



mark twain regional  
council of governments

Audrain

Macon

Marion

Monroe

Pike

Ralls

Randolph

Shelby

**February 20, 2024 TAC Minutes**

The Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments TAC met at the COG office in Perry beginning at 10:30 a.m.

**Voting members present:**

Andrew Williford	Audrain County
Alan Winders	Audrain County
Clarence Walker	Macon County
Steve Begley	Marion County
Andy Dorian	Marion County
Marilyn O'Bannon	Monroe County
Richard Crum	Monroe County
Bill Allen	Pike County
John Lake	Ralls County
Scott Hodges	Ralls County
John Hobbs	Randolph County
Glenn Eagan	Shelby County
Terry Helmick	Shelby County

**Non-voting attendees present:**

Bryan Nichols	Congressman Sam Graves
Emily Edgar	MoDOT, Area Engineer
Lori Smith	MoDOT, Transportation Planner
Rob Frese	MoDOT, Planning Manager
Paula Gough	MoDOT, District Engineer
Bryan Ross	MoDOT, Railroad Operations Manager
Cindy Hultz	MTRCOG, Executive Director
Anna Gill	MTRCOG, Transportation Planner
Brian Haeffner	Audrain County
Sid Conklin	Randolph County

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman Glenn Eagan called the TAC meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**2. Introductions**

Introductions were made.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Chairman Glenn Eagan asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was made by Alan Winders and seconded by Bill Allen. All members were in favor of the motion.

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#### **4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Glenn Eagan instructed the committee to look over the meeting minutes from the December 2023 TAC meeting. These minutes were provided for review prior to the meeting, included in the meeting packet, and an electronic version was displayed on the screen during the meeting. A motion was made by Marilyn O'Bannon to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Clarence Walker. All members were in favor of the motion.

#### **5. Amtrak Presentation – Bryan Ross, MoDOT**

Bryan Ross from MoDOT's Rail Division gave a brief presentation regarding the grant that the Missouri Department of Transportation received from the Federal Railroad Administration for the feasibility study of extending the existing Chicago to Quincy Amtrak route into Hannibal. Bryan explained the project, next steps, and answered questions from the group.

#### **6. MoDOT Updates**

Emily Edgar gave a construction update. The Route 3 project will be underway with excavation starting soon. Highway 15 in Shelby County has work anticipated, but no start date yet. The Route 3 and Route C overlays in Randolph and Macon Counties are anticipated to start on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The contract was just approved for Highway 36 pavement improvement and grooving in Marion and Shelby Counties, no start date has been determined yet. The Highway 79 Viaduct improvements in Marion County are underway, but the closure date has been pushed back to the end of March or beginning of April. Monroe County Highway J and Z will have bridge deck replacements starting this week. Emily and Paula fielded questions from the group regarding various construction projects throughout the region.

Rob Frese updated the group on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Update. Rob and Paula noted that the bidding environment has improved, and they are not seeing inflation to the extent that they were. There were a few questions from the group regarding items in the STIP, and Rob and Paula addressed those comments. Rob noted that the Governor has mentioned the Rural Routes Program, but that still has to go through the legislative process; however, the Governor did not make any mention of the Governor's Cost-Share Program which had been a question from the group at the last meeting.

Paula Gough discussed the large projects on Mark Twain's Unfunded Needs Lists and noted that moving forward, there will need to be more specific segments identified and ranked for large projects, now that the studies have wrapped up on the Highway 54 and Hannibal Expressway projects.

Lori Smith provided an update on the BRO projects, TAP projects, and Cost-Share Projects that are in various stages throughout the process. She mentioned that there has been a calendar released for expected LPA program timelines and that the TAP and TEAP programs would open for application tentatively on March 1 and August 1, respectively.

There was a group conversation about cultural assessment requirements on projects and the origin of the requirements.

#### **7. Legislative Updates**

Bryan Nichols from Congressman Sam Graves' office continued the conversation regarding the cultural assessment requirements on projects. Bryan also updated the group on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and noted that the Committee would be taking

up bills relating to the Clean Water Act and permitting related to it. The Water Resources Development Act continues as they are trying to finish that piece of legislation. There will be legislation introduced shortly related to the United States Postal Service and their delays.

**8. Other Business**

Anna Gill shared that there were some magazines with information about Missouri transportation projects throughout the last year available, but they are not MoDOT's official Annual Report. Paula Gough noted that MoDOT's Annual Report is available on their website. The tentative timeline for the next update for the Unfunded Needs List was discussed as well as upcoming meeting dates.

**9. Adjourn**

A motion was made by Bill Allen and seconded by Steve Begley to adjourn the meeting. All members were in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.