

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
March 18, 2021**

The Board of Directors of the Ozarks Transportation Organization met at its scheduled time of 12:00 p.m. using the Zoom video conferencing platform. The meeting was also livestreamed on Facebook for public participation.

The following members were present:

Mr. Steve Bodenhamer, City of Battlefield (a)	Mr. Andrew Lear, City of Springfield (Chair)
Mr. Chuck Branch, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. Rusty MacLachlan, Greene County
Mr. Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a)	Mr. Lynn Morris, Christian County
Mr. Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. James O’Neal, Citizen-at-Large
Mr. Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)	Mr. Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)
Ms. Jan Fisk, City of Springfield	Mr. Richard Walker, Citizen-at-Large
Mr. Skip Jansen, City Utilities Transit	Mr. Brian Weiler, Airport Board (a)

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

The following members were not present:

Mr. David Cameron, City of Republic	Mr. Mike Schilling, City of Springfield
Mr. Brad Gray, City of Willard	Ms. Martha Smartt, City of Strafford (a)
Mr. John Russell, Greene County	

Others Present: Mr. Steve Campbell, MoDOT; Mr. Will Wheeler, Senator Roy Blunt’s Office; Mr. Jeremy Pruett, US Representative Billy Long’s Office; Mr. Dave Faucett, Ms. Sara Fields, Ms. Natasha Longpine, Ms. Nicole Stokes, and Mr. Andy Thomason, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Chairman Lear called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m.

**I. Administration**

**A. Welcome and Roll Call**

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Steve Bodenhamer	Present	Mr. Andrew Lear	Present
Mr. Chuck Branch	Present	Mr. Rusty MacLachlan	Present
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. Lynn Morris	Present
Mr. Steve Childers	Present	Mr. James O’Neal	Present
Mr. Jerry Compton	Present	Mr. John Russell	Absent
Mr. Travis Cossey	Present	Mr. Mike Schilling	Absent
Ms. Jan Fisk	Present	Ms. Martha Smartt	Absent
Mr. Brad Gray	Absent	Mr. Richard Walker	Present
Mr. Skip Jansen	Present	Mr. Brian Weiler	Present

A quorum was present.

**B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda**

Mr. Weiler moved to approve the March 18, 2021 agenda. Mr. O’Neal seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Steve Bodenhamer	Aye	Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Rusty MacLachlan	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. Lynn Morris	--
Mr. Steve Childers	Aye	Mr. James O’Neal	Aye
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. John Russell	Absent
Mr. Travis Cossey	Aye	Mr. Mike Schilling	Absent
Ms. Jan Fisk	Aye	Ms. Martha Smartt	Absent
Mr. Brad Gray	Absent	Mr. Richard Walker	Aye
Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye

The motion passed.

**C. Approval of December 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes and January 21, 2021 E-Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Cossey moved to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2020 meeting and the January 21, 2021 E-meeting. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Steve Bodenhamer	--	Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Rusty MacLachlan	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. Lynn Morris	--
Mr. Steve Childers	Aye	Mr. James O’Neal	Aye
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. John Russell	Absent
Mr. Travis Cossey	Aye	Mr. Mike Schilling	Absent
Ms. Jan Fisk	Aye	Ms. Martha Smartt	Absent
Mr. Brad Gray	Absent	Mr. Richard Walker	Aye
Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye

The motion passed.

**D. Public Comment Period for All Agenda Items**

Chairman Lear advised there were public comments included in the packet. Chairman Lear asked for comments or questions.

Mr. Weiler stated that while he empathized with the commentor regarding Uber/Lyft and the airport, he wanted to clarify the airport has a contractual relationship with the corporate/company Uber and Lyft directly. The drivers are independent contractors. The airport encourages the drivers to consult Uber and Lyft corporate offices due to the airport is unable to negotiate with private contractors.

**E. Executive Director’s Report**

Ms. Fields stated MoDOT’s funding projections increased this year due to money coming from the CARES Act/COVID Relief Bill as well as Amendment 3 bonds being reissued. This allowed MoDOT to program more projects into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. OTO held 3 STIP meetings with the

Technical Planning Committee and compiled a list of project recommendations for MoDOT to include. MoDOT has not agreed to these projects and the result of the recommendations will not be known until sometime around May. The recommended projects list was shared with the Board. The committee also worked on an unfunded needs list. Projects were prioritized into 3 tiers. If additional Federal or State money became available, projects on this list could be funded.

