

MoDOT SW District / ACEC Missouri Liaison Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 2nd, 2024

12:30-2:30pm

In person option:

MoDOT Southwest District, 3025 E. Kearney Street (Conference Room 2), Springfield, MO 65803

Microsoft Teams option: Meeting ID: 295 648 089 039, Passcode: hDfgkC

Attendees:

<u>MoDOT:</u>		<u>ACEC/MO:</u>
Stacy Reese	Warner Sherman	Jason Haynes, HDR, Cmte Chair
Greg Chapman	Craig Switzer	Bob Gilbert, Bartlett & West,
Laurel McKean	Sabrina Bonnette	Board Chair (Online)
John Sanders	Marc Lewis	Reid Catt, Olsson
Kristi Bachman	Kara Richart	Becky Baltz, TREKK
Johnny Teegardin	Brittany Mitchell	Sean Matlock, OWN (Online)
Ray Cook	Marvin Morris	Chris Tepen, Benesch
Cindy Dunnaway (Online)	Beth Shaller	Steve Prange, CMT
Alvin Nieves-Rosario	Shannon Kellner	Morgan Mundell, President
Jeff Cremer (Online)	Frank Miller	

Agenda

1. Introductions
 - Jason H. started the meeting and introductions were made.
2. ACEC Updates – President and CEO Morgan Mundell
 - Morgan M. was unable to attend so this update was skipped.
3. MoDOT Leadership Updates / Key Initiatives
 - Stacy R. discussed initiatives. First, the process to replace Patrick McKenna as Director is underway and interviews are being held in October. Public provided fifty comments to the Commission related to the new Director search.
 - The latest Commission meeting highlighted the 10-year STIP delivery with the current being the largest STIP ever. Over the last 10-years, 4,099 projects were delivered totaling \$5.7 billion at 3.8% under budget and provided \$28 billion in economic impact in the state. During those 10 years, the SW District delivered 793 projects totaling \$1.4 billion.
 - Stacy R. identified that the [SAFER](#) document has been updated and has seventeen new items, one being litter control.

- Jason H. asked about the future of the STIP and whether there may be an anticipated funding cliff. Stacy R. responded that there is always STIP funding uncertainty and that it depends on the next Federal Transportation bill funding, any legislative efforts to repeal the recent state gas tax increases, and if additional General Revenue funds are allocated to transportation.

4. District Updates / Staffing Changes

- John S. introduced Kara Richart as the new PM taking over the projects that Drew Bowman was managing. John S. displayed a map showing PM's responsible counties. Map is attached below for information.
- The District Utility Engineer position will be posted soon.
- Three new designers will be starting over the new few months.
- Frank M. has several vacant positions to fill and only one current employee is covering LPA projects.
- Johnny T. said construction staffing has been consistent. A new RE has been hired for the Clinton/Nevada area and will start soon.
 - i. KC District has tried an innovative contracting method for hiring consultants for CEnI like an On-Call contract and having 4-5k hours and assigning them to a project. This method may be tried in the future in the SW District to staff construction projects.
- Cindy Dunnaway reported that there is a new Traffic Engineer for the northern counties. She displayed several traffic engineering staff maps. Maps are attached below for information.
- Sean M. asked if there could be a meet-and-greet meeting to know some of these traffic engineering staff members. John S. said that could possibly be arranged.

5. Trends in Recent Solicitations

- Jeff C. stated that recently solicitations have all been large.
- The previously mentioned CEnI Pilot project in the KC District has hired 4-5 consultant firms, each having approximately 5k hours. Then the firms are assigned a specific project. Other Districts will try this method soon.
- The I-44 solicitation for OEs by District are out.
- Central Office staff has had a lot of staff turnover.
- Jeff C. encouraged consultants to check the solicitations page often.
- Craig S. recently received 12-13 LOI's for bridge projects.
- Johnny T. stated that those CEnI projects will have consultants serving like an extension of the RE staff.
- Bud S. has been getting 5-6 LOIs per project. Bud S. prefers and is getting good competition. He likes reading LOIs to learn who is out there and what their capabilities are.
- Jeff C. added that the hours on the CEnI contracts could be different from the 5k recently stated. This CEnI contract method helps for staffing unplanned work quickly. District construction staff will have to determine hours and staffing needs, as necessary. There is

no guidance on using, or not using, the design consultant to all provide the CEnI services.

