

Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission
Transportation Advisory Committee
Wednesday, September 28, 2011
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Pamela Murray
Kenneth Kunze
Tom White
Chris Stephens
Mark Duewell
Eddie Brickner
Darrel King
Howard McMillan
Bill Lay
Mike Schupp
Bill Farr
Dion Knipp
Travis Koestner
Vince Imhoff
Steve Engelbrecht
Dan Haid
Sarah Barfield
Doc Kritzer
Joe R. Smith
Katrina Thomas
Chad Eggen
Mary Still
Bruce Hackmann
Lee Ann Jestis
Debra Griffin

Representing:

EDAC Chair
Moniteau County
Cooper County Emergency/911
MO Spatial Data Information Service (MSDIS)
(MSDIS)
Cooper County
Moniteau County
Howard County
Howard County
MoDOT
Cole EMA
MoDOT
MoDOT
Moniteau County
MoDOT
Boone County
Senator Blunt
Callaway County
City of Hallsville
Mid-MO RPC
Mid-MO RPC
State Rep Dist 25
FADC
Mid-MO RPC
Mid-MO RPC

Agenda Item I. Call to Order

Chairman Eddie Brickner called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Boone County Presiding Commissioner and Mid-MO RPC Vice-Chair, Ed Robb. Introductions were made around the room. There was a review of the agenda and were no additions/corrections made and was approved as stood. Chairman Brickner asked for a review of the July 27, 2011, TAC meeting minutes for any additions/corrections. A motion was made by Bill Lay and seconded by Pam Murray to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item II. Presentations

GIS Applications – Katrina Thomas

Ms. Thomas gave an overview of projects that Mid-MO RPC was involved with or considering using GIS application. Those projects include: GIS, Hazard Mitigation, Grant Application and Low Water Crossing.

1. Current Projects

- A. Hazard Mitigation plans have been completed for Boone and Cole counties. Ms. Thomas was working on Callaway and Cooper counties and Susan Galeota was working with Moniteau and Howard counties.

- B. Boone and Cole Counties have a database compiled and an inventory of low water crossings. The application could aid with future transportation and hazard mitigation plans.
2. Future Project – Mid-MO RPC will begin a Sidewalk Inventory project starting with Cole and Howard counties. The information can help with transportation planning for safe routes to school (SRTS) grant application and also comprehensive planning for communities.
3. Potential Projects – Ms. Thomas has been contacted by Paul Davis from Cooper County about finding a method for tracking gravel usage on county roads. Ms. Thomas inquired with those present if there were any other counties who are currently doing this. Any feedback would be saved for later usage/research.

The Mid-MO RPC GIS mapping application was mentioned as a resource available to all members. This included, utility mapping, and parcel information. The service provided by staff at Mid-MO RPC would provide technical assistance and reduce costs.

TIGER III Grant Application – Bruce Hackmann

Mr. Hackmann, FADC, gave a history and slide presentation of the short line railroad connecting Fulton/Mexico. The rail way totaled a distance of 27 miles. The Tiger III Grant application would be the 12 miles from Fulton to Auxvasse. The slides showed the deterioration of the rails and adjacent area due to lack of maintenance. The Callaway County Transit Authority was formed over a year ago. This will be a mechanism to possibly buy the line.

Several reasons were given for saving the rail: one rail car takes four trucks off our highways; job creation; rising gas prices; preserving 140 years of history; businesses want to come to area but require rail service; new tourism opportunities.

Mr. Hackmann stated that the only way to ensure the maintenance of the short line is for it to be publicly owned. The only chance of returning this rail line to active service is thru stimulus or grant. The Tiger III Grant application should cover the estimated costs for repairs of \$6,448,000. FADC would like for Mid-MO RPC to write a letter of support to be submitted with the grant application. This letter should indicate this transportation project matches what is in the regional transportation plan.

Bill Lay inquired about what the return on investment would be and discussion followed. Mr. Hackmann stated he could get those numbers to the committee. Chairman Brickner asked for discussion and a motion to have Mid-Mo RPC to write the letter of support. There was no motion made. Mid-MO RPC should take up a motion in the RPC meeting to have a letter written.

