OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

OTO NEWS

YOUR REGION • OUR TRANSPORTATION • A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

PEOPLE • PLANS • PROGRESS

NOVEMBER 2026

2026 LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

Building What's Next, Together

OTO celebrates regional partnerships at its annual Legislative Breakfast, bringing leaders together to discuss the future of transportation in the Ozarks.



REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

The Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO) hosted its annual Legislative Breakfast on October 20, 2026, at Drury University's Judy Thompson Executive Conference Center. Approximately 111 attendees gathered for a morning of updates, collaboration, and discussions about the future of transportation in the Ozarks region.

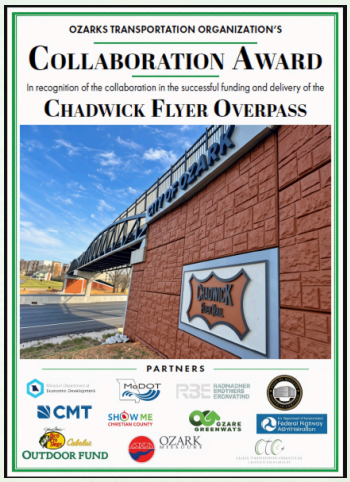
Event Kickoff: OTO Board Chair Travis Cossey welcomed attendees, and Republic Mayor Eric Franklin led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

OTO Update: Executive Director Sara Fields presented "Building What's Next," highlighting the importance of continued investment, regional planning, and partnerships.

Key Updates: Congressman Eric Burlison provided a federal update, and Stacy Reese, MoDOT Southwest District Engineer, shared progress on transportation initiatives across southwest Missouri.

RECOGNIZING THE POWER OF COLLABORATION

A highlight of the morning was the presentation of the **OTO Collaboration Award**, recognizing the outstanding partnerships that helped make the Chadwick Flyer Overpass a reality. The $5.2 million project features a trail bridge over U.S. 65, providing an important connection for the region's growing trail network.



2026 OTO Collaboration Award Honorees

- City of Ozark
- Missouri Department of Economic Development
- Missouri Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- Show Me Christian County
- Christian County
- Radmacher Brothers Excavating
- CMT Engineering
- Bass Pro/Cabela's Outdoor Fund
- Ozark Greenways
- Mary Kromrey

*OTO extends its sincere appreciation to everyone who attended and contributed to the success of this year's Legislative Breakfast. Strong partnerships remain at the heart of the organization's mission to improve transportation, strengthen regional connections, and continue **Building What's Next** for the Ozarks.*

A Morning of Regional Leadership and Collaboration

Highlights from October 20, 2026, at Drury University

2026 LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST





















Veterans Day

The Ozarks Transportation Organization extends its heartfelt thanks to all who have served our country in the U.S. Armed Forces.

THANK YOU, VETERANS!

A BIG THANK YOU to OTO's GIS Analyst Dave Faucett!

Dave served in the Marine Corps Reserve from 1984-1989. He was an E-4 Corporal and an 81 mm mortar crewman. We are grateful for your past service and are glad to have you as a colleague today!



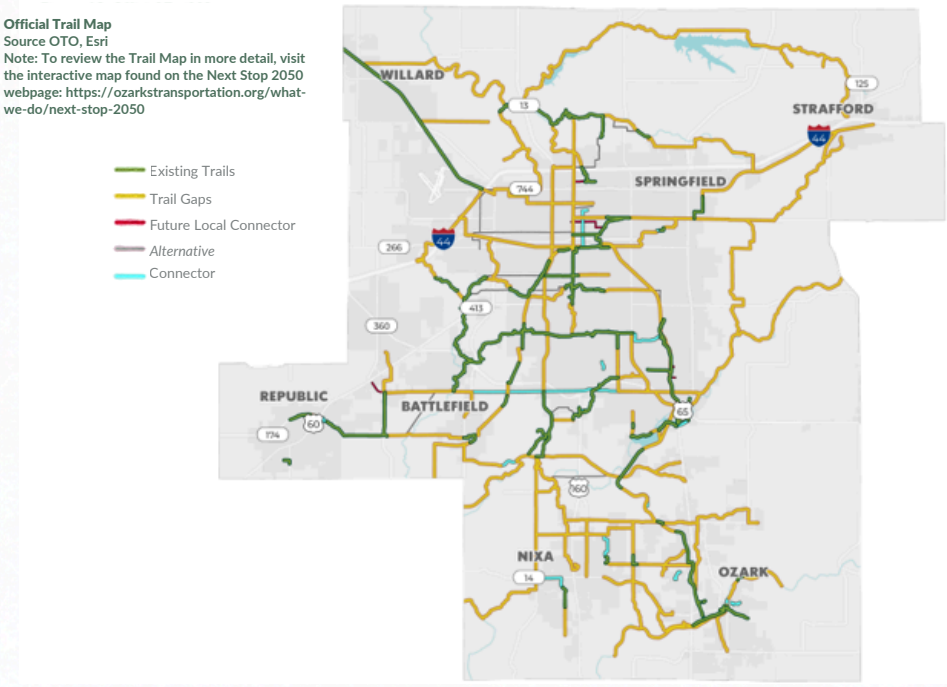
Thank You

Updated Regional Trail Map

Our updated regional trail map is here! It's part of Next Stop 2050, OTO's new long-range transportation plan, and it expands the planned trail network from 255 to 308 miles.

