OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

**TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**March 18, 2009**

The Technical Planning Committee of the Ozarks Transportation Organization met at its scheduled time of 1:30-2:30 p.m., at the Missouri State University Plaster Student Union (3rd Floor, Room 315).

The following members were present:

Mr. Steve Childers, City of Ozark (chair) Mr. Eric Bernskoetter, MoDOT

Mr. Randall Brown, City of Willard (a) Mr. Shawn Schroeder, Airport

Mr. Gary Snavely, MSU Mr. Bill Robinett, MoDOT

Mr. Ralph Rognstad, City of Springfield Ms. Carol Cruise, City Utilities

Mr. King Coltrin, City of Strafford Mr. Ryan Mooney, Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Frank Miller, MoDOT Mr. Bob Atchley, Christian Co. Planning & Zoning

Mr. Roger Howard, BNSF Mr. Terry Whaley, Ozark Greenways

Mr. David Brock, City of Republic Mr. Rick Hess, City of Battlefield (a)

Mr. David Bishop, R-12 Schools Mr. Joel Keller, Greene Co. Planning Dept (a)

Mr. Brian Bingle, City of Nixa Mr. David Hutchison, City of Springfield (a)

Ms. Dawne Gardner, MoDOT Mr. Mike Giles, City of Springfield (a)

*(a) Denotes alternate given voting privileges as a substitute for voting member not present*

The following members were not present:

Mr. Jim Dow, Springfield R-12 Schools (a) Mr. Andy Mueller, MoDOT

Mr. Mark Schenkelberg, FAA Mr. Duffy Mooney, Greene Co. Highway Department

Mr. Bradley McMahon, FHWA Mr. Harry Price, City of Springfield

Mr. Daniel Nguyen, FTA (a) Mr. Dan Smith, Green County Highway Department

Ms. Ann Razer, City of Springfield (a) Mr. Kent Morris, Greene Co. Planning Dept

Mr. Kevin Lambeth, City of Battlefield Mr. Earl Newman, City of Springfield

Ms. Diane May, SMCOG Mr. Paul Hood, City of Willard

Mr. Mokhtee Ahmad, FTA Mr. Mike Tettamble, Jr., O & S Trucking.

Mr. Dan Watts, SMCOG Mr. Ron Effland, MoDOT (a)

Mr. Mark Roy, Airport (a) Ms. Diane Gallion, City Utilities (a)

Mr. Rick Artman, Greene County Highway Department (a)

Mr. Tim Conklin, OTO Executive Director

Others present were: Ms. Sara Edwards, Ms. Natasha Longpine, Ms. Debbie Parks and Mr. Chris Stueve, Ozarks Transportation Organization; Mr. Steve McIntosh, Congressman Roy Blunt’s Office; Mr. Carl Carlson, Scott Consulting Engineers; and Mr. Jim Hansen.

Mr. Childers called the March 18, 2009 Technical Planning Committee Meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

## Administration

# Introductions

# Approval of Technical Committee Meeting Agenda

Mr. Childers stated there is a significant portion of the agenda that has changed. Tabs Two through Seven have been replaced with Tab Two, A through H. These tabs have been added to the present agenda.

Ms. Cruise motioned to approve the amended agenda as presented. Mr. Ryan Mooney seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

# Approval of the January 21, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Cruise motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Whaley seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

# Public Comment Period

None.

# OTO Report

Ms. Edwards presented the OTO Report. The OTO staff has been doing a lot of work with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the funding received from the bill. Currently the MPO is in the process of allocating the STP-Urban funds. The MPO is receiving $7.3 million dollars according to the STP-Urban formula. There is also $508,000 in Enhancement funding for the MPO Region.

The OTO has been advertising OzarksCommute.com, the OTO Regional Rideshare program. Currently there are six small billboards around the City of Springfield. A bus wrap is coming out in April on the back of a City Utilities bus. There is an ad running online in the Springfield Business Journal. In addition, the OTO office will have a booth for Earth Day at the One.2 Conference.

Ms. Longpine went to FTA training to learn all about the requirements associated with the federal grants for two days. Mr. Conklin went to the Missouri Transportation Conference and the Missouri Public Transportation Association Board Meeting.

# Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Report

Ms. Longpine stated that the last Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting was on Tuesday March 3, 2009. The ARRA funds were discussed at this meeting. More information becomes available every day. The Healthy Community Collaborative which is part of the Community Partnership was discussed. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is working with the YMCA doing Neighborhood Assessments, from a health point of view. Also BPAC is working on the update to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The next step will be the prioritization process criteria as well as public participation.

# New Business

* 1. Mr. Childers stated that there were a lot of amendments. Due to this; Tabs 2-7 will be replaced with the fourteen amendments. The amendments will be discussed and then a motion will be made to approve all of the amendments at the end.

Ms. Edwards presented the fourteen amendments**.**

City Utilities Transfer Station Construction FY 2009-2012 TIP Amendment

City Utilities Transit has requested a TIP amendment to use American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds to fund a portion of the Bus Transfer Facility. The Bus Transfer Facility is being funded in part by FTA 5309 discretionary funding with CU providing local match and in part by ARRA funds. This project originally appeared in the FY 2007-2010 TIP.

**City Utilities Transit/Fleet Maintenance Campus Expansion FY 2009-2012 TIP Amendment**

City Utilities Transit has requested a TIP amendment to use American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds to fund expansion of the Transit/Fleet Maintenance

Campus.

**City Utilities Security Funding FY 2009-2012 TIP Amendment**

City Utilities has requested a TIP amendment to use American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds to purchase security equipment in 2009. City Utilities Transit is required to use 1% of the ARRA funding on security projects for the transit system.

**City Utilities Enhancement Funding FY 2009-2010 TIP Amendment**

City Utilities has requested a TIP amendment to use American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds for Enhancements to include ADA Accessibility Projects for the fixed route buses or for the new bus transfer station. City Utilities Transit is required by use 1% of the ARRA funding on enhancement projects for the transit system.

**City Utilities Enhancement Funding FY 2006-2009 TIP Amendment**

Missouri State University has agreed to transfer 5307 Enhancement funding they received in 2006 to City Utilities Transit. The amount being transferred to City Utilities Transit is $58,240 (5307 – 1% Requirement) with a required local match of $14,560. City Utilities plans to use the funding on ADA accessibility projects on the fixed bus routes.

**City of Ozark FY 2009-2012 TIP Amendment**

The City of Ozark has requested a TIP amendment to use American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to prepare a Citywide Transportation Plan. The Citywide Transportation Plan will provide for preliminary scoping and cost estimates. Right now the cost is $50,000. The City of Ozark would like to change that to $40,000, with the 100%.

**City of Ozark FY 2009-2012 TIP Amendment**

The City of Ozark has requested a TIP amendment to use STP-Urban funding to conduct a planning study to analyze traffic on 3rd Street from Jackson to Church. They would like to add $13,188.01 of the economic stimulus funds to the $20,000 already in the agenda. This would bring the total to $33,188.01.

**U.S. 60 (James River Freeway) and National Ave. FY 2009-2012 TIP Amendment**

The City of Springfield has requested a TIP amendment to use American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) STP-Urban Funds to accelerate the reconstruction of the U.S. (James River Freeway) and National Avenue interchange as a diverging diamond interchange.

This project is a cost-share project between the City of Springfield, MoDOT, and Cox Health Systems.

The City of Springfield plans to use approximately $4.5 million in STP-Urban ARRA funds, and approximately $1.4 million in STP-Urban funds, $3 million from Cox Health Systems, and the remaining funds from the 1/8th cent sales tax.

Mr. Miller mentioned that the figures on the TIP Amendment were not correct. The total was not correct on the sheet. If the STP-Urban funds were backed out there would be $3.1 in State funds. The difference is the STP-Urban funds. The whole project should be $11.64 million. There was a last minute switch for local funds.

Mr. Bernskoetter requested that the corrected sheet be prepared before it is sent to the MoDOT office.

