

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

SCOTAC

April 20, 2021

The following are the TAC members present (“X”):

<i>Commissioners</i>	<i>Appointed TAC Members 1</i>	<i>Appointed TAC Members 2</i>
Lance Stillings	Suzanne Welsh	Lawson Curtis
X Mark Collins, Secretary	X Beverly Hicks	X Tom Stehn, Chairman
Jon Hollis	Jason Kemper	X Bill Hobbs
X John Turner	Greg Donley	Shane Ledbetter
X Jeff Cowen, Vice Chairman	Herman Kelly	David Trotter
X Scott Long	X Ron Scheets	Keith Cantrell
X Zachary Williams	X Randy Pamperien	X Tim Schook

SCOCOG staff present:

Angie Ball	-	Administrative Assistant
Trent Courtney	-	Disaster Recovery Planner
Cody Dalton	-	Executive Director

MoDOT via conference call:

Elquin Auala
Michael Brandon
Chris Crocker
Joe Killian
Mark Croarkin

Visitors:

Will Wheeler	-	Senator Blunt’s Office
Dick Salgado	-	Ava
Burrely Loftin	-	Ava Mayor
Richard Eakin	-	Senator Karla Eslinger’s Office
Sam Anselm	-	City of West Plains
Megan Nickey	-	Congressman Jason Smith’s Office

Tom Stehn called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM. An introduction of guests and members were made at this time.

Motion to approve the December 15, 2020 minutes was made by Scott Long and seconded by Mark Collins. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business

None at this time.

New Business

Southeast District Projects and Happenings – MoDOT Reps.

Elquin said that the cost share program in West Plains is doing well. All that is left is the right of way clearance. She said that in regard to the railroad overpass project, there is an agreement with the City of West Plains and there are many sources of funding with that as well. An overlay of 63 will be starting this summer. She added that the gas tax measure passed the senate, and it is up to the house now. It includes a rebate provision; 70% goes to MoDOT, 15% to the cities, and 15% to the counties. She said that once a year, individuals can get reimbursed 2½ ¢ for the extra gas tax for that year. Michael added that MO 95 got added to the Tier 1, US 63 in Texas County got added to Tier 2, US 160 in Howell County was added to Tier 2, and Route W in Shannon County was added to Tier 2. Chris said that the 2020 TAP election process is complete. Seventeen applications were received, and \$4.1 million was requested in federal funds. Only \$900,000 was awarded in federal funds. Three projects were awarded; one in Perryville for a trail, one in Cape Girardeau for improvements and sidewalks, and one in Poplar Bluff for the Route P trail. The City of Houston was also awarded funds for conducting an ADA assessment. He said that LPA risk assessments are ongoing. He added that there is an LPA project in Ozark County and one in Texas County. He said to be sure to complete the LPA based training, which is available on the MoDOT website.

Michael discussed the Governor's Bridge projects, and said that those include the Route 14 roundabout in Ava, 181 in Cabool, Route 5 shoulders in Douglas and Ozark Counties, Route 63 in Thayer at 19 for intersection improvements, Route 142 in Oregon County, 160 in Howell from PP to 17 for rumble striping, and 160 in Howell from CR 8270 to CR 6070 (turn lane).

Elquin again discussed the gas tax, and added that gas would go up 29½¢ total at the end of five years. Cody asked if the rebate is open to individuals and businesses. Mark said that there is a clause in it that talks about commercial vehicles by size. It would cost the typical person \$20-\$30 per year. There is also a clause for electrical vehicles in order to pay their share as well.

Election of Officers – TAC Committee

Trent said that Tom is leaving, so officers need to change.

Trent asked for nominations for the position of Chairman. Zach Williams made a motion to move Jeff Cowen to Chairman. Randy Pamperien seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Trent asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman. Zach Williams made a motion to move Mark Collins to Vice-Chairman. Jeff Cowen seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Trent asked for nominations for the position of Secretary. Zach Williams made a motion to nominate John Turner as Secretary. Randy Pamperien seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Open Discussion

John asked Tom about his retirement; he said that he would still stay connected to the overpass and Highway 63 four-laning projects. John asked about the road extension near Tractor Supply in West Plains; Tom said that it is in the STIP process. He said that the access road to OHC is another big project. The group thanked Tom for his service.

Tom said that a new Howell County Tac representative is needed; Trent added that it would be discussed at the next meeting.

Trent discussed the Community Connect meetings and said that we would be in touch to set those up in conjunction with the HMGP public hearings. He asked those present to think of projects that they want to be discussed.

John asked about getting updated traffic studies on Highway 5; Zach agreed.

Will discussed the infrastructure bill. He added that they are trying to make it more bi-partisan. Zach asked what the main priorities of the bill were. Will thought it would be roads and bridges, and this is separate from the FAST ACT. He said that TIGER grants are now called RAISE grants. Those applications are due June 12, and he would be happy to supply a letter of support.

John asked why tax dollars are given to railroads. Ron said that he was told by MoDOT that using the railroads keeps the heavy trucks off the road, which equals less wear and tear on roads.

Megan added that Congressman Smith would agree that infrastructure is roads and bridges.

Trent said that the Cost Share program deadlines are July 23, 2021, October 7, 2021, and April 18, 2022. MoDOT matches up to 50% of project costs, and they like to have applications two weeks before the deadline. He said to let him know of any projects. Tom added that MoDOT can change their amount they put in, and the application has to be signed off on by a district engineer.

The next TAC meeting will be held **August 17, 2021 at 10:00 AM.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Angie Ball
Administrative Assistant, SCOCOG

Reviewed for Content,

John Turner
TAC Secretary