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TAC MEETING MINUTES

**Wednesday, April 17, 2019 – 10:00 am
Joplin Public Library, 20th & Connecticut, Joplin, MO**

Members in Attendance:

Tom Short, Chair – City of Carthage
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
Gary Turner, City of Sarcoxie

Guests:

Dave Taylor, Area Engineer – MoDOT
Zeke Hall, Area Planner- MoDOT
Will Cline, City of Carterville
Nikki Hill, Jasper County
Staff: Jill Cornett, HSTCC

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. Lewis Davis moved to approve; John Bunch seconded. All approved.

HSTCC New Hire:

Jill announced that the new Transportation Planner will begin on May 20. His name is Thomas Hughes, and he is a recent graduate from the Planning program at Missouri State University in Springfield.

MoDOT/MACOG Funding:

Jill explained that, as a MoDOT Planning Partner, HSTCC receives funding in the amount of \$64,000. This represents 80% of a total grant program of \$80,000. The 20% balance comes from HSTCC match, which generally comes from HSTCC membership dues.

Jill also explained that in order to receive the full funding from MoDOT, all the Regional Planning Commissions must provide to the Missouri Association of Councils of Government (MACOG) a "self-evaluation" of transportation planning activities over the past year.

The self-evaluation is based on a point system. Based on the number of points awarded for successfully completing certain activities, the funding for the RPCs will be 100% or a reduced amount, if all criteria are not met. Jill shared this year's self-evaluation for the TAC committee to review.

MoDOT Presentation on Project Funding:

Zeke Hall, the area MoDOT Transportation Planner, made an in-depth presentation describing the various channels through which MoDOT funds transportation projects. He described the source of MoDOT's revenues, and how they were distributed statewide.

Zeke also explained how each TAC is responsible for creating a prioritized list of potential transportation projects for its area. This list is created through a months-long interaction with the members of the TAC committee and other area stakeholders. Once the TAC has completed the list, it is forwarded to the MoDOT district office in Springfield. All of the TACs and the urban Planning Organizations meet annually to review all of the lists and then decide which projects will be prioritized at the regional level.

Once that is completed, the regional list is sent to Jefferson City for agency review. These prioritization lists are given careful consideration as MoDOT plans its expenditures for the coming year(s). MoDOT keeps its own priorities, based on their internal plans for transportation improvements and scheduled maintenance. The best-case scenario is when items from the TAC lists and the MoDOT lists are in agreement and can be addressed more quickly and efficiently than a more scattered approach.

2020 Census:

Jill described the importance of capturing complete and accurate counts in the upcoming 2020 decennial census. The Census Bureau recognizes that a complete and accurate count will be a challenge, particularly in the areas of the country where census tracts are often under-reported. One of those tracts is southern McDonald County.

Challenges result from the unwillingness of immigrant and migrant populations to report. Other challenges come from the Bureau's new approach to try to get as many people as possible to respond online. There are also concerns that if the Administration's requirement that questions about citizenship appear on the 2020 Census, many potential respondents will not engage.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:15 pm.

Next meeting set for June 26, 3 pm, at George Washington Carver National Monument