- Reid C. asked if SW District is familiar with the PMC method and if they planned to use it? Greg C. said that Tom Ever in St. Louis has used that methodology, but other Districts have no current plans to use it.

6. Feedback on the STIP Update Process utilizing Consultants

- Jason H. asked if the STIP updates being done by consultants have been going well? John S. stated that there are 220 projects in the STIP for the SW District with one-third being designed by consultants. The District does rely on help from consultants with completing the STIP documentation.
- Bud S. said the consultants are doing a good job for his projects.
- John S. said there have been changes in the SIMS forms over the last 4 years, so we want to make sure you are using the most current forms. WE have provided some training on this process of filling these out, but we did not perform a training this year since no changes we made to the form this year. John S. said conversations are being had regarding new safety items vs. replacing safety items in the forms.
- Reid C. stated the previous training sessions were helpful and would be welcomed if hosted again. Jason H. concurred that it would be good to have that training session again.

7. Upcoming Planning/Scoping Items

- Frank M. said there are several large projects coming up for scoping. Inflation is controlling what can be done. Scoping projects include:
 - i. US-65 south of Ozark to Arkansas
 - ii. 86 Hwy in Branson
 - iii. Hwy 249 conversion to Interstate east of Joplin including a W. Corridor Study for Joplin. This is a priority for Joplin and JATSO.
 - iv. FY2028 Bridge Bundle
 - v. Some more routine projects
 - vi. MSE Wall maintenance
 - vii. Sign Truss maintenance
 - viii. High Mast Lighting maintenance
- Jason H. asked if the Bypass around Willard is a real project? Stacy R. identified that the project was only intended to be a study but that it is currently being removed from the unfunded needs list.
- Jeff C. reported that the next Statewide Consultants Needs list will be published by October 15th and that a Statewide major project list will soon be published.

8. Future Design Build Projects

- Greg C. noted again that the I-44 OE is on the solicitations page. There would be another Bridge Bundle for FY2028 with locations still to be determined.
- Frank M. said that the City of Springfield Department of Economic Vitality has a RAISE grant to fill trail gaps and that will be Design-Build project.

- Jason H. asked how Shannon Kellner's D-B Bridge Bundle was progressing. Greg C. reported that it is moving through the solicitation process now and a team will be selected soon.

9. Latest Information on I-44

- Stacy R. discussed this item during discussion on item 3 above. Stacy R. stated that SW District is working on timing of this projects on I-44 so we are not competing with the I-70 project teams.
- The solicitation for hiring a consultant OE is on the streets for I-44 SW District totaling ~\$450 million. The project excluded the soon to be bid work between 13 Hwy and US-65 as those projects will proceed as originally planned. The OE/D-B will include the other STIP segment/improvements for I-44 in the District. There is an industry meeting scheduled for November 20th from 9-11 in Jefferson City and will be in-person only.
- Greg C. indicated that the Forward 44 is progressing. The PI process is complete with lots of comments that are being reviewed. There was a lot of data collected that is being reviewed and compared with the 2008 Purpose and Needs study data. MoDOT is still meeting with stakeholders quarterly. Future I-44 needs are still needing identified. The latest memo developed addresses the Purpose and Needs Statement and Future I-44 project needs. Current schedule for completion is March 2025.

