**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**October 21, 2010**

The Board of Directors of the Ozarks Transportation Organization met at its scheduled time of 12:00 p.m. in the Busch Municipal Building, 4th Floor Conference Room, in Springfield, Missouri.

The following members were present:

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| Mr. Harold Bengsch, Greene County (a) | Mr. Tom Finnie, Citizen-at-Large |
| Mr. Shawn Billings, City of Battlefield (a)Mr. Brian Bingle, City of Nixa (a) | Mr. John Grubaugh, Christian Co. Commission (Vice-Chair)  |
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| Mr. Jim Breese, Christian County Representative (a) | Ms. Teri Hacker, Citizen-at-Large |
| Mr. Phil Broyles, City of Springfield (a) | Mr. Kirk Juranas, MoDOT |
| Mr. Steve Childers, City of Ozark | Ms. Lisa Officer, City Utilities |
| Mr. Jerry Compton, City of Springfield Council | Mr. Bob Scheid, Airport Board |
| Mr. David Coonrod, Greene County Commission (Chair) | Mr. Tom Vicat, City of Strafford (a) |

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

The following members were not present:

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| Mr. Mokhtee Ahmad, FTA | Mr. Aaron Kruse, City of Battlefield |
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| Ms. Roseann Bentley, Greene County (a) | Mr. Bradley McMahon, FHWA |
| Mr. Dan Chiles, City of Springfield (a) | Mr. Jim O’Neal, City of Springfield |
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| Mr. Gary Cyr. Airport Board (a)Mr. John Elkins, Citizen-at-Large (a)Mr. J. Howard Fisk, Citizen-at-LargeMs. Barbara Helvey, City of StraffordMr. Jim Huntsinger, City of RepublicMr. Bradley Jackson, City of OzarkMr. Jim Krischke, City of Republic (a) | Ms. Joni Roeseler, FTA (a)Mr. John Rush, City of Springfield CouncilMr. Mark Schenkelberg, FFAMr. Jamie Schoolcraft, City of WillardMr. Matt Seiler, MoDOT (a)Mr. Tim Smith, Greene County Administrator |
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Others present were: Mr. Charlie Byrd, Willard, MO Citizen; Mr. Frank Miller, MoDOT; Ms. Sharon Davis, Ms. Sara Edwards, and Mr. Chris Stueve, Ozarks Transportation Organization; Mr. David Rauch, Senator Claire McCaskill’s Office; Mr. Steve McIntosh, Congressman Roy Blunt’s Office; Mr. Lou Lapaglia, Christian County; Ms. Ann Razer, Springfield Planning

Mr. Coonrod called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

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

Mr. Coonrod stated Mr. Juranas, MoDOT, wanted to add a modification to the agenda giving the Board a briefing about MoDOT practical operations. Mr. Grubaugh made a motion to accept the modification and the motion was seconded by Mr. Finnie. The motion passed unanimously.

1. **Approval of the August 19, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Phil Broyles made a motion to approve the August 19, 2010 minutes as presented. Mr. Compton seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

1. **Public Comment Period**

Mr. Charlie Byrd, Citizen of Willard, MO, addressed the Board of Directors on concerns of Highway 160 congestion. Last December, Mr. Byrd presented the Board with a petition created by the Willard High School Student Government to expand Highway 160. The petition went from 1,200 signatures to 15,000 currently. Mr. Byrd wanted updated information concerning the Highway 160 Corridor. Mr. Coonrod asked if Mr. Juranas would address the issue because it is a state route. Mr. Juranas stated that MoDOT has met with the City of Willard. Mr. Juranas stated that different options have been discussed, with one being a Cost Share. MoDOT and the City of Willard are currently working together to resolve the issues. He stated those involved are encouraged the project will continue to develop and are hopeful that funding will made available for such projects in the future.

