

MARCH 2026

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Ozarks Transportation Organization's Monthly Update

Chadwick Flyer Trail Overpass Bridge -Ozark, MO

Local Project Update

- ROW TRAINING IS SCHEDULED FOR 10AM ON APRIL 22ND AT THE LIBRARY CENTER. PLEASE RSVP TO JEN THOMAS AT JTHOMAS@OZARKSTRANSPORTATION.ORG!
- OZARK RECENTLY AWARDED THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT TO EXTEND THE FINLEY RIVER TRAIL THROUGH FINLEY FARMS. THIS VERY EXCITING TRAIL EXTENSION IS SCHEDULED TO BE OPEN IN SPRING OF 2026.
- AS THE WEATHER WARMS UP, CONSTRUCTION ALSO RAMPS UP! WATCH OUT FOR WORK ZONES!



Chadwick Flyer Trail Overpass Bridge Ozark, MO

Upcoming Meetings

All meetings at OTO Offices
2208 W CHESTERFIELD BLVD SUITE 101
SPRINGFIELD, MO

OTO Board of Directors
Meeting
MARCH 26, 2026
12:00 PM

OTO Executive Committee
Meeting
APRIL 8, 2026
12:00 PM

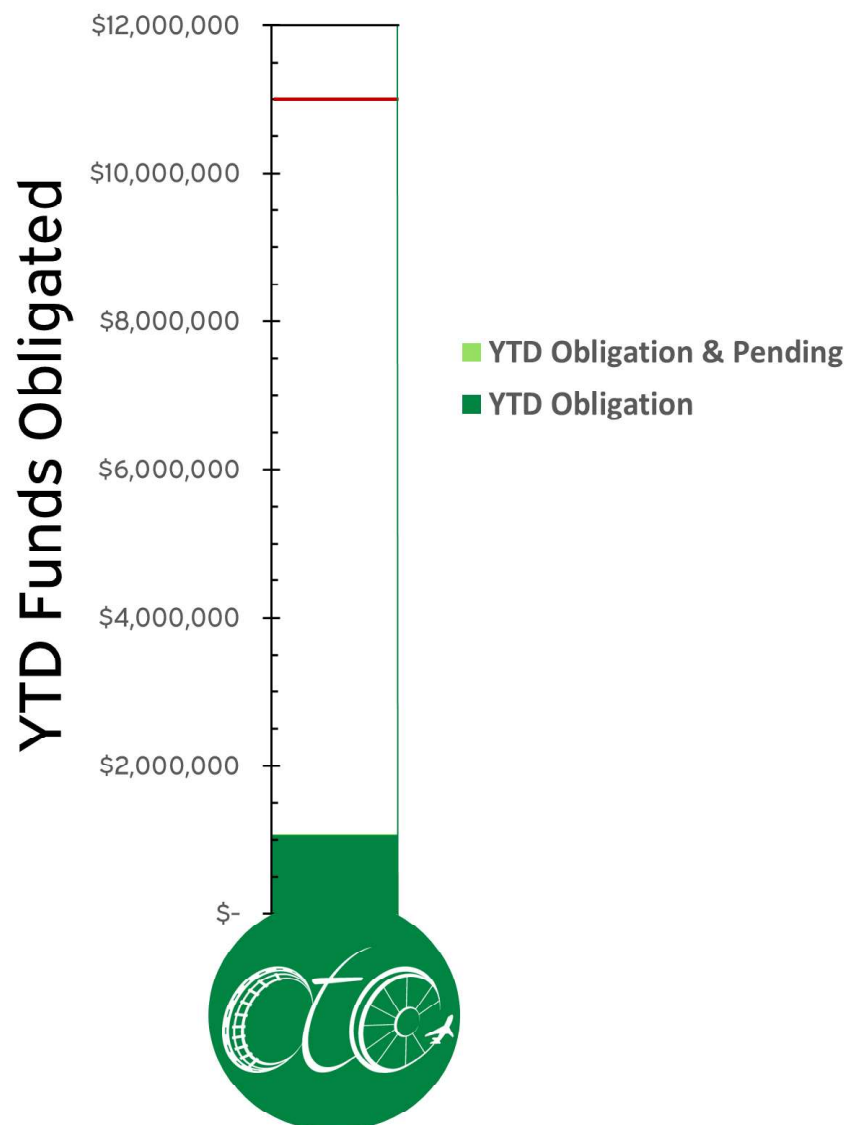
OTO Technical Planning
Committee Meeting
APRIL 15, 2026
1:30 PM



