



Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Attending: Todd Wiesehan (Christian), Kim Kinder (Dade), Roger Bradley (Dallas), Joel Keller (Greene), Jon Holmes (Lawrence), Tim Selvey (Lawrence), Gail Noggle (Polk), Rick Davis (Polk), Hank Smythe (Stone), Jerry Harman (Stone), Steve Seaton (Stone), Buddy Roberts (Taney), Randy Owens (Webster), Stan Whitehurst (Webster), Sam Rost (Webster)

Hanna Knopf (MoDOT), Frank Miller (MoDOT), Beth Schaller (MoDOT), Jason Ray (SMCOG), Aishwarya Shrestha (SMCOG), Courtney Pinkham (SMCOG), Avery Knese (SMCOG), Angela Duran (SMCOG), Ryan Smith (SMCOG), Sonya Anderson (Senator Blunt), Erin Engelmeyer (Senator Hawley), Jeremy Pruet (Representative Long), Neil Brady (Bartlett & West), Jackson Hotaling (MRT), Jason Sivils (GRE)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Todd Wiesehan.

1. Introductions and Pledge:

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda made by Gail Noggle, motion seconded by Jerry Harman and Hank Smythe. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. Approval of minutes:

Motion to approve January 12, 2022, meeting minutes made by Buddy Roberts, motion seconded by Hank Smythe. All ayes. Motion carried.

4. Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) Grant:

Missourians for Responsible Transportation (MRT) partnered with RPCs (SMCOG, Kaysinger Basin, and Harry S Truman) from the Southwest region to apply for a grant from the MFH to help better prepare our rural communities for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grants.

Jackson Hotaling provided a brief introduction to MRT. He highlighted that it is a 2-year project. The project team will work with a network of transportation professionals as well as collaborate with the RPCs to discuss priorities related to active transportation and public transportation. This project could be a model for other parts of the State.

5. SMCOG Staff Update:

a. Statewide Planning Partner Meeting Recap

Aishwarya Shrestha provided a recap of MoDOT's February Statewide Planning Partner meeting that was held virtually. The recap included an executive update, a financial forecast update, a planning update, grant programs, a refresher of STIP, and a safety update. She also mentioned that all the slides and handouts are included in the meeting packet.

b. 2022 Transportation Needs Prioritization

Aishwarya Shrestha mentioned that SMCOG will mail surveys and county needs lists to all the region's cities and counties. The survey can be completed both on paper and online. She also mentioned that she will be contacting the counties to schedule a prioritization meeting.

c. 2022 Construction Agenda

Aishwarya Shrestha highlighted the 2022 Construction Guide included in the meeting packet.

d. Other items of interest

Aishwarya Shrestha mentioned that the Missouri State Freight and Rail Plan is available for public comment. Public comments can be made through an online form on the plan website through March 31.

Aishwarya Shrestha also highlighted the acronyms list in the meeting packet. She mentioned that the acronyms list is also provided on SMCOG's transportation page and will be updated as needed.

6. MoDOT Update

Frank Miller mentioned that MoDOT recently completed a draft list of projects for the construction program. For the Southwest region, everything is not on the list. There will be additional projects in the final full draft that will be published for public comments. SB 262 and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law made a big difference in the number of projects that made it to the list. Previously MoDOT had \$5 million for projects for the Southwest rural district. This time, there will be a significant number of projects that will make a difference. Frank also highlighted the unfunded needs list.

Frank Miller highlighted a new program under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. He mentioned that a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will be published for a rural-oriented transportation program soon.

Beth Schaller mentioned that MoDOT is seeing higher bid prices. There are concerns that additional funding will be eaten up by these higher prices. There is a lot of private development coming which can be seen with an increase in the number of permits. Due to the high workload and lower percentage of staff, there might be delays in response time.

Beth Schaller highlighted that there is a large design-build project coming up, with most of the construction in Lawrence County. Other major interstate bridges included are in Greene and Webster counties.

7. MPO Update

There were no updates.

8. Legislative Reports

Erin Engelmeyer mentioned that there is some difference in interpretation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. She mentioned that Senator Hawley is working towards legislation regarding transparency in Afghanistan withdrawal and the vetting process.

Sonya Anderson mentioned that they are working on appropriations. The House is working on a package as the deadline is March 11. They are working to add funding to Ukraine in the package as well. Sonya mentioned that if anyone wants to be included in her email list for updates, they should let her know.

Jeremy Pruett highlighted that there is a continuing resolution to push government spending till March 15. He mentioned that there was \$13.6 billion added to the package for Ukraine. The full package is \$1.5 trillion.

9. Other Member Updates & Guest Reports

Beth Schaller highlighted OTO's website for additional information on the I-44 and Kansas Expressway interchange.

Tim Selvey mentioned that Lawrence County had its first case of avian flu and it affected 6 barns. They are in the process of cleaning those barns.

10. Adjourn by Chair

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Todd Wiesehan.

The next meeting will be on May 11, 2022, in person.

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