OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

**TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**January 21, 2009**

The Technical Planning Committee of the Ozarks Transportation Organization met at its scheduled time of 1:30-3:30 p.m., at the Missouri State University Plaster Student Union (3rd Floor, Room 315).

The following members were present:

Mr. Harry Price, City of Springfield Mr. Roger Howard, BNSF Railway Company

Mr. Eric Bernskoetter, MoDOT Mr. David Hutchison, City of Springfield (a)

Mr. Brian Bingle, City of Nixa Mr. Joel Keller, Greene Co. Planning Dept (a)

Mr. David Bishop, R-12 Schools (a) Mr. Frank Miller, MoDOT

Ms. Carol Cruise, City Utilities Mr. Duffy Mooney, Greene Co. HWY Dept

Ms. Dawne Gardner, MoDOT (a) Mr. Bill Robinett, MoDOT

Ms. Cassandra Henne, City of Republic Mr. Ralph Rognstad, City of Springfield

Mr. Rick Hess, City of Battlefield (a) Mr. Paul Hood, City of Willard

Mr. Gary Snavely, MSU Mr. Dan Watts, SMCOG

Mr. Dan Smith, Greene Co. HWY Dept

*(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 McMahon, FHWA

Mr. Rick Artman, Greene Co. HWY Dept Mr. Ryan Mooney, Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Bob Atchley, Christian County Mr. Kent Morris, Greene Co. Planning Dept

Mr. Randall Brown, City of Willard (a) Mr. Andy Mueller, MoDOT

Mr. Steve Childers, City of Ozark Mr. Daniel Nguyen, FTA (a)

Mr. Bryant Doss, City of Strafford Ms. Ann Razer, City of Springfield (a)

Mr. Jim Dow, Springfield R-12 Schools Mr. Mark Roy, Airport (a)

Mr. Ron Effland, MoDOT Springfield (a) Mr. Mark Schenkelberg, FAA

Mr. Mike Giles, City of Springfield (a) Mr. Shawn Schroeder, Airport

Ms. Diane Hogan, City Utilities (a) Mr. Mike Tettamble, Jr., O & S Trucking

Mr. Kevin Lambeth, City of Battlefield Mr. Terry Whaley, Ozark Greenways

Ms. Diane May, SMCOG

Others present were: Ms. Sara Edwards, Mr. Tim Conklin, Ms. Natasha Longpine, Ms. Debbie Parks and Mr. Chris Stueve, Ozarks Transportation Organization; Ms. Stacy Burks, Senator Kit Bond’s Office; Mr. Steve McIntosh, Congressman Roy Blunt’s Office; Mr. Carl Carlson, Scott Consulting Engineers; and Mr. David Rauch, Senator Claire McCaskill’s Office.

Mr. Price called the January 21, 2009 Technical Planning Committee Meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

I. Administration

**A. Introductions**

**B. Approval of Technical Committee Meeting Agenda**

Mr. Conklin stated the need to amend the agenda to include these four roadway projects: Missouri Highway EE, Missouri Highway AB, Missouri Highway 266, and Missouri Highway H as Item **II.J**. Also added is a scoping project of Highway 160 to Willard as Item **II.K.**

Mr. Rognstad motioned to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Newman seconded, and the motion was carried.

**C. Approval of the November 19, 2008 regular meeting and January 5, 2009 E-meeting minutes.**

Mr. Price stated that the minutes for November 19, 2008 as well as January 5, 2009 were in the TPC packets and email.

Mr. Rognstad motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Newman seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

**D.** **Public Comment Period**

None.

**E.** **Executive Director’s Report**

Mr. Conklin mentioned that Debbie Parks has filled OTO’s Office Coordinator position. Mr. Conklin will be attending the Salute to the Legislature and the Missouri Chamber of Industry and Transportation Conference, January 28 and 29 in Jefferson City. MoDOT is also having a Planning Partner Meeting on February 10, regarding the economic stimulus package in Jefferson City.

