

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
JULY 15, 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. Chuck Branch, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. James O’Neal, Citizen-at-Large
Mr. David Cameron, City of Republic (a)	Ms. Stacy Reese, FAA (a)
Mr. Steve Campbell, MoDOT	Mr. John Russell, Greene County (Vice-Chair)
Mr. Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a)	Mr. Mike Schilling, City of Springfield
Mr. Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)
Mr. Brad Gray, City of Willard (a)	Ms. Martha Smartt, City of Strafford (a)
Mr. Skip Jansen, City Utilities Transit	Mr. Tommy VanHorn, City of Battlefield (a)
Mr. Rusty MacLachlan, Greene County	Mr. Richard Walker, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
Mr. Lynn Morris, Christian County	Mr. 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:

Mr. Mokhtee Ahmad, FTA	Mr. Bradley McMahan, FHWA
Mr. Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)	
Mr. Andrew Lear, City of Springfield	

Others Present: Mr. Frank Miller, MoDOT; Mr. Dan Wadlington, Senator Roy Blunt’s Office; Mr. Jeremy Pruett, Representative Billy Long’s Office; Mr. Dave Faucett, Ms. Sara Fields, Ms. Natasha Longpine, Ms. Nicole Stokes, and Mr. Andy Thomason, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Vice-Chair Russell called the meeting to order at approximately 12:02 p.m.

I. Administration

A. Welcome and Roll Call

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

A quorum was present.

B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Mr. Childers moved to approve the July 15, 2021 agenda. Mr. Branch seconded the motion. Vice-Chair Russell called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. David Cameron	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye
Mr. Tommy VanHorn	Aye

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Approval of May 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Weiler moved to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2021, meeting. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion. Vice-Chair Russell called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. David Cameron	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye
Mr. Tommy VanHorn	Aye

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously.

D. Public Comment Period for All Agenda Items

Vice-Chair Russell advised there were public comments included in the packet. Vice-Chair Russell asked for comments or questions.

E. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Fields reported the Governor had been in Springfield to sign Senate Bill 262. This bill could bring approximately \$15 million annually for MoDOT projects to the SW Missouri region when fully implemented. OTO will be prioritizing projects again through the standard process which starts now and continues through the end of the year. The list will then be provided to MoDOT who will review the list to see what projects are possible. In the spring, MoDOT will let OTO know what the approximate cost of the projects would be.

Congressman Long included four OTO projects for funding in the draft of the new Transportation Bill totaling \$12 million. OTO is requesting \$48 million from Senator Blunt for earmarks. This would be used to expand I-44 to six lanes from Glenstone to West Bypass. Ms. Fields thanked those who have sent support letters to Senator Blunt's office.

The RFQ for the I-44 and Highway 13 North corridor study has been sent out. OTO, City of Springfield, and Greene County Commission will be partnering in this study. It will be approximately a 9-month process.

Cost Share applications are due July 23, 2021.

OTO staff met with the Federal Certification Review Team. OTO's planning process is certified every 4 years. A draft report is expected within the next 2 months.

OTO continues to work on the *Destination 2045* plan which began prior to COVID.

AMPO, the National Association of Regional Councils, and the National Association of Development Organizations sent out a letter requesting an increase in suballocated funding.

OTO sent out dues statements later than usual so that the funds would be received in the new accounting fiscal year.

F. MoDOT Update

Mr. Campbell stated the biggest news was the ceremonial singing of SB 262 in Springfield.

MoDOT is currently repairing a lot of bridges, which has diverted resources away from more routine projects. Mowing has started again with I-44 almost being completed and will begin focusing on the minor systems. MoDOT is working on litter contracts to assist with litter cleanup.

Workshops are coming on the unfunded needs list. MoDOT is at the height of construction season. MoDOT is requesting help reminding people of work zone safety. There are still too many incidents of distracted driving and people speeding.

