



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING Alumni Center – Hospitality Room, August 10, 2005

Attending: Ken Bacon, Jim Blackburn, Brad Brown, Stacy Burks, Terry Campbell, Carl Carlson, Steve Coller, Chris Coulter, George Cutbirth, Billy Dryer, Steve Dunn, Sara Edwards, J. Howard Fisk, Danny Garbee, Dawne Gardner, Joel Keller, David Miller, Frank Miller, Bill Monday, Al Moon, Davonna Morgan, Burt Pitchford, Andrew Seiler, Jack Swearingen, Robert Walster, Stan Whitehurst

SMCOG Staff: Vickie Burkett, Natasha Longpine

INTRODUCTIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the May 11, 2005 Meeting were approved. *Moon/Coller*

MODOT UPDATE – DISTRICT 7, ANDREW SEILER

SRI work continues on I-44 in Lawrence County. Currently, 12 miles of east bound traffic has been affected.

MODOT UPDATE – DISTRICT 8, FRANK MILLER

Frank Miller introduced guests. Steve Dunn is with Branson Area Maintenance and Brad Brown is a pavement management specialist, while Burt Pitchford is with the Central Area out of Springfield. Throughout the future, they will be kept involved with the TAC.

SENATOR BOND'S OFFICE, STACY BURKS

With the Highway Bill passed, Missouri should receive an additional \$1.3 billion. This is up 30 percent and the average rate of return is 98.2 percent. For 2005, though, Missouri will receive 99.05 back. Over the course of the bill, Missouri could be considered a donee state rather than a donor. For Polk County northbound 13, \$20 million has been designated. Talen has also designated \$5 million for that project. The rough estimate for straightening those lanes is \$23 million. Other projects also include \$20 million for the 4 laning of Hwy 60 up to Dallas County, \$10 million for the 60/65 interchange, \$20 million to 4-lane Hwy 60 around Van Buren. These are projects that have been in the STIP.

OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION, SARA EDWARDS

The Highway bill is providing a 25 percent increase in the MPO's operating funds. OTO has also developed an initial draft of their bicycle plan. A pedestrian plan is in the works for Nixa. The TIP will go to the OTO Board August 18th.

Discussion:

Billy Dryer voiced concerns that there has been comments about construction. Frank Miller mentioned that this is because there has been so much this summer. Last summer there were only 200 work zones and this summer, there were about 1000.

SENATOR TALENT'S OFFICE, TERRY CAMPBELL

The Build America Bonds were a big part of the Highway bill, too. These will provide \$15 billion in tax credits from general revenue, not the highway trust fund. Talent was able to provide \$6 million for Hwy 14 in Ozark. Jim Anderson indicated that the STIP will be updated as soon as the bill has been digested. MoDOT will also be determining if expediting certain projects or waiting to construct them will make the money go further. In St. Louis, there are not enough contractors to get the work done, though here, that has not been that problem. Construction costs are increasing while steel prices are decreasing. Danny Garbee has indicated that this work can also stress the suppliers. The SRI projects have already increased the price of asphalt, which then affects the counties.

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

District 7, Andrew Seiler

The applications are due June 1, 2005. There is a funding cap of half the \$450,000 available this round - \$225,000. District staff are available for help in completing the applications. There have only been a few applications thus far as well as a few other interested agencies. The earlier the applications are submitted, the more District 7 can ensure a quality product. The committee review date has not yet been set, but selected projects will go to the Commission in September.

District 8, Dawne Gardner

District 8 has not yet received any applications which are also due June 1, 2005, but many phone calls have been received. The maximum funding level is \$200,000 per agency. A workshop was held in April with interested agencies where the application and guidelines. The selection team will meet on June 15th to score the applications. In September, a mandatory workshop will be held for any agency receiving an award.

