

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
October 17, 2019**

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. Chuck Branch, Citizen-at-Large  
Mr. Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large  
Mr. Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)  
Commissioner Bob Dixon, Greene County  
Ms. Debra Hickey, City of Battlefield  
Mr. Skip Jansen, City Utilities

Mr. Jared Keeling, City of Republic (a)  
Mr. Andrew Lear, City of Springfield  
Mr. Andy Mueller, MoDOT (a)  
Mr. Jim O'Neal, Citizen at Large  
Mr. Mike Schilling, City of Springfield  
Mr. Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)  
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. Mokhtee Ahmad, FTA  
Mr. David Cameron, City of Republic (a)  
Mr. Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a)  
Mr. Chris Coulter, Greene County (a)  
Mr. John Elkins, Citizen-at-Large (a)  
Ms. Jan Fisk, City of Springfield  
Mayor Ashley French, City of Strafford  
Mayor Rick Gardner, City of Ozark  
Mr. Brad Gray, City of Willard (a)  
Mayor Corey Hendrickson, City of Willard  
Mr. Michael Latuszek, FHWA (a)

Ms. Laurel McKean, MoDOT (a)  
Mr. Bradley McMahon, FHWA  
Mr. Daniel Nguyen, FTA (a)  
Commissioner Ralph Phillips, Christian County  
Mr. Mark Schenkelberg, FAA  
Mr. Jeremiah Shuler, FTA (a)  
Ms. Martha Smartt, City of Strafford (a)  
Mayor Brian Steele, City of Nixa  
Mayor Jeff Ussery, City of Republic  
Mr. Richard Walker, Citizen-at-Large

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Others Present: Mr. Jeremy Pruett, Congressman Billy Long's Office; Ms. Kimberly Cooper, Mr. Dave Faucett, Ms. Sara Fields, Ms. Markee Hebden, Ms. Natasha Longpine, and Andy Thomason, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Chair Dixon called the meeting to order at approximately 12:06 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. Weiler moved to approve the October 17, 2019 agenda. Mr. Cossey seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**C. Approval of the August 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Compton moved to approve the August 15, 2019 meeting minutes. Ms. Hickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

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

The correspondence that had been received since distributing the packets for the meeting were laid at the places of the members. No one was present to speak to any item on the agenda. Ms. Fields noted there had been several comments received since the agenda had been published. She added these had been distributed at the meeting.

**E. Executive Director's Report**

Chair Dixon complimented Sarah Fields and her staff on the excellent job they had done at the Legislative Breakfast. Ms. Fields provided a brief update on the breakfast and those who had attended. The staff provided the handouts that were distributed at the breakfast to those Board members who had not been able to attend.

Ms. Fields discussed trail applications. She stated the trail applications had been approved by the Committee, however, there was still a lot of preliminary work that needed to be accomplished by many communities in order to be ready to begin building trails. She noted that there is some money set aside to assist communities in acquiring right-of-way and drafting plans for trails. She added she had been contacted by three communities, so she expected to receive some applications for these funds.

Ms. Fields stated the Governor's Cost Share application period had closed. She stated that \$50 million had been made available by the State Legislature. She noted that there had been \$95 million in requests, including four from the OTO area. She stated the four requests totaled \$2.6 million, with the largest coming from the City of Springfield for \$1.5 for the Galloway Street project. She stated staff is hopeful these projects will be funded, but to date have received no word on the status of this program.

Ms. Fields stated the State awarded the Statewide Cost Share program funds on September 26, 2019. This designation included approximately \$38 million to MoDOT for the Rocheport Bridge Project. She stated this leaves funds totaling approximately \$19 million for the FY 2022. She encouraged anyone wanting to apply for this funding, to do so before the deadline as she anticipates there will be several requests for these funds.

Ms. Fields briefly commented on her absence from the office, the OTO's participation in a multi-state technology program to better understand freight transportation, and the Community Focus Report.



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

Andy Mueller thanked the OTO for allowing MoDOT to provide an update at the Legislative Breakfast. He highlighted the major projects that had been completed this summer and fall, which included the Hwy 65 rebuild project and the six-laning of Hwy 65 to Route CC. He stated MoDOT had worked with Ozark to address congestion issues with Route CC and 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. He said MoDOT will be performing some additional work in this area to address an issue with signal alignment.

Mr. Mueller stated MoDOT had performed an overlay on Ingram Mill and Eastgate. He added construction on Route 160 from I-44 to Willard is underway. Mr. Mueller addressed the I-49 Missouri/Arkansas connector, a project that is not in the OTO boundaries, but he believes is beneficial to this area. He stated this would not have been possible without the BUILD grant.

