



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING Alumni Center – Hospitality Room, January 10, 2007

Attending: Jim Blackburn; J Howard Fisk; Robert Walster; George Cutbirth; Billy Dryer; Danny Garbee; Kenneth Bacon; Eric Kellstadt; Dawne Gardner; Steve Collier; Stan Whitehurst; Joel Keller; Steve McIntosh; Stacy Burks

SMCOG Staff: Dan Watts; Diane May

INTRODUCTIONS

Call to Order: George Cutbirth

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from November 8, 2006: No Vote Taken

OZARK TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION (OTO) – SARA EDWARDS

North/South corridor study's public meeting was held last night at library center. 175 showed in Nixa. Recommendation is to extend FF down into Christian county and T-up with Kansas Expressway. Go around to 14 to Rosedale Road to 160. 80% were happy with that, 20% not happy due to property concerns. The next step is to have final draft completed by February. Also we are sending out enhancement guidelines. Applications are due June 1. 1.39 million dollars available for enhancements. Also we are working on 60 east corridor. We are working on getting right of ways for the future growth. *J. Howard Fisk:* Is rail crossing all part of the same package? *Sara Edwards:* That is a separate thing. *J. Howard Fisk:* Who is actually going to determine if it moves forward and in what direction? *Sara Edwards:* Per our board.

MODOT UPDATE – DAWNE GARDNER

There is not much to report. There is a rural planning workshop planned for January 25. Safe Routes to Schools due date is January 31 if applying for funds. Work on I44/65 is on schedule, steel girders begin next week. *Steve Collier:* Did Honda dealership complain about the wall blocking their signage? *Dawne Gardner:* Not to my knowledge.

OATS-

No Report Given

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Senator Bond's Office—Stacy Burks

Not much to report. Senate and Congress are back in session. Major move has realigned the appropriating committee. They will go back to having 12 bills. Transportation bill has been moved to a transportation/housing bill. We have not heard the chairs for subcommittees yet. We

don't know about junior senators staff in town. This will probably happen in February or March. The phone number for DC is a rolling number so it doesn't change from senator to senator.

Congressman Blunt's Office—Steve McIntosh

Committees are still be sorted out. Congressman Blunt is the Republican Whip. His office has changed, but staff is the same and the number is the same. He is in room 307 now. He has taken leave from the commerce and energy committees. He did this so Hasert could take his seat on those committees. Continuing resolutions are in on February 15. Currently Feds are running under a continuing resolution. New majority is saying they are going to do a new one through September 30. The significance is that the earmarks and placeholders for the house version of the appropriation bills are not going to be there now. *Stacy Burks*: Generally goes off the last passed version. *Steve McIntosh*: Agencies are in a bit of a quandary. All handle this differently. Please call the specific agencies and they can help you. Many will take applications but won't give money out until the money is available. There are some corps of engineers studies that may be impacted by this. *Diane May*: What about NIH? *Stacy Burks*: If you're talking about appropriations, it didn't pass. If you are talking about grants, probably yes. Anything they are going to take applications for, may not happen. If it is ongoing it will keep going under the continuing resolution. *Diane May*: I'm sure it will affect research through the university. MTI may be affected. *Stacy Burks*: Once the money passes through state agencies, if it's been awarded it is probably '06 money so it will be safe. Money that is for '07 is not safe. *Steve McIntosh*: Earmark reform is the pageantry of politics. They are not going to do away with earmarks. It is smoke and mirrors. Most reform deals with disclosures and that is something we do anyway, it is nothing new. *Stacy Burks*: Most reforms are dealing with how long they [earmarks] are debated; how long in committee, how long it takes to review. Another [reform] deals with ethics reform and lobbying reform; ban lobbyist gifts and trips from the senate and also groups that employ lobbyist from accepting gifts. *Steve McIntosh*: Earmarks will not be done away with.

Enhancements—Dawne Gardner

This is our last round of funding. We are getting ready to accept applications. They will go out in February. Andrew Seiler is getting ready to get in touch with districts to see about changing some of the application questions. There is 1.4 million available in District 8 and 1.7 million in District 7. District 8 workshop will be held March 1 at nine a.m. at District 8 office. This is just an informational meeting. Applications are due sometime around May 15. Selections will be made around July 18 and sent to Jefferson City. New this year: We don't have to go through the commission.

Eric Kelstadt: District 7 has a slightly different process. We won't have a pre application submittal. The letter of intent is due by March 1. We will send by July 15 tentatively. We are proposing to change applications from one of the items that had a lot of discontent. It is specifically item O that will be removed. We will keep the points but move to other categories. MoDOT cannot be a scoring partner. Since this is the last year and when it starts again we can propose who the replacement agency will be.

Safe and Sound—Eric Kelstadt

There are four teams in the final group. The contractor team will be selected using the best practice: Best cost, minimize public inconvenience, maintain for 25 years and return to MoDOT in satisfactory condition. MoDOT will do annual inspections. They will not have load postings.

Steve Collier: How does the 25 year guarantee work, surety bonds? *Eric Kelstadt:* Not sure. MoDOT won't start paying out for 5 years. *Steve Collier:* How many bridges? *Eric Kelstadt:* Condition rating is how bridge list was determined. Also at least one bridge included from each county. Selection has been pushed back to July but it could be May. We anticipate starting 60 days after the final decision. All contractors are US firms.

Steve Collier: Has there been any regress from the ethanol plant? *Dawne Gardner:* We told them we needed to see a traffic study before we did anything, but we haven't seen anything.

Other Business

Dawne Gardner: If you haven't heard, the District Engineer is retiring in March. Dallas County was awarded their cost-share project. They got 50 percent match. It was 500 thousand. We are very proud of them down there. *Ken Bacon:* I think [matching] makes it hard for the poorer counties to come up with the revenue. There are fairness issues. *Diane May:* Private sector stepping up, congratulations.

Billy Dryer: Is Hickory County moving to SMCOG? *Diane May:* That takes government approval, but we haven't heard anything on that. *Billy Dryer:* We welcome their tax dollars so bring em on.