STATEWIDE MAJOR PROJECT PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

Jay Waggoner

Several of the selected statewide major projects were in southwest Missouri. These still have yet to be approved by the Commission, but include the 4-laning of Highway 65 in Taney County to the Arkansas state line, the 4-laning of Highway 65 from I-44 to EE just north of Fair Grove, plus in the MPO, work towards the I-44/65 as well as the 60/65 interchanges will receive funding. In District 7, the recommended projects were not within the SMCOG area. As for the 60/37 study, it could not be included in this process, but the MPO has proposed completing the District 8 portion of the study while District 7 has yet to receive an answer on being able to pursue a consultant again.

In the February meeting, each District had a vote and two people in Central Office had a vote. The initial project ranking was done by High, Medium, and Low. The second meeting ranked based on funding. Overall, there were \$1.4 billion in projects proposed. Highway 67 in Madison County is a cost share project, with \$50 million being contributed locally. Those projects which

were ranked high, but did not receive funding will be next on the list if funding becomes available. With those approved, the list is \$30 million over available funding, but each district has been asked to cut the projects down where possible, plus District 8 had committed to using District funds to help pay for projects.

The same funding distribution which SMCOG and the other RPCs and planning partners in the state helped MoDOT develop, was used to distribute the Amendment 3 funding. Springfield received \$50 million, while St. Louis and Kansas City received a set amount, and the rest was available statewide.

As an aside, Steve Coller mentioned an update on Highways 125 and 60. A developer has proposed the idea of an interchange at the intersection. Rogersville may annex depending upon working with Greene County.

Andrew Seiler

Both the Bella Vista and Range Line Bypasses were selected for funding through the Major Projects process. The Bella Vista bypass will relieve traffic going to Arkansas. Of all the projects selected, the one requirement was that they could be constructed within the current STIP cycle.

Relating to questions about the Highway 60 realignment, when Proposition B failed, the Commission did not think it was fair to put a line on the map, when there was not funding to construct the roadway. A preliminary EIS was completed just short of picking the alignment. Now the MPO will complete the study and pick a location, even though the MPO may need to commit funds to buying right-of-way. When it comes to MoDOT holding right-of-way, something must start within 5 years of completing the environmental impact, otherwise the study must be reviewed. Class 1 counties may control right-of way, but Christian County is not yet a Class 1.

DRAFT 2006-2010 STIP

District 7, Andrew Seiler

The Commission is currently reviewing the STIP. Preliminary Engineering only includes bridge replacement projects addressing Class 3 bridges. Construction in Barry County on 37 is filling the gap from Monett to Cassville. In Dade County, Class 3 bridges will be replaced, while in Lawrence, several will be epoxy sealing bridges. A cost share on 39 with the City of Aurora will assist trucks with turning movements at a new development.

District 8, Jay Waggoner

A few more projects have been added to the STIP since the last meeting. These include the 4-laning of 65 from I-44 to EE just north of Fair Grove, as well as from Hollister to the Arkansas state line. MoDOT has gone to “practical design,” which is meant to save money on projects, thus using the saved dollars to fund additional projects. These savings will epoxy seal 18 bridges, as well as replace a few bridge decks and completing some scrub seals and overlays. Scrub seals prevent water from getting into cracks, while the epoxy seal will create a rough surface, providing better traction.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR FY2006

George Cutbirth is nominated for Chair. *Dryer/Collier*

No other nominations.

Close nominations. *Dryer/Moon*

Unanimous vote to elect George Cutbirth as TAC Chair.

Bill Marshall is nominated for Vice-Chair. *Dryer/Miller*

No other nominations.

Close nominations. *Moon/Cutbirth*

Unanimous vote to elect Bill Marshall as TAC Vice-Chair.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jay Waggoner is retiring and will be going to work for a consulting firm in Springfield. EFK Moen is opening an office in Springfield and has asked Jay to head it up. Jay will be doing design work. EFK Moen has projects with MoDOT, Branson, Springfield, Lebanon, and in District 7. The firm was looking for an office closer than Kansas City. Jay's retirement will be effective as of May 31, 2005.

ADJOURN

Moon/Collier