a federal BUILD Grant, which will allow another project to move up in priority. The Highway 60 and Highway 32 corridors both scored high on the priority list.

Bike and pedestrian lists are used as supports for TAP grant funds to help with ADA compliance and improvements. Projects in Mount Vernon, Monett, and Buffalo have been funded, which will allow other projects to move up in priority. Because these have been funded, Megan suggested moving lower priority projects up and prioritizing them this year. Dennis Pyle suggested only prioritizing bike and pedestrian projects every other year, which would still provide enough time to complete TAP applications for the 2020 deadline.

Motion to prioritize bike and pedestrian projects every other year made by Dennis Pyle, motion seconded by Rick Davis. All yeas. Motion carried.

5. SMOG Bridges

Megan Clark presented a spreadsheet database for bridges within the district and their conditions to help with the prioritization process. Funding may be lower than previously thought, so prioritization of bridge projects may need to occur. Bridges along I-44 are not included in this process because they are design-build projects.

Communities were asked if any bridge projects could be delayed. Focus was on keeping interstate and other major bridges operational for freight/economic purposes at the expense of minor bridges. No communities expressed concern with current bridges. Communities were encouraged to report on bridge conditions to help with future prioritization processes.

6. SMCOG Staff Update

Megan Clark presented MoDOT's updated Citizen's Guide and financial infographic. Communities are encouraged to post these in public places to enhance citizen understanding of transportation funding.

Communities were asked to provide feedback on the state's freight plan so the state will know what to include in it for future updates. Any comments can be sent to Megan Clark.

RHSOC meetings are held quarterly on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, which creates a conflict for SMCOG staff at least twice per year. Megan suggested holding future TAC meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, beginning in July. Motion to move TAC meetings to the 2nd Wednesday of the month made by Buddy Roberts, motion seconded by Howard Fisk. All yeas. Motion carried.

a. 2019 updates:

Members are asked to let Megan know whether they plan to return to TAC. She will then have county commissioners recommend returning members for reappointment. If members do not intend on returning, they should let Megan know so county commissioners can begin searching for replacements.

Prioritization process for the next year will begin this spring. Public surveys will be dispersed to include citizen transportation concerns.

7. MoDOT Update

I-44 design-build projects approved, in Lawrence County, to address poor conditions and safety standards. A contractor should be chosen by late February and should begin work in May or June.

Long Creek Bridge project has received some money from the statewide major bridge fund. Detours are being explored to minimally impact the community. A public meeting will be held February 26 at OTC in Hollister.

Aurora railroad bridge project is still underway. Contractor is still working on the review process.

76 & 160 roundabout is coming along. Divider island is in place and paving will begin in spring.

Stone County bridge projects will be larger projects. Raleigh Creek bridge will be removed and replaced, with Cape Fair bridge to act as detour. Work on the Cape Fair bridge will follow but may be pushed to 2020.

8. MPO Update

Andy Thomason discussed OTO's work with MoDOT to refine STIP priorities and relooking at prioritization criteria. Final TAP applications have been approved by the committee and will be going to the board for final approval.

9. Other Member Updates & Guest Reports

Jeremy Pruett of Billy Long's office discussed the effects of the partial government shutdown on local transportation. Infrastructure is a top priority to both sides of the aisle. "Make a Better Day" proposal by democrats prioritizes infrastructure, stabilize the Highway Trust Fund, major increases in funding for transit.

Dennis Pyle inquired of the group if others have experienced a reduction in OATS service. Megan Clark stated that she knew of a reduction in Barry County because of Senior Age funding for OATS has been cut in half, so service was negatively affected. Alternate funding sources will need to be researched to continue operation.

10. Adjourn by Chairman

Meeting was adjourned at 9:59 am by Vice Chair Wiesehan.

The next meeting will be March 20, 2019 at 9 a.m. at Library Station in Springfield.