**U.S. 60 (James River Freeway) and National Avenue FY 2009-2012 TIP Amendment**

The City of Springfield has requested a TIP amendment to be reimbursed by MoDOT through the statewide cost-share program in the amount of $5,557,000. The reimbursement would occur in TIP fiscal years 2011 and 2012; and would be for the reconstruction of the U.S. 60 (James River Freeway) and National Avenue interchange.

**Stoneridge Street FY 2009-2012 TIP Amendment**

Greene County has requested a TIP amendment to use 2008 Enhancement funds to install sidewalks along Stoneridge Street from the intersection of Stoneridge Street and Farm Rd. 165 east to the intersection with Delaware Avenue. The original request was to use these funds on Weaver Road. However, Greene County is planning to construct sidewalks on both sides of the street using local funds.

**Christian County FY 2009-2012 TIP Amendment**

Christian County, Ozark, and Nixa have requested a TIP amendment to utilize American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to fund the final design plans for improvements to State Highway CC. The region is looking at adding $900,000 ARRA funds bringing the project total to $1.3 million.

**Kearney Street FY 2009-2012 TIP Amendment**

MoDOT is requesting to amend the TIP for the Kearney Street resurfacing project to include leftover district discretionary enhancement funds to pay for the planned ADA accommodations. There is not net increase in the project amount.

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

MoDOT and Greene County are requesting a TIP amendment to utilize additional ARRA funding on the U.S. 65 capacity improvements from Chestnut Expressway to I-44. There is not net increase in the project amount.

Mr. Miller mentioned that the proposed change contains some STP-Urban ARRA funds for Greene County. The rest of the funds are regular MoDOT Federal Funds.

Ms. Edwards mentioned that originally it was thought there would be enough ARRA funds to fund the whole project.

Mr. Miller stated that it will take $35 million to fund the whole corridor. The amount that will come from the Economic Stimulus funds is $22.5 million. MoDOT is looking at other ways to fund the corridor.

**Jackson and U.S. 160 FY 2009-2012 TIP Amendment**

MoDOT is requesting a TIP amendment to increase MoDOT’s share in the Jackson and U.S. 160 intersection improvement project.

Mr. Hutchison made the motion to approve the proposed TIP amendments. Mr. Atchley seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

* 1. **FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program**

Ms. Edwards statedOTO is required on an annual basis to prepare a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which includes plans and programs OTO will undertake during the fiscal year. The UPWP is programmed into the following tasks:

Task 010 – OTO General Administration

Task 020 – OTO Committee Support

Task 030 – General Planning and Plan Implementation

Task 040 – Transportation Improvement Program

Task 050 – Rideshare and Commuter Choice Program

Task 060 – Transit Planning

Task 070 – Special Studies and Related Projects

The UPWP also contains the proposed budget for FY 2010. The budget is based on the federal funds available and the local 20 percent match. The local match for FY 2010 is $118,584 and the Federal Consolidated Planning Grant is $474,336 for a total budget of $592,920. The budget also includes FTA 5307 Transit Funds going directly to City Utilities in the amount of $106,600.

The UPWP Sub-committee met on Monday, March 9, 2009 and recommended the Draft FY 2010 UPWP to the Technical Planning Committee.

Ms. Cruise made the motion to recommend for approval the UPWP. Mr. Ryan Mooney seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

* 1. **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) STP-Urban Sub-allocation “Reasonable Progress Policy”**

Mr. Childers stated that the OTO members have had a lot of meetings about the ARRA. It is up to the member jurisdictions to put something in place in regards to the OTO policy that has been put forward.

Ms. Edwards stated that the MPO received $7.3 million in STP-Urban and another $508,000 in Enhancement Funding and technically the OTO has one year to spend it. However, OTO’s funds are part of the whole amount that the State of Missouri receives when considered for reallocation. At the end of the year, if the State has not spent all of the funds, then they go back into the federal pot and then gets reallocated to other States that met their deadlines.

OTO is proposing the adoption of a “Reasonable Progress Policy” to ensure that American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 STP-Urban Sub-Allocated funds will meet the required one-year obligation time frame (March 2, 2010).

The proposed OTO policy requires jurisdictions that receive ARRA STP-Urban Sub-Allocated funding Obligate ARRA funding by September 30, 2009. This would allow other projects in the OTO area enough time to utilize the funding before it is re-allocated under the Recovery Act, potentially outside of the OTO area (Use It or Lose It provision).