1. **Interim Executive Director’s Report**

Ms. Edwards stated Ms. Cinda Rogers, CPA performed the OTO annual audit for FY 2009–2010 in September. Ms. Rogers found OTO financial records in good standing without any material findings. OTO is awaiting the final audit report and all discussions with Ms. Rogers have been very good.

The Long Range Transportation Plan updates are on track. OTO staff is accepting proposed projects from jurisdictions and requesting visualization projects. OTO has contracted with Olsson Associates to show proposed future improvements in each jurisdiction. The Major Thoroughfare Plan Subcommittee is meeting to review the entire Thoroughfare Plan as well evaluate a request made by the City of Springfield and Greene County to review the Republic Road proposed extension. The MTP Subcommittee has held two meetings and is planning on meeting November 8th to discuss these issues further.

OTO staff participated in a Regional Bicycle Summit with twenty-two participants. The purpose of the summit was to discuss and pursue strategies to make Springfield and surrounding areas more bike friendly. One recommendation was to increase the bike route markings on streets and to increase marketing and signage.

Ms. Edwards handed out a list of Tiger II grant recipients. She stated that OTO was not among them. OTO submitted a grant request in the amount of $11.5 Million for the BNSF West Wye, the Link, Chestnut Expressway Pedestrian Enhancements and Adaptive Signal Technology, and US 160 and Hunt Road Signalization.

Ms. Edwards was appointed to the Statewide Rail Committee. The committee met in September to begin the process of creating a statewide rail plan to see where future high speed rail corridors would go and discuss regular rail issues. Mr. Coonrod stated in prior considerations, Springfield was bypassed completely listing West Plains as a stopover. He asked Ms. Edwards if Springfield would be considered as a stopover. Ms. Edwards stated the committee cannot change the progression map at this point, but is hoping to provide a future connection in Springfield.

OTO Staff attended air quality model training and is anticipating the EPA air quality guidelines announcement by the end of the month.

Ms. Edwards was invited to attend a presentation in which MoDOT received the Governors 2010 Pinnacle Award. It is the highest and most distinguished award given by the state of Missouri for productivity and quality of work. It was given to MoDOT for work completed on the Diverging Diamond Interchange at Kansas and

I-44.

1. **New Business**
2. **Ratify the Actions of the Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee met on September 10, 2010 authorizing necessary items needed to proceed in the absence of a Director. Ms. Edwards was named Interim Director and given check signing authority. The committee also increased her purchasing card limit from $2,500 to $5,000. A Search Committee was created to begin searching for a new director. The search committee members are: Ms. Carol Cruise, Mr. Kirk Juranas, Mr. Jerry Compton, Mr. Steve Childers, Mr. Jim Huntsinger, Mr. Jim Breese, Mr. Dan Smith and Mr. Pat Lloyd. A job advertisement was authorized to be placed with the Association of MPOs, American Planning Association and Institute of Traffic Engineers, with a salary range of $71,000 to $90,000. The required qualifications were set at 10 years of transportation planning experience with progressive responsibility, as well as four years management experience. OTO received 17 résumés from the advertisement. The search committee reviewed those applications selecting four applicants for telephone interviews. Those selected have the desired experience. Mr. Finnie made a motion to accept the actions of the Executive Search Committee and Ms. Terry Hacker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

1. **Listing of Administrative Modifications to the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program**

Ms. Edwards stated there are 7 Administrative Modifications to the Transportation Improvement Program that have been made. The following six projects were moved from the prior year’s TIP to the current TIP: Ozarks Regional YMCA, Walking School Bus Pilot Program; Ozark R-VI School District, Safe Routes to School; Greene County, Bicycle Destination Plan Phase I; Springfield-Greene County Park Board, South Dry Sac Greenway; Springfield-Greene County Park Board, Wilson Creek Greenway Phase III; Springfield-Greene County Park Board, Fassnight Creek Greenway Trail. The seventh modification was increasing the funding by 14.99% on a project in Nixa at Gregg Road to Route 14. Staff is authorized to make administrative modifications that involve minor changes including moving projects from a prior TIP to a current TIP and changing the project amount by less that 15%.