Ms. Reese shared there is continued work on Route 14 in Nixa and Ozark. In Nixa, the west side is wrapping up and the east side of 160 is scheduled to start in January. In Ozark, the west side of Highway 65 is completed with work continuing on the east side. There is continued work widening at James River and Nature Center Way.

Projects not under construction yet include the Glenstone Safety and Operational which includes ADA and resurfacing and Kansas ADA. Both are in partnership with the City of Springfield to fill some of the sidewalk gaps. Also, MoDOT is currently working on right-of-way acquisition at the intersection of Kearney and West Bypass. The City of Republic has partnered with MoDOT for the MM corridor. Plans for I-44 capacity improvements from Glenstone to Highway 65 are being worked on.

G. Legislative Reports

Mr. Wadlington with Senator Blunt's Office provided an update on the Transportation Bill and explained the earmarks list has not been finished.

Mr. Pruetz with Representative Long's Office shared updates regarding the voting process of the House and that the House passed the Transportation Bill.

II. Unfinished Business

A. *Towards a Regional Trail System* Regional Long Range Trail Plan

Mr. Thomason stated the *Towards a Regional Trail System* is a standalone regional trail plan that will inform the development of the *Destination 2045* LRTP. The BPAC's planning process focuses on identifying investment levels needed to create a *trail system with continuous linkages that connects communities* by 2045. Specific priority trails were not identified. Rather, the amount of new trail

mileage needed by 2045 to ensure the OTO had “successfully” implemented a regional trail system by 2045 was identified.

The *Towards a Regional Trail System* planning process found the addition of 45 miles of new trails by 2045 will help ensure the region “successfully” implemented a *trail system with continuous linkages that connects communities, 45 by 45*. Based on the historical trail investment levels, two simple scenarios illustrating possible future trail construction were evaluated. One scenario included the construction of approximately 27 miles of new trails, and the other assumed the construction of approximately 48 miles. Mr. Thomason outlined the two scenarios.

Vice-Chair Russell stated for clarification, this is not a commitment to any funding structure or specific funding but rather a general framework of possibilities.

Mr. Schilling asked what geographical area this plan covers. Ms. Fields stated the OTO region was looked at as a whole, which includes parts of Christian and Greene Counties and the seven cities that OTO represents. The plan does not define what trails would be included in the 45 miles but provides a plan to continue to move forward to a connected system.

Mr. Branch made a motion to adopt *Towards a Regional Trail System* as the OTO’s regional trail plan. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion. Vice-Chair Russell called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. David Cameron	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye
Mr. Tommy VanHorn	Aye

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously.

B. 2021 Action Items

Ms. Fields reported that in 2014 the OTO worked to develop a mission statement with goals and objectives as part of a strategic planning effort. Each year, the Executive Director and the Executive Committee work to develop action items to further the mission and goals of the organization. Implementation of these action items are reviewed annually, which ensures staff accountability to furthering the mission of the OTO. The proposed action items for calendar year 2021 are included for approval. Ms. Fields reviewed the 2021 Action Items.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the 2021 Action Items. Mr. Compton seconded the motion. Vice-Chair Russell called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. David Cameron	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye
Mr. Tommy VanHorn	Aye

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously.

III. New Business

A. **Transportation Plan 2040 Amendment 13**

Ms. Longpine stated two projects were proposed to be added to the Constrained Project List ahead of programming in the Transportation Improvement Program. The projects added to the Constrained List were the City of Springfield's Grand Street project and MoDOT's Route ZZ/Farm Road 182. Ms. Longpine highlighted the additions.

Mr. O'Neal made a motion to approve *Transportation Plan 2040 Amendment 13*. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion. Vice-Chair Russell called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. David Cameron	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye
Mr. Tommy VanHorn	Aye

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously.

B. **Draft 2022-2026 STIP**

Mr. Fields reported each year, the Missouri Department of Transportation Adopts a Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The STIP is a listing of projects that will be completed over the next five years. The FY 2022-2026 STIP was adopted at the July 1, 2021, Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission meeting.

