

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
June 21, 2018**

The Board of Directors of the Ozarks Transportation Organization met at its scheduled time of 12:00 p.m. in the Ozarks Transportation Organization Large Conference Room in Springfield, Missouri.

The following members were present:

Commissioner Harold Bengsch, Greene County	Mr. Skip Jansen, City Utilities
Mr. Steve Bodenhamer, City of Strafford (a)	Mr. Travis Koestner, MoDOT
Mr. David Cameron, City of Republic (a)	Mr. Andy Mueller, MoDOT (a)
Mr. Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a)	Mr. Jim O'Neal, Citizen at Large
Commissioner Bob Cirtin, Greene County	Mr. Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)
Mr. Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. Richard Walker, Citizen-at-Large
Mr. Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)	Mr. Brian Weiler, Airport Board (a)
Dr. Elise Crain, Citizen-at-Large	Commissioner, Ray Weter, Christian County
Mr. Brad Gray, City of Willard (a)	

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

The following members were not present:

Mr. Mokhtee Ahmad, FTA	Mr. Michael Latuszek, FHWA (a)
Mr. Chris Coulter, Greene County (a)	Ms. Laurel McKean, MoDOT (a)
Mr. John Elkins, Citizen-at-Large (a)	Mr. Bradley McMahon, FHWA
Councilman Craig Fishel, City of Springfield	Mr. Daniel Nguyen, FTA (a)
Ms. Jan Fisk, City of Springfield	Mr. Mark Schenkelberg, FAA
Mayor Rick Gardner, City of Ozark	Mr. Jeremiah Shuler, FTA (a)
Warren Griffith, City of Battlefield	Mayor Brian Steele, City of Nixa
Mayor Corey Hendrickson, City of Willard	Mayor Jeff Ussery, City of Republic
Mayor Debra Hickey, City of Battlefield (a)	

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Others Present: Mr. David Stokely, Senator Claire McCaskill's Office; Mr. Jeremy Pruett, Representative Billy Long's Office; Mr. Bryant Ficek, Spack Consulting; Ms. Stephanie Mueller, Springfield-Branson Airport; Mr. Chuck Branch; Mr. Carl Carlson; Mr. Bob Rubino; Ms. Brenda Cirtin, Ms. Kimberly Cooper, Mr. Dave Faucett, Ms. Sara Fields, Mr. Scott Ms. Natasha Longpine, and Mr. Andy Thomason, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

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

**I. Administration**

**A. Introductions**

Those in attendance made self-introductions stating their name and the organization they represent.

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

Mr. Cameron moved to approve the June 21, 2018 agenda. Mr. Weiler seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**C. Approval of the April 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Jansen moved to approve the April 19, 2018 Meeting minutes. Mr. Cossey seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

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

No public comment has been received since the packet was distributed and there was no one present to address the Board of Directors.

**E. Executive Director's Report**

Sara Fields stated the legislation that MoDOT had supported to allow for our participation in LAGERS was passed. She expressed her appreciation to Representative Jared Taylor for working diligently to ensure this legislation was adopted. She noted that the bill he introduced did not pass, however, he was successful in getting the language added as an amendment to a bill that was passed and is awaiting the Governor's signature. She briefly outlined the steps that would need to be followed once the bill has been signed.

Ms. Fields stated the addendum to the Regional Trail Study for the City of Nixa is complete and is out for public comment. She noted staff is very pleased with the results the addendum brought.

Ms. Fields stated the OTO entered into a contract with CJW Transportation Consultants for crash analysis. She added the OTO is having them study Kansas Expressway, Glenstone Avenue, and Sunshine Street. She said they were asked to look at how the road was built and what you would predict the crashes would be as to what they actually were. She added that the study provided information regarding some key intersections on Glenstone that are exceeding what would be predicted. She stated this information has been forwarded to MoDOT for their traffic staff to review.

Ms. Fields stated the OTO had joined with MoDOT and commissioned a freeway study at I-44, James River Freeway and Highway 60 East. She added this is being finalized and will be presented at the July Technical Planning Committee and the August Board of Directors' meeting.

Ms. Fields noted she had met with all of the member entities with the exception of Battlefield to determine their transportation priorities going forward. Staff will be compiling these priorities in a list of projects for ranking for next year's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).



Ms. Fields updated the Board on the training that the OTO hosted on traffic studies on June 20, 2018. She noted staff is working on establishing a regional traffic study policy that will set some baseline perimeters and could be used by the member entities as needed.

In response to a question from Mr. Childers, Ms. Fields outlined the process for prioritizing the projects from the member entities.