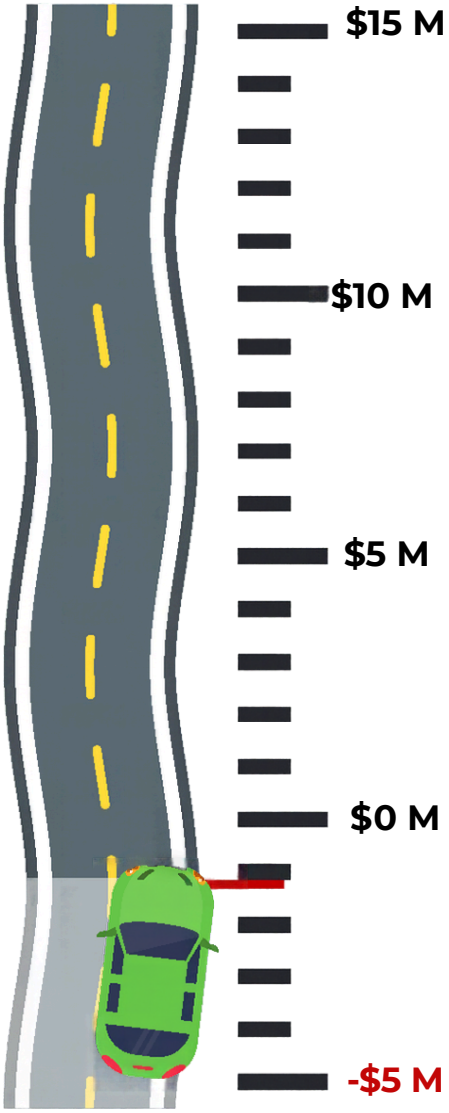
The new map builds on the vision OTO laid out in 2021 to give people more ways to travel between communities and get from their neighborhoods to schools, parks, and shopping areas. At the time, our region already had more than 50 miles of trails, and OTO set a goal of building 45 more miles by 2045. Since then, the region has built nearly 18 miles and secured funding for nearly 14 miles, including 5.3 miles that have already been built.

As 2026 comes to a close, we want to thank you, our regional partners, for all the work you've done to bring this vision to life. We're looking forward to working together in the new year to close more gaps and connect more of our region.