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

Jeremy Pruitt, Congressman Billy Long's Office, stated he had provided a report at the Legislative Breakfast and not much had changed in the last 24 hours. He said that due to the political environment in Washington, he does not anticipate any legislation on transportation or infrastructure.

### **II. Informational Items**

#### **A. FY 2020-2023 Administrative Modifications 1 and 2**

Chair Dixon noted that there is one change included with each Administrative Modification Numbers One and Two to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program, which are included for member review.

He added this is for informational purposes only and no action was required.

### **III. New Business**

#### **A. City of Springfield Presentation**

Dan Smith, Director of Public Works, City of Springfield, thanked the Board for the opportunity to discuss the projects on which the City of Springfield is currently working. He briefly discussed each project and their status. He stated that the City is requesting that the voters approve the 1/8<sup>th</sup>-cent-sales tax for twenty years as opposed to four.

This item was provided for informational purposes only; no action was required.

#### **B. Amendment Number One to FY 2020-2023 TIP**

Natasha Longpine noted there are five changes included with Amendment Number 1 to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She stated the first two are moving of funds for the extension of Kansas Expressway from FY 2019 to FY 2020. She briefly outlined the other proposed amendments, highlighting items 4 and 5 which are funding for electric buses for City Utilities.

Mr. Cossey moved the Board of Directors approve Amendment Number One to the FY 2020-2023 TIP, as presented by Ms. Longpine. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**C. Revised STIP Prioritization Criteria**

Sara Fields noted that the Board had approved the STIP Prioritization Criteria at the last Board Meeting. She added as the Committee began scoring projects, they believed there needed to be two changes. She briefly outlined the proposed changes and the reason for each.

Ms. Hickey moved the Board of Directors approve the proposed revised STIP Prioritization Criteria. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**D. 2021-2024 STIP Priorities**

Sara Fields outlined the proposed STIP Priorities for FY 2021-2025. She stated that as the Board of Directors had not seen this list, it was possible to delay action on this item until the next meeting.

Following a brief discussion on the number of items that might be funded, and the reason that certain items were scored lower than anticipated, Mr. Cossey moved the Board of Directors approve the proposed FY 2021-2025 STIP Project Priorities. Mr. Compton seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**E. State of Transportation Report**

Natasha Longpine stated each year the OTO staff track eleven different performance measures that are included in the Long Range Transportation Plan. She briefly highlighted the items included in the report. She also discussed the infographic that accompanies the report.

This item was provided for informational purposes only; no action was required.

**F. 2020 Legislative Priorities**

Sara Fields stated the proposed Legislative priorities were separated into Federal priorities and State priorities. She briefly discussed the priorities and the reason for each.

Following a brief discussion on the proposed priority regarding Internet sales, Ms. Hickey moved the Board of Directors approve the proposed 2020 Legislative priorities. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**CLERK'S NOTE (1/2/2020):** At the December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Board of Directors meeting Mr. Mike Schilling requested a clerk's note be placed in the Minutes from the October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting. Mr. Schilling had inadvertently voted "yes" to accept the 2020 Legislative Priorities, and after closer review of the priorities Mr. Schilling would like to state that he does not agree with the OTO's stance on the repeal of the prevailing wage requirement for public works projects. Mr. Schilling does not oppose any other of OTO's 2020 Legislative Priorities.



**G. Deferred Benefit Compensation Plan Resolution**

Sara Fields stated the International City/County Management Association – Retirement Corporation (ICMA-RC) has found the OTO to be eligible to participate in their deferred compensation plan. She added that many of the member jurisdictions participate in this plan and are familiar with it. She stated that participation would be funded through the staff's payroll, however the OTO is wanting to offer an incentive. She stated it is being proposed that the OTO provide a maximum contribution of \$10 per employee per pay period, with the provision that the employee also provide a minimum contribution of \$10. She said if the Board does want to participate in this plan, it must adopt the Resolution that is included in the packet.

Mr. Smith moved the Board of Directors approve the Deferred Benefit Compensation Plan Resolution in order to join ICMA-RC. Mr. Weiler seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**IV. Other Business**

**A. Board of Directors Member Announcements**

Sara Fields stated that the first article included in the packet was referencing American Transportation Awards. She stated she wanted to congratulate MoDOT for receiving this award for a St. Louis project.

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

Ms. Hickey clarified a recent story that had aired on KY-3 and the inaccuracies in the story.

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

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

**V. Adjourn**

With no additional business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:11 p.m.



Steve Childers  
OTO Secretary