

# Northwest Missouri Transportation Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting Minutes, August 4, 2009

## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Robert Westfall at 6:11 pm in the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments' Conference Room. Dinner was served.

## Roll Call

The roll was taken with the following members present:

### *TAC Members*

Jack Baldwin, Nodaway County  
Ken Jones, Holt County  
Joe Hertl, Worth County  
Doug Allee, Worth County  
Carole Coutts, Nodaway County  
Bob Westfall, Nodaway County  
Jack Kruse, Atchison County  
Karl Noellsch, Holt County  
Derek Brown, Gentry County  
Gary Carlson, Gentry County (late arrival)  
Dennis Gabbert, Worth County (late arrival)

### *Ex-Officio Members*

Shannon Kusilek, Transportation Planning Manager  
Martin Liles, MoDOT  
Bob Steins, NWMORCOG Chair

### *NWMORCOG Staff*

Tye Parsons, Executive Director  
Dana Ternus, Regional Planner

## Approval of Minutes

Hertl motioned to approved the June 16, 2009 TAC minutes. Baldwin seconded. Motion carried (12 yes, 0 no).

## Old Business

*Work Plan Update:* Ternus reminded the TAC committee of the four streets and drainage grants written for Burlington Junction, Elmo, Pickering, and Watson which were submitted for the regular CDBG funding, but also included in a second round of supplemental funding. No award notifications had been received as of Tuesday, August 11; Parsons informed the committee that DED is hoping to announce funding awards the week of August 17<sup>th</sup>. Work also continues on a possible Gentry County bridge project for submittal to the Emergency CDBG project. Ternus also met with the Mound City mayor and city clerk to look at funding possibilities for bridge repair.

Ternus reported that the Fiscal Year 2010 workplan was submitted and approved by MoDOT at the end of June. Fiscal Year 2009's prioritization list was finalized as well. The first Northwest Missouri GIS Users' Group was organized and held its first meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this group is encourage networking and knowledge-sharing throughout the region.

Fourth quarter and annual reports were submitted to MoDOT in July. Ternus is currently working with the Nodaway County Trails, Inc. and the City of Maryville on a variety of

projects including an educational event at Maryville Middle School on bicycle safety prior to the Safe Routes to School trail opening in October as well as a ribbon-cutting highlighting the partnership between the City of Maryville and MoDOT on the Highway 136 project. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am. The educational event is tentatively scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Google Earth project is in progress. Software has been purchased and installed. Scott Shavnore, the RCOG's GIS intern, has been working to populate the program with the 2009 needs list and descriptions as well as additional data including employers, ADTs, and other pertinent information. The Safe Routes to School update process has also begun as well. Upcoming events and plans include completion of the bus route project, trick-or-treat event in Maryville, and the beginning of sidewalk assessments for the five county region. Parsons asked the TAC to notify Ternus of sidewalk conditions and/or existence in their counties.

### **New Business**

Parsons informed the committee that he and Ternus attended the Highway Commissioners' Dinner and meeting on August 3-4, 2009. During that dinner, a large stack of papers, including a letter and pictures, was handed to MoDOT director Pete Rahn from one of the RCOG's local officials. Ternus distributed the letter and asked the TAC members to read it. Parsons told the committee that the letter concerned transportation planning, but highlighted the need for public education. The TAC is designed to help coordinate grass-roots organization with MoDOT. Liles pointed out that six years ago, local citizens did not have much input. He told the committee that he believed that has changed dramatically, that local citizens now have significant input and pointed to the ARRA funds as a good example. However, Liles also stated that he understands the frustration that citizens have with transportation. Kusilek told the committee that he refers comments to the RPCs, intending to funnel their comments through the TAC committee. Gabbert asked about MoDOT driving the roads themselves to judge their condition and the use of ADTs when considering construction needs. Liles stated that budget was the biggest factor. Kusilek pointed out that a number of factors are used, including the amount of truck traffic, road width, and ADTs among others. Liles told the committee that traffic counts are what hurt the northwest region the most.