The policy also provides for benchmarks that must be met. If these benchmarks are not met, the funding would go to MoDOT for use in the OTO area.

OTO has asked all of the six jurisdictions receiving funding to provide project TIP amendments by May 4, 2009 to be included on the May 20, 2009 Technical Planning Committee Agenda.

OTO held a workshop on March 4, 2009 and discussed the reasonable progress with six jurisdictions. There was general agreement that OTO should move forward with the proposed policy and schedule for the use of ARRA funds.

The question was asked if this policy applies to Enhancement funds as well as STP-Urban.

Ms. Edwards stated that the policy is for the Enhancement funds as well; in other words the Federal Highway funds, but not Transit funds.

Mr. Whaley made the motion to approve the “Reasonable Progress Policy.” Ms. Cruise seconded, and the motion was carried anonymously.

* 1. **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) STP Urban Sub-Allocation Jurisdiction Updates and Questions**

Ms. Edwards stated that a big part of the ARRA talks about openness and discussion which is called “vetting,” so that it is an open process. The Technical Planning Committee is asked to take some time to let all the jurisdictions that have sub-allocated funds discuss what projects they are doing. MoDOT and the City Utilities will also discuss the projects that will be funded with Federal Funds. The goal is to get an official record and to take any comments. Once the OTO has a project outline, it will be submitted to Congress by April 4, 2009. The reporting will reflect how much the projects cost, how long they are projected to take to complete, and how many jobs are created. There are three reasons for this process: that OTO members are informed, so that the public is informed, and for the official record as requested by Congress.

Ms. Cruise presented the City Utilities project. The City of Springfield’s allocation through the transit program was almost $2.9 million ($2.878). Missouri State University elected not to seek ARRA funds. Originally, City Utilities had planned to purchase the first round of replacement buses with the funds. City Utilities had applied for a Discretionary Grant through the Transit Program, but did not receive the Grant. The original option was to use the ARRA Funds to supplement the Grant. Since the funds did not come through on the discretionary side, the projects were re-evaluated. It was noted that the new Transfer Station was over matched, with City Utilities paying too much on the local share. The ARRA funds will be applied to the Transfer Station to complete the project. Looking to the future, when the new fleet is purchased for City Utilities, there will be maintenance issues due to the increased capacity of the buses. The remainder of the ARRA Funds will be applied to the upgrades of the maintenance campus.

Mr. Robinett asked if all the environmental were in place for the City Utility projects.

Ms. Cruise stated that the environmental was complete on the Transfer Station. There is currently a consultant working on the environmental study on the maintenance upgrade.

Ms. Edwards asked if the funds could be obligated in time to meet the deadline.

Ms. Cruise responded that City Utilities has 180 days. “Obligated” for Transit funding is different than for Federal Highway funding. Obligation for City Utilities means that the Grant is approved by September 1st, 2009.

Mr. Miller mentioned that MoDOT is getting about $22.5 million for the OTO area in ARRA funding. There are three projects, the main project is the 65 corridor, where $20.5 million will be spent to extend it from I-44 to Route 60. Majority of needed funds are programmed for it and MoDOT will use the left over money to help get the total funds to $35 million, which is the total project cost. There are also $6 million cost savings on the 60/65 interchange, which will help.

Greene County is going to apply some of their ARRA STP-Urban funds and the City of Springfield is going to help with $1 million of their 1/8th cent transportation sales tax. MoDOT will be reimbursed later by the two member jurisdictions.

Another project that has already been let is the passing lane between Republic and Monett. There are currently three components to that project, the Joplin District component, the Springfield Rural component, and the Springfield/OTO component. The Springfield/OTO component is going to total $124,000. It was originally programmed at $290,000 but the bids came in low.

The final project is resurfacing of the minor routes. This TIP Amendment has already been approved. MoDOT is going to resurface routes AB/EE and 266 on the west side of Springfield and then Route H north of Springfield to the OTO Boundary.

