

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2015**

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:

Ms. Becky Baltz, MoDOT	Mr. Ken McClure, City of Springfield (Chair)
Mr. Harold Bengsch, Greene County	Mr. J. Everett Mitchell, City of Willard (a)
Mr. Brian Bingle, City of Nixa (a)	Mr. Andy Mueller, MoDOT (a)
Mr. Steve Bodenhamer, City of Strafford (a)	Mr. Dan Smith, City of Springfield
Ms. Elise Crain, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. Steve Stewart, City Utilities
Mr. Craig Fishel, City of Springfield	Mr. Brian Weiler, Airport Board (a)
Mr. Warren Griffith, City of Battlefield	Mr. Ray Weter, Christian County
Mr. Jim Krischke, City of Republic (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	Ms. Debra Hickey, City of Battlefield (a)
Mr. Mark Bechtel, FTA (a)	Ms. Susan Krieger, City of Strafford
Mr. Brian Buckner, City of Republic	Mr. Bradley McMahan, FHWA
Mr. Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a)	Mr. Steve Meyer, City of Springfield (a)
Mr. Bob Cirtin, Greene County	Mr. Shane Nelson, City of Ozark
Mr. Chris Coulter, Greene County (a)	Mr. James O'Neal, Citizen-at-Large
Mr. John Elkins, Citizen-at-Large (a)	Mr. Dan Salisbury, MoDOT (a)
Mr. J. Howard Fisk, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. Mark Schenkelberg, FAA
Mr. Wendell Forshee, City of Willard	Mr. Brian Steele, City of Nixa
Mr. Rick Gardner, City of Ozark	Mr. Bob Stephens, City of Springfield
Mr. Corey Hendrickson, City of Willard	Mr. Richard Walker, Citizen-at-Large

Others Present: Mr. Joshua Boley, Ms. Sara Fields, Mr. Jacob Guthrie, Ms. Natasha Longpine, and Ms. Debbie Parks, Ozarks Transportation Organization; Mr. Rick Artman, Greene County; Mr. David Stokely, Senator Claire McCaskill's Office; Mr. Frank Miller, MoDOT.

Mr. McClure called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

I. Administration

A. Introductions

B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Mr. Bengsch made the motion to approve the October 15, 2015 Meeting. Mr. Griffith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of the August 20, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Weiler made the motion to approve the August 20, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Weter seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Public Comment Period

Mr. McClure welcomed Ms. Elise Crain, the proposed Christian County Citizen-at-Large Representative.

E. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Fields thanked the Board of Directors for the support on the relocation to Chesterfield Village. There was a Board of Directors e-meeting and it received a positive response. The landlord is anticipating 90 days to finish the construction. The OTO is planning on moving early January or sooner. The December Board of Directors meeting will probably be at the current OTO location, with future meetings being held at the new space.

The OTO has received the draft audit. The Audit Committee will look at it and there will be details at the next Board meeting. The Travel Sensing Units, which are Wi-Fi units that will provide travel time information, have been partially installed. There are 80 units going out. Once the units are up and running, there will be access to web based software that will provide real time information and reports to incorporate into the long range transportation plan and the congestion process.

Ms. Fields mentioned that the City of Springfield and the area had released the Joint Community Focus Report and Impacting Poverty Commission. One item that came out of Impacting Poverty Commission Report, was a new committee to focus on how transportation can help with poverty. The report specifically mentioned OTO in looking at what transportation improvements can be made. The OTO will be looking at that in the next six months or so.

A lot of work has been done on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). It is a good time to be working on the LRTP, since there is not a lot of money or projects right now. Another item that staff has been focusing on is training. Ms. Fields summarized the various training that staff members had attended. One of the items that came from the GIS training can be seen on the GiveUsYourInput.org site. It is a map called Map It. The public can place a pin where there is a concern or a project that they would like to see. It is another tool to allow the public to participate and tell the OTO what they would like to see improved.