Federal Funds Balance

THE OTO AREA MUST OBLIGATE ANOTHER \$9.8 MILLION BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 OR MODOT WILL TAKE FUNDING TO USE ON MODOT ROADS. In the past, MoDOT has limited OTO to no more than three years of accumulated funding as a balance. To limit the accumulation of funds and to maximize August redistribution, MoDOT has now established a statewide goal that 100 percent of allocated funds are obligated each year. To meet the 100 percent goal, OTO must obligate another \$9.8 million by September 30, 2026.

As of March 13, 2026, OTO has obligated \$1,071,068 or about 9.8% of OTO's annual allocation.



Eastgate and Le Compte Road Project Update

The City of Springfield finished the Eastgate and Le Compte Rd Improvement Project, including a 1.07 mile shared use path along the corridor.

In 2025, there were approximately 4.5 miles of trail/shared used paths built in the OTO region, including the completion of the Grant Ave Parkway in Springfield, Shuyler Creek in Republic and the shared used path along the Kansas Expressway extension in Greene County. OTO also awarded funding for construction of additional 2.51 miles of trails, which brings the total of currently constructed funded trail projects to 8.84 miles.

Completion of other trail projects are just around the corner, with the Chadwick Flyer Overpass and adjacent trail segments expected to be completed soon. In 2021, OTO set a goal of building 6 miles of new trail every 3 years and invest \$6 million every three years. Since that goal adoption, the region built 15.7 miles of trails in about 4 years and invested over \$41 million in trail projects with federal, state and local funding.





Grant Notices of Funding Opportunities

USDOT - Beautifying Transportation Infrastructure Challenge

USDOT's "Beautifying Transportation Infrastructure Challenge" awards up to \$650,000 for citizens of all ages to create infrastructure designs that embody American greatness.

The challenge offers \$650,000 in total prize money across three categories:

- **Professional Tier (Established Designers):** \$500,000 total pool; top winner gets \$250,000.
- **Public Tier (Independent Artists & Citizens):** \$100,000 total pool; top winner gets \$50,000.
- **Student Tier (Grades 6–12):** \$50,000 total pool; top winner gets \$25,000.

Under President Donald J. Trump's agenda to make federal architecture beautiful again, Secretary Duffy also established the Beautifying Transportation Infrastructure Council in September 2025.

NOFO can be found here: <https://www.transportation.gov/BeautifyTransportation/Challenge>

Challenge Opens: March 13, 2026, at 9:00 AM EST

Submission Deadline: May 13, 2026, at 5:00 PM EST

Winners Announced: July 2026

MoDOT Transportation Cost-Share Program

The program provides financial assistance to public and private applicants for state highway and bridge projects satisfying a transportation need. MoDOT matches partners investments up to fifty percent (50%) of the project cost.

Eligible Projects include:

- State highway and bridge projects

MoDOT works in cooperation with the Department of Economic Development and project sponsors to determine when targeted investments can be made to create jobs and may provide up to the one hundred percent (100%) of the cost. Retail development projects do not qualify as economic development projects that create jobs.

Maximum Grant Award: \$9 million

NOFO can be found here: <https://www.modot.org/cost-participation-and-cost-share>

Application Deadline:

- SW District Review Deadline - April 7, 2026
- Final Application Deadline - July 7, 2026





Grant Notices of Funding Opportunities

Missouri State Parks - Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP)

The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP) is a grant program funded through the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

The ORLP Grant was created in 2014 as a complement to the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant program. The national competitive ORLP program provides matching grants to cities for park projects in underserved communities.