There are a few projects outside of the OTO region. The ARRA is using the existing funding formula. Within that formula Missouri needs to spend money on cities within the size of 5,000 and 200,000 and cities under 500,000. MoDOT is currently doing a cost share with Branson, which will be converted to an ARRA project. Another project is five laning outside of Lebanon going to Jefferson City and Columbia. Another new project, which is on SMCOG’s priority list, is the beginning 3-laning of Route 65 from the City of Buffalo north to Route 32.

These projects are all subject to approval by the Missouri Highways & Transportation Commission.

Mr. Mooney mentioned that the Commission meeting would be on March 19 at 2:30 p.m. at the Chamber in Springfield.

Mr. Howard asked if MoDOT was looking into the parallel grade separation issue while working on the six lanes of 65. Mr. Miller mentioned that MoDOT was not looking into it at this time. Ms. Edwards stated there are some discretionary funds in the bill for projects between $20 and $300 million. $20 million is a pretty big project for the OTO Region. The parallel grade separation may be a project that could apply for that money. If anyone has any projects between $20 and $300 million the OTO has not got any guidance yet to what Congress is looking for.

Mr. Whaley inquired about the Bike and Pedestrian facilities on the 60 and 65. There is currently an issue of pedestrians on the east side trying to get to the west side. There are going to be some lost opportunities if it is not approached now. Mr. Miller stated that these need to be placed on the needs list. Because there have been times when MoDOT has discussed where the major bike/pedestrian routes in the region and they did not have any specifics.

Mr. Atchley stated that Christian County has teamed with Nixa and Ozarks to do final engineering and final design on CC between Main Street in Nixa to NN in Ozark. The total for this project is $1.3 million.

Mr. Childers stated this is the first time Ozark area has been able to pool their money together to work on something of regional significance. The Ozark Council supported the project at a recent meeting. Ozark’s left over funds will go to a Master Transportation Study. Ozark has difficulty with no in-house engineering department putting together the TIP every year. Bike and Pedestrian needs will be in the scope of the Master Transportation Study.

Ms. Cruise inquired if there was a formula used for dividing the ARRA funds between the jurisdictions. Ms. Edwards stated the funds are divided on a formula based on population. It has to be a population of an urbanized area, because the money has to be spent in the urbanized area.

Mr. Bingle stated that the City of Nixa is pooling the ARRA money with Christian County and the City of Ozark for the CC project. Prior to the meeting with the other jurisdictions in the previous week, the City of Nixa had initiated discussions with Jim Anderson and Representative Wasson with regards to expediting the six-laning of 160 south of Plainview. The City of Nixa is looking into that option.

Mr. Hess spoke on behalf of the City of Battlefield. Currently Battlefield is looking at a sidewalk project to connect two of their major East/West thoroughfares, up to Weaver Road. Right now, the engineering firm is in the process of going through and obtaining the easements of the sixteen properties along Cloverdale where the sidewalk would be. The City of Battlefield should know in a couple of weeks whether that is going to be a viable project. If the easements are obtained, the project will move forward with ARRA funds. The project will cost approximately $75,000 above the cost of the engineering. If the easements are not obtained, then at that time, the project will be declared dead and the funds will be moved to a number of other projects.

Mr. Keller stated that most of Greene County’s funds will be used on U.S. 65 for the six-lanes.

Mr. Hutchison stated that the City of Springfield will use the ARRA funds to advance the James River and National interchange project. The City hopes to have the project under construction by the fall of 2009.

Ms. Edwards mentioned there is also $508,200.00 in Enhancement funds. There is a meeting on Friday to look at possible projects for those funds.

Mr. Schroeder stated that the airport is in the running for some ARRA funding. The airport is currently under design for a long taxiway for Runway 14. Currently the project is about 90 percent done with the design work. The airport has set an aggressive schedule to start construction in May. The airport is looking at $14 million in ARRA funding. The FAA has some strict timelines that have to be met to receive the FAA ARRA funds.

1. **Other Business**
   1. **Technical Committee Member Announcements**

None

* 1. **Transportation Issues For the Technical Committee Member Review**

None

1. **Adjournment**

Ms. Cruise made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Bingle seconded the motion and the meeting

adjourned unanimously.