

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 16, 2023**

The Board of Directors of the Ozarks Transportation Organization met at its scheduled time of 12:00 p.m. in person.

The following members were present:

Steve Bodenhamer, City of Willard (a)	Andrew Nelson, City of Republic
Chuck Branch, Christian County Citizen-at-Large	James O’Neal, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
Jerry Compton, OTO Citizen-at-Large	Mike Schilling, City of Springfield
Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)	Martha Smartt, City of Strafford (a)
Debra Hickey, City of Battlefield	Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)
Skip Jansen, City Utilities Transit	Richard Walker, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
Lynn Morris, Christian County	Brian Weiler, Springfield-Branson Airport (a)

(a) Denotes alternate given voting privileges as a substitute for voting member not present

The following members were not present:

Mokhtee Ahmad, FTA	John Russell, Greene County
Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a)	Mark Schenkelberg, FAA
Andrew Lear, City of Springfield	Daniel Weitkamp, FHWA
Rusty MacLachlan, Greene County	

Others Present: Jacque Knight and Dallas Joplin, CMT; Jered Taylor, Congressman Burlison’s Office; Bradley Jackson, Christian County; Tommy VanHorn, City of Battlefield; Frank Miller, MoDOT; Dave Faucett, Sara Fields, Natasha Longpine, Debbie Parks, JD Stevenson, and Nicole Stokes, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Treasurer Travis Cossey, filling in as Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m.

I. Administration

A. Welcome and Roll Call

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Steve Bodenhamer	Present	Lynn Morris	Present
Chuck Branch	Present	Andrew Nelson	Present
Steve Childers (Chair)	Absent	James O’Neal	Present
Jerry Compton	Present	John Russell	Absent
Travis Cossey (filling in as Chair)	Present	Mike Schilling	Present
Debra Hickey	Present	Martha Smartt	Present
Skip Jansen	Present	Dan Smith	Present
Andrew Lear	Absent	Richard Walker	Present
Rusty MacLachlan	Absent	Brian Weiler	Present

A quorum was present.

B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Chuck Branch moved to approve the March 16, 2023 agenda. Brian Weiler seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Approval of January 19, 2023 Minutes

Skip Jansen moved to approve the January 19, 2023 minutes. Richard Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. Public Comment Period for All Agenda Items

Travis Cossey advised there were public comments included in the packet. Chair Travis Cossey asked for comments or questions.

E. Executive Director's Report

Sara Fields shared OTO staff are continuing to work on getting the approximately \$12 million in Transportation Alternative/Carbon Reduction Program funding awarded. The results of the first round of sidewalk cost share applications are on the agenda. There will be another call for projects in April that will be due in May. The CRRSAA funds went to 3 projects: Chadwick Flyer Phase III, Chadwick Flyer Phase II, and the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Trail. Staff are continuing to work on an application for EV Charging Stations with an expected release in April.

MoDOT will be presenting the work that has been done on the STIP which is a wrap up from prioritization from 2022. Prioritization will begin again this summer. OTO staff will be meeting with each jurisdiction to understand their priorities.

Staff did a USDOT debriefing for the INFRA/MEGA Grant OTO submitted and did not receive, for the USDOT I-44 Project. Crawford, Murphy, & Tilly wrote the grant. While USDOT stated the application was well done, the reviewers applied a formula in an unexpected way to the Budget Cost Analysis, which altered the results. Staff will be researching more in depth on the BCA expectations. Staff will be working towards submitting the request again when the next round opens. MoDOT will have to approve another submittal.

The Chadwick Flyer Overpass was submitted to the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) under its ARPA Tourism program.

If OTO jurisdictions are applying for grants, OTO is offering grant writing services and assistance.

OTO continues to offer project management services. There will be a fee for this service and will be dependent upon the size of the project and the type of assistance requested. It will be approximately \$5,000-\$10,000 for each project. It is funded with federal funds and the jurisdiction is paying the match.

The Route 66 Trail Study has started. The study's goal is to locate the best location for a trail and get more refined cost estimates.

Staff sent out the first round of requests for TIP projects this week. Any STBG funded projects the jurisdictions have, please let staff know.