Ms. Fields stated she would be attending the Association of MPO's Annual Meeting from October 20-23, 2015. The meeting agenda is looking at more details from the Drive Act from the Senate and what the House will be doing in regards to a new transportation bill. The big news is that the EPA announced the new Ozone Standard at 70 parts per billion (ppb). The OTO region has been running about 61 ppb, so have avoided non-attainment for a few years.

Mr. McClure commented that the Poverty Commission on Transportation Committee had been discussed in some other settings. It is very appropriate and the OTO needs to be there, but he was aware that City Utilities has the Transportation Advisory Committee. The OTO needs to be careful that there is not a duplication and that all the player's involved need to be there. He thanked the Board of Directors members for participating in the e-meeting, and stated that a wise decision had been made. The accessibility to the wide breathe of membership was very good. He thanked Ms. Fields and staff for guiding the process.

F. MoDOT Update

Ms. Baltz mentioned that the MoDOT projections came in above what was originally projected. MoDOT has been working to set up some projects and the scoping process on those. The State level funds came in \$47 million over projections. When the Federal Funds are added to that, it means that there is \$210 million additional for the construction program in 2017. That is \$34 million for Southwest Missouri, and MoDOT is working with the Planning Partners. There is agreement to continue the focus on Taking Care of the System. There will be a lot of resurfacing, bridge, and safety projects. There will be an emphasis on intersection and bridge improvements on the expressways. She outlined some of the proposed types of safety projects. There will be 15 bridges replaced out of the 80 critical bridges in the Southwest District. There will be a Highway Commission meeting in Springfield on December 2. Mr. McClure stated that would be a good opportunity to show support.

G. Legislative Reports

Mr. Stokely stated that the discussion on transportation funding has been delayed until December. Both Senator Blunt and McCaskill agree that a six year transportation funding bill is needed. He encouraged the Board members to stay in touch with the local Congressional Offices. Mr. Bengsch stated that Ms. Baltz had given a tremendous presentation on the state of the situation at the Southwest Missouri Commissioners Association. There were so many different ideas that came out of the discussion. That the ideas were going in different directions was a real eye opener. He inquired if the OTO should step up and speak with one voice. Mr. McClure stated that was a good point and worthy of debate. He stated the Executive Committee would discuss the structure and bring it back to the Board of Directors.

II. New Business

A. Christian County Representative

Mr. McClure stated that the Christian County Commissioner, Mr. Weter was recommending Ms. Elise Crain to fill the Citizen-at-Large seat.

Mr. Fishel made the motion to appoint a Citizen Representative from Christian County. Mr. Weter seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Weter gave a brief summary of Ms. Crain's accomplishments and resume. Ms. Crain stated that she has a schedule conflict with the timing of the next two meetings due to her term on the Metropolitan National Bank Board, but would be finished with that obligation in February.

B. Amendment Number Seven to the FY 2015-2018 TIP

Ms. Longpine stated that the City of Springfield has combined a Roadway Project with an Enhancement Project on Commercial Street. It is adding a roundabout at Washington and Commercial Street. The City of Springfield has added some additional STP-Urban to the project, in addition to the Enhancement money, and the total project cost is \$850,000.

Mr. Krischke made the motion to approve TIP Amendment Number Seven. Ms. Crain seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

C. Transportation Plan 2040 Vision

Ms. Longpine stated that staff is in the midst of updating the LRTP and have been working with the jurisdictions on updates to the Major Thoroughfare Plan. Currently, the Major Thoroughfare Plan is going through the jurisdiction's local processes. The Long Range Transportation Plan Subcommittee have developed the visions and goals. These will guide the remainder of the planning process and the recommendations and measures that are put into the plan. The visions that the subcommittee has come up with is pretty simple. "An excellent transportation system supporting the success of the OTO region." There are 12 goals. The goals touch a little on what was in the previous plan. She summarized the 12 goals. The subcommittee is in the midst of developing action items and performance measures to go with the goals.

