



Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 18, 2018
Library Station

Attending: Cherry Warren (Barry), Steve Walensky (Barry), Todd Wiesehan (Christian), Randy Daniel (Dade), Roger Bradley (Dallas), Joel Keller (Greene), Jeff Scott (Greene), Max Springer (Lawrence), Rick Davis (Polk), Shannon Hancock (Polk), Dennis Wood (Stone), Jerry Harman (Stone), Rick Ziegenfuss (Taney), Buddy Roberts (Taney), Randy Owens (Webster), John Benson (Webster)

Steve Seaton (Stone Alternate), Stan Whitehurst (Webster Alternate)

Larry Sutton (Rogersville), Zeke Hall (MoDOT), Frank Miller (MoDOT), Travis Koestner (MoDOT), Andy Thomason (Ozarks Transportation Organization), King Coltrin (CJW Engineering), Isabella Karallas (Trek Design Group), Carl Carlson (Olsson Associates), Dan Wadlington (Senator Blunt), Megan Clark (SMCOG), Jason Ray (SMCOG), Bailey DeJonge (SMCOG), Wesley Welch (SMCOG)

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

1. Introductions & Pledge

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda made by Buddy Roberts, motion seconded by Cherry Warren. All yeas. Motion carried.

3. Approval of minutes:

Motion to approve the May 16, 2018 meeting minutes made by Cherry Warren, motion seconded by Rick Ziegenfuss. All yeas. Motion carried

4. Elections: Chair and Vice Chair

Megan Clark explained that Dennis Wood has been serving as TAC Chair and Todd Wiesehan has served as Vice Chair. She stated they both expressed willingness to continue serving, but asked if anyone else was interested.

Motion to nominate Dennis Wood to continue as Chair made by Cherry Warren, seconded by Rick Davis. All yeas. Motion carried.

Motion to nominate Todd Wiesehan to continue as Vice Chair made by Rick Davis, seconded by Buddy Roberts. All yeas. Motion carried.

5. Regional Transportation Needs Prioritization Process- Road & Bridge

Megan Clark reviewed the prioritization process and explained that the top 10 road and bridge needs would be taken to the MoDOT district meeting in October. Bike and pedestrian needs will be discussed at the August 15 meeting.

Clark presented on the number one need for each county and the number two needs as requested by Christian and Lawrence Counties. TAC members and MoDOT staff provided

input throughout the presentations. TAC members then ranked the top 10 regional needs, adding one additional need in the event one of the top 10 items gets funded or completed.

Motion to rank safety and capacity improvements on Rte. 60 from OTO boundaries in Republic to Monett, and Rte. 37 from Monett to Arkansas as regional priority number one made by Rick Davis, motion seconded by Cherry Warren. All yeas. Motion carried.

Motion to rank intersection improvements, adding a turn lane from Rte. 76 onto Indian Point road in Stone County as regional priority number two made by Jerry Harman, motion seconded by Rick Ziegenfuss. 7 yeas, 8 nays. Motion failed.

Motion to rank safety, capacity, and intersection improvements on Rte. 60 through Greene and Webster Counties as regional priority number two made by Joel Keller, motion seconded by John Benson. All yeas. Motion carried.

Motion to rank safety and alignment improvements on Rte. 32 from Hwy 13 in Bolivar into Cedar County, including s-curves in Polk County as regional priority number three made by Rick Davis, motion seconded by Roger Bradley. 8 yeas. Motion carried.

Motion to rank intersection improvements, adding a turn lane from Rte. 76 onto Indian Point road in Stone County as regional priority number four made by Jerry Harman, motion seconded by Rick Davis. 10 yeas, 1 nay. Motion carried.

Motion to rank capacity improvements, the construction of a new Taney County Expressway as regional priority number five made by Rick Ziegenfuss, motion seconded by Rick Davis. 9 yeas, 1 nay. Motion carried.

Motion to rank safety and capacity improvements on Rte. EE between 65 and 160/13 in Christian County as regional priority number six made by Todd Wiesehan, motion seconded by Randy Owens. All yeas. Motion carried.

Motion to rank alignment and safety improvements on Rte. 160 in Dade County and intersection with Rte. 39 in Greenfield as regional priority number seven made by Randy Daniel, motion seconded by Rick Ziegenfuss. 11 yeas, 1 nay. Motion carried.