F. MoDOT Update

Stacy Reese, the new SW District Engineer, reported this week the SW District’s concentrated effort is on litter pick-up across the district. There will be another concentrated effort in April prior to the mowing season. MoDOT SW District is also working on filling in potholes.

G. Legislative Reports

Jered Taylor, Congressman Burlison’s Office, shared the Congressman is on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee which is very important to this area. The Congressman has expressed interest in getting I-44 fixed. Congress has been working through different committee processes with their focus on the recent train derailments. Sub-committee work has been reviewing train regulations as well as pipeline regulations.

II. New Business

A. FY 2024-2028 Draft STIP List

Frank Miller stated the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program is the state’s version of the Transportation Improvement Program. The STIP is incorporated into the TIP. Due to inflation, some projects are recommended to be delayed. MoDOT is seeing an approximate inflation rate of 27% on projects in the OTO area. The STIP will go out for public comment in May with the Missouri Highways & Transportation Commission adopting it in July. Frank Miller reviewed the STIP project list with the Board of Directors.

This was informational only. No action is required.

B. Route FF Corridor Study

Sara Fields reported that the Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO) contracted with Crawford, Murphy, & Tilly (CMT) in October of 2021 to conduct a study to determine the future function and classification of the Route FF Corridor through the City of Battlefield, Missouri. In coordination with OTO, the City of Battlefield, and MoDOT, CMT has completed the study and developed a draft report of the findings that includes recommendations for design, traffic calming, and planning. A 15-day public review and comment period was January 24 through February 7, 2023.

Representatives from CMT presented the study to the Board.

Debra Hickey made a motion to accept the Route FF Corridor Study. Andrew Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. OTO Growth Trends

Dave Faucett presented the Growth Trends report. The report is based on the most recent census data and building permit information collected from area jurisdictions. This report includes information for residential units permitted, growth trend maps, as well as demographic and employment data providing a view of growth for the OTO service area and the five county Metropolitan Statistical Area (Christian, Dallas, Greene, Polk, and Webster counties).

This was informational only. No action was required.

D. Financial Statements for 2nd Quarter FY 2023 Budget Year

Travis Cossey presented an overview of the second quarter financial statements for the FY 2023 (July 2022 through June 2023) Budget Year. This period includes October 1, 2022 through December 31,

2022. The second quarter expenses total 24.6% of the budget. The revenue was 26.6% of the budget. Debbie Parks reviewed the reports for the Board.

Martha Smartt made a motion to accept the Financial Statements for the Second Quarter FY 2023 Budget Year. Mike Schilling seconded the motion. The motion passed.

E. MoDOT Sidewalk Cost Share Recommendations

Natasha Longpine reported that at the September 15, 2022 OTO Board of Directors meeting, the Board voted to partner with MoDOT on a sidewalk cost share program to benefit the state system. The Board approved the use of \$3 million from OTO's 2022-2026 Transportation Alternatives and Carbon Reduction Program funding, that when matched by the local jurisdiction, would cover 50 percent of proposed sidewalk projects along state routes, with MoDOT covering the other 50 percent. OTO solicited projects between November 7, 2022, and January 10, 2023. The City of Ozark submitted four applications, the City of Strafford submitted one, and the City of Republic submitted one.

The recommended projects include:

- City of Ozark – Route 14 (south) from 6th to 14th on both sides
- City of Strafford – Route OO from Route 125 to just east of Dollar General
- City of Republic – Route MM Multi-Use Path from Farm Road 160 to US 60

Brian Weiler made a motion to approve TAP/CRP funding for Ozark in the amount of \$134,836 for a sidewalk cost share with MoDOT along South Street from 6th to 14th and for Strafford in the amount of \$196,006 to construct sidewalk along Route OO between 125 and the east side of Dollar General, and for Republic in the amount of \$342,000 to construct the Route MM Multi-Use Path. Dan Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

F. FTA 5310 Funding Recommendation

Debbie Parks shared that OTO issued an FTA Section 5310 FY 2021-2023 Call for Projects that closed on January 31, 2023. These funds are for improving the mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities in the OTO area. Public transportation providers are eligible to apply for the Non-Traditional Funding Category. City Utilities is the only public transportation entity in the area and has applied for eligible projects that address ADA enhancements throughout the CU Transit system for a total programmed amount of \$566,251 (\$453,001 federal, \$113,250 local match).