Agenda Item III. MoDOT Central District Report – Steve Engelbrecht

Mr. Engelbrecht introduced himself and Central District Planning Transportation staff. He reviewed the upcoming events:

- A Safe Rail Plan meeting will be held on Oct 25, 2011 in Jefferson City and there will be an open house to the public from 5:00-6:30.
- Hwy 179 bridge construction was under way. Road closure is until Nov 6. MoDOT was confident that the road will reopen on time as scheduled.
- Hwy 54 safety improvements saved approximately \$1 million on projects. Excess money not spent will be put back into safety improvement projects in the district.

- Hwy 63 and Route H Interchange construction was moving along well. MoDOT was looking for feedback on the traffic control there.
- The Callaway Connector Study was still underway. The location study was between letter routes around the nuclear plant and the City of Fulton.
- There will be a MoDOT Central District Planning Partners meeting on Oct 5, 2011 in Jefferson City for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) 2013-2017.

Discussion followed concerning tree removal at construction sites. Travis Koestner reported that contractors can no longer burn trees but instead they are mulched and trucked off. Surveys are also conducted for any threatened/endangered wildlife habitation before any tree removal.

Some discussion followed on the six month extension of the Federal Transportation Bill. Sarah Barfield reported that there will probably be extensions thru the end of 2012.

Callaway County inquired about MoDOT obligation on when BRO funds are obligated. Dion Knipp reported that the obligation doesn't take place until construction authorization was given.

Agenda Item IV. Local Reports

MoDOT Area Projects-Mike Schupp

- An overlay started today on Route 124 to Centralia.
- Highway 94 bridge closure in Callaway County. Callaway County Commission received complaints from motorists not being aware of the closure and having to travel down gravel roads. Another press release has been issued in preparation of Oktoberfest in Hermann, MO. The project is now 45 days into a 90 day project.
- Brown Station Rd and Rt. B, will have asphalt improvements and concrete replacement.

Fayette Mural-Mike Schupp

- Mr. Schupp gave a brief history of the Highway Beautification Act of 1965. The MoDOT now regulates and permits new outdoor signs on interstate primary systems. Under these regulations MoDOT has determined that the Fayette Mural does not fall into outdoor advertising and is exempt from advertising regulations.

Transportation Enhancement Grants-Dion Knipp

Mr. Knipp reported that some of the projects in the cycle are Sturgeon, California, New Franklin, and Holts Summit. These projects are currently on schedule. Safe Routes to Schools projects that are similar to the Enhancement cycle were awarded to Hallsville, Clarksburg, Holts Summit and Russellville. Mr. Knipp encouraged communities to keep these projects moving as there is potential to lose funds if there is inactivity.

He anticipates the amount of money that will be available in the future for Central MO will grow as the area has gone from 13 to 18 counties and is based on population.

County/City Reports

There were no reports made

Agenda Item V. Mid-MO RPC Activity Update

Chad Eggen and Katrina Thomas

As per MoDOT requirements, the Regional Transportation Plan and Public Transit Human Services Plan are in the process of being revised. The plans will be more extensive than previous. We will be reprioritizing our needs. Please look over the attached project list before the next TAC meeting.

We will be meeting with Human Services contractors/non-profit group like OATS program. We will be doing a needs assessment and service assessment as part of the plan.

Agenda Item VI. Next Meetings

Ms. Jestis invited everyone to Mid-MO RPC's Annual Meeting on November 16, 2011. Location is tentatively scheduled for the Southern Boone County Senior Center in Ashland. Announcements will be sent out at a later date.

Everyone was also invited to attend the RHSOC Annual Meeting in Jefferson City, on Oct 18, 2011. Some of the equipment that has been purchased for the region will be on showcase at this meeting.

Agenda Item VII. Adjournment

Chairman Brickner called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Darrel King and seconded by Dan Haid. Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.