Eligible Projects include:

- Creating new outdoor recreation spaces.
- Reinvigorating existing parks.

Eligible applicants include state agencies and local governments such as cities; counties; and special-purpose districts, such as park districts. The state agency or local government must be located within a community that is determined to be underserved and that had a population of 25,000 or more in the 2020 census.

Maximum Grant Award: \$15 million

NOFO can be found here: <https://mostateparks.com/page/grant-opportunities>

Application Deadline: August 19, 2026

Missouri State Parks - Bus Grant Program

The Bus Grant Program assists schools and nonprofit organizations with the transportation expense of field trips and outdoor learning opportunities to Missouri state parks and historic sites. Bus grants have been made available to Missouri schools and youth-focused nonprofit organizations throughout the state.

Eligible entities include:

- Public school districts.
- Private schools.
- Charter schools.
- Youth-focused nonprofit organizations with 501(c)3 status.

Assistance is available only to schools and organizations located within Missouri.

NOFO can be found here: <https://mostateparks.com/page/missouri-state-parks-bus-grant-program>

Application Deadline: May 12, 2026





PUBLIC INPUT MATTERS

MoDOT Virtual Public Meeting

MoDOT is hosting a virtual public meeting on their long range plan through April 3rd.

<https://www.modot.org/lrtp-sfrp/get-involved>

MoDOT LPA Training

MODOT IS ALSO HOSTING VIRTUAL (THREE PART SERIES IN APRIL) AND IN-PERSON (APRIL 23RD) LPA BASIC TRAINING:

VIRTUAL - [HTTPS://WWW.MODOT.ORG/NODE/83518](https://www.modot.org/node/83518)

IN-PERSON - [HTTPS://WWW.MODOT.ORG/NODE/83516](https://www.modot.org/node/83516)

Surface Transportation Reauthorization: What Local Leaders Need to Know Webinar

Accelerator for America's (AFA) Economic Opportunity Accelerators (or "Accelerators") network connects a diverse group of local leaders with collaborative learning, expert insights, and resources needed to develop and implement innovative solutions that accelerate economic mobility and opportunity in communities throughout the country.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026 Join the Accelerators network in April as we discuss the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization and what it means for communities across the country. With current federal funding set to expire in September 2026, both the House and Senate must introduce and pass their own versions of this critical legislation that shapes transportation investment for the next five years. This session will break down the reauthorization process, explore what may be at stake for different funding programs, and provide practical guidance on how to prepare your community for multiple scenarios while continuing to advance your transportation priorities.

Register here to join on April 21 at 1:00 p.m. ET.:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/whojXwSQRLeseU46XqOeHg#/registration>

Job Openings

City of Battlefield: City Administrator -
<https://www.battlefieldmo.gov/page/human-resources>

City of Springfield - Professional Engineer - Public Works -
Traffic/Transportation
<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/springfieldmo/jobs/5042895/professional-engineer-public-works-traffic-transportation>

SMCOG - Part-time Planning Internship
https://www.smcog.org/_files/ugd/40e61a_02d30bf976da40e7afb5e6efd27e237d.pdf

SMCOG - Part-time GIS Internship
https://www.smcog.org/_files/ugd/40e61a_9be2f30b13f34d8cb78fe4a84c4b2b65.pdf

Flashing School Zone Beacons

OTO RECEIVED TWO APPLICATIONS FOR FLASHING SCHOOL ZONE BEACONS FOR A TOTAL REQUEST OF \$36,000 IN FEDERAL FUNDS.

THE SCORING SUBCOMMITTEE IS RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATIONS FROM THE LOGAN-ROGERSVILLE R-VIII SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF REPUBLIC TO THE OTO BOARD FOR THE MARCH 26TH MEETING.

