



Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Attending: Richard Asbill (Barry), Todd Wiesehan (Christian), Kim Kinder (Dade), John Crawford (Dallas), Hollie Elliott (Dallas), Mark Webb (Greene), J Howard Fisk (Greene), Brad Smith (Lawrence), Joe Kelley (Lawrence), Kyle Lee (Polk), Chris Daugherty (Stone), Hank Smythe (Stone), Matt Briand (Taney), Stan Whitehurst (Webster), Randy Owens (Webster)

Jason Ray (SMCOG), Aishwarya Shrestha (SMCOG), Courtney Pinkham (SMCOG), Pratika Banjara (SMCOG), Garrett Jackson (SMCOG), Erin Engelmeyer (Sen Hawley) David Knaut (OTO), Lisa Bailey (OATS), Jacob Wimsatt (MoDOT), John Cahill (GRE), Neil Brady (Bartlett & West), Ric Ashe (Ozark Greenways)

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 Chris Daugherty, motion seconded by Kim Kinder. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. Approval of November 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve November 13, 2024, meeting minutes made by Hank Smythe, motion seconded by Howard Fisk. All ayes. Motion carried.

4. SMCOG Staff Update

Aishwarya Shrestha briefly talked about the 2025 transportation needs prioritization process. Transportation needs and survey along with the county needs list will be mailed to all local governments.

Aishwarya highlighted the 2025 AARP Community Challenge grant program. The deadline to apply is March 5, 2025.

Aishwarya highlighted the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant program. The deadline to apply is February 24, 2025.

5. MoDOT Update

Jacob Wimsatt stated that MoDOT is starting the process to develop the 2026 – 2030 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). MoDOT will meet with the planning partners in February to develop the plan.

Aishwarya Shrestha provided Beth Schaller's updates. There are a few MoDOT public meetings coming up. The first meeting is on January 23 in Reed Springs to discuss roundabout constructions. The second meeting is on February 20 to discuss bridge replacement over the railroad on Sunshine Street, west of Kansas Expressway. The date for I-44 6-laneing from Kansas Expressway to Hwy 65 has not been set yet.

6. MPO Update

David Knaut mentioned that the I-44 construction grant has been awarded, asphalt will be used instead of concrete. They will have a call for trail and sidewalk projects soon.

7. Legislative Reports

Erin Engelmeyer with Senator Hawley's office reported that the Senator wants to express his appreciation for being able to serve another term. He has proposed a bill to increase the Child Tax Credit, it was \$2,000 per child, he would like to increase it to \$5,000 per child. He also introduced the National Defense Authorization Act prior to going to break.

8. Other Member Updates & Guest Reports

Jason Ray commented that SMCOG is working on several grant applications due this week. SMCOG just received several rejections for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications that were submitted. SMCOG will be requesting a debriefing from CDBG on these rejections. Jason asked the TAC members that if they knew of any projects that might qualify for the CDBG program in their communities to reach out to SMCOG staff.

Jason met with MoDOT last week to discuss the Regional Bridge program; staff is working on overlaying the low water bridge maps with Low to Moderate Income (LMI) areas to see if there are any crossovers that would be eligible for CDBG funds.

SMCOG has completed its temporary move to University Hall on Missouri State University (MSU) campus. He has been updated that the construction on Blunt Hall is on track, and we should be making our move to our final destination in Blunt Hall in April.

9. Other Business

None.

10. Adjourn by Chair

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Todd Wiesehan.

The next meeting will be on March 12, 2025.