Ms. Fields advised Missouri Senate Bill 262 passed the Senate, which is a 12.5 cent fuel tax increase over 5 years. The bill allows Missourians and non-Missourians to request a refund of the additional tax. The House is still on the second reading, House Bill 1044. OTO sent letters and emails in support of the fuel tax.

Ms. Fields stated other MPOs across the country are receiving requests for projects for earmarks. OTO has not received that request yet but is working on a list. Projects considered will need to be able to start quickly.

Ms. Fields reported OTO has been watching U.S. House Bill 2 which is the transportation reauthorization. Also, President Biden signed Justice 40 which is an Executive Order requiring 40% of all Federal funds to be spent in low income or minority, or environmental pollution areas. It is unclear currently how this will affect transportation funding.

Ms. Fields stated the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission approved a new policy. This policy sets aside \$10 million in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to provide additional funding to Districts that have not been able to meet certain asset management plan goals with existing resources, which does not include the OTO District. It also increased the share for economic development from 10% to 20%. The policy has a Maintenance Asset Management Deficit program. This program has funding of \$15 million for fiscal years 2022 and 2023, and \$12.5 million in 2024. The effect of this policy on the urban area of the Southwest District is less funding.

Ms. Fields reported the latest COVID Relief Bill, or The American Recovery Act, set aside \$5 million for City Utilities transit and \$50,000 for 5310 Transit.

Ms. Fields stated Federal Highway will come in person or via Zoom to do the Certification Planning which occurs every 4 years. More details to come. Also, the Cost Share Application for MoDOT was due this week. The OTO MPO area had one submission.

Ms. Fields shared the state of Missouri ended 2020 with 991 fatalities which was up from 881 in 2019 primarily due to speeding and distracted driving.

Mr. Campbell asked if Senate Bill 262 included a stipulation that refunds were available only to vehicles licensed 26,000 lbs. or less. Ms. Fields stated that was part of the bill.

#### **F. MoDOT Update**

Mr. Campbell wanted to acknowledge Missouri's fatality statistics as well. The safety of the roadways is a priority. As traffic volumes decreased, fatalities, serious injuries, and TMAs increased. Many conversations and meetings are being held to determine what can be done to change this trend.

Mr. Campbell stated MoDOT is currently hiring with approximately 40 positions posted. They are working on getting their employees opportunities for vaccines. For now, MoDOT will continue their current procedures regarding COVID.

Mr. Campbell reported that on their operations side, the priority has been fixing potholes. Focus has also been on litter. MoDOT is committed March 29<sup>th</sup> – April 9<sup>th</sup> to focusing on litter pickup throughout the Southwest District. Some of the major projects of focus for the Southwest District are the Missouri Arkansas connector, I-44 Project Bridge Rebuild, I-44 corridor bridge bundle, Long Creek bridge replacement, and a Cape Fair bridge project.

Mr. Childers stated Ozark was a recipient of the Governor’s Cost Share and asked if the deadlines had been extended. Mr. Campbell did not know the answer at the time but stated he would inquire to find out.

#### **G. Legislative Reports**

Mr. Wheeler with Senator Blunt’s Office reported the Transportation American Rescue Plan included \$30.5 billion allocated to the FTA through section 3401. Mr. Wheeler detailed the breakdown of the funding. At this time, they do not know all the details of HR 2, which is the overall transportation bill.

Ms. Fields asked if the money going to the cities can be used for any governmental purpose. Mr. Wheeler stated it could not be. The funding going to cities, Section 603, is under the same regulations the Department of Treasury already put in place. It would be the same regulations the counties had with the first funds they received which assisted with the COVID pandemic. Usage was expanded to include increasing broadband infrastructure, emergency premium pay, and to make-up revenue loss.

Mr. Pruet with U.S. Representative Billy Long’s office reported the next big item is transportation but details of what that will look like are not known at this time. Mr. Pruet gave an overview of activity at the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Wheeler stated the House GOP took a vote which indicated their acceptance of Congressionally Appropriated Funding, or Earmarks. There has not been movement out of the Senate Appropriations Committee on what the new transparency looks like. The House Appropriations Committee has indicated they will have some new rules they will implement.

