



Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Library Station

Attending: Dennis Pyle (Barry), Cherry Warren (Barry), Todd Wiesehan (Christian), Kim Kinder (Dade), Roger Bradley (Dallas), Hollie Elliott (Dallas), Joel Keller (Greene), Howard Fisk (Greene), Max Springer (Lawrence), Tim Rice (Lawrence), Sydney Allen (Polk), Dennis Wood (Stone), Rick Ziegenfuss (Taney), Randy Owen (Webster), Stan Whitehurst (Webster)

Jeff Scott (Greene Alternate)

Beth Schaller (MoDOT), Frank Miller (MoDOT), Andy Thomason (Ozarks Transportation Organization), Carl Carlson (Olsson Associates), Jeremy Pruett (Congressman Long), Joelle Cannon (Senator Blunt), Hank Smyth (Southern Stone County Commissioner), Jerry Harman (Kimberling City), Nancy Edson (Rogersville), Dana Louderbaugh (Fair Grove), Megan Clark (SMCOG), Jason Ray (SMCOG), Jane Hood (SMCOG)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wood at 9:00 a.m.

1. Introductions & Pledge

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda made by Howard Fisk, motion seconded by Time Rice. All yeas.
Motion carried.

3. Approval of minutes:

Motion to approve the January 17, 2018 meeting minutes made by Max Springer, motion seconded by Cherry Warren. All yeas. Motion carried

4. State Budget Update – State Representative & Speaker Pro Tem Elijah Haahr (District 134)

Speaker Pro Tem Haahr reported that there were several transportation funding options. Tolling along I-70 and I-44 are not considered options in Missouri. A sales tax increase is likely not going to get much support in the legislature. The task force recommendation included a 10 cent gas tax and 12 cent diesel tax increase. That has had some support, but not getting much traction. The house is hesitant to take a vote on a gas tax increase.

Haahr has introduced a tax reform bill that would index license and tag fees to 2018 costs over 6 years. This would be a revenue increase and perhaps make more sense because gas tax is a declining revenue source with the increase in fuel efficient vehicles.

Haahr added that if Missouri were to join the Streamlined Sales Tax compact, there could be additional funds that may go towards transportation.

5. Approval of Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

Megan Clark provided an overview of the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. This plan is updated every 5 years and tied to Federal 5310 and 5311 grant funding. Clark asked that the TAC approve and recommend approval to the SMCOG board of directors.

Motion to approve the 2018 update to the SMCOG regional Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan made by Todd Wiesehan, motion seconded by Stan Whitehurst. All yeas. Motion carried.

6. Prioritization Process Changes

Megan Clark referenced a previous conversation the TAC had in November regarding potentially pre-scoring the identified transportation need prior to the prioritization meeting at the TAC. Clark explained that pre-scoring could provide a better idea of where some needs might fall when taken the MoDOT district meeting, but it should be noted that the scores may change after the full district group discusses each need. TAC members felt that it could only benefit the process to pre-score. Clark stated that she would proceed with that direction and meet with MoDOT staff prior to the regional TAC meeting and pre-score each county's top three needs.

7. SMCOG Staff Update

- a) Cost Share- Just a reminder that MoDOT has set aside money for the state-wide cost share program, and has added more money for the upcoming fiscal years. Additional information may be found: <http://www.modot.org/partnershipdevelopment/documents/CostShareProgramGuidelines.pdf>
- b) TAP Applications & ADA- Megan Clark noted that by federal law all local government entities are required to have an ADA Transition Plan. When cities or counties received funds from MoDOT, such as Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds, those agencies must sign and acknowledge that all federal ADA laws are being followed. Included in that statement would be having an ADA transition plan. The Department of Justice has been auditing states and communities and enforcing these plans sporadically. This is just something to have on your radar to be working on or make a plan to work on. If there are questions feel free to contact Megan. Previous TAP grant information can be found at: Previous TAP grant information: http://modot.mo.gov/business/consultant_resources/documents/FY2017TAPamendedFINAL.pdf. The 2018 application period has not been announced yet.
- c) Safety Grant- the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety has a Blueprint for Safer Roadways funding opportunity. These are typically smaller grants to be used for promoting safety on Missouri's roadways. Information can be found at: http://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/modot-pdfs/SWMCRS_Funding_Request_FY2019.pdf.
- d) Buckle-up, Phones down policy- Megan Clark provided a copy of MoDOT's mobile device policy to the TAC. MoDOT is really pushing the Buckle-up, Phones Down in order to help reduce the number of fatalities and serious injuries from accidents. If any of the local government agencies or companies would like to implement a no mobile device or buckle-up policy when in City/County/Company owned vehicles or doing City/County/Company work, then the MoDOT policy may be used as an example.

