



## Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Library Center, February 25, 2015

**Attending:** Andrew Seiler, Dennis Wood, Matt Hough, David Stokely, Todd Wiesehan, Curtis Owens, David Miller, Rex Barclay, Howard Fisk, Frank Miller, Buddy Roberts, Mike Randall, Nancy Edson, Stan Whitehurst, Jeff Robinson, Dan Wadington  
SMCOG Staff: Dan Watts

**Introductions and Approval of December 17, 2014 Minutes:** Self introductions were made. Buddy Roberts motioned and Howard Fisk seconded to accept the minutes. Motion Approved.

### **Frank Miller, MoDOT**

Construction has slowed throughout the MoDOT southwest district with the exception of construction of a diverging diamond interchange at Highway 65 and Battlefield. Some delays and traffic back-ups should be expected over the next several months. Work is underway on an interchange in the Joplin area to provide access to the Crossroads Industrial Park. This is one of the last economic development projects in the district. Bridge work will begin in western Greene County along I-44 at Hwy PP and Route N/T.

### **MoDOT's 325 Plan – Frank Miller**

Frank Miller distributed a handout titled, "Tough Choices Ahead" describing the 325 Plan. The 325 Plan was developed to address lagging fuel tax revenue and reduction state matching funds for federal transportation dollars. In 2017, MoDOT will have \$325,000,000 to cover the costs of road and bridge construction. The 325 Plan will only provide for maintaining 8,000 miles of primary transportation routes that connect cities across the state and sparse maintenance of some supplementary roads. In 10 years, 18,833 miles of supplementary roads will be in poor condition.

Different methods for funding transportation were discussed to compensate for the lower fuel tax revenues. These included a regional TDD or CID and local impact fees on new development in areas that have planning and zoning regulations.

### **Curtis Owens, OTO:**

The Ozarks Transportation Organization is seeking public input in the development of the "Journey 2040" OTO Long Range Transportation Plan. Input will be sought at public venues and through a public comment form on the OTO website [giveyourinput.org](http://giveyourinput.org). The OTO is working on updating and reclassification of some roads in the OTO major thoroughfare plan. A congestion management report for the Springfield metro area will be available soon.

### **Jeff Robinson, OATS:**

Mr. Robinson stated that operational funding for OATS is the primary concern and road condition is secondary. Much of the funding for OATS comes from area associations on ageing. If revenue from the general fund were to be rescinded OATS could lose its first bus in all 10 counties of the SMCOG region.

OATS has no new projects underway at this time. The Way-to-Go route from Stone County to Taney County is funded through JARC and could be lost due to funding cuts in FY16.

**David Stokely, Senator McCaskill's Office:**

The current extension for authorization bill, MAP-21, expires in May. Mr. Stokely added that he would reiterate his statements that were included in the September 10, 2014 TAC meeting minutes. A bill approving the Keystone Pipeline received bipartisan approval from both Missouri Senators before sending it to the President to sign. President Obama subsequently vetoed the bill and Senator McCaskill was in favor of a veto override. The Senator had visited Cuba to explore trade opportunities and was in favor of lifting the embargo against trade with Cuba.

**Steve McIntosh, Senator Blunt's Office:**

Dan Wadlington announced that he would be replacing Stacy Burkes in Senator Blunt's office. There was a proposal for a two-year 12¢ increase the national fuel tax in the senate but it was doubtful that it would pass the house. Senator Blunt and a bipartisan group of senators would like to cut the corporate tax rate to 15% from 35%. A total of \$2 billion of repatriated revenues would be used for infrastructure projects. Senator Blunt also is in favor of an infrastructure bank and revolving loan funds to pay for infrastructure projects.

**Matt Hough, Congressman Long's Office:**

Mr. Hough stated that much of his report had been covered by Senator Blunt's McCaskill representatives. Hough added that there was bipartisan support for repatriating corporate taxes in the house but the issue had not been taken up in the house.

**Long Range Transportation Plan Updates--Dan Watts:**

Mr. Watts informed the TAC that the SMOG long range transportation plan was currently updated. The Missouri Association of Council of Governments had requested that resilience goals for transportation be added to the regional transportation plan. Mr. Watts distributed the revised goals to the TAC.

Buddy Roberts motioned to approve the revised goals. Howard Fisk seconded the motion. Motion approved.

**Adjourn:**