

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION**  
**CORRECTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**  
**MARCH 27, 2025**

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:

Greg Chapman, MoDOT (non-voting)	Derek Lee, City of Springfield
Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large	Lynn Morris, Christian County
Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)	John Russell, Greene County (Chair)
Eric Franklin, City of Republic	Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)
Brandon Jenson, City of Springfield	Richard Walker, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
Eric Johnson, City of Ozark (a)	Wes Young, City of Willard (a)

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

The following members were not present:

Cecelie Cochran, FHWA (non-voting)	Martha Smartt, City of Strafford (a)
Mark Crabtree, City of Battlefield	Kelly Turner, City Utilities
Rusty MacLachlan, Greene County	Vacant, Christian Co Citizen-at-Large
Jim O'Neal, Springfield Citizen-at-Large	Brian Weiler, Springfield-Branson Airport (a)
Mark Schenkelberg, FAA (non-voting)	

Others Present: Erin Engelmeyer, Senator Hawley's Office; R.J. Flores, Christian County; Steve Bach and Scott Bachman City of Springfield; Nicole Boyd, Dave Faucett, Sara Fields, David Knaut, Natasha Longpine, and Jen Thomas, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Chair Russell called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m.

**I. Administration**

**A. Welcome**

By-law Position	Member	Attendance
BOD Citizen-at-Large	Jerry Compton	Present
Christian County Citizen-at-Large	Vacant	Absent
Christian County Elected Official	Lynn Morris	Present
City of Battlefield Elected Official	Mark Crabtree	Absent
City of Nixa Elected Official	Travis Cossey (a)	Present
City of Ozark Elected Official	Eric Johnson (a)	Present
City of Republic Elected Official	Eric Franklin	Present
City of Springfield Citizen-at-Large	Richard Walker	Present
City of Springfield Citizen-at-Large	James O'Neal	Absent
City of Springfield Council Member	Dan Smith (a)	Present
City of Springfield Council Member	Brandon Jenson	Present

City of Springfield Council Member	Derek Lee	Present
City of Strafford Elected Official	Martha Smartt (a)	Absent
City of Willard Elected Official	Wes Young (a)	Present
City Utilities Transit Representative	Kelly Turner	Absent
Greene County Commissioner	Rusty MacLachlan	Absent
Greene County Commissioner	John Russell	Present
Springfield-Branson National Airport Board Member	Brian Weiler (a)	Absent

A quorum was present.

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

Derek Lee made a motion to approve the March 27, 2025 agenda. Jerry Compton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**C. Approval of January 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Travis Cossey made a motion to approve the January 16, 2025 meeting minutes. Derek Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

The Chair advised there were public comments included in the packet and then asked for comments and questions.

**E. Executive Director's Report**

Sara Fields shared with the Transportation Alternatives, Sidewalk and Trail Funding, there will be a solicitation for projects opening March 31st. There is approximately \$3.2 million available.

Staff continue to monitor discretionary grant opportunities.

The MM expansion was submitted for a RAISE grant which is now the BUILD grant, requesting \$25 million. The announcement will be in June. The project is also being submitted for a revised statewide cost share due to the increased costs. This application is due in March and will go before the Cost Share Committee in June. Also, a general revenue request for \$6 million was made to the State Legislature.

The Federal Highway Administration was at OTO conducting a certification review in February. The transportation planning process was reviewed for compliance with the law. Staff are expecting a positive report. The report should be completed within a couple of months. During the review process, FHWA held a public meeting in person and on-line.

Statewide Transportation Improvement Program prioritization meetings were held in January and February through the Technical Planning Committee. MoDOT updated their financial projections which provided an opportunity to add two more projects to the list for funding. From these meetings, two additional projects have been recommended to add to the FY 2026-2030 STIP program. These projects are the Kearney and US65 interchange and a roundabout at Highway FF and Weaver Road.

Staff have been meeting with member jurisdictions to discuss priorities to score for the upcoming FY 2027-2031 STIP. Those priorities will be scored later this year.