8. MoDOT Update

Beth Schaller, MoDOT SW District

Beth Schaller provided additional information regarding Buckle Up, Phones Down. The website provides two levels of standards pertaining to policies.

<http://www.modot.org/BuckleUpPhoneDown/>

MoDOT is seeing the impact that personal choices are having regarding increasing fatalities and series injuries. It is also costing tax payer dollars in responses and congestion. MoDOT can engineer its way out of this issue and really needs help from people, to buckle-up and put their phones down.

Schaller added that construction season is coming and the 2018 construction guide can be found online at: <http://www.modot.org/southwest/documents/2018ConstructionGuide1.pdf>.

Schaller stated that the Citizen's Guide to Transportation Funding report is also available online at: <http://www.modot.org/guidetotransportation/>. This reports on how money is spent at MoDOT and also lays out various funding options.

Frank Miller, MoDOT SW District

Frank Miller provided an update on MoDOT's Long Range Transportation Plan Update. The 2014 update had 4 goals, this update will add a 5th goal for congestion and system reliability. The update will also discuss technological changes, such as autonomous vehicles. The Plan will be presented to the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission and available for public comment on April 4.

Miller also reported that the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is currently being updated. The draft STIP should be published in May for public comment. The funding for MoDOT projects is decreasing due to declining gas tax from increased fuel efficiencies. The funding formula has shifted a bit to address fatalities and disabling injuries. Additionally, with more money put in the cost share program there is less money to distribute to the districts for projects.

Miller added that I-44 is getting more expensive and MoDOT will be putting more money into repairs. Bridges on I-44 are a big issue, especially in Lawrence County, with truck traffic increasing.

9. MPO Update – Andy Thomason, OTO

Andy Thomason reported that the Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO) just completed the growth trends report. In 2017 there was about a 1,300 unit increase in the OTO boundaries. In 2000-2010 it was primarily suburban growth, but now seeing most in Springfield. The OTO regional trails study has been completed, with the addition of a few trails in Nixa. OTO is partnering with MoDOT on a freeway study to see how to improve I-44, 65, 60, and James River Freeway.

10. Other Member Updates & Guest Reports

Jeremy Pruett with Congressman Billy Long reported that infrastructure has taken a back seat for now. The federal budget is being discussed this week. Representative Long introduced a bill to alleviate some of the burden on famers to remove cattle production from the EPA classification of "toxic waste".

Joelle Cannon with Senator Roy Blunt's office reported that funding for the federal government expires on Friday; they hope to have something approved before. Senator Blunt sent a letter to the FCC chair to look at the rural broadband map more closely, as it currently shows coverage and it is believed that it is overstating the actual coverage in Missouri's more rural areas.

David Stokely with Senator Claire McCaskill's office reported that the Senator voted to amend the Dodd-Frank regulations for banks. The hope is that the small, community banks will be less burdened by regulations. Infrastructure is not getting much traction; it is hard to fund things with decreasing revenue.

Cherry Warren commented that a streamlined sales tax may be helpful. The counties are seeing decreasing sales tax revenues with increasing internet sales. Taxing internet sales should be supported.

Stan Whitehurst stated that the potential Supreme Court decision might not solve the sales tax issue, but is certainly may help. Additionally, Webster County had requested some state legislation that would allow counties to work with cities to do transportation projects.

11. Adjourn by Chairman

Meeting was adjourned at 10:11 am by Chair Woods.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 9 a.m. at Library Station in Springfield.