



December 12, 2023 TAC Minutes

The Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments TAC met at the COG office in Perry beginning at 11:00 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
Bill Allen	Pike County
Scott Hodges	Ralls County
John Hobbs	Randolph County

Non-voting attendees present:

Sarah Graff	Congressman Sam Graves
Greg Sharpe	Representative
Emily Edgar	MoDOT, Area Engineer
Lori Smith	MoDOT, Transportation Planner
Rob Frese	MoDOT, Planning Manager
Cindy Hultz	MTRCOG, Executive Director
Anna Gill	MTRCOG, Transportation Planner
Sid Conklin	Randolph County

1. Call Meeting to Order

Acting Chairman Bill Allen called the TAC meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

2. Introductions

Introductions were made.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Acting Chairman Bill Allen asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was made by Steve Begley and seconded by Drew Williford. All members were in favor of the motion.

Audrain

Macon

Marion

Monroe

Pike

Ralls

Randolph

Shelby

(573) 565-2203

Fax (573) 565-2205

42494 Delaware Lane

Perry, MO 63462

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Acting Chairman Bill Allen instructed the committee to look over the meeting minutes from the September 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 Andy Dorian to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Marilyn O'Bannon. All members were in favor of the motion.

5. MoDOT Updates

Rob Frese notified the group that there were TV news stories regarding Amtrak's Passenger Rail Service that were incorrect. It was stated that there was funding to continue service from Quincy to Hannibal, ultimately having service running from Chicago to Hannibal, but the funding at this time is just for the study. The final goal is to have passenger rail service extending from Chicago to Saint Louis, stopping in Hannibal, but that is not included in the study that was just funded.

With the new 2020 Census data available, MoDOT is updating its Urban Boundaries for the larger cities within the region. The changes were not significant, and he is just working on getting confirmation of acceptance back from a few communities to fulfill the requirements. Rob shared that with the recent inflation rates, MoDOT spent \$290 million more than expected in the past year than was estimated, and with the most recent annual review, \$900 million was added to the existing project's estimates. Overall, MoDOT is paying \$1.2 billion more than projected for the same projects over 5 years statewide. However, for this year, the costs are just 1.3% over the estimates for the new projects. Currently Central Office is working on the financial forecast to determine how much is available and the design department is looking at projects to potentially be added to the STIP. The first priority is taking care of the existing system, then they will look at adding additional projects from the unfunded needs list into the STIP. Rob fielded a question regarding the Governor's Cost Share program. At this time, MoDOT is unsure whether the program will be offered again. They are more optimistic about the Governor's Rural Routes program to be offered, but not confirmed. The Citizen's Advisory Group (CAG) for the Hannibal Expressway project is scheduled for December 13th. A public meeting will follow.

Due to an insufficient number of funding requests during the last TAP call, there will be more funding added to the next call and is expected to be released in late winter. Several representatives noted that their communities were planning to apply.

Lori Smith noted that BRO projects are moving along with 13 in the preliminary engineering phase and others moving towards the bidding process. There was a group conversation regarding the bids related to the cost estimate and how the future funding allocations will be affected.

Emily Edgar gave a construction update. The Highway 79 viaduct in Hannibal has started preliminary work, they are expecting a road closure sometime in the Spring. MO 149 is expected to open before Christmas, weather dependent. Audrain Route K and Macon Route 63 Southbound from Kayak to Mahogany will soon see culvert repairs and replacements. Emily fielded questions regarding the Randolph County Route 3 project.

6. Legislative Updates

Sarah Graff from Congressman Sam Graves' office noted that with it being the end of the year, Congress is determining how to handle appropriations and government funding. Congress has passed a short-term extension through January, so they are operating under a

continuing resolution for now. She mentioned that she is unsure of what will happen, but they could extend it for longer, or reach an agreement. The FAA reauthorization has been passed as well as the pipeline reauthorization. Come January, they will be looking at WRDA and that will be the big topic moving forward. Sarah also fielded questions regarding WOTUS. Representative Greg Sharpe mentioned that the \$2 million dollars for the Hannibal Bypass that was line item vetoed in the last session will get put back in for this session. He touched on the Highway 36 to I-72 topic and noted that it would be a very tough thing to get done financially and politically.

7. Approval of Needs List

Anna Gill presented the group with the updated 2023 Needs List. Members were given the opportunity to review the new needs list. A motion was made by Steve Begley and seconded by John Hobbs to approve the 2023 Needs List. All members were in favor of the motion.

8. Other Business

The group discussed again the upcoming TAP call and potential projects within the region.

9. Adjourn

A motion was made by Alan Winders and seconded by Steve Begley to adjourn the meeting. All members were in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.