



Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Zoom Meeting

Attending: Cherry Warren (Barry), Dennis Pyle (Barry), Brent Young (Christian), Miranda Beadles (Christian Alternate), Hollie Elliott (Dallas), Roger Bradley (Dallas), J. Howard Fisk (Greene), Joel Keller (Greene), Jeff Scott (Greene Alternate), Max Springer (Lawrence), Tim Selvey (Lawrence Alternate), Gail Noggle (Polk), Hank Smythe (Stone), Jerry Harman (Stone), Buddy Roberts (Taney), Sam Rost (Webster), Stan Whitehurst (Webster Alternate)

Andy Thomason (OTO), Sara (OTO), Zeke Hall (MoDOT), Frank Miller (MoDOT), Beth Schaller (MoDOT), Jason Ray (SMCOG), Jack Weindel (SMCOG), Aishwarya Shrestha (SMCOG), Hanna Schinstock (SMCOG), Lexi Mason (SMCOG), Thomas Cunningham (SMCOG), Jeremy Pruett (Congressman Bill Long), Dan Wadlington (Senator Roy Blunt), Jon Holmes (Aurora)

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Dennis Pyle.

1. Introductions by County & Guests

Self-introductions were skipped.

2. Approval of the agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda made by Hank, motion seconded by Howard. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. Approval of minutes:

Motion to approve the January 13, 2021 meeting minutes made by Max, motion seconded by Hank. All ayes. Motion carried.

4. SMCOG Staff Update:

a. Statewide Planning Partner Recap

Aishwarya provided a recap of the 2021 Statewide Planning Partner Meeting that was held virtually. The recap included MoDOT executive update, legislative update by Representative Becky Ruth and Senator Justin Brown, overview of system condition status and asset management, refresher of STIP, project success stories, unfunded needs list update, TAP overview, and safety updates.

b. Updating unfunded needs list

Aishwarya provided a brief overview of the series of meeting in February to update the unfunded needs list. She mentioned that the draft that was completed earlier in March is still a tentative draft until MoDOT has time to conclude statewide analysis and the list is reviewed and approved by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission.

c. Other Items of Interest:

Aishwarya highlighted the Show Me Zero, Missouri's Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

Aishwarya highlighted the MoDOT cost-share program. The final deadline for the final application is on April 16, 2021. MoDOT would like to see an initial draft application to be reviewed by the district staff at least a month earlier on March 16th.

5. MoDOT Update

Frank highlighted the unfunded needs list. He mentioned that the draft is being reviewed by the Commission. Another tier of the unfunded needs list, tier 3, might be a possibility as there is a lot of

discussion at the state and federal level for transportation investments. MoDOT might also look at a multimodal unfunded needs list as there is a lot of interest in other modes of transportation. In addition to the unfunded needs list, MoDOT is also working on its STIP. Aside from asset management in the STIP, new SMOG projects added to the STIP are the 60/37 corridor (resurfacing in Morrisville, Christian County, and Rt. 60, and adding turn lanes in this corridor), and 1 turn lane in Hwy 65 north of Buffalo. The initial draft of the Safety Plan recommended a small project for shoulders and rumbles on Christian County EE. Safety Plan is not finalized yet and has not been broken into specific projects, so EE is not currently delineated on the STIP. But there is a pot of safety funds to address EE and other routes in the area for safety concerns. One project that is not yet added to STIP is the CRISI project in Webster Hwy 60 and Rt. A due to some constraints. The staff intends to go back this summer and add this project by amendment.

Frank also mentioned that they will start looking into updating the prioritization process to improve addressing both small and big projects, and to adequately capture a geographic balance for projects.

Beth mentioned that the MoDOT Director emphasized the importance of the unfunded needs list and how the legislature is showing a lot of attention to the list. Beth mentioned that MoDOT is kicking off the construction season and is wrapping up a lot of projects from last year. Some of the new projects are overlay projects with safety improvements on Rt. 37 going south of Monett to the Arkansas line, few projects in Nixa and Ozark, and expansion of James River Freeway. She also highlighted the surface repairs for a bridge on Rt. 76 in Cape Fair.

MoDOT staff answered Tim's question about a better system for funding bridge replacements and BRO program.

6. MPO Update

Andy mentioned that they are working with MoDOT on transportation needs prioritization. OTO will be collecting travel speed data on their roadways in April. They are also reaching out to the communities to gather new needs and working on developing their regional trail plan and long-range transportation plan. OTO is closely monitoring new information on the COVID funds.

7. Legislative Reports

Jeremy mentioned the COVID relief bill, the \$1.9 trillion COVID stimulus package, which was passed by the House and the Senate (with some changes) and sent back to the House. The House is expected to pass the bill. He also mentioned that earmarks might be coming soon. There are talks about starting a process to look at transportation and infrastructure bill.

Dan highlighted the National Association of Counties Legislative Analysis group report that shows how much counties are getting on a per capita basis. Rules have not been written on the use of these funds.

8. Other Member Updates & Guest Reports

No member updates and guest reports.

9. Adjourn by Chair

The meeting was adjourned by Vice-Chair Dennis Pyle.

The next meeting will be on May 12, 2021, via Zoom.