OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

December 19, 2013

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. Wendell Forshee, City of Willard

Mr. Harold Bengsch, Greene County Ms. Teri Hacker, Citizen-at-Large

Mr. Mark Bechtel, FTA (a) Mr. Quinton Hamp, City of Battlefield

Mr. Phil Broyles, City of Springfield (a) Mr. Jim Krischke, City of Republic (a)

Mr. Jerry Compton, City of Springfield Mr. Lou Lapaglia, Christian County (Vice-Chair)

Mr. Craig Fishel, City of Springfield Mr. Jim Viebrock, Greene County (Chair)

Mr. J. Howard Fisk, Citizen-at-Large Mr. Brian Weiler, Airport Board (a)

1. *Denotes alternate given voting privileges as a substitute for voting member not present*

The following members were not present:

Mr. Mokhtee Ahmad, FTA Ms. Susan Krieger, City of Strafford

Mr. Shawn Billings, City of Battlefield (a) Mr. Bradley McMahon, FHWA

Mr. Brian Bingle, City of Nixa (a) Mr. Steve Meyer, City of Springfield (a)

Mr. Richard Bottorf, Airport Board Mr. Andy Mueller, MoDOT (a)

Mr. Steve Bodenhamer, City of Strafford (a) Mr. Shane Nelson, City of Ozark

Mr. Brian Buckner, City of Republic Ms. Robin Robeson, City Utilities

Mr. Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a) Mr. John Rush, City of Springfield

Mr. Sam Clifton, City of Nixa Mr. Dan Salisbury, MoDOT (a)

Mr. John Elkins, Citizen-at-Large (a) Mr. Mark Schenkelberg, FAA

Mr. Tom Finnie, Citizen-at-Large Mr. Tim Smith, Greene County (a)

Mr. Bill Kirkman, City Utilities (a) Mr. Bob Stephens, City of Springfield

Others Present: Ms. Sara Fields, Ms. Natasha Longpine, Mr. Curtis Owens, Ms. Debbie Parks, and Ms. Melissa Richards, Ozarks Transportation Organization; Mr. Dan Wadlington, Senator Roy Blunt’s Office. Mr. Bob Rubino and Mr. Jason Klein, Citizens; Mr. Randy Brown, City of Willard; Mr. Frank Miller, and Ms. Kathy Harvey, MoDOT; Mr. Daniel Snyder, Community Free Press; Mr. Kelly Turner, Olsson Associates; Mr. Jeff Seifried, Springfield Chamber of Commerce; Mr.Jonathan Shorman, Springfield News-Leader.

Mr. Viebrock called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

1. **Administration**
2. **Introductions**
3. **Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda**

Mr. Broyles made the motion to approve the December 19, 2013 Board of Directors Meeting Agenda. Mr. Bengsch seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

1. **Approval of the October 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Broyles made the motion to approve the October 17, 2013 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes. Mr. Krischke seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

1. **Public Comment Period**

Mr. Bob Rubino requested permission to address the Board of Directors. He presented his concern over the recent Economic Development Study that was conducted in Christian County. The study results showed that 80 percent of the Christian County residents were working in the Springfield area and that the sales tax revenue spent, was done near the individual’s place of employment. He stressed that this did not allow enough sales tax revenue to be generated in Christian County to enter into large cost shares with MoDOT. He stated there were several problem areas in Christian County that needed to be addressed and would need a Cost Share but that the City of Ozark and City of Nixa did not have the funds to enter into agreements with MoDOT. He pointed out that the areas of particular concern included the 160/CC interchange. The City of Nixa was having to build more signals in an attempt to funnel the traffic at Hwy M and Hwy 14. He stated that the City of Nixa had conducted a traffic study and there was high volume at the Hwy M intersection. He also stated that there was a desire for Economic Development on Hwy 14 but there were road improvements needed on Hwy 14 between the City of Nixa and City of Ozark in order for this to happen. He appealed to the Board of Directors to reexamine how the OTO funding was allocated to allow Christian County to enter into Cost Share Agreements.