**F. MoDOT Update**

Andy Mueller discussed the road construction projects that MoDOT is performing in this area. He highlighted the projects on Eastgate, noting there are a couple projects on this street. He added MoDOT had held a meeting last week with the Emergency personnel to discuss the projects on I-44; replacing the bridge over Highway 65 and replacing the pavement on southbound lanes. He noted the website for Highway 65 rebuild is [http://www.modot.org/southwest/major\\_projects/Route65Rebuild/index.html](http://www.modot.org/southwest/major_projects/Route65Rebuild/index.html). This site will be updated with the status of the project and closings, etc.

Mr. Mueller stated the six-laning of Hwy 65 from Evans Road to Route CC is under contract. He added the auxiliary pavement on James River Freeway from National to Glenstone is completed, but not open to traffic to allow the contractor to build the sound wall.

Travis Koestner noted that in 2012 the number of bridges in poor condition in Southwest Missouri was 101; in 2018 the number has risen to 185. He said MoDOT is replacing about 20 bridges per year, but plans to do more. He added MoDOT is looking to hire a consultant that will assist them in bridge prioritization and estimate work for the next five to ten years. He said the plan is the consultant will act as an extension of MoDOT. He said the consultant will look at all bridges in Southwest Missouri, including those on I-44.

Mr. Koestner stated a letter had been sent to the owner of property on Highway 60 regarding a new interchange at Highland Springs. He stated the letter indicated that due to traffic flow, MoDOT would not permit a new interchange at this location, but will look at an interchange at Farm Road 189.

Ms. Fields stated that at this time, she had not planned to prioritize that interchange as she believed MoDOT's perspective was they did not want to spend the limited funds on this interchange, but was looking at safety improvements along this corridor. She stated if public funds become available, to be added to MoDOT funds, the OTO could reconsider adding this to the project list.

Mr. Koestner stated this project would have to be a community partnership. He stated there are a lot of needs in the OTO area and funding is always a challenge.

Mr. Koestner said the proposed ballot language for Proposition D, which is the proposed fuel tax that will be on the November 2018 ballot, reads as follows:

Shall Missouri law be amended to fund Missouri state law enforcement by increasing the motor fuel tax by two and one half cents per gallon annually for four years beginning July 1, 2019, exempt Special Olympic, Paralympic, and Olympic prizes from state taxes, and to establish the Emergency State Freight Bottleneck Fund?

He said the emergency bottleneck fund came from the St. Charles area and this bill requires the funds for this will come from general funds, not road and bridge or highway funds. Following a brief discussion on the inclusion of the Olympic prize money with this bill, Mr. Koestner added this tax is expected to generate \$288 million annually for the State of Missouri road fund to provide funding for Missouri State Law Enforcement and \$123 annually to local governments for road construction and maintenance.

Ms. Fields reminded the Board of Directors that the Missouri Highway Commission will be meeting in Springfield on July 11 and she will be making a short presentation of the process the OTO uses to establish priorities for the projects for our area.

Dr. Elise Crain thanked MoDOT for not raising the speed limit in downtown Ozark, noting she believed that would have had an adverse impact on the community. She asked for an update on the Riverside Bridge. Mr. Koestner stated that is a local project and he did not have any information on the status. Mr. Childers stated it is on track for the timeline that was proposed which is the Section 106 process. He stated the funds that would go towards demolition of the historic bridge, would be given towards relocation of the bridge.

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

David Stokely, Senator Claire McCaskill's office stated she had met with Governor Mike Parson and was very encouraged by his interest in transportation.

Jeremy Pruitt, Representative Billy Long's Office, stated Congress is bogged down with the immigration issue. He stated there is not a massive infrastructure bill expected this year, but many are hopeful to make small changes over the next few months.

## **II. New Business**

### **A. MoDOT Draft FY 2019-2023 STIP**

Andy Mueller, MoDOT, reviewed the Draft FY 2019-2023 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). He noted this has been out for public comment and is expected to be approved by the Missouri Highway Commission at their July 11, 2018 meeting. Mr. Mueller discussed the new projects that have been added for this STIP, and reviewed the continuing projects that have yet to be completed. He noted that one of the projects is outside the OTO area, but will still impact many of our citizens, and that is the design and build project on I-44. It will impact about twenty bridges between Joplin and the OTO limits.



