OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

December 20, 2012

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 Ms. Teri Hacker, Citizen-at-Large

Mr. Harold Bengsch, Greene County Mr. Rick Hess, City of Battlefield (a)

Mr. Steve Bodenhamer, City of Strafford (a) Mr. Jim Krischke, City of Republic (a)

Mr. Phil Broyles, City of Springfield (a) Mr. Lou Lapaglia, Christian County

Mr. Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a) Mr. Jim Viebrock, Greene County

Mr. Jerry Compton, City of Springfield (Chair) Mr. Brian Weiler, Airport Board (a)

Mr. J. Howard Fisk, Citizen-at-Large

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. Thomas Bieker, City of Springfield (a) Mr. Aaron Kruse, City of Battlefield

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. Shane Nelson, City of Ozark

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

Mr. Sam Clifton, City of Nixa Mr. John Rush, City of Springfield

Mr. John Elkins, Citizen-at-Large (a) Mr. Dan Salisbury, MoDOT (a)

Mr. Tom Finnie, Citizen-at-Large Mr. Mark Schenkelberg, FAA

Mr. Nick Heatherly, City of Willard (a) Mr. Tim Smith, Greene County (a)

Mr. Tom Keltner, City of Willard Mr. Bob Stephens, City of Springfield

Mr. Bill Kirkman, City Utilities (a)

Others Present: Ms. Sara Fields, Ms. Natasha Longpine, Mr. Curtis Owens, Ms. Debbie Parks, Ms. Melissa Richards, Ozarks Transportation Organization; Mr. Ralph Rognstad, City of Springfield; Mr. Dan Wadlington, Senator Roy Blunt’s Office; Mr. Frank Miller, MoDOT.

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

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

Mr. Lapaglia made the motion to approve the December 20, 2012 Meeting Agenda. Mr. Viebrock seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

1. **Approval of the October 18, 2012 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Broyles made the motion to approve the October 18, 2012 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Weiler seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

1. **Public Comment Period**

None.

1. **Executive Director’s Report**

Ms. Fields informed the group that she is serving as chair of the Transportation Committee for the 2013 Community Focus Report. The committee begins work now but the report will come out in September/October of 2013. The committee looks at the Springfield/Greene County area and what issues need community support, funding, and recognition. The committee has coined the terms “Blue Ribbons” and “Red Flags.” The report highlights blue ribbon awards for those areas that are doing well. It also recognizes red flag areas that need improvement.

Staff is continuing to work on the electronic TIP. The projects have been entered and it should be live in several weeks. Staff will also be sending out the RFP for the Travel Demand Model. That is a model that projects future travel volumes for the area. It is really a useful tool for consultants that are looking at the impact of development or new roadways in the area. The model has been delayed due to the fact that it hinges on the release of the Census Transportation Planning Package which gives the population and planning data for the model. The release of the census data has been delayed to May. The RFP will go out be the end of the year or first of January in order to select the consultant in advance of getting the data.

Staff has been working on the year-end inventory. Staff has also been looking at the Transit funding options with the new federal legislation. The transit funding has been changed in regards to how it can be allocated and what is now eligible. Staff is looking at that and what options there are for the future. Enhancement applications were due December 14 and are now in the office. Ms. Longpine stated that 14 applications were received for more than double the actual funding. There is $1.3 million available. Ms. Fields stated that the subcommittee will be meeting January 3 to rank those applications and to make recommendations to the Technical Committee, then it will go to the Board of Directors for TIP Amendments.

Safe Routes to School funding applications were due back in November. There were two from the OTO area for infrastructure: one from the City of Willard and one from the City of Ozark, with those projects for sidewalk connections to elementary schools. There were fourteen applications statewide. There is only about $1 million available, so the odds are not great.