Sara Fields traveled to Washington, DC with AMPO, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and provided a brief report.

Staff will be going to Jefferson City with the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce's Transportation Committee to talk about priorities.

Congressman Burlison has been working on the Water Resource Development Act. Part of the act reallocated funds from TIFIA, a federal loan program, to the funding formula. There will be approximately \$1 million from this reallocation for the region.

The Board of Directors training is scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. This training is important for new members but is open to all Board members.

Sara Fields recognized and thanked Richard Walker for his decade of service to the Board of Directors.

**F. MoDOT Update**

Greg Chapman provided the MoDOT update.

**G. Legislative Reports**

Erin Engelmeyer with Senator Hawley's office provided a legislative report.

**H. Federal Funds Obligation Status Update**

Jen Thomas shared currently OTO is at 33% obligation towards the annual allocation. MoDOT's mandated minimum is 100% for FY 2025. The goal is 120%.

**II. New Business**

**A. City of Springfield and Christian County Citizen-at-Large Board Appointments**

Sara Fields shared the City of Springfield nominated Steve Bach and Marshall Kinne for the City of Springfield's Citizen-at-Large seats on the Board of Directors. Christian County nominated R.J. Flores for the Christian County Citizen-at-Large seat.

Lynn Morris made a motion to appoint Steve Bach, Marshall Kinne, and R.J. Flores to the Board of Directors. Dan Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**B. Financial Statements for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY 2025 Budget Year**

Treasurer, Eric Johnson, presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter financial statements.

Travis Cossey made a motion to accept the second quarter financial statements for the FY 2025 budget year. Brandon Jenson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**C. FY 2025-2028 TIP Administrative Modifications Two and Three**

Natasha Longpine shared the changes to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program.



- Chadwick Flyer US 65 Crossing (OK2304) – Increased TAP funding and adjusted MO-ARPA funding to reflect additional award, as well as moved ROW to Construction and added to local to ensure the programmed amount matched the Construction Award amount.
- RAISE Ungap the Map (SP2515) – Adjusted funding between engineering, ROW, and construction to match the award agreement.

This was informational only. No action was required.

#### **D. FY 2025-2028 TIP Amendment Four**

Natasha Longpine reviewed the change proposed to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program.

- \*Revised\* Ward Branch Greenway – National to Fremont (EN2416)  
Programmed amount revised due to increased engineering costs, with a new total programmed amount of \$95,438.

Brandon Jenson made a motion to approve FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Four. Eric Franklin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### **E. CRP/TAP Project Schedule Extension**

Jen Thomas reported that the cities of Battlefield and Ozark requested to extend the schedules of the Trail of Tears Connector (EN2401-24) and Blue Stem Phase I (EN2421-25AM1), which were awarded TAP funds in July 2023 and July 2024, respectively.

Travis Cossey made a motion to approve the revised reasonable progress schedule for the Trail of Tears connector and Blue Stem Phase 1 project. Dan Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### **F. Growth Trends Report**

Dave Faucett highlighted the 2024 OTO Growth Trends Report.

This was informational only. No action was required.

#### **G. Long Range Transportation Plan**

Natasha Longpine provided a preview of the Long Range Transportation Plan update. Discussion centered around goals for the plan.

Brandon Jenson asked for consideration that transit be a separate, individual goal. The group agreed that should be considered.

This was informational only. No action was required.

### **III. Other Business**

#### **A. Board of Directors Member Announcements**

John Russell stated Greene County had 2 bid openings for 2 bridges. The bids came in under the engineer's estimates. The bridges are on Farm Road 17 and Farm Road 193. The bridge on Farm Road 193 should be open around mid-May.

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

There were no transportation issues for member review.

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

Chair Russell noted there were articles of interest included in the packet for the members to review.

**IV. Adjourn meeting**

Dan Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lynn Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Martha Smartt", is written over a horizontal line.

Martha Smartt  
OTO Secretary

