

Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission  
Transportation Advisory Committee  
Wednesday, May 23, 2012  
Meeting Minutes

**DRAFT**

**Attendees:**

Eddie Brickner  
Howard McMillan  
Kenneth Kunze  
Gabe Craighead  
Dan Haid  
Gary Jungermann  
Bruce Green  
Angie Hoecker  
Eric Curtit  
Joe R. Smith  
Pam Murray  
Darrel King  
Sonny Sanders

**Representing:**

Cooper County  
Howard County  
Moniteau County  
Callaway County  
Boone County  
Callaway County  
MoDOT  
MoDOT  
MoDOT Railroads  
City of Hallsville  
Candidate - MO House of Rep  
Moniteau County  
Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization/Jefferson City  
(CAMPO)  
Mid-MO Regional Planning Commission (Mid-MO RPC)  
Mid-MO RPC  
Mid-MO RPC

**Agenda Item I. Call to Order**

Chairman Eddie Brickner, called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. Introductions were made around the room.

There were no additions or corrections made to the agenda.

There was a review of the March 28, 2012, TAC meeting minutes for any additions/corrections. Howard McMillan motioned to approve the minutes. Gary Jungermann seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item II. Presentations**

**MoDOT 's Passenger Rail Improvements – Eric Curtit**

Eric Curtit, MoDOT's Administrator of Railroads, gave an overview on projects to improve the passenger rail on the Kansas City/St. Louis line. Mr. Curtit, reported that Jefferson City is the fourth most used station out of the ten stations on this line. Missouri ranks tenth in the nation for tonnage moved by train. Most of the funds for rail improvements are from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2009. About \$50 million will come from federal stimulus and another \$20 million from private investments. The planned projects will help build on-time performance and the improvements to the line should allow train speeds to reach between 90-110 miles per hour. In 2007, on-time performance was 63% with ridership of 110, 000. In 2011, on-time performance was at 89%, with ridership of 191,000.

The design work that is currently under way for six new projects should another round of stimulus funds be available. Those projects include; Bonnots Mill and Hermann universal crossovers, Kingsville and Knob Noster siding, Strasburg grade separation and double tracking from Lee's Summit to Pleasantville.

Current projects include; the construction of a new Osage River bridge just north of the existing bridge. When this bridge is completed, there will be 125 miles of double track; the existing Osage River bridge will be extended to soften the curve on the east side of the river and signals installed at this location; a universal crossover will be built in the Kirkwood and Webster Grove area; thirteen crossing grade improvements between Sedalia/Kansas City, and the closure of two private crossings; a third main track will be built through the St. Louis terminal to allow trains to move thru quicker; MoDOT has partnered with Terminal Railroad to do a 60/40 split to upgrade the west approach to Merchant's bridge, that crosses the Mississippi River on the north side of St. Louis City. MoDOT is actively pursuing funds to construct a new bridge at this location due to the age and \$6 million cost to maintain.

In addition to rail improvements, MoDOT will be receiving about \$100 million in two new train sets. Each set includes two bi-level passenger cars, a bi-level cab car, a café car, and 125 mph locomotive. The cars will have larger windows and improved passenger seating. Four hundred passengers can load in forty-five seconds, in a bi-level car. The cab car is designed to allow a train a quicker turn-around time as it has a control system in the upper level for the engineer to operate the train. To help keep passengers safe the new cars are also equipped with crash energy management standards. Should a crash occur, energy is dissipated the same in these cars as it is for the locomotive.

The Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA) was a bill signed by President Bush, to authorize Amtrak, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and other stakeholders the task of improving the service, operations, and facilities on intercity passenger rail. The Next Generation Equipment Committee (NGEC) was created out of PRIIA for the purpose of designing, developing specifications for, and standardizing all train equipment.