## **II. New Business**

### **A. Financial Statements for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2020-2021 Budget Year**

Ms. Fields stated that included for consideration are the second quarter financial statements for the 2020-2021 Budget Year. This period includes October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. The second quarter expenses total 40.5 percent of budget. The revenue was 36.1 percent of budget. Ms. Fields explained the OTO Operational Financial Statements and the OTO UPWP Financial Statements.

Mr. Jansen made a motion to accept the Second Quarter Financial Statements for the 2020-2021 Budget Year. Mr. Branch seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Mr. Steve Bodenhamer	Aye	Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Rusty MacLachlan	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. Lynn Morris	--
Mr. Steve Childers	Aye	Mr. James O’Neal	Aye
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. John Russell	Absent
Mr. Travis Cossey	Aye	Mr. Mike Schilling	Absent
Ms. Jan Fisk	Aye	Ms. Martha Smartt	Absent

Mr. Brad Gray	Absent	Mr. Richard Walker	Aye
Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye

The motion passed.

**B. UPWP Administrative Modification One**

Ms. Fields advised that an administrative modification to the 2021 Unified Planning Work Program, with accompanying changes to the Operational Budget was made to modify expenses and revenue to more accurately reflect billing this fiscal year. The change is to move \$20,000 from In-Kind Meeting Expense to MoDOT Direct Services. In-Kind meeting attendance billing has been lower than expected. MoDOT Direct Service Billing has been more than expected.

The Executive Director approved the administrative modification on February 17, 2021.

This was informational only. No action was required.

**C. OTO Growth Trends**

Mr. Faucett stated the Growth Trends 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 trends 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). The report is published for informational purposes and can be viewed in full on the OTO website. Mr. Faucett highlighted the report for the Committee.

Many Board members expressed interest in this being presented to their clubs, committees, and/or boards.

This was informational only. No action was required.

**D. FY 2020-2023 TIP Administrative Modification Number Eight**

Ms. Longpine stated there were 2 items included as part of Administrative Modification 8 to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. Longpine detailed the modifications for the Board.

This was informational only. No action was required.

**E. Amendment Number Nine to the FY 2020-2023 TIP**

Ms. Longpine stated there were 4 items requested by MoDOT to be included as part of Amendment Number Nine to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. Longpine detailed the requested changes for the Committee.

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Nine. Mr. Branch seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Steve Bodenhamer	Aye	Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Rusty MacLachlan	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. Lynn Morris	--
Mr. Steve Childers	Aye	Mr. James O'Neal	Aye
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. John Russell	Absent

Mr. Travis Cossey	Aye	Mr. Mike Schilling	Absent
Ms. Jan Fisk	Aye	Ms. Martha Smartt	Absent
Mr. Brad Gray	Absent	Mr. Richard Walker	Aye
Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye

The motion passed.

**F. *Destination 2045* Update**

Ms. Longpine reported OTO has wrapped up the public input phase of the next long range transportation plan, *Destination 2045*. Ms. Longpine provided an update on the survey results, as well as current activities in plan development. As meetings are still virtual, staff has also been gathering feedback through online survey tools.

Mr. Campbell shared MoDOT's next step for the unfunded needs list will be looking at multimodal components.

This was informational only. No action was required.

**III. Other Business**

**A. Board of Directors Member Announcements**

Ms. Fisk informed the Board this was her last meeting due to her council term ending soon.

**B. Transportation Issues for Board of Directors Member Review**

There were no transportation issues to review.

**C. Articles for Board of Directors Member Information**

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

**IV. Adjourn meeting**

Mr. Jansen made a motion the meeting be adjourned at 1:26 P.M. Mr. Weiler seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Steve Bodenhamer	Aye	Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Rusty MacLachlan	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. Lynn Morris	--
Mr. Steve Childers	Aye	Mr. James O'Neal	Aye
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. John Russell	Absent
Mr. Travis Cossey	Aye	Mr. Mike Schilling	Absent
Ms. Jan Fisk	Aye	Ms. Martha Smartt	Absent
Mr. Brad Gray	Absent	Mr. Richard Walker	Aye
Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye

The motion passed.

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*Steve Childers*  
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Steve Childers  
OTO Secretary