10. Consultant Deliverables – Quality or Areas of Improvement

- Jason H. asked how consistent quality of work by consultants have been?
- Kristi B. stated that she feels that quality has been consistent.
- Bud S. stated that he really wants to avoid multiple rounds of reviews and that can be avoided with early planning and strong communication. He expects consultants to do their homework early in a project, do the SAFER analysis, meet the scope as defined in the STIP. He stated that more complex projects cause confusion. He reminded that NEPA work should be done early to avoid late delays, and that good Preliminary Plans (like R/W Plans) should be priority to help with earlier NEPA approval.
- Reid C. asked if the District would ever use Bluebeam (BB) and the sessions feature for reviews?
- Krista B. liked the idea of using BB.
- John S. stated that RCRS forms are still being used.
- Bud S. stated that he prefers in-person meetings to hash out design issues.
- Frank M. said that for LPA projects, the LPA's are being asked to do preliminary design before applying for Statewide Cost Share funding to better lock down quantities and estimates.
- Bud S. reminded that consultants need to closely follow the EPG for filename conventions so that the PM's are not having to rename files last second for submittal.

11. Other Discussion Items

- John S. discussed the Microsoft Projects tool and stated that consultants are not currently updating project schedules and that the District PMs are doing that work.

Currently all FY2025 STIP projects are in the tool, and they are trying to get all of the next four (FY26-29) years of STIP projects in the tool.

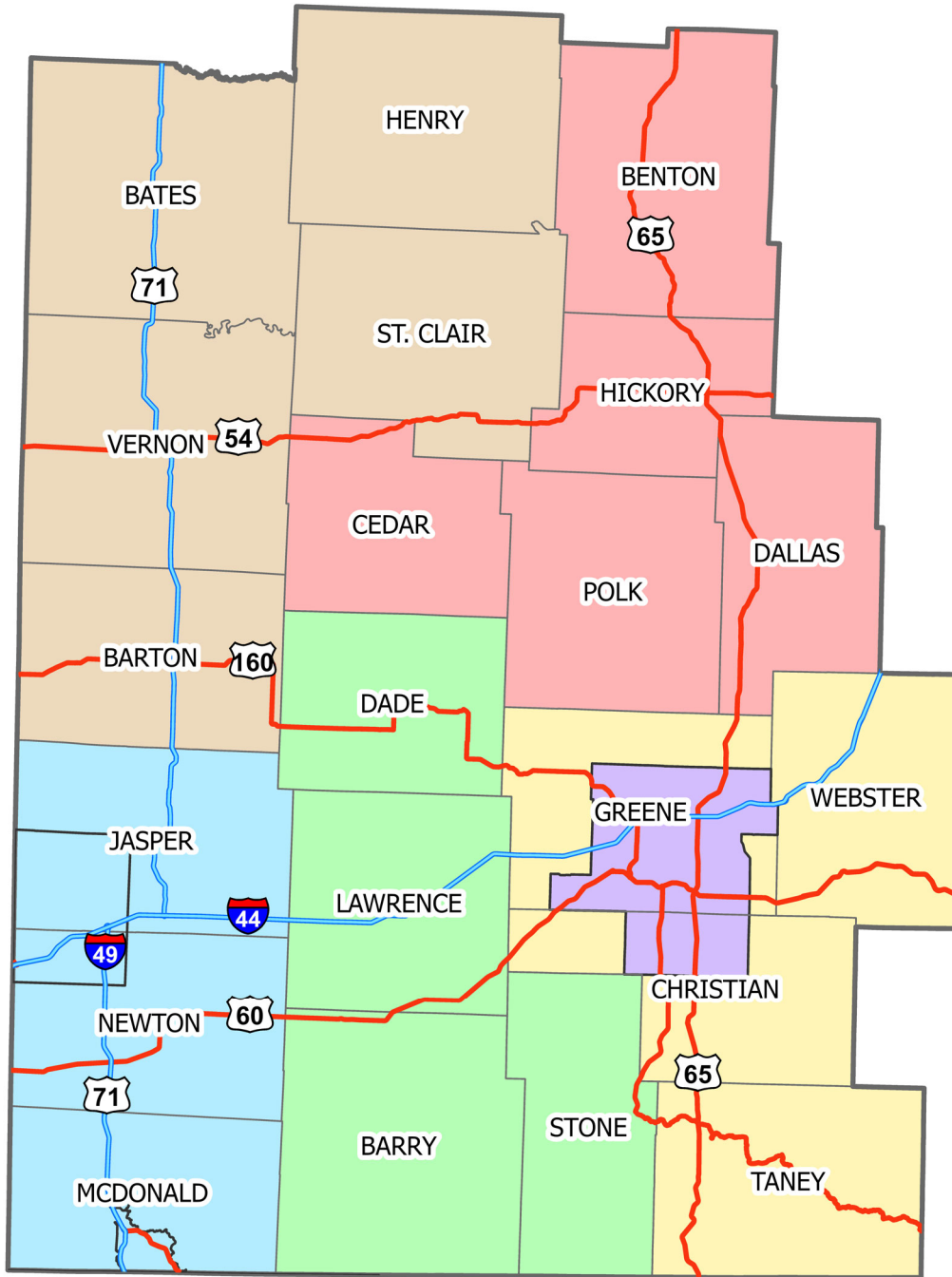
- Bob G. said that ACEC put out a survey to determine the number of offices and staff PMing MoDOT projects to help MoDOT determine the number of licenses that would be needed by consultants to assist with updating the project schedules.
- Jeff C. stated that consultants will be helping their District PMs in the future with these schedule update efforts, but it will be slow to roll out.
- Bob G. provide a brief ACEC update. He stated the MoDOT proposed indemnity language in the DE43 form has recently been changed back to the old language until a solution is determined. That proposed language required a duty to defend that is not insurable.
- Jeff C. confirmed that the internal MoDOT DE43 form is the revised form with the old indemnity language.
- Bob G. reported that the SW District recently hosted a coffee visit with State Representative Alex Riley, new House Majority Floor Leader at Palmerton & Parrish's office. There are more coffee visits with State Representatives scheduled and these visits are helpful and facilitating open dialogue about Transportation issues in the State.