MoDOT is making a proposal regarding the Off-SystemBridge funding.MoDOT is proposing that instead of allocating it to the counties, it would be subject to a selection process just like the Enhancement funds. That funding would go to the Council of Governments/Regional Planning Commissions, which is SMCOG for the OTO region. The reason is that there is a large balance statewide. The counties get very small allocations and are not able to spend the funds without accruing the funds for many years. MoDOT is recommending that an application be submitted through the regional planning commission. The big change is that not only counties would be eligible but also any city, special road district, or other public entities. Staff would like feedback on the jurisdictions thoughts on the proposed changes.

There is an article on the Blue Print for Safety. MoDOT has been working on a statewide basis to reduce fatalities in Missouri. The fatalities have been reduced to under 1,000 down to 850. MoDOT is now looking at a local approach looking at whether the fatalities are by age, drinking, or bicyclist, or any other trend.

Ms. Fields introduced Ms. Becky Baltz to present the new movement MoDOT is working on for the Statewide Transportation Vision.

Ms. Baltz presented MoDOT – Updating the Conversation and In Motion: A Four – Phased Approach. She stated that there has been a lot going on internally at MoDOT over the last year. Everyone is aware of the downsizing. That is now completed and it is time to look to the future. MoDOT is looking at the future of additional funding for transportation. MoDOT is looking at a four phased approach. MoDOT has a tentative time line for the process. The first part is building the foundation, which consists of internal meetings. The Highway Commission has had several conversations with leadership to talk about the approach moving forward.

MoDOT is looking to engage the community. That will be done in several different ways, with the stakeholders and with some engagement of the public as well. MoDOT is looking at having listening sessions and tentatively having two at the Southwest District. With the listening sessions, MoDOT is trying to do a better job getting the bigger businesses of the community involved. Every business has a reliance on transportation, so MoDOT wants more feedback from businesses that have not been as involved in the past. The listening sessions will be a combination of engaging businesses and having meetings at business locations, and having the businesses to help with the welcome and introduction part of the public meetings. MoDOT would also like the stakeholders to attend along with members of the business community. That is one way to engage people.

Another idea that is being looked into is having vans wrapped with some type of message. The new logo is called “Updating the Conversation.” Previously, the conversation was “To Move Missouri Forward.” This package is going to be called “On the Move.” MoDOT will be giving the updated materials out soon. MoDOT staff will also be attending community events in larger communities. Staff might have a booth at a business expo or a lawn and garden show in the more rural areas. Staff might also attend some school events. MoDOT really wants to get the message out to Missourians.

MoDOT in the past has talked about “falling off the cliff.” The consultants that are working with MoDOT did some focus groups. One group was held here in Springfield.When the focus groups were talked to about transportation and their priorities it did not come in at one or two. Everyone is interested in education and some other items as a higher priority. When the focus groups were shown pictures of old worn out highways and bridges compared with new highways and bridges they related to the new better. MoDOT will be talking to the public about what can happen rather than focusing on the problems.

Once the community engagement is complete, MoDOT will start packaging the conversation, which involves compiling everything that has been learned. MoDOT will look at a lot of different scenarios for what can be done with different funding types. In the end, MoDOT will inform Missourians about the outcome of all that. Hopefully another group will take it further and move the initiative forward to get additional funding for transportation.

There are a lot of things happening quickly. Mr. Dave Nichols, the Chief Engineer, came down earlier this week and talked about the possibility of tentatively scheduling monthly MPO meetings because there will be a lot of information to share. MoDOT is concerned about how to keep the stakeholders current. MoDOT would like to communicate regularly with OTO and offered to speak monthly to the Board.

Mr. Lapaglia inquired on some of the ideas that MoDOT was thinking of for additional funding and whether Ms. Baltz could share them with the group. Ms. Baltz stated MoDOT was taking a systematic approach and that information was not available yet. As the information becomes available, the MPO would be updated. Mr. Fisk inquired about the discussion of the bonding issue for the $950 or $980 million dollars in bonding. Ms. Baltz stated it had been introduced to the legislature. There have been no final decisions made on that as of yet. Mr. Fisk asked what the feeling was in Jefferson City on the passage of the bond. Ms. Baltz stated it was too early to tell.