1. **Executive Director’s Report**

Ms. Fields gave an overview of the work that OTO staff had been conducting since the last OTO Board of Directors meeting. She stated that staff had conducted a review of OTO’s compliance with the Sunshine Law to find any areas that could better meet the intent of the law. Staff has also been working on a thorough review of OTO’s Purchasing Manual to ensure it complies with all applicable laws. Staff has been working with MoDOT to outline the administration of OTO area 5310 transit funding for both vehicles and operations. In addition, she mentioned that staff had attended the American Metropolitan Planning Organization Conference and had learned a lot of valuable information regarding changes in the transportation bill and guidance.

She stated that Greene County is working with MoDOT on a Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Greene County had the fourth highest accident rate in the state and has been targeted for improvement by MoDOT. The Safety Committee will be making recommendations for improvements to reduce fatalities and severe accidents.

She stated that MoDOT has announced that CDM Smith was selected to develop the Statewide Freight Plan.

Preliminary indications are that as part of the proposed budget deal there is funding available for two more rounds of TIGER funding. This national competitive process makes awards of over $10 million for transportation projects. MSU is considering an application for a USDOT TIGER grant for a $27 million intermodal transfer facility to be located on the Northeast side of campus. OTO is interested in knowing if there are any other applications being considered and if members would support the proposed applications.

She stated that OTO staff and MoDOT staff and staff from all nine member jurisdictions have been meeting to better understand local jurisdiction transportation needs. This was a very informative process and OTO staff was pleased to gain a better understanding of the challenges facing each city and county.

1. **Legislative Reports**

Mr. Wadlington gave a briefing on the status of the proposed budget currently in Congress. He stated that even if it passed it did not contain a reauthorization of the Highway and Transportation Bill. He stated the thought is that there would be extensions through the 2014 election. He stated the issue with the transportation bill is the disagreement on how to fund it. Then there was still another debt ceiling debate looming. Ms. Fields inquired if the Senator would be in favor of a $0.15 gas tax increase. Mr. Wadlington stated that the Senator is not in favor of raising any taxes on gasoline.

1. **New Business**
2. **Amendment Number 1 to the FY 2014-2017 TIP**

Ms. Longpine stated there were six changes requested to the FY 2014-2017 TIP under Amendment Number One. These included ADA Accommodations on Glenstone and Sunshine; the Weaver Road Widening; Republic Road Bridges over James River; Republic Road and Farm Road 107 Intersection; Glenstone and Pythian Intersection; and Kansas Expressway Pavement Rehabilitation.

The City of Springfield is cost sharing with MoDOT on the ADA Accommodations project. Previously, MoDOT was going to address curb ramps on these two corridors, but now Springfield is completing some sidewalk gaps, as well. The City of Battlefield is requesting to add additional funding to the Weaver Road Widening project to account for the cost of relocating utilities. The west bridge on Republic Road over James River Freeway is moving forward for construction and the programmed cost now reflects that. The project at Republic Road and Farm Road 107 is a new cost share with MoDOT paying for design and City Utilities responsible for construction. Another new project is at Glenstone and Pythian and is for scoping. Finally, the Kansas Expressway Pavement Rehabilitation is a complementary project to one already in the TIP. The currently programmed project is for asphalt repairs between I-44 and James River Freeway, while the new project is for concrete repairs between I-44 and Mount Vernon.

Mr. Hamp inquired which Republic Road bridge was referenced in the TIP amendment. Mr. Broyles clarified that it was the west bridge, west of Campbell. Mr. Hamp asked if the bridge would have bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. Mr. Broyles stated that there would at least be sidewalks, but he was not sure about bike lanes. Mr. Bechtel stated that if the ADA Accommodations on Glenstone and Sunshine were not at bus stops then it would be Federal Highway funding not FTA funding.

Mr. Hamp made the motion to approve Amendment Number One to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Lapaglia seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

1. **Annual Listing of Obligated Projects**

Ms. Longpine presented the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (ALOP) in the OTO area as required under CFR §450.332. Ms. Longpine described the ALOP as something that OTO is required to publish within 90 days of the end of the previous federal fiscal year, which ran from October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013. She mentioned that the report contained information on each project, including a description, any previous funding which had been obligated on the project, the previous TIPs in which the projects were published, and remaining funding to be obligated. She stated that there had been a public input period on the ALOP.

