



Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Library Station

Attending: Dennis Pyle (Barry), Cherry Warren (Barry), Todd Wiesehan (Christian), Brent Young (Christian), Randy Daniel (Dade), Roger Bradley (Dallas), Hollie Elliott (Dallas), Joel Keller (Greene), Howard Fisk (Greene), Max Springer (Lawrence), Tim Rice (Lawrence), Sydney Allen (Polk), Rick Davis (Polk), Dennis Wood (Stone), Collin Brannan (Stone), Buddy Roberts (Taney), David Miller (Taney), Randy Owens (Webster), Robert Williams (Webster)

Randy Rogers (Stone Alternate), Stan Whitehurst (Webster Alternate)

Beth Schaller (MoDOT), Andy Thomason (Ozarks Transportation Organization), Carl Carlson (Olsson Associates), Frank Miller (MoDOT), John Benson (City of Marshfield), Dan Wadlington (Senator Blunt), Megan Clark (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 Buddy Roberts, motion seconded by Howard Fisk. All yeas. Motion carried.

3. Approval of minutes:

Motion to approve the August 16, 2017 meeting minutes made by Howard Fisk, motion seconded by Tim Rice. All yeas. Motion carried.

4. MoDOT SW District Transportation Prioritization Results:

Megan Clark explained the district prioritization process and the outcome of the MoDOT Southwest District workshop which was held on October 27, 2017. SMCOG had five road and bridge projects in the top 12 district-wide needs, and two sidewalk needs in the top 10. Megan stated that getting needs on list gets the items on MoDOT's radar and allows MoDOT to try an incorporate some of the needs into planning projects. It is important to note that getting items on the district list does not mean they will be funded.

Megan Clark also stated that two of the other regional planning agencies pre-scored the performance measure items for their needs prior to prioritizing at their TAC level. Megan asked if that was something SMCOG's TAC wanted to consider doing for the next round. It should be noted that the scores could change when needs are scored at the district level. TAC members were asked to think about the process and provide feedback at the next TAC meeting.

5. MoDOT SW District Exercise-multimodal needs

Megan Clark explained that MoDOT administration has directed staff to perform a planning exercise and create a list of projects or programs that could be funded if there was an additional ~\$250 million over ten years. The prioritized list of needs from the district workshop will be used to

populate potential projects in regards to road and bridge items. However, the exercise calls for some money to be used for multi-modal projects. These would include bike/pedestrian projects, aviation, freight, and transit. The district has a prioritized list of bike/pedestrian needs that MoDOT staff could use. Megan stated that she wanted the TAC to discuss how the group thought the planning exercise should be executed for the multi-modal money; does the group think it should be spread across multiple modes, primarily for bike/pedestrian needs, divided by projects and programs, or perhaps something different. Also, are there any important multi-modal projects in our region that should be included or at least put on MoDOT's radar? The only aviation project in our region is a runway project at the Monett airport, but during Amendment 7 discussions, aviation was not focused on as much due to the ability to access funds through other avenues.

David Miller shared that Taney County has been working on a transload facility with a new rail spur and connection to the Branson airport. However, this is a multi-million dollar project and would likely not be able to be funded in the scenario.

Dennis Pyle stated that the Monett airport expansion is about 90% Federal funding and is an \$18 million project, so it probably should not be a major priority in the planning exercise. Pyle followed-up with stating that many communities place a high priority on sidewalks, but have limited funding to construct new or repair existing sidewalks. He stated that he would like to see a priority placed on sidewalk funding.

Howard Fisk agreed and stated that he would prefer money be put towards sidewalk projects and not necessary bicycle projects, as sidewalk impact more people.

The general TAC consensus was that the multi-modal money should have an emphasis placed on helping communities with sidewalks.

Robert Williams commented that he wanted to make sure that rail was not off the table for inclusion in the scenario.

Megan Clark responded that would likely still be included as part of the planning exercise, but she would pass along that the general feelings of the TAC are sidewalks should be the top priority.

Beth Schaller noted that from the previous round of TAP grant funding, and the amount in projects submitted versus amount funded, it seems like many sidewalk projects could be addressed with the funding and still have money for other programs or projects.

6. Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan Update

Megan Clark updated the group that the update of the PTHSTCP is still underway. This is a plan addressing the transportation needs of the elderly, persons with disabilities, and low income individuals in our ten county region. If TAC members have comments, concerns, or stories that they would like to share, please let Megan know. The TAC will get another update in January and will be asked to approve the plan in March.

7. MoDOT Update

Beth Schaller, MoDOT SW District

Beth Schaller stated she has been working on outreach to many legislative representatives. They have all expressed concern with transportation funding and seem positive that something will happen, but don't know what direction it will go.

8. MPO Update – Andy Thomason, OTO

Andy Thomason reported that the Ozarks Transportation Organization is hosting a legislative breakfast November 16 at the Tower Club. This is an opportunity for regional legislators to hear about OTO and ask questions.

9. Other Member Updates & Guest Reports

Dan Wadlington with Senator Roy Blunts Office reported that congress is currently working through tax reform, but it appears that there is currently not enough votes to pass the bill.

Megan Clark stated she had some updates:

- 1) SMCOG has purchased an Armadillo traffic counter to offer as a resource for member communities. The traffic counter policy is included in the agenda packet for review. Please contact Megan if you would like to get a traffic count.
- 2) SMCOG houses a traffic calming lending library for the American Planning Association, Missouri Chapter. This is an option for communities that may have a traffic concern or speeding issue and want to try a traffic calming option prior to construction. Contact Megan if you are interested.
- 3) The VW settlement has officially been accepted by Missouri and public meetings are being held across the state. TAC members are encouraged to subscribe to the email list and watch the website at <https://dnr.mo.gov/env/apcp/vw/vw-background.htm> for information. A meeting will be held in Springfield, but no date has been set. If people want to see the money distributed across the state, then please provide that feedback.
- 4) The Highway Commission will be meeting at Chateau on the Lake on December 1. No time has been set yet, but hold your calendar for the meeting.

10. Adjourn by Chairman

Meeting was adjourned at 10:06 am by Chair Woods.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 17, 2017 at 9 a.m. at Library Station in Springfield.