Hertl asked Ternus and Parsons to specify what was wrong with the letter. Parsons responded that nothing was wrong with the letter, but pointed out that simply handing it to the director of MoDOT was not likely to get results. Ternus stated that the intention in using the letter was to highlight the need for public education concerning the role of the TAC, MoDOT selection process, and other vital information. Noellsch pointed out that the letter received lots of attention, but did not follow the existing procedure. Allee asked how it would be possible to convince the power-that-be that ADTs should not be used as the major deciding factor. Carlson and Westfall continued the discussion by pointing out that the bridges and roads that are closest to any citizen are the most important. Kusilek and Liles pointed out that citizens need to be educated and encouraged to support some type of road tax which will provide funding. Gabbert asked for MoDOT's solution to the funding issues; Kusilek replied that MoDOT cannot speak on funding issues, but the

Missouri Transportation Alliance and TAC can. Ternus offered to initiate contact between Gabbert and Doug Sutton, the local MoTA contact. Ternus and Parsons explained the collection of transportation from the region, asking the committee to actively seek out local constituents and gather needs from their respective counties. Worksheets may be copied as necessary. All worksheets are to be returned to NWMORCOG no later than October 15, 2009.

Kusilek updated the TAC on ARRA-funded cold-in-place routes. Despite issues with contracts, projects have been selected and begun. A comprehensive list was not available from the contractor, but Nodaway Routes H and EE have been completed while Worth Route YY and Worth/Nodaway Route W are currently in progress. Gabbert asked why Worth B and Z were eliminated and Baldwin asked what explanation TAC members could provide to local residents; Kusilek reported that existing road surfaces were cored and many routes were ineligible due to the thinness of the existing roadway.

The 2010-2014 State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) was published since the committee's last meeting. Kusilek reported that the Northwest TAC region will see \$23,209,000 in construction during FY 2010 and \$61,000,000 in FY2011, the majority of which will be spent toward the Rulo and Brownville Bridges. The Rulo bridge was awarded in July 2009 while the Brownville bridge was let in July 2009. MoDOT is actively working with the region, particularly the City of Brownville, Nebraska, to coordinate construction with local tourist activity. The Safe and Sound program is actively underway as well. Four bridge redecks have been completed and one started in the Northwest TAC region. Another five have been awarded. The design-build bridge projects may begin by October 2009, with 52 completed in the region by 2011.

A number of projects are currently being scoped for inclusion into future STIPS. Three bridges (two in Atchison, one in Nodaway) are on the list as well as Worth/Gentry 169 from Grant City to St. Joseph, Gentry 85 south of Albany, and Nodaway 46 through Maryville. Kusilek pointed out that the most significant challenge for transportation currently is funding with the expiration of SAFETEA-LU and the attempts to keep the Highway Trust Fund solvent through September 2009. New legislation won't be the same and the proposed legislation has some interesting changes concerning MPOs and the relationship between Departments of Transportation and RPOs.

Liles provided the TAC with an update on the Cold-In-Place route work using ARRA funds. He also described the contract level-courses with 1" overlays that are in progress or have been completed on Atchison Route O, Atchison 111, Highway 59 north of Tarkio, the Fairfax Y intersection, Highway 136 (between I-29 and Tarkio as well as from the Burlington T to Maryville), and Nodaway 46. Liles explained the chip seal process that was recently completed on Nodaway 46. Maintenance continues on many local routes as well utilizing chip seals, fly coats, and cinder seals.

### **Other Business**

The next TAC meeting is scheduled to be held on November 3, 2009 – Election day. Ternus asked the committee if there was a need to reschedule. TAC members did not identify any difficulty with the date and resolved to maintain the schedule as set by the committee in the June meeting.

**Adjourn**

Hearing no further business, Baldwin motioned to adjourn at 8:04 pm. Hertl seconded. Motion carried (14 yes, 0 no).

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Chairman or Vice-Chairman

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Minutes recorded by Dana Ternus