Mr. Compton suggested that the Executive Committee meets the opposite month so several individuals already have that date on the monthly calendar. People would have to see if they could accommodate the additional meeting, though it is important. Ms. Baltz stated that it might be possible to tag onto the Executive Committee days. Mr. Compton stated the Executive Committee might be able to stretch the meeting out longer. Ms. Baltz stated that the meeting would not be called if there was no new information. Ms. Hacker inquired if it was a situation where they would be asked for feedback or if it was just a matter of updating the group on what has happened. Ms. Baltz stated the group would be involved in some of the sessions that involved feedback, but MoDOT would also like to hear along the way if there are any issues or concerns. Mr. Compton thanked MoDOT for the update and stated that the Chair could look at the calendar to find a date where the committee could meet if needed.

1. **Legislative Reports**

Mr. Wadlington stated that the big news happened eight days ago with I-49. The Senator came in and shared the historic event for I-49. As far as what is happening in Washington D.C. the House is going to a vote tomorrow on the package that will be approved by the House. After that the House is going to go home and not reconvene until the new Congress in January, without a final solution on the “fiscal cliff.”

Mr. Lapaglia stated that when the Board returns all the old taxes will probably be in place. Mr. Wadlington stated that the Bush tax cuts would be wiped off the books effective December 31 at midnight if action is not taken. There would also be a lot of spending cuts to go into effect on January 2 including half that will come out of the Defense budget. The tax cut on Social Security would disappear as well. The benefit of the drastic changes is that the deficit would be cut in half.

# New Business

1. Administrative Modification Number One, Two, & Three to the FY 2013-2016 TIP

Ms. Longpine stated that the OTO Public Participation Plan allows staff to make minor modifications to the TIP. This includes items that do not drastically change the scope or funding of a project. There are three items that are being presented for information. The first is correcting the funding source listed on a project for City Utilities. CU had partnered with MoDOT to look at pedestrian accommodations at transit stops so OTO needs to reflect funding appropriately for CU’s grants on that.

The second modification clarifies the description of the project for City Utilities Voice Annunciation System. As part of that system CU is going to have the Vehicle Locator system that has the GPS and lets people know where the buses are. That actually coordinates with the annunciations so it knows when to announce the stops. CU is also looking into getting customer feedback on that. The riders would be able to also know where the buses are.

The third modification reflects the addition of Enhancement funding for the North Glenstone Avenue sidewalk project. That project was already programmed in the TIP, but MoDOT has since received Enhancement funds. Staff was able to replace the local funding with the Enhancement funding.

Ms. Fields stated that the CU project is exciting because the vehicle locator system can use an app on the individual’s phones to let them know when the buses are coming. Signs can be added to the bus terminal that will have each bus listed just like the Chicago Subway. There will be some technology on the bus system. Mr. Compton stated that was one of the items discussed in the Strategic Plan.

1. **Amendment Number Two to the FY 2013-2016 TIP**

Ms. Longpine stated that there are two new projects and two updated projects as part of Amendment Number Two. The first new project is a signal system upgrade through the TMC. This will update all the signals that have not been updated yet within Springfield and the surrounding area. The second new project is the safety improvements on Routes 125 and D in Greene and Christian Counties.

The Campbell and Plainview intersection project is currently in the TIP listed as design and now it is being updated to reflect construction costs. Then staff is also updating the programmed amount shown in the CU Transit and Fleet Maintenance Campus. CU did not get all the money spent last year so that has been moved to this year.

Mr. Broyles made the motion to approve Amendment Number Two to the FY 2013-2016 TIP. Ms Hacker seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

1. Annual Listing of Obligated Projects

Ms. Longpine stated that the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects is published annually per federal law. It lists all funding that has been obligated through the fiscal year. Any project that had federal funds on it for transportation is required to be listed with the accompanying information. The list includes the project description, TIP number, when the funding was obligated, and how much was obligated out of the federal funds. It also shows what is shown in the TIP for programmed federal funding. This is required within 90 days of the end of the fiscal year. It will be on the OTO website by December 30 if approved.