Debbie Parks reviewed the CU's proposed ADA enhancements.

Dan Smith made a motion to approve an award of \$453,001 in FY 2021-2023 FTA 5310 funds to City Utilities Transit. Skip Jansen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

G. FY 2023-2026 TIP Administrative Modification One

Natasha Longpine stated there were 2 items included as part of Administrative Modification 1 to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. These changes do not affect Fiscal Constraint as the funding sources and funding years remain the same. Natasha Longpine provided an overview of the modifications.

1. Wilson's Creek Boulevard Trail (EN2205-23AM1)
Moving funding from Construction to Right-of-Way for temporary construction easements.

2. J-Turns on US 65 at Bluegrass Road (SP2308-23AM1)
Moving funding from Construction to Right-of-Way for temporary construction easements.

This was informational only. No action was required.

H. FY 2023-2026 TIP Amendment Four

Natasha Longpine reported that there were four items included as part of Amendment Number Four to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program.

1. ***Revised*** Various ADA Enhancement Projects (CU2205-23A4)
City Utilities applied for FY 2021-2023 FTA funding. Projects will address ADA enhancements throughout the CU Transit system for a total programmed amount of \$566,251.
2. ***New*** FY 21 5307 ARP Capital Funding (CU2304-23A4)
City Utilities is programming additional funding received through the FTA Section 5307 ARP apportionment for a total programmed amount of \$4,447,855.
3. ***Revised*** I-44 Pavement Improvements (GR2302-23A4)
MoDOT is programming additional funding to address an increase in construction costs due to pavement pricing and inflation for a new total programmed amount of \$4,708,200.
4. ***New*** Route OO East Sidewalks (ST2302-23A4)
Strafford has been recommended for TAP funds to construct sidewalks along Route OO from Route 125 to east of the Dollar General for a total programmed amount of \$245,008.

Jerry Compton made a motion to approve Amendment 4 to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. Steve Bodenhamer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

I. STBG-U Advance Agreement Revisions

Natasha Longpine shared that in an effort to reduce the OTO STBG-Urban fund balance, a policy was approved that allows jurisdictions to spend up to three years funding in advance. This policy has been previously amended to allow jurisdictions receiving less than \$2 million per year to spend up to three years in advance, while those receiving more than \$2 million can spend up to one year in advance.

Staff proposed an amendment to the policy to allow the OTO Executive Director to sign Advance Agreements, since the agreement itself states that Board of Directors approval of the funding through the TIP demonstrates their concurrence. Natasha Longpine reviewed the text that was modified for clarification.

Mike Schilling made a motion to approve the amended STBG-U Advance Policy. James O'Neal seconded the motion. The motion passed.

J. FF Extension Alignment Study

Sara Fields stated the OTO is commissioning a study of the Route FF extension and preferred alignment. The study will determine the appropriate roadway alignment for the extension of Route FF from its current terminus at the Greene/Christian County line extending the roadway into

Christian County to Route 14 west of Nixa. The study will consider existing and future development plans, as well as environmental and right-of-way constraints in determining the preferred alignment for the extension.

The OTO would like to enter into negotiations and execute a contract with a consultant for professional engineering services, which was chosen off the MoDOT LPA On-Call Consultant list. OTO has selected CJW Transportation Consultants, LLC.

The OTO will issue a Notice to Proceed upon successful contract execution. The study was budgeted for in the OTO's FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The contract amount for the study is \$78,800.

Debra Hickey made a motion to approve the Executive Director to enter negotiations and contract execution with CJW Transportation Consultants, LLC to conduct a study for the future alignment of the Route FF Extension. Skip Jansen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

III. Other Business

A. Board of Directors Member Announcements

There were no Board of Directors member announcements.

B. Transportation Issues for Board of Directors Member Review

There were no transportation issues for the Board of Directors member review.

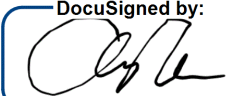
C. Articles for Board of Directors Member Information

Travis Cossey noted there were articles of interest included in the packet for the members to review as time allows.

IV. Adjourn meeting

With no further business to come before the Board, Brian Weiler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Bodenhamer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

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Andrew Nelson
OTO Secretary