1. Enhancement Funding Handbook and Application

OTO was notified in August of additional enhancement funding that would be available for Fiscal Year 2011 in the amount of $1.6 Million. MoDOT is requiring that all projects be submitted by January 1, 2011. OTO Staff has updated the Enhancement Funding Handbook to update the application and selection criteria based on point system changes. The changes are: the points available for partnering was decreased from six to three and a minimum one percent funding is required from each partner to receive these points; points for having right-of-way acquired at the time of application was increased from one to two points; clarifications were made for the points awarded for meeting multiple eligible enhancement activities to the safety/education and landscaping/beautification categories; the criteria for redevelopment was changed to remove the word “urban” and increased by one point; an additional point was added for removing barriers to mobility, points for improving the natural environment were decreased from three to two; public input points were increased from one to three to encourage project incorporation into a multi-model plan; points for projects near a school were increased from two to four; points available for providing additional local match were removed; and the criteria for number of users served was changed from staff to the applicant providing the analysis. Staff met with the Enhancement Subcommittee and Technical Planning Committee on these changes. The Technical Planning Committee recommended approval by the Board of Directors. Mr. Finnie and Ms. Hacker questioned, “Why the points available for providing additional local match were removed?” Ms. Edwards replied that a twenty percent local match was still required. Additional points were given based on additional monies matched. Mr. Childers thought that before the recommended change, the definition of a partner was not clearly defined. This change was recommended to make it fair for all jurisdictions and to clarify a partner as one who contributes a minimum of one percent to the project. Mr. Finnie made a motion to approve the 2010 Enhancement Funding Handbook and Application for this year only with the understanding the Technical Committee will review it again prior to next funding cycle to make recommendations to the Board. This motion was seconded by Ms. Hacker. The motion passed unanimously. OTO staff is requiring all Enhancement Applications be received by November 15, 2010.

1. MoDOT Cost Share Application Prioritization Process

The main purpose of the economic development/cost share program is to facilitate economic development in the area. MoDOT District 8 requested OTO approve the cost share application prioritization process to utilize and prioritize cost share applications in the OTO area. OTO currently has six applications that were submitted on October 5th for statewide cost share funding. MoDOT Central Office requested each district office prioritize projects within their district. District 8’s goal is to fund all projects submitted.

Mr. Frank Miller presented the cost share application prioritization process to the Board of Directors explaining that MoDOT District 8 is proposing a tiered classification for economic development projects. The first tier reflects economic development projects with all other projects placed into a second tier. The process is a numbering system based on the number of jobs created, the priority given by OTO, and a functional needs score showing whether the project meets a taking care of the system need. OTO prioritizes a project based on where it appears in the Long Range Transportation Plan. The functional needs score is based on MoDOT’s internal prioritization process, which evaluates the project based on other factors such as congestion relief, economic competiveness, and quality of communities. Projects can accumulate additional scoring if it addresses taking care of the system (TOCS). An example of this would be if the project provides new pavement where a resurfacing is scheduled or where a bridge is in need of repair or replacement. An economic development project will get funding first and cost share projects second. The maximum funding that can be requested is fifty percent of the project.

Mr. Miller explained MoDOT District 8 went approximately three quarters without submitting a funding project application to the MoDOT Central Office in Jefferson City. The last submission was for five projects with only one being selected based on the priority ranking given by District 8. Mr. Miller stated the next MoDOT meeting will be in November. Mr. Miller stated the proposed process is a MoDOT District 8 ranking process, not OTO. MoDOT is looking for comments and concurrences. All non-OTO projects in District 8 will be placed within this ranking as well. This process will incorporate the current priority processes used by OTO and MoDOT.

