



## Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 12, 2021

Zoom Meeting

**Attending:** Dennis Pyle (Barry), Brent Young (Christian), Todd Wiesehan (Christian), Kim Kinder (Dade), Hollie Elliott (Dallas), J. Howard Fisk (Greene), Joel Keller (Greene), Jeff Scott (Greene Alternate), Max Springer (Lawrence), Gail Noggle (Polk), Hank Smythe (Stone), Jerry Harman (Stone), Buddy Roberts (Taney), Sam Rost (Webster), Randy Owens (Webster), Stan Whitehurst (Webster Alternate)

Andy Thomason (OTO), Sara (OTO), Zeke Hall (MoDOT), Beth Schaller (MoDOT), Jason Ray (SMCOG), Aishwarya Shrestha (SMCOG), Hanna Schinstock (SMCOG), Lexi Mason (SMCOG), Courtney Pinkham (SMCOG), Sonya Anderson (Senator Roy Blunt), Bob Senniget, Jerany Jackson, Steve Schultz (Bartlett & West), Dana Louderbaugh (Fair Grove)

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 Buddy. All ayes. Motion carried.

**3. Approval of minutes:**

Motion to approve the May 12, 2021 meeting minutes made by Max, motion seconded by Hank. All ayes. Motion carried.

**4. SMCOG Staff Update:**

a. Regional prioritization process discussion

Aishwarya provided a review of the prioritization process from the start to the end. She requested input from the committee on few discussion questions regarding the process. The discussion questions included considerations and changes the committee would like to see in the prioritization process. Some of the discussion revolved around heavy use of pre-score, community's ability and willingness to apply for a cost-share, and a separate list for intersections.

Dennis mentioned that the pre-scores have been very helpful when we get to the district level prioritization with the district's planning partners. Jeff Scott mentioned it would be helpful to learn tips and tricks on how to elevate our region's scores in the district prioritization.

Dennis noted that communities should get some consideration or maybe extra points during the prioritization at the TAC for cost-share projects. Beth highlighted that cost-share projects need to be on the RPC's needs list and would not matter if it is not in the top 10 list.

Randy Owens noted that intersections should have a separate priority list. He mentioned that usually accidents are at intersections and intersections are one of the main safety problems. Therefore, intersections need special considerations. Zeke mentioned although it might not be a separate list, it might be separate criteria in the same list that would help small intersection projects compete with larger projects. Zeke noted that this is an idea and has not been decided yet.

b. County transportation prioritization meeting dates and updated needs

Aishwarya highlighted that the updated needs list with the new 2021 needs can be found on SMCOG's transportation page. She also highlighted the county meeting date is included in the meeting packet.

c. Other Items of Interest:

Aishwarya noted that the meeting packet includes the TAC meeting dates for 2021-2022.

Aishwarya highlighted the RAISE grant that is due on July 12, 2021, and the Freight Enhancement Application that is due on June 9, 2021.

The committee decided that they would like to have an in-person meeting for July to have an efficient prioritization process.

**5. MoDOT Update**

Beth highlighted the Governor's press release that stated all state agencies will return to their offices on Monday, May 17. She mentioned that it was shocking to see the number of complaint calls about trash on the roadways. There was a concentrated litter removal campaign ahead of the mowing. Maintenance crews, MoDOT office staff, and citizens were involved in the campaign.

Beth mentioned that this year will also be a busy construction season. Beth updated on Stone County's construction project. MoDOT is resurfacing a bridge in the county. Therefore, the bridge will be closed for a little over a week.

**6. MPO Update**

Andy highlighted the Senate Bill 262 that was passed. The gas tax will be presented to the Governor for his signature. He also mentioned the draft STIP is out for public comments. Some of the major projects included are James River Freeway widening to 6 lanes, and the I-44 expansion.

**7. Legislative Reports**

Sonya mentioned the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. She mentioned that it was passed earlier this year as a part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and includes an allocation of \$350 million to state, local and tribal governments. She noted that she sent out the guidelines for these funds. The funds can be used for public health, address the negative impacts impacted by the public health emergencies, replace lost public sector revenue, provide premium pay for essential workers, and invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. FAQs will be updated as more questions come in. She also mentioned President Biden's \$2.1 trillion infrastructure plan and there has been a lot of controversy on that. Senator Blunt is meeting with the President at the White House to work on a counteroffer for the infrastructure plan.

**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 July 14, 2021, in person.