The OTO Technical Planning Committee and Board of Directors worked to prioritize projects for recommendation to be placed in the STIP. The projects listed in the STIP for the OTO area (SW urban) have been incorporated into the Draft OTO 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. Fields highlighted the Draft STIP.

This was informational only. No action was required.

C. **Draft FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program**

Ms. Longpine stated OTO annually develops a four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) document that provides details on proposed transportation improvements, including anticipated costs, fund sources, and expected project phasing over each of the four years of the TIP. The TIP includes a status report for each project contained in the previous year's TIP, a financial constraint analysis, and description of the public involvement process.

The MoDOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Program was incorporated into the Draft TIP. Also included are FTA 5310 Projects (vehicles for human service agencies serving the disabled and elderly), FTA 5339 projects (transit capital), and transit operations. City Utilities Transit is currently the only eligible recipient for FTA 5307 (Transit Operating Assistance and Preventative Maintenance).

The draft TIP was made available for public comment beginning on June 13, 2021. The draft document has been reviewed by USDOT and MoDOT and there were no comments

Since review by the Technical Planning Committee, one change was made to project MO1905-19, adding funding for bridge inspections. The public was notified of this change on June 30 as part of the TIP public involvement process. Ms. Longpine reviewed the STIP.

Mr. O’Neal made a motion to approve the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Branch seconded the motion. Vice-Chair Russell called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. David Cameron	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye
Mr. Tommy VanHorn	Aye

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously.

D. Planning Process and Financial Capacity Certifications

Ms. Longpine stated Metropolitan Planning Organizations must certify annually to FHWA and FTA their compliance with federal, state, environmental, and civil rights regulations and that the transportation planning process is addressing the major transportation management issues facing the metropolitan planning area. Ms. Longpine highlighted the requirements for compliance.

This certifies that applicants for FTA Section 5307, 5309, and 5339 funding have the financial capacity to undertake their programmed projects. In this case, City Utilities is the only recipient of this funding. Ms. Longpine reviewed the Certification documents.

Ms. Smartt made a motion to certify the Ozarks Transportation Organization’s compliance with the metropolitan transportation planning process and to certify the financial capacity of City Utilities. Mr. O’Neal seconded the motion. Vice-Chair Russell called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. David Cameron	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye
Mr. Tommy VanHorn	Aye

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously.

III. Other Business

A. Board of Directors Member Announcements

Mr. Weiler reported that MoDOT’s Freight Enhancement Program, which is a program to help move freight throughout the State of Missouri, has awarded the Springfield-Branson National Airport \$500,000 which will allow them to expand their air cargo apron. Their air cargo is up 20% from pre-pandemic levels. He thanked the OTO staff for providing a support letter.

Mr. MacLachlan shared that Greene County is looking at extending James River Freeway north of Willard to Highway 13 and then possibly to Highway 65. This project would fall under SMOG since it is outside of the OTO area. It is number one on SMOG’s study priority list.

Vice-Chair Russell stated the extension of Kansas Expressway received the historical sign-off, stating there are no historical obstacles along that route. The project could be started later this year.

Mr. Jansen shared City Utilities has received its first electric bus with hopes of being on the road in 4 to 6 weeks. It is a standard size bus.

Mr. Weiler stated the Board asks OTO staff to increase outreach and one way the Board could help is to invite the OTO staff to speak at various functions. Mr. Faucett presented to a Rotary Club which was well received by the audience.

B. Transportation Issues for Board of Directors Member Review

There were no transportation issues to review.

C. Articles for Board of Directors Member Information


Vice-Chair Russell 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, Mr. Weiler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Childers seconded the motion. Vice-Chair Russell called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. David Cameron	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye
Mr. Tommy VanHorn	Aye

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

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 Steve Childers
 OTO Secretary