OTO will update everyone as the stimulus bill moves forward through Congress. Last week the OTO forwarded to the Technical Committee and the Board of Directors the proposed bill. At this time there appears to be no earmarks in the bill. The understanding is that this is just the beginning of the process. A lot of trade organizations and other emails have a lot of information regarding the projects.

Within the OTO area MoDOT has submitted several OTO Priority Projects of Regional Significance for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. That is the House Bill mentioned, which includes the widening of U.S. 65 to six lanes, approximately a $37 – $38 million project, and U.S. 60 from Monett to Republic, approximately a $17 million project, with one million of that being within the MPO.

OTO is requesting a letter from the IRS regarding OTO’s status as a governmental entity. This is a change from what OTO previously discussed as moving forward with a Federal 501 (c) 3 Status.

OzarksCommute.com, OTO’s web based ride matching program, is now up and running. Staff is working with member jurisdictions to set up custom portals. Member jurisdictions will be contacted. If a jurisdiction is interested in starting earlier they can contact Ms. Longpine to set up a custom site.

The OTO Board of Directors did appoint a Transit Development Plan Study Group and Steering Committee at the last Board Meeting. OTO plans to set up the meeting with the working group over the next month. Staff is working on updating the Congestion Management Plan. The report of the 2008 Travel Time Runs of the City of Springfield will be submitted to the TPC and BOD in the second quarter.

Mr. Conklin thanked everyone for participating in the electronic meeting of the TPC. There may be an additional need for e-meetings in the event more money becomes available as part of the U.S. Stimulus package being discussed. Currently, the House Bill talks about a 120-day deadline to obligate projects. Each member jurisdiction needs to be prepared for a special meeting, in recognition of the need to move quickly on special projects.

Mr. Conklin sent out an email on the Primary Seat Belt Law. That is MoDOT’s number one legislative priority for 2009. MoDOT is looking at making the Seat Belt Law stronger in the State of Missouri, and is requesting support from area jurisdictions.

Mr. Newman stated he had a question on the electronic meeting regarding the need to approve the agenda. There was confusion as to what was being approved at a particular moment.

Discussion ensued on the various means of conducting an e-meeting.

Mr. Miller stated that SMCOG had an issue with someone saying that an action taken was invalid because the group had not approved the agenda by voting on it. That was the concern here.

OTO staff decided to research the Robert’s Rules of Order and will present at the next TPC meeting on the proper procedure for agenda approvals.

**F. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Report**

Ms. Longpine stated that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee had their last meeting the first of this month. The focus was mostly on the Safe & Sound Bridge Program that is currently on the TPC agenda. BPAC has also been working on providing input for Springfield with their 1/8-cent projects. BPAC is working on a broader list of projects for when future funding becomes available for specific projects.

II. New Business

**A. Safe and Sound Bridge Program – Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodations**

Mr. Conklin stated MoDOT has requested OTO make recommendations on three bridges currently programmed for improvement as part of the Safe and Sound Bridge program, as to the need for pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. The inclusion of Bicycle/Pedestrian facilities in the projects are dependent on a reasonable cost, which is generally defined as 20% of the overall project. The attached map demonstrates the current plan regarding these crossings. There is also a map in the TPC packet that shows the general locations of each of the three bridges. The bridge on State HWY YY is used as an on-street bike route. It will have a trail underneath it in the future. The bridge on State HWY 125 in Greene County has plans for a trail underneath in the future. The bridge on State HWY 125 in Christian County currently has a number of existing bicyclists and pedestrians due to its location over the Finely River. BPAC has recommended that Bicycle and Pedestrian facilities be considered as improvements to these bridges are designed.

OTO is asking the Technical Committee to make a recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding Bicycle and Pedestrian accommodations on the Safe and Sound Bridges within the OTO boundaries.