Mr. Fisk made the motion to approve the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects. Mr. Lapaglia seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

1. Financial Statements for 1st Quarter 2012-2013 Budget Year

Mr. Krischke presented the 1st Quarter 2012-2013 financial report. There is a Profit and Loss Statement, Balance Sheet, and Quarterly Expenditure Statement. In addition there is a Progress Report that is helpful in trying to keep track of where staff is in regards to the projects being worked on and the percentages that have been completed. There is nothing out of the ordinary on the report. Revenues exceeded that period by $50,066.72. There are a couple of expenditures that came out in the first quarter that would normally come out in the second quarter, advance payments were made on certain items, as a staff member would be out of the office.

Mr. Fisk stated that he liked the additional information that was provided in the back. It is very thorough. Mr. Krischke stated that the largest expenditure of the quarter was the aerial photography in the amount of $50,000.

Mr. Viebrock made the motion to accept the First Quarter Financial Report. Mr. Bengsch seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

1. Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Childers stated that the Nominating Committee for next year’s Executive Committee Officers was made up of Mayor Kruse, City of Battlefield, Mr. Childers, City of Ozark, and Mr. Broyles, City of Springfield. The committee met and Mr. Fisk and Mr. Krischke have agreed to be nominated again – Mr. Fisk for Secretary and Mr. Krischke for Treasurer – simplifying the process for the nominating committee. Mr. Viebrock of Greene County and Mr. Lapaglia would serve as Chair and Vice-Chair for 2013, respectively. All of the nominees have agreed to be placed on the slate of officers.

Mr. Bengsch made the motion to accept the slate of officers for the 2013 Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary for the OTO Board of Directors. Mr. Weiler seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

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

Mr. Compton welcomed the New Chair and Vice-Chair. He thanked the Officers for accepting the positions.

Mr. Lapaglia thanked Mr. Compton for serving during 2012 as the Chair. Ms. Fields presented a plaque to Mr. Compton for serving as the Chair. She also presented a plaque for Aaron Kruse who was not present at the meeting, for his service on the Executive Committee from 2010 to 2012. Mr. Hess accepted the plaque on Mr. Kruse’s behalf.

1. OTO Board of Directors 2013 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Fields reviewed the 2013 Meeting Schedule, which will be on the third Thursday of every other month. Ms. Parks would be sending out calendar notices and lunch will be provided at the meetings.

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

Mr. Broyles stated that Springfield City Council approved putting the ¼-cent tax to the vote of the people on April 2, 2013. The City of Springfield will be moving forward with that ballot with the Chamber of Commerce after the first of the year.

Mr. Compton stated that Mr. Broyles will be acting City Manager a couple days in the next week.

Mr. Childers stated that the City of Ozark’s Board of Aldermen voted on Monday night to place the question on the ballot to create a City of Ozark 3/8-cent sales tax with a five-year sunset. The City of Ozark is following the City of Springfield’s lead and will try to educate the public about the needs in the City of Ozark. The City of Ozark does not have a dedicated source of funding for transportation currently. It has been discussed for three years now. It will be on the April Ballot. The City of Ozark hopes to get it done and prove to the citizens that it will do what it says it will do.

Mr. Compton stated that the City of Springfield has been very successful with the sales tax. Springfield’s City Council discussed earlier in a meeting with the legislature that informing the public that the City’s tax dollars are the public’s tax dollars has gone a long way to support the tax.

Ms. Fields announced her upcoming maternity leave from sometime in February to sometime in March. She announced that she would not be at the February BOD meeting, but that Natasha would be in charge during her absence.

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

None.

1. Articles for Board of Directors Member Information

Ms. Fields stated that MoDOT was recognized by Forbes Magazine in the first article.

1. **Adjournment**

Mr. Compton adjourned the meeting at 12:39 p.m.