Mr. Childers moved the Board of Directors endorse the MoDOT 2019-2023 Draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. O'Neal seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**B. Amendment Number Five to the FY 2018-2021 TIP**

Natasha Longpine noted there were three changes requested to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She briefly reviewed the three requests that had been received. She added that also included with these project changes are some text updates that include the Transit Asset Management and Safety Performance Targets. These additions bring the TIP into compliance with the requirements of the FAST Act.

Dr. Crain moved approval of FY 2018-2021 TIP Amendment Number Five. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**C. Federal Funds Balance Report**

Natasha Longpine stated there had been some changes to the Funds Balance Report that she believed would make it easier to review. She noted that staff had simplified the information by removing past completed project information. Ms. Longpine reviewed the balances and discussed a few of the major projects that will impact the Funds Balance over the next year or two. She asked that the member jurisdictions review the information provided and let her know of any questions or changes.

This Report was provided for informational purposes only and no action by the Board of Directors is required.

**D. Additional Federal Funding**

Sara Fields stated the OTO was advised that when Congress passed the Omnibus budget bill, there was an additional \$1.53 million in federal funding for our area. She noted these monies will be a one-time funding source and must be obligated by September 30, 2021.

Ms. Fields stated staff is proposing to add these funds to the available Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). She noted adding these funds to what is currently budgeted in the program, will allow a little over \$2.5 million for projects approved by the TAP subcommittee. Ms. Fields stated when she met with the member entities regarding priority projects for next year, there was a lot of excitement regarding trails and possibly building some sidewalks in areas that were lacking.

Mr. Cameron moved the Board of Directors approve additional funding for Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) projects. Mr. Childers seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financials**

David Cameron reviewed for the Board the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financials, highlighting profit and loss budget versus actual year-to-date, for both Operational and UPWP budgets. He complemented Kimberly Cooper on changing banks, adding the OTO is realizing a gain of \$718

in interest income, which we had not previously received. He added the Organization has a very healthy reserve balance, with close to six months operational funds in this account.

Mr. Cirtin moved the Board of Directors accept the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financial Statements for the 2017-2018 Budget Year. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**F. Presentation on Traffic Studies**

Sara Fields stated that as development is growing in the member entities, many are calling and asking for some assistance with understanding traffic studies and the impact they have on future developments. She added that in researching traffic studies, it was learned that most of the member entities did not have specific guidelines or requirements for traffic impact studies. She noted that staff thought it might be beneficial to bring in a consultant that could discuss how to produce an effective traffic impact study. Ms. Fields said the company they selected had an emphasis on educating non-planners on some basics of traffic impact studies. She introduced Bryant Ficek with Spack Consulting who had conducted a seminar on June 20 for approximately forty participants from the OTO area.

Mr. Ficek briefly reviewed the information that he had provided to the seminar participants and highlighted the importance of having guidelines for developers to follow. He noted a vital component is communication and noted how traffic impact studies can be used to bring the participants together with important information on the impact of development. He said when guidelines are established and adopted by all entities, it advances this communication.

Ms. Fields stated that based on the conversations that occurred at the Traffic Impact Study training on Wednesday, June 20, Mr. Ficek will be finishing up the draft guidelines. These will be sent to the Technical Planning Committee (TPC) for review, discussion, and possible changes to make it more compatible with the OTO region. Once it is approved by the TPC, it will be forwarded to the Board of Directors for adoption. These guidelines can then be taken back to the member entities for adoption or not, as they deem appropriate.

Following a brief discussion on the importance of these guidelines on helping entities with land use, it was noted that OTO staff will be available to make presentations regarding the guidelines to the governing bodies of the member entities. With no additional questions or comments, Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Ficek for his presentation and attendance. This item was for informational purposes only and no action by the Board of Directors was required.

**III. Other Business**

**A. Board of Directors Member Announcements**

None.

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

Sara Fields stated the BUILD grants had been announced in the middle of May, which did not provide very much time to think about what projects the Region might want to use for the application. She added the City of Springfield is interested in applying for a BUILD grant that

Mr. Smith would explain and asked if the Board of Directors will consent to the OTO submitting a letter of support.

Dan Smith said the City of Springfield is applying for a BUILD grant to improve Grant Avenue from Sunshine to Downtown Springfield. He said this will make this area part of the complete street concept and has the potential to be a transformative project.

Ms. Fields stated if anyone has an objection to the letter of support for the City of Springfield's BUILD grant to please let her know. Otherwise, the OTO will send a letter of support.

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

Chair Dan Smith noted there were articles of interest included in the packet for the members review as time allows.

**IV. Adjourn meeting.**

With no additional business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:20 p.m.



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Travis Cossey  
OTO Secretary