12. Next Meeting Date & Location

- Jason H. indicated that two meetings per year seems to be working fine and that a second meeting could be held in March/April 2025. Everyone agreed with that potential schedule. John S. stated that he will help to schedule staff and the meeting room.



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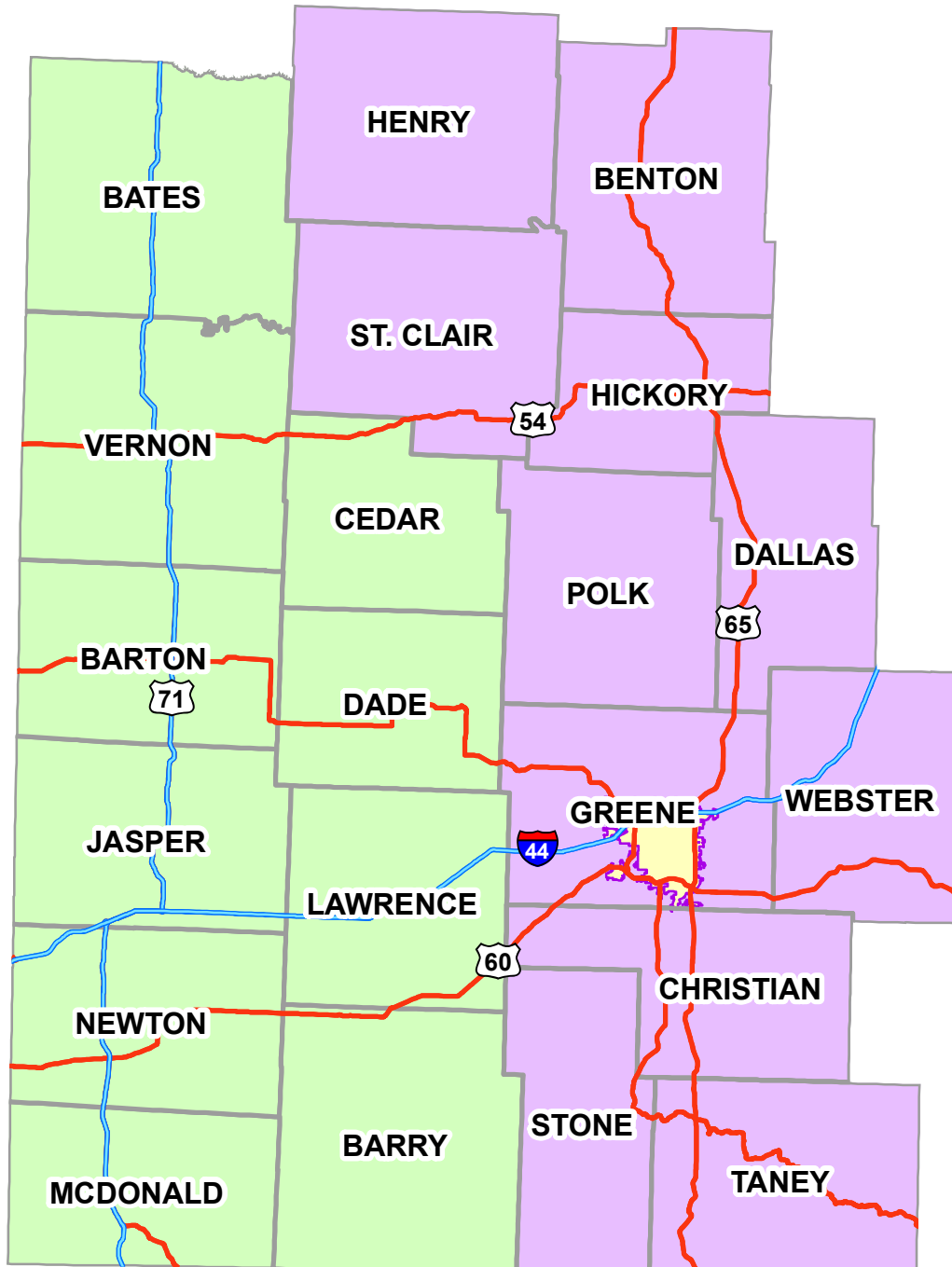
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Southwest District Traffic Engineer Signal Areas