Mr. Newman motioned to recommend accommodations on these three bridges to the Board of Directors. Ms. Cruise seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

**B. Transportation Management Center (TMC) FY 2009-2012 TIP Amendment**

Mr. Conklin stated the City of Springfield has requested an increased amount of STP- Urban Funding for the operation of the Transportation Management Center. This is a jointly funded center for MoDOT and the City of Springfield. The City of Springfield was only partially funding the positions at the TMC with their STP-Urban Funds. They are now requesting all City of Springfield personnel to be funded with the STP-Urban funding. OTO handed out a new staff report with updated numbers that the TPC would need to approve as part of this motion. OTO is asking the Technical Committee to make a recommendation to the Board of Directors on amending the TIP to include the revised amounts as shown for each fiscal year for the TMC.

Mr. Miller motioned to approve the use of the City of Springfield’s allocated STP-Urban Funds for this purpose. Mr. Duffy Mooney seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

**C. Northview Road FY 2009-2012 TIP Administrative Amendment**

Mr. Conklin stated the City of Nixa is requesting to phase the Northview Road improvement project into two phases. The first phase would begin in FY 2009 and would include the first 550 feet of Northview Road beginning at U.S. 160 and continuing west. The second phase would begin in FY 2010 and continue to Grey Road. The estimated cost of the Northview Road Phase One project is $256,000. The total estimated project cost is approximately $1.4 million dollars. There is no action required from the Technical Committee on this item, as this is just an administrative amendment.

**D. I-44 Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) FY 2009-2012 TIP Amendment**

Mr. Miller stated this is a TIP Amendment to install closed circuit television on I-44. MoDOT is asking to do a project across the state with this amendment. This will contribute to the Springfield portion of it. The funding comes from MoDOT’s statewide operations budget. This is new funding to the OTO area. The camera includes more than the cameras, it also includes the fibers, connections and such expenses.

Mr. Price asked when this is expected to be done.

Mr. Miller replied that it will be late Summer FY 2010.

Mr. Newman motioned to approve this action. Mr. Rognstad seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

**E.** **U.S. 65 FY 2009-2012 TIP Amendment**

Mr. Miller stated the proposed TIP Amendment is to accelerate the widening of U.S. 65 between U.S. 60 (James River Freeway) and Chestnut Expressway and to add the widening of U.S. 65 between Chestnut Expressway and I-44. Currently, the widening of U.S. 65 to six lanes from U.S. 60 (James River Freeway) to Chestnut Expressway is programmed for 2011. The proposal is to begin the construction to widen U.S. 65 from I-44 to U.S. 60 (James River Freeway) during FY 2009. This amendment is being requested in anticipation of Congressional approval of the U.S. Economic Stimulus Bill during the first quarter of 2009. Projects that can be let within 180 days have been identified by MoDOT and have been submitted as potential projects for consideration in the Bill and include U.S. 65 between I-44 and U.S. 60 (James River Freeway).

Mr. Rognstad motioned to approve the amendment. Mr. Newman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**F.** **U.S. 60 and NN/J Intersection FY 2009-2012 TIP Amendment**

Mr. Conklin stated that this is a proposed TIP amendment to add a project to the 2009- 2012 TIP on the acquisition of right of way for the future intersection of U.S. 60 and NN/J. The right of way acquisition is scheduled for 2009 and the estimated cost is approximately $400,000. The project will be split between Greene County and the City of Springfield utilizing STP-Urban Funds in the amount of $320,000 and local funds in the amount of $40,000. The Technical Planning Committee will need to make a recommendation to the Board on amending the TIP to add the U.S. 60 and NN/J intersection.

Ms. Cruise made the motion for the recommendation for approval to the Board. Mr. Newman seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

# G. FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program Sub-Committee

Mr. Conklin stated that each year OTO staff prepares a UPWP. OTO is asking that a sub-committee be formed to assist the OTO staff in preparing the 2010 UPWP. The sub-committee will make the recommendation to the Technical Planning Committee. The UPWP will go to the Board of Directors for final approval. At this time, staff is asking the Technical Planning Committee to appoint a UPWP subcommittee for the 2010 Fiscal Year.

Sub-committee: Bill Robinett, Ralph Rognstad, Carol Cruise, Joel Keller, Brian Bingle.

