



TAC MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 11, 2019 – 10:00 am
Joplin Public Library, 20th & Connecticut, Joplin, MO

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Tom Short, Chair – City of Carthage
Jim Jackson, Vice-Chair – Newton County
Commission
John Bunch – McDonald County
Rachel Holcomb – City of Neosho
Cyndy Hutchings – City of Seneca
DeWayne & Janice Bearbower, City of Anderson
Lewis Davis – City of Noel
John Bunch – McDonald County

GUESTS:

Dave Taylor, Area Engineer – MoDOT
Zeke Hall, Area Planner- MoDOT
Patrick Tuttle – Joplin Convention & Visitors Bureau
Leland Butcher – City of Neosho
Ron Klein – City of Duenweg
Leland Butcher – City of Neosho
Ceri Otero – City of Carthage
Tyler Merriott – US Sen. Roy Blunt's office
Brenda Harmon – Anderson, Mo., citizen
Bill Martin – Village of Jane

HSTCC STAFF:

Nikki Hill – HSTCC Transportation Planner
Jill Cornett – Executive Director

Call to Order: Tom Short, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Agenda and Minutes: The agenda was presented to the board. Minutes were presented to board. All approved.

MoDOT Updates:

- a) **HB 500:** MODOT Staff discussed the introduction of HB 500, proposed legislation that would increase the registration fees of vehicles with high mileage per gallon, to offset the drop in the quantity of gas purchased by those drivers. Fuel efficiency has a negative impact on the fuel tax revenues collected on a per gallon basis at retail pumps throughout the state.
- b) **I-49 Mo-Ark Connect:** MODOT staff presented the current schedule for the construction of the M-Ark Connect with an anticipated completion date of 2023. Currently engineers are revising the existing environmental studies.
- c) **Transportation Alternatives Projects:** MODOT described the process for awarding points and finally selecting the grant awarded for the TAP projects. Alternative methods were suggested that would engage more stakeholders in the HSTCC region. Greater engagement has proven successful in other regions. The 2019 TAP project selection meeting was held Nov. 29 at the MODOT Southwest District office. Very few HSTCC communities submitted applications.
- d) **Statewide Road & Bridge Funding:** Gov. Mike Parson has proposed the State issue bonds to cover the current and future cost of road construction, repairs and maintenance. Missouri House Legislator Cody Smith (Carthage) has suggested the funds be drawn from General Fund revenues, rather than issuing bonds and incurring debt.

STIP LIST: The Statewide Transportation Infrastructure Project list is a rolling 5-year plan for the expenditure of funds for road and bridge repairs and maintenance. Currently, the list is focused on maintenance of existing system, rather than any expansion or new construction. This maintenance planning is a result of a significant shortfall in

gas tax revenues, particularly in light of the failure of Proposition D on the November 2018 ballot, wherein Missouri voters voted down an increase in gas taxes.

- e) **Transportation Advisory Committee Priority List:** Dave Taylor and Nikki Hill discussed the existing project priority list for the HSTCC region. The list is compiled through the collection of ideas, opinions and concerns about transportation corridors in our region. The TAC brings items to TAC meetings and the TAC works to rank the items in order of greatest need to least need.

Nikki handed out a spreadsheet of all projects over the past 10 years that the TAC Committee had prioritized. The color coded list indicated which years the item had been on the list, how or whether it had been addressed and the outcomes.

The TAC group felt the list was cumbersome and difficult to navigate. Staff will attempt to develop documents that are easier to read and comprehend.

Information from HSTCC Staff:

Staff presented concerns about the upcoming 2020 census. Failure of citizens to respond to the census results in unreliable data, which often leaves communities appearing to be more affluent than they actually are. This apparent affluence, measured by a less than 51% Low- to moderate-income earner, prevents the communities from qualifying for grant funds from a variety of agencies, particularly the Dept. of Economic Development.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:40. Next meeting scheduled for April 17, 2019 , 3 p.m., at the George Washington Carver National Monument.