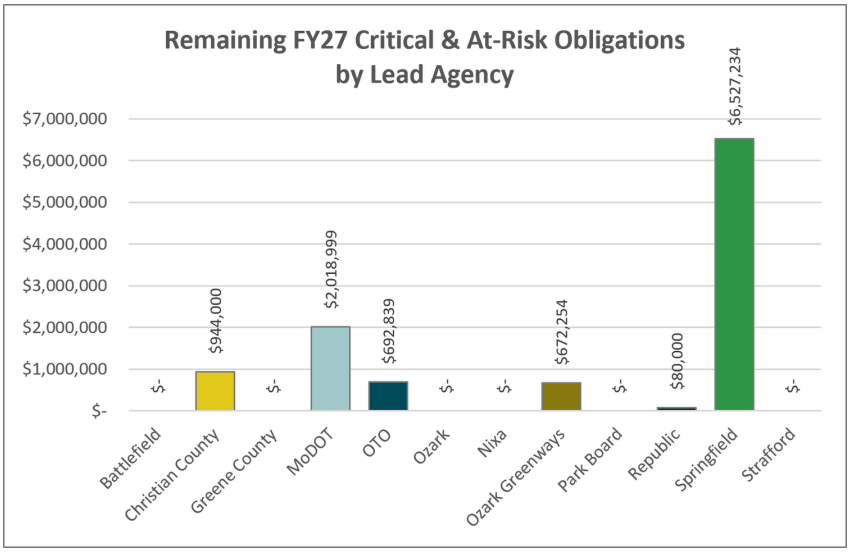


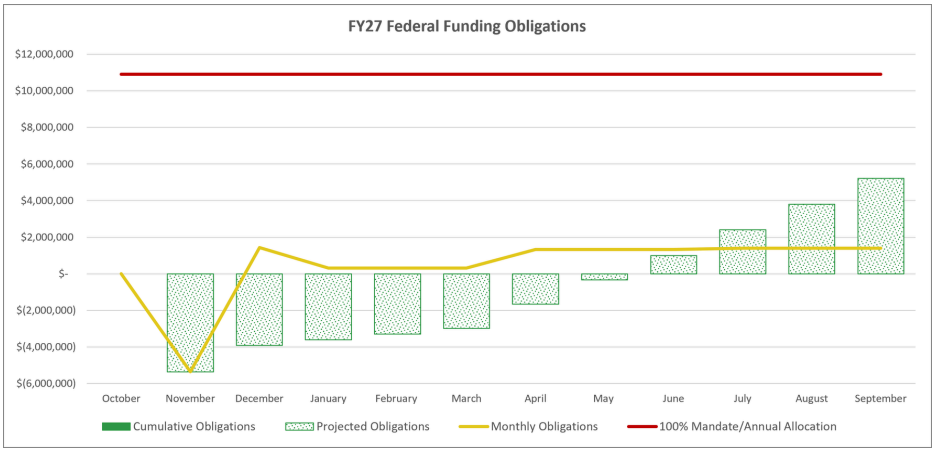

Chadwick Flyer Spur - Ozark





FY 27 Beginning Balance	$12,466,959
Annual Allocation	$10,907,804
YTD Obligations	-$1,249,608
Amount Needed to 100% Mandate	$10,876,188
Planned Net Obligations	$5,542,033
Potential Lapse	$5,693,765





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 established a statewide goal that 100 percent of allocated funds are obligated each year. **To meet the 100 percent goal, OTO must obligate another $10.9 million by September 30, 2027 or MoDOT will take funding to use on MoDOT roads. Due to planned deobligations for completed projects, it is imperative for projects to meet obligation deadlines.**

Grants Update

Current opportunities to help advance local transportation, trail, and traffic-safety projects across the region.

2026 Sidewalk and Trail Funding

OTO is accepting applications for approximately $3 million in funding for sidewalk and trail construction, planning, and design through the Transportation Alternatives Program and the Carbon Reduction Programs. At least 10% of the available funding is set aside for engineering projects to help prepare projects for construction.

Applications are due by **November 23, 2026, at 4 p.m. CST**. Applicants can apply online through OTO's online application portal and view the application guidebook for additional details.

OTO hosted an optional virtual pre-application workshop on November 5, 2026. The workshop reviewed the online application process and answered questions about application requirements and project ideas. The workshop link is included in the guidebook.

For questions or assistance accessing the online application, contact David Knaut at 417-865-3042 x107 or dknaut@ozarkstransportation.org.

Approx. Funding Available: $3 million

Programs: Transportation Alternatives Program, Carbon Reduction Programs

Set-Aside: 10% for engineering projects

Deadline: November 23, 2026, 4 p.m. CST

Apply: OTO's Online Application Portal

Guidebook: Application Guidebook

Innovative Traffic Safety Enforcement (ITSE) Grant Program

The Innovative Traffic Safety Enforcement, or ITSE, Grant Program supports innovative traffic safety enforcement programs that demonstrate effectiveness in reducing motor vehicle crashes related to one or more risky driving behaviors. The program is also intended to support traffic safety enforcement programs that are repeatable and scalable for use by law enforcement agencies throughout the United States.

Eligible applicants include state governments, county governments, and city governments. Awards range from a minimum of $300,000 to a maximum of $20,000,000, and no cost share is required.

The application period closes on September 1, 2027. Additional information is available through Grants.gov.

Eligible Entities: State governments, county governments, city governments

Award Range: $300,000 to $20,000,000

Cost Share: None required

Deadline: September 1, 2027

More Info: simpler.grants.gov

Public Meeting Update

Community members turned out to learn about the study, review alternatives, and share feedback on future improvements.











OTO held a public meeting on November 10th to provide study updates, present potential improvement alternatives, and hear from the community. There were 239 attendees and 185 people signed in. As of November 17th, there were 252 survey or email responses with a significant portion from the Highland Springs/Farm Road 189 area. Some of the feedback the team received at the meeting included support for a fully directional interchange at US 60-US 65, concern that local roads may not be able to handle increased traffic load in their current condition, and concerns about property impacts or access.

239 attendees

185 signed in

252 survey or email responses as of 11/17

Survey open through 11/24

6065study.com

The survey is open until 11/24. Please visit 6065study.com to view meeting materials, exhibits and take the survey.

OTO Calendar...

- November 26-27: Offices Closed
- December 8: Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee at 1:00 pm
- December 9: Executive Committee at 12:00 pm
- December 16: Technical Planning Committee at 1:30 pm

Meetings are held at the OTO offices, 2208 W Chesterfield Blvd, Suite 101



BATTLEFIELD - TRAIL OF TEARS CONSTRUCTION



Happy Thanksgiving

The Ozarks Transportation Organization is grateful for the partnerships, collaboration, and community support that help move our region forward. We wish you a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

Gratitude strengthens communities and reminds us how much we can accomplish together.