The prior project selected was the Chestnut Expressway Railroad Overpass near Highway 65. The remaining four projects will be submitted this round in November with one addition being Evans/65 which is an economic development project. MoDOT reserves approximately $5 million for economic development projects a year. An economic development project has an economic development/job development analysis from the Department of Economic Development’s REMI Model. To be classified, the project must have a letter of support from DED stating the proposed development will create jobs within the State of Missouri improving the State’s economy. In the job development analysis, DED will look at direct and indirect jobs created by the development. An economic development project will rank higher than a standard cost share project because of the profitable expansion created within the community.

Mr. Bingle had a comment about the prioritization of the projects. He felt it necessary to keep the projects in line with their prioritization in efforts to benefit the region as a whole. He was happy to see the development of Highway 65 a priority. Mr. Compton commended MoDOT and OTO staff for their efforts in creating this process.

Mr. Finnie made a motion to accept the MoDOT Cost Share Application Prioritization Process as presented and, it was seconded by Ms. Hacker. The motion passed unanimously.

1. **OTO Appointment of a Nominating Committee**

OTO staff requested recommendations for the appointment of a nominating committee to select a slate of officers for the 2011 calendar year. Ms. Edwards stated a rotation schedule for the Chairman was adopted between Greene County, Christian County, and Springfield in December 2008. The Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer positions are selected by nominations. Mr. Coonrod asked for volunteers to be placed on a nominating committee. Mr. Finnie made a motion for the current Chair to appoint a nominating committee and that was seconded by Ms. Officer. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Coonrod stated he would work with Ms. Edwards in appointing a nominating committee.

1. **MoDOT Practical Operations**

Mr. Juranas discussed transportation direction changes in Missouri. He stated Missouri has made positive progress over the last five years decreasing the fatalities and injury statistics to the lowest they have ever been. MoDOT has eighty-six percent of the roads in good condition and a ninety-two percent approval rate from Missouri residents.

A challenge MoDOT is currently facing is uncertain federal funding concerns and rising internal costs. Because of these concerns, MoDOT created a five year direction plan. In the new plan, MoDOT will honor current commitments with Missouri roads and bridges and include some improvements to minor roads. They will continue to maintain current major road conditions. MoDOT will strive to maintain excellent customer service. MoDOT plans to minimize their workforce by four hundred employees by 2013. MoDOT created a survey to understand public views on MoDOT procedures for snow removal, mowing, signage and roads in general. The results showed that MoDOT was over delivering above what the public expects. Because of this, MoDOT will try to shift those funds around to cover the servicing of minor roads and other areas. MoDOT had to make some tough choices based on what would be best to support economic development and safety improvements within the region. One project that MoDOT will not be able to do is the Willard Corridor Highway 160 project. MoDOT is currently in need of a federal funding package. MoDOT needs a surface transportation bill rather than continuing resolutions to regulate fund planning. MoDOT is working with the Missouri Transportation Alliance and federal government to move forward. From a transportation perspective, this will impact MoDOT and those locally funded by MoDOT. Concerning, snow removal, MoDOT will continue to mobilize areas as in the past. The plow routes will be treated one time and moved to other areas. Mr. Coonrod asked Mr. Juranas if a road usage fee is being considered as an additional revenue source. Mr. Juranas stated Missouri Transportation Alliance is currently working with focus groups researching this idea. Mr. Compton asked relating to electric vehicles: once the fuel tax is removed, how will those road taxes be distributed fairly? Has the state looked into a proposed tax to accommodate for those lost taxes? Mr. Juranas stated this is not a responsibility of MoDOT; rather it would fall on legislators. MoDOT would be responsible in distributing those funds appropriately. Mr. Juranas stated that various legislators have proposals and guidelines that can be reviewed.

**Other Business**

1. **Board of Directors Member Announcements**

Mr. Coonrod announced a ground breaking for the new public safety center at the corner of North Campbell and Scott scheduled for November.

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

No discussion.

1. **Adjournment**

 Meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

**Approved by Board of Directors on December 16, 2010**

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Mr. J. Howard Fisk

Board of Directors Secretary