Since the Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970, Amtrak has been afforded the right of priority access to any freight line in the U.S. to deploy service. However, trackage rights and the necessary infrastructure to do service must be negotiated and paid for, with Union Pacific Railroad, who owns the track. It costs \$15 million to operate the current service. 30% comes from the ticket sales, 20% comes from Amtrak, and 50% from the state's general revenue budget. There is only one subsidized transportation system in the world (Japan) but with increased ridership and continued improvements, Mr. Curtit believed that passenger rail could become 50-60% passenger funded within the next ten years.

Amtrak has implemented wireless internet service everywhere in the U.S. except the Midwest region. Mr. Curtit expects wireless service for this line will be made available in the near future for an additional user fee to the passenger for the service.

### **Agenda Item III. MoDOT Central District Report – Bruce Green**

- The construction of a diamond interchange at Highway 63 and Route H near Columbia Regional Airport is on schedule with a November 2012 completion date.
- The bid for widening of Route K from Columbia to McBaine has been awarded to APAC Construction for \$2.1 million. Work will begin June 4, 2012.

- Bridge construction on Highway 94 in Mokane began this week and will be closed forty-three days. Upon completion in July, a bridge replacement will then begin at Portland.
- Bridge replacement will begin July 9 in downtown Lohman and will be closed fifty-three days.
- First stage of the mowing program has begun on all the major roads and will be completed for the Memorial Day weekend. There will be two additional mowings at later dates.
- Bridge on Route OO in Cooper County has been closed due to severe damage. This will go to contract in September with October 2012 completion.
- Traffic modeling began for the interchange design at Lafayette Street and Highway 50/63 in Jefferson City.

#### **Agenda Item IV. Local Reports**

##### **MoDOT Area Projects- Bruce Green**

- Sketching began for improvements on Route Z overpass on Interstate 70. Project coordinated in conjunction with construction of the new high school and other county road improvements. Mr. Green indicated that a letter of support will be needed from the TAC and/or Columbia Area Transportation Study Organization groups.
- Additional safety improvements are planned to five intersections in Cole County on Highway 54, south of Jefferson City, to be completed in 2012.

#### **County/City Reports**

Callaway County - Gabe Craighead and Gary Jungermann reported that Christenson Construction will begin work in mid-June to pave 1.75 miles of County Road 256, near OCCI. Completion expected in 2012.

Boone County – Bruce Green reported that several overlay projects will begin in June 2012.

#### **Agenda Item V. Mid-MO RPC Activity Update**

##### **Regional Transportation Plan – Chad Eggen**

Mr. Eggen indicated a final review of the project list, included in the agenda packet, and called for any additions. Mr. Eggen hopes the project list will be approved at the next Board of Directors meeting in June, and will then be incorporated into the Regional Transportation Plan.

##### **Sidewalk Assessment – Chad Eggen**

A sidewalk inventory was performed for the communities in Cole and Howard counties. Sidewalks are being tracked and mapped and each community and MoDOT will receive a copy of the completed assessments. All other communities in the region are scheduled to be completed next year.

Pam Murray questioned if a sidewalk assessment will ever be completed within any of the MPOs? Sonny Sanders indicated that he has a completed inventory available.

##### **Coordinated Public Transit Plan – Chad Eggen**

This program provides information on transportation for elderly people and those with special needs and is funded by the Department of Transportation Services and MoDOT. Mr. Eggen indicated that Mid-MO RPC staff will be collecting data from transportation service providers beginning this summer and hosting workshops though out the region. Mid-MO RPC will update this plan over the next year and submit to MoDOT. Once completed, this data will be made available on the Mid-MO RPC web site and at locations though out the region.

Mr. Sanders reported that CAMPO will be embarking on the same project this summer. He suggested that Mr. Eggen contact him for collaboration.

**Agenda Item VI. Next Meetings**

Next TAC meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2012.

**Agenda Item VII. Adjournment**

Chairman Brickner called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kenny Kunze motioned to adjourn. Gabe Craighead seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.