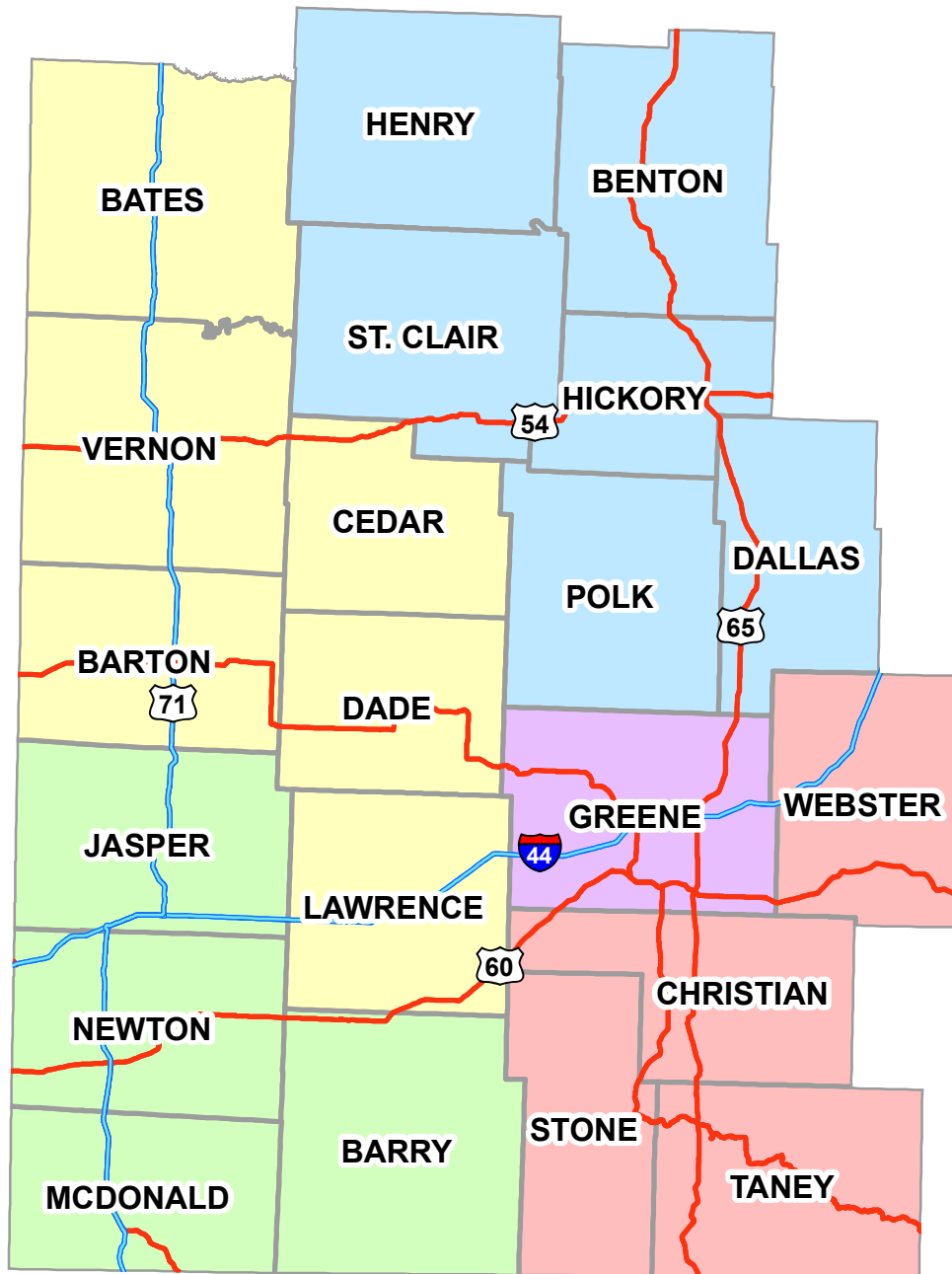
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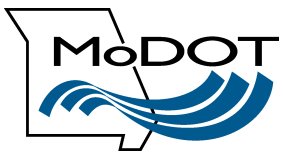
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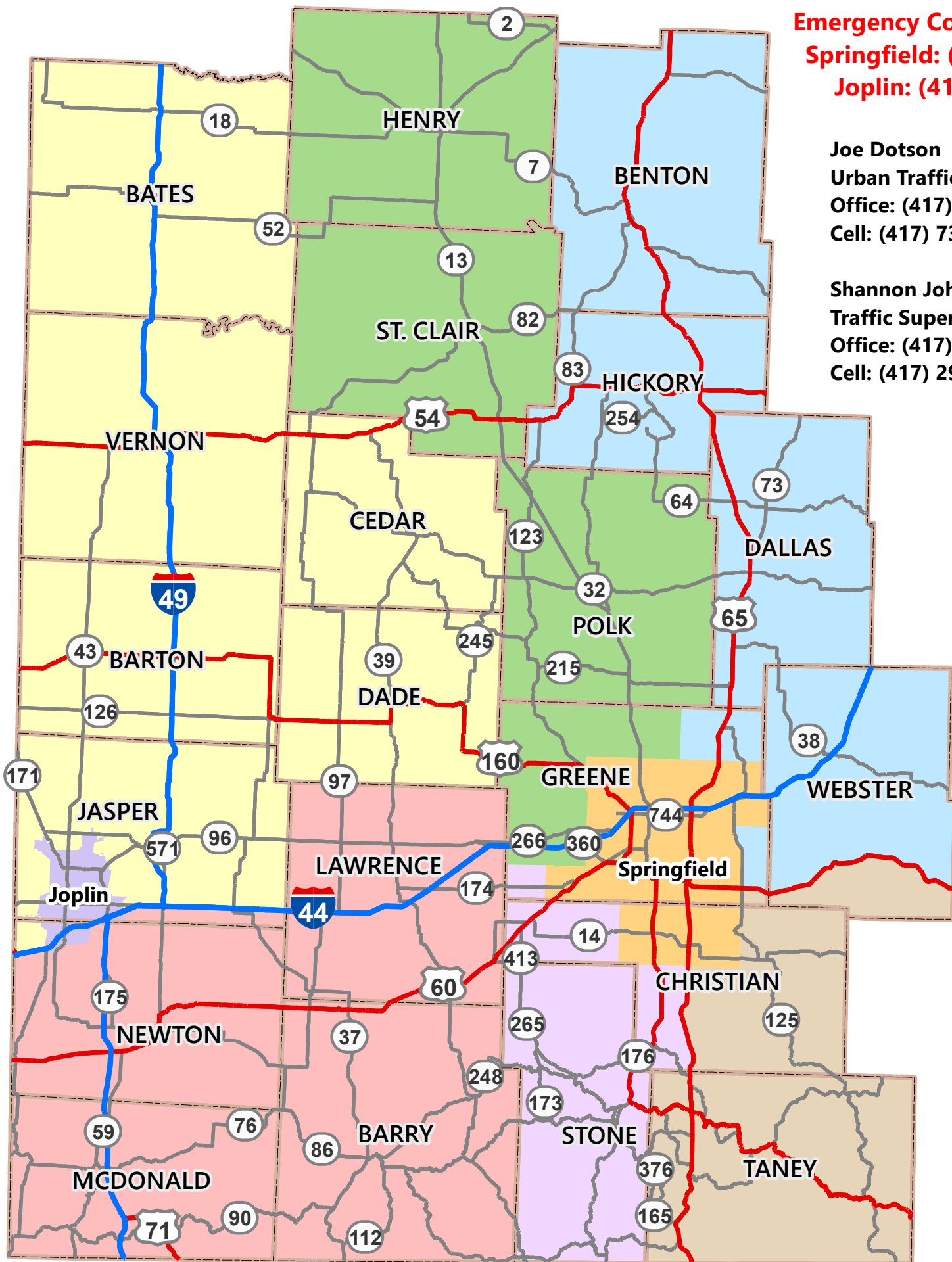
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- NW Gilbert Valdez Cell: (417) 529-1569
- SE Charles Armstrong Cell: (417) 834-7525
- SC Jeff Phipps Cell: (417) 766-4861
- SW Ken Black Cell: (417) 529-5838

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Liaisons:
Pat Turner Cell: (417) 407-1779 (Springfield)
Michael Marion Cell: 417-350-2557 (Joplin)

Springfield Area

Mike Demann: Glenstone Sunshine (Glenstone to RT D) Kearney (Broadway to end of MO 744) Division @ US 65 RT H @ RT AA (Flashers)	Brad Mullings: Kansas (Norton to Chesterfield) Chestnut (Airport Blvd to Freemont) West Bypass (I-44 to Mt Vernon) Kearney (Kansas to Bypass) Willard = US 160
Charles Armstrong: Chestnut (Barnes to Eastgate) Battlefield @ US 65	Jeff Phipps: JRF @ Kansas Bypass (Sunshine to City of Battlefield) Sunshine (Marion to City of Republic)

Joplin Area

Ken Black: RT FF/ 32nd Street MO 66/ 7th St. (East of Rangeline) MO 43 (South of RT FF) All along I-44 and South of I-44	Gilbert Valdez: MO 43/Main (Murphy & North of Murphy) MO 66/ 7thSt. (Schifferdecker to Florida) All of Rangeline
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