**H. Ozarks Clean Air Action Plan**

Ms. Longpine stated the Clean Air Action Plan was developed by the Ozarks Clean Air Alliance. The Ozarks Clean Air Alliance started the process in January 2008. They are now meeting with the fifteen counties that this plan covers. The plan creates a package of voluntary measures that jurisdictions, employees, employers, and the general public can all take to reduce ground level ozone in the region. One goal of the plan is to work with EPA and to hold off any designation of non-attainment. The 2005-2007 design value was high enough to warrant consideration for non-attainment, but the 2006-2008 design value was not. This plan will hopefully give the region a few more years and try to bring those levels down and prevent non-attainment for now. This document is probably going to change over time; and will be updated to reflect new strategies as necessary. The Ozarks Clean Air Alliance is seeking endorsement of the plan as the tool to address air quality in the region.

Mr. Price asked what OTO knows about DNR’s actions.

Ms. Longpine answered that DNR has submitted to EPA their recommendation with two scenarios. Once the data for 2008 is certified they are actually recommending that the region stay in attainment, though at the time they had to submit the recommendations, the 2008 data had not been certified, so the region actually fell into non-attainment. EPA has another year before they make their decision. This year is probably going to be the make or break on attainment status.

Mr. Conklin stated that this could potentially become a major issue, with regards to transportation and the MPO having to make findings of transportation conformity with the transportation plan and air quality. OTO met with Mr. Miller of MoDOT and with Doug Neidigh who is heading up the Ozark Clean Air Alliance. This potentially could impact the MPO in regards to the MPO transportation model, eventually requiring the region to conform as projects come through the MPO.

Mr. Rognstad made the motion to endorse the concept of the plan. Mr. Hess seconded, and it was carried unanimously.

**I. I-44 On-Call Preventative Maintenance and Repair FY 2009-2012 TIP Administrative Amendment.**

Mr. Miller stated MoDOT has requested an administrative TIP amendment to adjust the amount of funds available in Greene County. MoDOT originally showed the project for a three County area and split the project to show only Greene County MoDOT funds in the amount of $142,000.

Mr. Price asked where the funding would come from.

Mr. Miller replied it would be statewide funds

Informational Only.

**J. EE/AB/266/H FY 2009-2012 TIP Amendment**

Mr. Miller stated the first project is minor resurfacing of four routes in the MPO area; should the stimulus package pass. The first piece to be resurfaced will be Route EE/Division Street out by the new Airport Terminal from West Bypass to Route AD west of the Airport. MoDOT would exempt the pieces that have been worked on recently with the Airport project. The second piece is HWY AB from Willard to Route 266, then Route 266. Route H to the MPO Boundary would also be resurfaced.

Ms. Edwards stated that a member of the public called with a complaint on Route H. He would like turn lanes added between Farm Roads 94 & 96. The question was raised if this was something that could be added.

Mr. Miller said he was looking into it before the meeting. MoDOT might run into some right of way issues, which might make it not possible.

Mr. Smith motioned to amend the TIP. Mr. Newman seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

**K.** **160 Scoping Project 1-44 to Willard**

Mr. Miller wanted to add 160 from Route 123, which is Willard to I-44, to the TIP for scoping only. MoDOT recently started an effort to work with the City of Willard, Greene Co, City of Ash Grove, and the City of Walnut Grove to develop plans for cost sharing to make this project happen. They are looking at several scenarios. One is a four lane to Willard to widen the expressway standard. Another one looks at adding turn lanes & passing lanes around the Quarry.

Ms. Cruise motioned to approve the scoping project. Mr. Mooney seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

III. Other Business

# A. Technical Committee Member Announcements

Mr. Conklin mentioned that as more is found out from MoDOT and others on the economic stimulus the information will be passed along. At this time there is a lot of information online from organizations and agencies.

# B. Transportation Issues for Technical Committee Member Review

Ms. Edwards brought up the work on the UPWP this year. The category is always left open to help on small projects. Federal Highway might be cracking down on open categories. If any member has a technical project to add, it needs to be submitted before the fiscal year. The fiscal year runs July 1 through June 30 of next year.

IV. Adjournment

Mr. Mooney motioned to adjourn. Mr. Newman seconded, and the meeting adjourned.