**Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 18, 2020**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Attending:** Dennis Pyle (Barry), Brent Young (Christian), Todd Wiesehan (Christian), Kim Kinder (Dade), Hollie Elliott (Dallas), J. Howard Fisk (Greene), Joel Keller (Greene), Max Springer (Lawrence), Jerry Harman (Stone), Rick Ziegenfuss (Taney), Randy Owens (Webster), Sam Rost (Webster), Stan Whitehurst (Webster Alternate)

Andy Thomason (OTO), Zeke Hall (MoDOT), Frank Miller (MoDOT), Beth Schaller (MoDOT), Jason Ray (SMCOG), Jack Weindel (SMCOG), Aishwarya Shrestha (SMCOG), Hanna Schinstock (SMCOG), Dan Wadlington (Senator Roy Blunt), Wayne Blades (Stone)

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Dennis Pyle.

1. **Introductions by County & Guests**

Self-introductions were skipped.

1. **Approval of the agenda:**

Motion to approve the agenda made by Howard, motion seconded by Max. All ayes. Motion carried.

1. **Approval of minutes:**

Motion to approve the May 13, 2020 meeting minutes made by Sam, motion seconded by Hank. All ayes. Motion carried.

1. **SMCOG Staff Update:**
	1. Recap of MoDOT Transportation Planning Workshop

Aishwarya summarized the information from the workshop. FY2020 and FY2021 YTD revenues were presented. Funding projections based on last year’s asset management plan was also presented. Partnership development programs such as the Statewide Cost Share Program, State Infrastructure Bank, and Statewide Transportation Assistance Revolving (STAR) fund were also mentioned.

* 1. Traffic Counts

Aishwarya noted that SMCOG’s traffic counter is not working, and the office is in the process of getting a new one. In the meantime, SMCOG is using Kaysinger Basin RPC’s traffic counter. She also highlighted that as a SMCOG member, local governments have access to one free traffic count, in one location, per SMCOG fiscal year. Additional counts may be conducted for $50 each.

* 1. Upcoming TAC Meeting

Aishwarya asked all the members if they preferred a virtual or in-person meeting for the next TAC meeting on January 13, 2021. There was a consensus for an online meeting via Zoom.

* 1. Other Items of Interest:

Aishwarya highlighted the National Strategic Plan. She noted that the U.S. DOT unveiled for the first time a national freight transportation strategy that aims to guide national freight policy and investment and provide a framework for better multimodal connection. She noted that the agenda packet contains the Missouri Freight Network Map that has freight mapped out on different tiers for the members’ reference.

Aishwarya also highlighted the extension of the FAST Act. The extension includes an additional $13.6 billion added to the Highway Trust Fund.

Dennis highlighted his question about local gas tax that he had asked during the MoDOT Transportation Planning Workshop. He mentioned that Missouri statutes do provide for a $0.01 per gallon gas tax that needs to be approved by voters. There is no good method to predict revenue from the gas tax to the cities. He asked how that was collected, distributed, and if there was any way to help the cities determine how much the revenue might be.

1. **MoDOT Update**

Beth provided construction updates. Beth mentioned that it has been a very busy season for construction. Pandemic has not impacted construction. Several projects are wrapping up and several are still in the works. Beth mentioned that she was working on the I-44 Design Build project, which was the bridges mainly in Lawrence county. This project has pretty much wrapped up. Beth noted that they are looking forward to doing a bundle of bridges in 2022. This will be a significantly extensive project (from the Oklahoma line to the edge of our district in Webster county). Beth mentioned they had wrapped several projects in Nixa and Ozark. She also noted that several projects are underway in Route 14, wrapping up some projects in Willard (160). A lot of work has been completed on a partnership project with Marshfield on the interchange on I-44. Overlay work and safety improvements on Highway 60 in Webster county are ending. MoDOT wrapped up several bridge projects in the SMCOG area this year.

Frank mentioned that because of the extension of the federal bill through the fiscal year 2021, there will probably be a call for TAP applications next year.

1. **MPO Update**

Andy Thomason mentioned OTO recognizes the long-term value of having another North-South corridor on the western side of their area. OTO will be participating in that study.

1. **Legislative Reports**

Dan mentioned that the Highway Bill was extended for a full year.

Rick congratulated Congressman Long for his reelection.

1. **Other Member Updates & Guest Reports**

No member updates and guest reports.

1. **Adjourn by Chair**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Rick Ziegenfuss.

The next meeting will be on January 13, 2021, via Zoom.