Motion to rank intersection improvements at Rte. 65 and Truman Rd. in Buffalo as regional priority number eight made by Rick Davis, motion seconded by Roger. All yeas. Motion carried.

Motion to rank safety and intersection improvements along Rte. 65 in Christian and Taney Counties as regional priority number nine made by Todd Weisehan, motion seconded by Joel Keller. All yeas. Motion carried.

Motion to rank safety and congestion, traffic management improvements at Rte. 39 and Shafer St. in Mt. Vernon as regional priority number ten made by Max Springer, motion seconded by Randy Daniel. 10 yeas. Motion carried.

Motion to rank safety and intersection improvements on Rte. 60 and A Hwy in Webster County as regional priority number eleven made by Randy Owens, motion seconded by John Benson. 13 yeas. Motion carried.

6. SMCOG Staff Update

a. Traffic Counts

Megan Clark reminded members that SMCOG has a traffic counter and ability to provide traffic counts and speeds on local roads free of charge for member communities.

b. Sidewalk Assessments

Megan Clark reminded members that SMCOG conducts sidewalk assessments and inventories to assist communities in identifying priority locations for new sidewalks or sidewalk replacements. The inventory and report for the City of Bolivar can be found on the SMCOG website.

c. US Bike Route 51

A group across the state is looking into seeking an interstate bike route designation for US BR51. This route would go through Polk, Green, Stone, and Barry counties. Megan is serving on a committee to look at route options and will make sure to invite and include relevant communities as the process proceeds.

7. MoDOT Update

Frank Miller reported that there will be some upcoming I-44 improvements impacting the SMCOG region. Some ramp extensions and bridge replacements in Lawrence County near Halltown will be forthcoming. MoDOT is also planning for some intersection improvement and left turn lanes on 160/13 south of Nixa to Branson West. There is an upcoming meeting on July 24 at Library Center regarding some upcoming improvements.

Miller added that MoDOT's first priority for funding is asset management and taking care of the existing system. After maintenance then MoDOT looks at what addition money is available for new projects. The Southwest District has been doing okay with roads, but is losing ground on bridges. Many bridges were built around the same time so all are coming due for repairs or replacement now. Additionally, the State-wide cost share program funding has increased, which means the amount of money distributed to the districts is reduced, thus less money for roads and bridges within the district. However, many of the SMCOG priorities might be good options for the state-wide cost share program.

District Engineer Travis Koestner reminded members about the Buckle-up, Phones down program. Changing driver behavior is the number one way to increase safety on the roadways. MoDOT is working with an engineering firm to determine the best option for the Cape Fair Bridge and hopes to hear back on proposed solutions in the next month. If the cost for repair comes close to the cost to replace then the district may look at just replacing the bridge completely. MoDOT will keep the community aware of options. Another bridge needing work is the Long Creek Bridge. It will be in need of repairs or replacement in the coming years and will be very expensive due to its size. It is over 1,000 feet long, thus considered a major bridge.

Koestner added that Proposition D will be on the November ballot and pertains to a 10 cent gas tax increase over four years. This would be increased funding for roads and bridges in the state.

John Benson asked Koestner if there were any long term plans for I-44 improvements. Koestner responded that some bridges will be in need of replacement and there are opportunities for spot improvements, but no long range plan specifically pertaining to I-44.

Randy Owens asked how a county would go about finding the condition of bridges. Frank Miller stated that if there is a specific bridge in question it might be best to reach out to MoDOT directly.

Cherry Warren expressed concern about the change in the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) interpretation of a bridge and that BRO funding could no longer be used to improve low water crossings. Several of the counties had projects already approved by FHWA that approvals are now being rescinded.

Koestner commented that MoDOT has expressed its frustration to FHWA as well.

8. MPO Update

Andy Thomason, OTO stated he had no report.

9. Other Member Updates & Guest Reports

Dan Wadlington with Senator Blunt's office stated that if counties are frustrated with new interpretation of bridges to please let the Senator's office know. Senator Blunt is very interested in the BRO program and would like to know if there are issues. The Senator will be in the area this coming weekend including Bolivar, Springfield, and Greenfield. The Senate has passed three appropriation bills already this year, which is earlier than in the past ten years. Additionally, the Senate will recess for only one week in August instead of the usual five weeks.

10. Adjourn by Chairman

Meeting was adjourned at 10:21 am by Chair Woods.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 9 a.m. at Library Station in Springfield.