

Northwest Missouri Transportation Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting Minutes, June 16, 2009

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Marlin Logan at 6:26 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

Marlin Logan, Atchison County
Carole Coutts, Nodaway County
Bill Gordon, Holt County
Dennis Gabbert, Worth County
Jack Baldwin, Nodaway County
Gary Carlson, Gentry County
Joseph Hertl, Worth County
Doug Allee, Worth County
Bob Westfall, Nodaway County
Karl Noellsch, Holt County

Ex-Officio Members

Shannon Kusilek, Transportation Planning Manager
Bob Steins, Nodaway County

NWMORCOG Staff

Tye Parsons, Executive Director
Dana Ternus, Regional Planner

Approval of Minutes

Westfall motioned to approved the April 7, 2009 TAC minutes. Baldwin seconded. Motion carried (10 yes, 0 no).

Old Business

Work Plan Update: Ternus updated the TAC committee on streets and drainage grants written and submitted by the RCOG on behalf of four municipalities: Burlington Junction, Elmo, Pickering, and Watson. Projects were submitted for the regular CDBG funding, but also included in a second round of supplemental funding. No work on funding approval had been received as of Monday, June 15. In addition, the Prioritization List for the Regional Transportation Plan was completed.

Ternus informed the committee that the Blueprint for Safety was funded for FY 2010. She will continue to serve on the Education sub-committee as part of her duties. Ternus was able to participate in an award presentation to Albany high school as part of the 2008-2009 Battle of the Belt. Albany High School won the Most Improved Usage Award, increasing their seatbelt usage 127%.

Ternus reported on a number of meetings in May and June. Nine projects were submitted and two were funded, one in the TAC's region. A Joint TAC training was held on May 15th in conjunction with Mo-Kan and Green Hills Regional Planning Commission at Lake Viking near Gallatin. The group heard presentations on ARRA funding, Missouri's funding challenges for transportation, and the new utilization of Google Earth for next

year's prioritization. On May 18, Ternus participated in MoDOT's Transportation Enhancement Grant Application review. Nine projects were submitted, including two from the five TAC counties. Two projects were funded, including one in our region. Ternus also attended the MoDOT Roadway Rally on June 16th. The Roadway Rally asked stakeholders to ride along a series of pre-selected routes, providing their opinion about roadway features such as shoulder and lane width, roadway smoothness, line of vision, and more. Kusilek added that the Roadway Rallies were last held in 2000 and were designed to provide feedback and information for MoDOT. Baldwin asked if the results of the study would be released. Kusilek stated that compiled results would be used and possibly released, but the study in its entirety would most likely not be released.

New Business

Ternus and Parsons informed the committee that the FY 2010 Workplan was submitted to MoDOT and tentatively approved. Ternus informed the committee that sidewalk assessments will be included in the Workplan for the next two years. Parsons also informed the committee that RPOAmerica is in the process of supporting a legislative push for funding RPOs (Regional Planning Organization) in the same manner as MPOs (Metropolitan Planning Organization). Congressman Graves has been asked to sponsor this bill. Shannon pointed out to the committee that, while this would mean more cash, it would also give each TAC and RPO much more responsibility. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Parsons introduced the committee to the new method of prioritization that will be used during FY 2010. Google Earth is software which is available to the public online. Along with the other RPCs in MoDOT District 1, RCOG will be using this software to create a comprehensive District 1 needs list which will be available to MoDOT, local governments, and the general public. Parsons demonstrated the various capabilities of the Google Earth software, including street level flybys and 360° views created by aerial imagery which includes geographic reference points. This software will aid in the prioritization for FY 2010 by allowing the TAC to view lettered routes, state highways, and intersections with safety issues. ADTs (Average Daily Traffic), local employers, and other information can be added to create a comprehensive view of the region.

Kusilek provided the committee with an update on the draft STIP for 2010-2014, pointing out eighteen projects for the five county area, twelve of which were taken from the previous prioritization list. (See attached list.) Kusilek then invited questions and/or comments from the committee members. Hertl commented on the selection of US Hwy 169 from Grant City to St. Joseph, noting that most of the local citizens were confused by the selection of Hwy 169 north from Grant City to the Iowa state over the southern section. Various comments were made by citizens via email and online. Kusilek explained that the northern section of Hwy 169 was chosen because of the existing shoulder width. Allee asked about maintenance funding for Worth County, asking about the use of stimulus monies for maintenance. Kusilek explained that stimulus funding was focused on job creation and construction, but had no provisions for maintenance and upkeep. Gordon asked about the closure of the Mound City Rest Stop. Kusilek explained that the rest stop was being closed, but reopened in the same place as a

welcome center after renovations. Gabbert asked for an update on the use of Cold-in-Place recycling on rural routes with the stimulus funding. Kusilek reported that the project, which provided a choice of routes to the contractor who then identified the most economical resurfacing plan, has been held up due a problem with the materials in the bid. Dryness factor and emulsifier amounts created problems with the contracts. Negotiations are currently underway and further information will be provided as it becomes available.

An update on the Safe and Sound Bridge Program was also provided by Kusilek. The final piece of the project fell into place when the Highway Commission approved the final 555 bridge design-build projects. The project was let and awarded to KTU Contractors for \$487 million, roughly \$31 million less than the other bids. Another benefit of the KTU bid was the 45-day replacement for each bridge which will require a bridge closure but will greatly limit the construction time. 64 bridges in the TAC's five counties are included, 52 of which are design-build bridges with completion set for 2013 while 12 are modified design-build bridges which will be completed by MoDOT.

Transportation funding was the final topic of the evening. Kusilek informed the committee that the state is currently \$49 million behind in revenues from last year in sales tax which helps provide a percentage of transportation funding. Fortunately, awarded projects have come in at \$180 million under the original estimates. MoDOT is concerned with economy's downward trend. SAFETEA-LU is ending and the Highway Trust Fund is spent out. There has been some discussion concerning an infusion to keep the trust fund solvent.

Other Business

Due to a number of issues and the need to hold an alternate meeting, Ternus asked the committee to consider a revision of meeting dates for 2009-2010. She proposed holding the quarterly meetings on August 4, November 3, February 2, and May 4. Baldwin motioned to approve the altered meeting dates. Westfall seconded. The motion carried (10 yes, 0 no).

Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Coutts motioned to adjourn at 7:55 pm. Kruse seconded. Motion carried (10 yes, 0 no).

Chairman or Vice-Chairman

Minutes recorded by Dana Ternus