



# Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

**Attending:** Steve Walensky (Barry County), Brent Young (Christian County), Todd Wiesehan (Christian County), Roger Bradley (Dallas County), Hollie Elliot (Dallas County), Joel Keller (Greene County), Tim Selvey (Lawrence County), Jerry Harman (Stone County), Steve Seaton (Stone County), Sam Rost (Webster County)

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), Christopher Lynn (SMCOG), Dan Wadlington (Senator Blunt), Erin Engelmeyer (Senator Hawley), Neil Brady (Bartlett & West), Jackson Hotaling (MRT), Cindy DeBlauw (MRT), Carrie Kissel (NADO), Rebecca Gleason (Western Transportation Institute), Mark Webb (Greene County), Kyle Lee (Polk County)

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 Steve Seaton, motion seconded by Hank Smythe. All ayes. Motion carried.

**3. Approval of minutes:**

Motion to approve March 9, 2022, meeting minutes made by Tim Selvey, motion seconded by Sam Rost. All ayes. Motion carried.

**4. Dade County Trails and Active Transportation Access Project – Rebecca Gleason, Western Transportation Institute, and Carrie Kissel, National Association of Development Organizations**

Carrie Kissel and Rebecca Gleason provided a summary of the Dade County Trails Project which included an introduction to the project, maps created, and data collected. They also mentioned that they have scheduled meetings with stakeholders to gather additional information and will conduct site visits over the course of the next few days.

**5. SMCOG Staff Update:**

**a. County Transportation Prioritization Meeting Dates and Needs**

Aishwarya Shrestha mentioned that SMCOG has been contacting the counties to schedule a prioritization meeting. She also presented the meeting dates and times for the meetings that have already been scheduled.

**b. Other items of interest**

Aishwarya Shrestha highlighted that May is National Motorcycles Safety Awareness Month. She highlighted the article that was published by MoDOT.

Aishwarya Shrestha mentioned that MoDOT is soliciting projects for the State Fiscal Year 2023 Freight Enhancement Program. The deadline for applications is June 3, 2022. She highlighted the application details that were included in the meeting packet.

Aishwarya Shrestha highlighted a fact sheet published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on traffic safety facts for large trucks.

## **6. MoDOT Update**

Frank announced that Hanna Knopf will be taking over for Zeke Hall in attending TAC meetings.

Frank Miller announced that the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) will be published for public comments in the next few weeks. Frank mentioned that MoDOT is waiting to hear more about the proposed gas tax holiday. He also announced that the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) notice will be out on May 11. The program will be accepting applications for projects for the next 2 years. The deadline for the applications is July 15.

Beth Schaller mentioned that the demolition of a bridge on Highway CC in Webster County has started. She also mentioned that MoDOT will start its design-build project in Lawrence County. They will be working on 9 bridges this year. Beth announced that the Highway Commission awarded the Long Creek Bridge for \$66 million.

## **7. MPO Update**

There were no updates.

## **8. Legislative Reports**

Erin Engelmeyer highlighted that Senator Hawley is vetting nominations on the Biden administration's nominees. The Senator will not be supporting the Women's Protection Act. The Senator is working on the baby formula shortage.

Randy Owens highlighted fuel delivery issues. He mentioned that the county is having issues with fuel deliveries as not many companies are able to bid due to driver shortages. Erin Engelmeyer responded that Senator Hawley has advocated for energy independence and opening the pipelines and will look into the issue.

Dan Waddlington stated it is appropriation season. Senate is currently voting on a \$40 billion package for Ukraine. Senator Blunt does not support the Women's Health Act.

Howard Fisk mentioned how damaging new CDL requirements costs are to Southwest Missouri as smaller communities are not able to pay the fees. All in attendance agreed.

## **9. Other Member Updates & Guest Reports**

Tim Selvey asked about a stretch of historic Route 66 that is in Lawrence County near Paris Springs, which still has original pavement. Initially, it was under MoDOT but now it is under Lawrence County. He highlighted that it needs repairs and asked if anyone knew of funding to assist with this.

Jason Ray announced that SMCOG was the lead applicant for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Planning Grant for an Elective Vehicle (EV) Rural Strategy. If awarded the grant would help us develop a 32-county EV Plan.

## **10. Adjourn by Chair**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Todd Wiesehan.

The next meeting will be on July 13, 2022, in person.

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