D. DBE Annual Goal

Ms. Parks stated that the US Department of Transportation has a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program to help minority and women business owners become competitive bidding contracts. Last year the Board of Directors approved the OTO's DBE Program. The annual goal of zero percent was established. The DBE Program evaluates the goal annually to see if it should be adjusted. The formula was followed this year and the new proposed goal is zero. OTO uses the Missouri Regional Certification Committee and the established directory of DBEs. The OTO takes the number of DBEs in the MSA (which is the metropolitan area). There are only 10 registered in the OTO area. That is divided by the number of businesses in the MSA from the Census data. That equaled 10 divided by 2,645, which rounds down to zero. In previous years, MoDOT established the OTO's goal at zero. The DBE Annual Goal was put out for public comment and none was received. The OTO will continue to use DBEs at any opportunity, the OTO is just not federally mandated to do it.

Mr. McClure inquired if the OTO was utilizing the DBE list through the state. Mr. Weiler inquired about the formula that was used. Ms. Parks stated that the businesses are just in the industries that the DBE's are registered in. Mr. Bingle asked if it was related to transportation planning or if it was all businesses. Ms. Parks stated that there was only ten registered DBE's across all the industries. The industries that the businesses were registered in were construction, professional and scientific technologies, and one retail. Mr. Weiler stated it did not necessarily have to be in transportation.

Ms. Fields stated that there are different methods allowed for calculating the goal. The OTO only had 10 registered DBEs, so did not bother to refine it down. Ms. Parks stated that MARC, up in Kansas City, is more selective, calculating the goal off just the construction trades or professional services.

Mr. McClure stated that bid documents are widely distributed so there are opportunities for DBEs to bid.

Mr. Griffith made the motion to approve the proposed Annual DBE Goal. Mr. Weiler seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Rideshare Program Continuation

Ms. Fields stated that in 2008, when there was high gas prices, the OTO decided to develop a web based car pool matching program called OzarksCommute.com. The initial investment was \$25,000 to get it online. The annual fee was \$7,800. In 2012, Federal Highway came in and stated that Federal Planning funds could not be used to fund the Rideshare Program. It was considered implementation not planning. The City of Springfield stepped up and took over the maintenance of the Rideshare Program in exchange for a transfer of STP-Urban funds.

Ms. Fields stated that there was a mix up due to life and the invoices were not mailed from the software company. The City of Springfield also did not get the paperwork taken through the process in order to pay the invoices, due to a change in key personnel. A few months ago the OTO received invoices for 2014 and 2015. The OTO was logging into the service and using the system for reporting. The City of Springfield also promoted the program at community events and to employers. It was used and the bill was not paid. The discussion on this bill payment will be on the Operational Budget Amendment agenda Item. The discussion now, is does the OTO region want to continue the Rideshare program. It has been useful to the region, the users have decreased over time, but the program helps with environmental aspects such as the Clean Air Program. It can help with LEED Certification and can help reduce the Ozone.

Ms. Longpine stated that it is a key item quoted in the PM and Advance Programs participation for the EPA. The standard was lowered and the region missed going non-attainment, but the area is getting closer as the standard keeps moving. The EPA can point to this program and give the region credit for a lower baseline if the area was to go into non-attainment in the future.

Mr. McClure stated that there are two issues that had been discussed in the Executive Committee. The billing situation that Ms. Fields did a good job describing, and the usage. Gas prices were higher than what are currently being seen now. This was discussed by the Technical Planning Committee and it was unanimously recommend to the Board of Directors that the program be continued.

Mr. Krischke stated there was a lot of statistics of requests and no response. The question is how many people are riding these rides. Ms. Fields stated that individuals log in and create an account. It sends back a list of potential matches. It is up to the user to contact the potential match to see if that person wants to carpool with them. There is no reporting mechanism to see if the individuals decided to carpool or how long they car pooled. The drawback is that initially a lot of people could have found car pools and are continuing to car pool. There was discussion about the merits and cons of the Rideshare Program. Cons included the fact that individuals do not like to give up driving cars, gas prices being low, no

reporting mechanisms, and promoting an existing program that is being underutilized. And the overall cost. Pros included environmental impacts.

Ms. Field addressed the cost stating that according to the STP-Urban formula the City of Springfield received 60% of the \$10,000 anyway. The City of Springfield had voted to continue the program, which included the \$7,800 for software and additional funds for the promotion at community events and brochures.