Mr. Broyles made the motion to accept the FY 2013 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects. Ms. Hacker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

1. **Federal Funds Balance Report**

Ms. Longpine presented the Federal Funds Balance Report. She stated that MoDOT allows a three year accrual of STP-Urban funding, though at any time the Federal government could pass legislation to rescind any unobligated balance. Ms. Longpine requested that OTO members look at their balances and keep in mind that it is better to spend the funds as quickly as possible. The OTO overall has a STP-Urban balance of $22,938,867.03. Accounting for the MoDOT cost shares, the overall balance is $7,395,410.04. The overall balance of all funding catergories available to rescission is currently $24,179,801.90. Ms. Longpine stated that the OTO had started to allow advanced obligation of funds for any jurisdictions with an annual allocation under $1 million. There were FY 2014 numbers that were received this week but those numbers were not included in the report.

Ms. Baltz stated it was important to remember that the Cost Shares were statewide funding that come as additional funds to the OTO area. That it does not impact the regular funding that comes to the area. Ms. Longpine stated that there was a new format to the Federal Funds Balance Report because the OTO staff was processing it through QuickBooks instead of Excel.

Mr. Weiler inquired how many years out the Cost Shares were obligated at this point. Ms. Baltz stated that currently it was 3 years.

1. **Federal Functional Classification Change Request**

Ms. Longpine stated there were several changes to the Federal Functional Classification Map that were requested. The proposed changes were Chestnut Expressway (from US 65 Ramp to Eastgate Avenue) changing from Minor Arterial to Major Collector; Old County Road 178 (from relocated Weaver Road to the west outer road) which is not currently classified, changing to Local; West Weaver Road (from relocated Weaver Road to end of route) which is not classified, changing to Local; West Bypass (from I-44 to Loop 44 - Chestnut Expressway) from Other Principal Arterial to Other Freeway/Expressway; and Olive Street (from St. Louis Street to Main Avenue) changed from Minor Arterial to Major Collector.

The section on Chestnut Expressway is a very small piece, which is a remnant from the way classifications used to change at the urbanized boundary. The two on Weaver relate to the Weaver Road relocation. The change on West Bypass is requested because of the upgrade the roadway received several years ago, but the classification was never adjusted. The change on Olive is meant to better reflect current roadway usage.

Ms. Hacker made the motion to approve the requested Functional Classification Map Changes. Mr. Krischke seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

1. **Request for Support of I-244 Designation**

Ms. Fields stated the City of Springfield and MoDOT are requesting support of a proposal to designate US 65 and James River Freeway (US 60/360) as I-244. Ms. Fields stated the benefits of the redesignation would include safety and easier routing in case of an incident. Also, the additional interstate designation would provide an economic development benefit. She stated that at this point there was not a definite price estimate. She explained the process would consist of an application going to Federal Highway asking if designation would be possible and the improvements needed to meet the Interstate Highway System standards. The thought was that there would be, at a minimum, new signs required and possibly some ramp extensions. Once a response is received from Federal Highway, an estimate would be brought back through the Technical Committee and Board of Directors to add the project to the Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Broyles made the motion to support the I-244 designation of U.S. 65 and 60/360. Mr. Krischke seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

1. **“On the Move” Presentation**

Ms. Baltz introduced Karen Harvey, MoDOT’s Assistant Chief Engineer. Ms. Harvey gave an update on MoDOT’s new long range plan “On the Move.” She stated that there was a draft titled “A Vision for Missouri’s Transportation Future.” MoDOT staff would be conducting more public input from its stakeholders to make sure that the information in the draft long range plan was what was communicated in the public meetings. Ms. Harvey outlined several of the themes which appear in the long range plan, including taking care of the system, safety, and economic growth/jobs.

