



Northeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission

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NORTHEAST MISSOURI

Transportation Advisory Council

Evan Glasgow – Chairman / Mari Macomber – Vice Chairman

NEMO TAC Exec Board Meeting, Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room, 121 S. Cecil, Memphis, MO

Attendance: Attendance sheet attached.

Meeting was called to order by Mari Macomber at 1:05 P.M.

Previous Minutes: Motion to approve previous meeting minutes of the 01/17/2021 meeting was made by Paul Brotherton, Wayne Murphy seconded. All were in favor.

Safety Presentation: MoDOT's Marisa Ellison gave a presentation on behalf of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. As the chair of the northeast region, Ellison presented the group's safety budget numbers and highlighted the areas of emphasis in 2021, buckle up, phone down, slow down and drive sober. She reported fatalities were up in the northeast district to start 2021, highlighting the need for efforts to increase seatbelt use and combat distracted driving.

TAC Update: Chris Feeney presented the TAC update for the first quarter of 2021.

- He reported attending the statewide planners meeting on February 10, 2021 and addressed improved financial projects from MoDOT that included roughly \$200 million in COVID-19 related federal relief funds as well MoDOT's adjusted payment relief from Amendment 3 bonding that will improve MoDOT's financial projections.
- The meeting also highlighted a new focus on asset management, with MoDOT deputy director Ed Hassinger highlighting disparities in road conditions across the state, including low volume roads, which southern districts report as 80% or better while northwest Missouri falls well behind at 53% and northeast Missouri at 65%, below the state goal of 70%.
- The Asset Management Deficit Program will continue to infuse \$10 million into STIP projects to address shortcomings in road conditions on minor and major routes. A new Maintenance Asset Management Deficit Program was announced, with \$15 million in funding in 2022 and 2023 and another \$12.5 million in 2024 specifically targeting low volume road pavement conditions.

- Northeast District MoDOT officials indicated preliminary budget allocations of \$2.8 million and \$3.5 million respectively for the district from the two deficit programs, which could lead to as many as 100 miles of overlays.
- Feeney reported on the northeast MoDOT district meeting on February 17, 2021 to update the 2021 Unfunded Needs List. Representatives from NEMO, Boonslick and Mark Twain RPCs joined the MoDOT district leaders to prioritize \$23.4 million in Tier I projects and another \$93.5 million in Tier II projects. Despite the added funding for asset management, taking care of the system remained the top priority for unfunded needs as well. Pavement improvements ranked #1, seeking \$8 million in additional funding, with another \$3 million for bridges and \$5 million for shoulders.
- That theme carried over to Tier II, where \$6.2 million more was requested for pavement upgrades for low volume and minor routes and another \$4 million for bridges. The 9th ranked priority was a safety study for the Highway 63 bypass and the turning lanes at the Knox County and Highland schools also remained on Tier II.
- The Transportation Alternative Program 2021 grant cycle was completed in March with \$441,977 in funds allocated to the northeast district awarded to two projects. Warrenton will receive \$319,845 to help fund 58% of its total cost for two-phases of a three-phase sidewalk upgrade. Kahoka will be awarded \$122,156 to help fund a sidewalk upgrade. There were eight total grant applications, with Memphis, Kirksville, Bevier, Mexico, Moberly and Wright City also seeking funds.
- A legislative update was presented, focusing on the fuel tax increase proposals. He reported on House Bill 1044 sponsored by Rep. Becky Ruth, proposing a two-cent increase each year for the next five years to produce a 10-cent increase overall. The plan follows the South Carolina model and would allow tax payers to seek a refund of the new tax. Senate Bill 262 sponsored by President Pro Tem Dave Schatz also uses the South Carolina model. Initially it proposed a 2.5 cent increase every year for the next six years, but after perfection on the senate floor, it was passed as a five-year plan that would result in a total 12.5 cent increase by 2026.
- A request from Rep. Louis Riggs was presented to give the Hannibal Expressway a high priority from the NEMO RPC. Rep. Riggs had addressed the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission in February and had been instructed to seek the NEMO RPC's approval by northeast Missouri commissioner John Briscoe. The Hannibal bypass was considered a priority by the NEMO, Boonslick and Mark Twain RPCs which ranked it the 7th highest priority on the Tier II unfunded needs list, asking for \$500,000 for MoDOT to study the project. District Engineer Paula Gough indicated the project has a conservative price tag of roughly \$100 million but has not seen significant movement since the mid 1990s. The TAC members agreed that projects in the six-county NEMO region must be the top priority of the TAC to serves its constituents and declined to give the Hannibal Bypass a top priority.

NE District MODOT: Rob Frese provided an update on MoDOT projects. He reported the unfunded needs list shared at the meeting was a draft form and would require state commission approval. The TAP awards also will become official at the end of March.

Amy Crawford reported a section of Route 157 had been taken over by the Missouri DNR to allow for the right of way to be utilized for the trail system at 1000 Hills State park near

Kirksville. She reported the Baltimore/Bus. 63 project on the south end of Kirksville would be starting with an overlay for Highway 15 set to start in April. The north end of Baltimore Street in Kirksville will also be moving forward later this year after the governor's Cost Share funding cuts were restored. Crawford reported working on the FARM Bridge programing which will announce the winning design, build bid in May.

Paula Gough reported planned repairs for the wind farm routes in Schuyler and Adair counties had been shared with the RCP and the county officials and would start soon.

Bryon Nichols from Congressman Graves' office reported as of three hours prior to the meeting, that earmarks for transportation projects were back in the federal funding process and transportation officials would be scrambling to identify projects in a short time frame for potential federal funding.

Old Business: Letters of support for the state fuel tax proposal were delivered to Rep. Sharpe, Rep. Busick and Sen. O'Laughlin. The issue has not come before the full House, but it was passed in the Senate despite a no vote from O'Laughlin.

New Business: TAC members were asked to begin identifying prospective projects to be added for consideration on the 2021 TAC needs list.

Comments: Wayne Murphy, Jr. asked MoDOT about availability of new pavement condition data after the TAC reports indicated they were using 2019 data. Rob Frese noted that data was not collected in 2020 due to COVID restrictions. Gough also noted that data is collected every year on major routes, but only every two to three years on minor and low volume routes.

Mark Shahan addressed the need for safety improvements on the Highway 63 bypass at Kirksville, specifically at the Highway 6 and 11 intersections. Gough indicated safety funding required specific criteria and the accident data would be studied as initial review had indicated issues were related to driver behavior and not design or engineering concerns.

Adjournment: Wayne Murphy, Jr. made a motion to adjourn, and Jim Werner seconded. Meeting concluded at 2:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Chris Feeney, Transportation Planner, NEMO RPC