Ms. Fields stated that MoDOT currently had a Rideshare Program that the OTO could point to if necessary. Ms. Baltz stated that the MoDOT Rideshare program had similar results to OTO's local program.

Mr. Smith inquired what the impact would be to the EPA if the OTO region was to hit non-attainment. Ms. Longpine stated that the EPA would question why it was discontinued. It is an easy program to point to with a measurable matrix. Other volunteer efforts are harder to measure. There was discussion on how effective the program was and if it had other merits besides the environmental aspect.

Mr. McClure inquired if the program could be suspended temporarily. Ms. Fields stated no matter the outcome the City of Springfield would have to go out to bid if the website was to continue past December. There was discussion on how it could be marketed better to perhaps reach commuters in Christian County and increase the number of employer portals.

Ms. Fields emphasized the pros of the program. During the Federal Triennial Review, it is pointed to as looking for other ways to solve congestion. It helps with the EPA in the Ozone and PM issues. It promotes carpooling to individuals who might need it for transportation. There was discussion on the role this could play in the Poverty Commission Transportation Subcommittee.

Mr. Bengsch stated that this is a tool in a tool box. Greene County, City of Springfield, and City Utilities have completed a comprehensive study on the environmental mandates coming down the line. There is no small challenge. It amounts to \$1.6 billion dollars for the community to meet the mandates. The area is making progress with the EPA and DNR to develop a new approach. It involves having these items that can be shown being done locally to reduce the impact that those mandates have in the terms of dollars on the tax payer. Right now it looks like a lot of the mandates can be spread over a 20 year period which makes it more affordable. This one item does not stave it off, but it is one thing that goes to the air quality measurement that will be held against the region.

Mr. Weiler made the motion to approve continuation of the Rideshare Program and Associated STP-Urban Transfer to Springfield. Mr. Griffith amended the motion to increase the publicity of the program as a condition for continuation. Mr. Griffith seconded and the motion was passed 8 in favor and 3 nays.

F. Operational Budget Amendment

Ms. Fields explained that the OTO has two approved budgets, the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Budget and the Operational Budget. The Board approved \$21,555 during the e-meeting for the UPWP Budget. It will need to be added to the Operational Budget.

That is the first change to the Amendment. The second change is a request for the Rideshare Program. The amount of \$12,675 is being requested. This cannot be added to the UPWP Budget because Federal Highway has ruled that it is not Federally Reimbursable. This is a payment out of local dues. Staff has been working with the City of Springfield to figure a fair trade for the OTO paying this expense. What has been agreed to, is that the City of Springfield will pay the annual wireless fees for the travel time units that are being installed. The units are not being hardwired and will have a Verizon Antenna. There is a monthly fee of \$20 or \$30 that the OTO will be responsible to pay for the 11 units. The City of Springfield has agreed to pay that bill for a couple years, to reimburse the amount of the Rideshare check which is not federally reimbursable. There is also an increase in the beginning Operating Fund Balance due to the Operational Budget being drafted and approved in April. The actual ending balance at the end of the fiscal year June 30 was higher than projected.

Mr. Weiler made the motion to approve the proposed Operational Budget Amendment. Mr. Krischke seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

G. Nominating Committee

Mr. McClure stated that the OTO typically looks for three volunteers.

Mr. Weiler, Mr. Weter, and Mr. Bengsch volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee.

Ms. Fields stated that there will also be a citizen-at-large position open, so there will be one more item for the citizen-at-large.

III. Other Business

A. Board of Directors Member Announcements

Mr. Bingle stated that the City of Nixa was conducting a Survey Monkey survey, for those interested in providing feedback. Mr. McClure inquired how long the survey would be online. Mr. Bingle stated until tomorrow night.

B. Transportation Issues For Board of Directors Member Review

None.

C. Articles for Board of Directors Member Information

None.

IV. Adjourn meeting.

Mr. Krischke made the motion to adjourn at 12:59 p.m. Mr. Weiler seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.