Ms. Baltz played a visualization of the proposed Chestnut Expressway Railroad overpass to the Board.

Mr. Weiler inquired if BNSF contributed more than the required 5% on the Chestnut Expressway Bridge. Mr. Broyles stated he thought it was just the 5%.

Mr. Hamp inquired if BNSF had announced plans to add another train track under the bridge. Mr. Broyles stated he had not heard of any plans at this time but the bridge could accommodate a second line.

1. **Appointment of Subcommittee Members for Initiative Petition Public Involvement Process**

Ms. Fields stated that in order to develop and implement a public involvement process for input on a proposed list of improvements for the possible one-cent statewide transportation sales tax, staff is recommending the use of a subcommittee. She explained that the proposed subcommittee would be comprised of OTO Board of Directors members and qualified regional consultants from the Springfield Chamber of Transportation Committee. She asked for volunteers from the board to create a subcommittee with a minimum of 8 subcommittee members. Ms. Fields also provided background on the initiative petition process. She stated that it could provide $250 to $300 million to the region over a ten-year period. The petition also requires the development of a multi-modal project list.

Mr. Seifried from the Springfield Chamber explained about the Initiative Petition Public Involvement Process. He explained that the subcommittee would be working to reaffirm the OTO’s already existing regional priority list and would help with the public input process. Mr. Kelly Turner presented the expertise and qualifications of the Springfield Chamber of Transportation members and how utilizing those individuals on this subcommittee would add value to the process. The four subcommittee members from the Chamber Transportation are Derrick Barnes, Kelly Turner, Chris Upp, and Phil Broyles.

Mr. Viebrock nominated Dan Smith from Greene County, while Mr. Brian Weiler, Mr. Quinton Hamp, and Mr. Jim Krischke volunteered. Ms. Fields stated that Mr. Brian Bingle and Mr. Steve Childers had also volunteered but were unable to attend the December 19, 2013 Board of Directors Meeting.

Ms. Baltz stated that the OTO staff had been doing a great job with the process.

Mr. Lapaglia made the motion to accept Dan Smith, Brian Weiler, Quinton Hamp, Jim Krischke, Brian Bingle, and Steve Childers to serve on the Initiative Petition Public Involvement Process Subcommittee.

1. **Financial Statements for 1st Quarter 2013-2014 Budget Year**

Mr. Krischke presented the OTO 1st Quarter 2013-2014 Budget Report. He stated that there were no unusual expenses during the 1st quarter. He also pointed out that the OTO had received $39,124.00 In-Kind for the Quarter.

Mr. Lapaglia made the motion to accept the 1st Quarter Financial Report. Mr. Compton seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

1. **Nominating Committee Report**

Mr. Phil Broyles gave a report on the OTO Officer Nominating Committee. He presented the OTO Slate of Officers as: Chairman, Lou Lapaglia; Vice-Chairman, Jerry Compton; Secretary, J. Howard Fisk; and Treasurer, Jim Krischke.

Ms. Hacker made the motion to elect the 2014 Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary as presented for the OTO Board of Directors. Mr. Bengsch seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

1. **Welcome to New Chair and Vice-Chair**

Mr. Viebrock presented Mr. Lou Lapaglia with the 2014 Chair position. Mr. Lapaglia accepted and finished chairing the meeting.

Ms. Fields presented Mr. Viebrock a plaque for serving as the 2013 Chair of the OTO.

1. **OTO Board of Directors 2014 Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Lapaglia mentioned the 2014 Meeting Schedule.

1. **Other Business**
2. **Board of Directors Member Announcements**

None

1. **Transportation Issues For Board of Directors Member Review**

None

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

Ms. Fields noted the article, “FHWA Proposed Primary Freight Network, Seeks Comments from Stakeholders.” In particular, she emphasized that the network in many cities included an interstate loop, while Springfield did not. She commented that the benefits of the Primary Freight Network are not all yet known, but it could be to the OTO’s advantage to have more included as part of the network.

1. **Adjourn.**

Mr. Fisk made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:56 p.m. Mr. Bengsch seconded and the meeting was adjourned unanimously.