



# Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Zoom Meeting

Attending: Dennis Pyle (Barry), Cherry Warren (Barry), Todd Wiesehan (Christian), Brent Young (Christian), Kim Kinder (Dade), Hollie Elliott (Dallas), Joel Keller (Greene), Jeff Scott (Greene), Max Springer (Lawrence), Tim Selvey (Lawrence), Sydney Allen (Polk), Dennis Wood (Stone), Jerry Harman (Stone), Buddy Roberts (Taney), Rick Ziegenfuss (Taney), Stan Whitehurst (Webster), Randy Owens (Webster)

Bob Seneger (Lawrence County), Sam Rost (Webster County), Andy Thomason (OTO), Jeremy Pruett (Congressman Bill Long), Zeke Hall (MoDOT), Frank Miller (MoDOT), Michelle Slater (Kaysinger Basin RPC), Stacey Reese (MoDOT), Beth Schaller (MoDOT), Megan Clark (SMCOG), Jason Ray (SMCOG), Jack Weindel (SMCOG)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wood at 9:02 a.m.

1. Introductions & Pledge  
Self-introductions were made.
2. Approval of the agenda:  
Motion to approve the agenda made by Buddy Roberts, motion seconded by Tim Selvey. All yeas. Motion carried.
3. Approval of minutes:  
Motion to approve the March 11, 2020 meeting minutes made by Rick Ziegenfuss, motion seconded by Chery Warren. All yeas. Motion carried.
4. Prioritization Process- Megan Clark, SMCOG  
Megan Clark prefaced the discussion with an announcement of her departure from SMCOG as of June 12<sup>th</sup>. This means the 2020-2021 prioritization process will be led by a new staff member.

Megan Clark reviewed the current prioritization process from step one through the end. She requested input from the committee on 2020 county needs meetings and recommended that each county determine if it would like to adopt the same list from last year or schedule a virtual meeting. The TAC members agreed with the plan.

Clark also explained that SMCOG would be maintaining a list of multimodal needs from each county, but requested that TAC members and County Commissions make sure that list is complete and add any items needed. Multimodal needs will not be prioritized this year due to MoDOT not adopted a STIP and potential alterations in projects and planning due to COVID19.

Clark asked the TAC if they would like to see any changes to the prioritization process. She noted that other considerations could be made, such as a community's ability and willingness to apply for a cost-share or looking at intersections as a separate list.

Dennis Pyle suggested that perhaps some communities could get points or some special consideration during the prioritization at the TAC for projects that would be a cost-share.

Andy Thomason noted that adding intersection entering volumes could be another way to award points.

5. SMCOG Staff Update:

a. TAC Appointments:

Megan Clark reminded TAC members that the new TAC appointment year begins July 1<sup>st</sup>. She will be asking County Commissions for the recommendation for approval at the June SMCOG board meeting.

b. Other Items of Interest:

Megan noted that included in the packet was an updated traffic volume map for the SMCOG region, a letter from the MoDOT director regarding the Highway Commission not adopting a new STIP this year, and traffic safety data for January - May 2020.

6. MoDOT Update

Frank Miller noted that the annual prioritization process serves multiple purposes, including to guide projects in the event any stimulus money is passed at the federal level. He noted that the multimodal needs identified in January at the Statewide Planning Partners meeting, but not gotten much guidance since then.

Miller stated that it is not new information that there is a bridge issue in southwest Missouri and with the legislature passing the Governor's Bridge Bonding Program that allowed some additional projects to be programmed for funding. But since revenue is down, MoDOT leadership is concerned so they are holding off on adopted a new STIP. Several projects were pulled from letting because MoDOT needs to focus on cash flow.

Miller also sought input on the prioritization process and stated he had 2 items of discussion, intersections and small projects, as those don't score as well with the current criteria. However, cost-share projects would ideally be included in the lists. There is also some really big stuff falling through the cracks, such as I-44. The OTO prioritizes I-44 but not as much in the rural areas. There is a need to find a way to not penalized the large projects as well. The cost-share committee meeting has been postponed for June. AASHTO, on behalf of state departments of transportation, has requested money from congress to backfill lost revenues.

Dennis Wood asked if there was a certain percentage that revenue was down.

Frank Milled responded that is not really known. Registrations fees are down because offices have been closes and traffic is down 30-50%, so it could be assumed that revenues would be similar.

Beth Schaller updated that construction has been proceeding okay. Contractors and staff are adjusting for social distancing and keeping hotel rooms for longer periods of time. The I-44 bridge project is underway and will have three sections with head-to-head traffic. This project will have 19 new bridges when all complete. MoDOT will be wrapping up overlays on 160/13. The Marshfield interchange and roundabout continue to move forward. Lots of overlay projects in general wrapping up and getting ready to do striping. The Railey Creek bridge in Stone County ahs been completed. The Cape Fair bridge will start after Labor Day and be closed at night, open during the day. There will also be two bridges in Dade County on 160 replaces in the fall, there will be a detour posted.

Cherry Warren asked if the Rte. 37 improvements are moving along.

Beth Schaller stated that's as far as she knows it is in process and utilities are being moved, getting prepped and moving forward with no delays.

Tim Selvey noted that Route NN near the new windmill project is in really bad shape.

Beth responded that MoDOT has an agreement with the windmill group to make repairs to the road. They have been fighting weather but when the project is completed, they will come in and do major repairs.

7. MPO Update

Andy Thomason reported that the OTO is also watching funding at the State and Federal level to see what projects will be getting let and when. OTO is deciding whether or not to adopt a new TIP. Work to update the Long-Range Transportation Plan is continuing.

8. Legislative Reports

Jeremy Pruet reported that the House has been out since mid-March except for COVID19 bills. Rep. Long was appointed to the President's Task Force. The House is headed back to session on Friday to vote for a \$3 trillion bill, with \$1 trillion going to states to help with revenue loss. The Senate has already said they will not take it up. It is 1800 pages and staff were given three days to read. It will be at least another week or two until there is a new bill that goes anywhere. Rep. Long thinks now is the time to look at infrastructure.

9. Other Member Updates & Guest Reports

Randy Owens with Webster County reported that as most TAC members knew, Webster County has conducted a safety study along Route 60 and the railroad. They County is moving forward seeking funding to help implement and MoDOT has recommended the TAC take formal action to support the study. Owens requested that the study be on a future meeting agenda for presentation and action.

Dennis Wood said that should be added to a future agenda.

10. Adjourn by Chairman

Meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m. by Chair Wood.  
The next meeting will be July 8, 2020 at TBA.