

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 16, 2025**

The Board of Directors of the Ozarks Transportation Organization met at its scheduled time of 12:00 p.m. in person.

The following members were present:

Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large
Mark Crabtree, City of Battlefield
Eric Franklin, City of Republic
Eric Johnson, City of Ozark (a)
Derek Lee, City of Springfield
Rusty MacLachlan, Greene County
Frank Miller, MoDOT (non-voting)
Lynn Morris, Christian County

James O’Neal, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
John Russell, Greene County
Martha Smartt, City of Strafford (a)
Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)
Kelly Turner, City Utilities
Richard Walker, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
Brian Weiler, Springfield-Branson Airport (a)

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

The following members were not present:

Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)
Cecelie Cochran, FHWA (non-voting)
Brandon Jenson, City of Springfield
Mark Schenkelberg, FAA (non-voting)

Vacant, FTA (non-voting)
Wes Young, City of Willard (a)
Vacant, Christian Co Citizen-at-Large

Others Present: Bradley Jackson, Christian County; Scott Bachman, City of Springfield; Tucker Jobes, Senator Schmitt’s Office; Jered Taylor, Congressman Burlison’s Office; Nicole Boyd, Dave Faucett, Sara Fields, David Knaut, Natasha Longpine, Debbie Parks, and Jen Thomas, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Chair Russell called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m.

I. Administration

A. Welcome

By-law Position	Member	Attendance
BOD Citizen-at-Large	Jerry Compton	Present
Christian County Citizen-at-Large	Vacant	Absent
Christian County Elected Official	Lynn Morris	Present
City of Battlefield Elected Official	Mark Crabtree	Present
City of Nixa Elected Official	Travis Cossey (a)	Absent
City of Ozark Elected Official	Eric Johnson (a)	Present
City of Republic Elected Official	Eric Franklin	Present
City of Springfield Citizen-at-Large	Richard Walker	Present
City of Springfield Citizen-at-Large	James O’Neal	Present
City of Springfield Council Member	Dan Smith (a)	Present

City of Springfield Council Member	Brandon Jenson	Absent
City of Springfield Council Member	Derek Lee	Present
City of Strafford Elected Official	Martha Smartt (a)	Present
City of Willard Elected Official	Wes Young (a)	Absent
City Utilities Transit Representative	Kelly Turner	Present
Greene County Commissioner	Rusty MacLachlan	Present
Greene County Commissioner	John Russell	Present
Springfield-Branson National Airport Board Member	Brian Weiler (a)	Present

A quorum was present.

B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Brian Weiler made a motion to approve the January 16, 2025 agenda. Derek Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Approval of November 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Brian Weiler made a motion to approve the November 21, 2024 meeting minutes. Eric Franklin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. Public Comment Period for All Agenda Items

The Chair advised there were public comments included in the packet and then asked for comments and questions.

E. Executive Director's Report

Sara Fields gave an update on project programming. MoDOT has been wrapping up the financial projections and cost estimates for projects. In February, OTO will know how much is available for projects to be programmed into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. The OTO Technical Planning Committee will hold its first STIP meeting at the end of February with a list targeted for the April Board of Directors meeting.

There will be a call for trail projects. The application period will open on March 31st and close on May 1st. There is \$3.2 million available.

The Rural RAISE grant was not awarded to the MM Corridor Expansion Project. OTO will continue to apply for funding for this project.

OTO applied for trail engineering project funding and was not awarded that funding.

Debbie Parks continues to send out a monthly Grants Newsletter with funding opportunities.

The Transportation Reauthorization is in 2026. Sara Fields is the Policy Chair for the Association of MPOs. The group is working together as a national group to direct their priorities in the reauthorization.

OTO continues to do project management on a variety of projects. Jen Thomas is available to assist the jurisdictions.

OTO will be working on a new Long Range Plan. OTO is required to update it every five years.

OTO's federal partners, Federal Transit and Federal Highway Administration, will be here in February to conduct a planning recertification review. They will be attending the February Technical Planning Committee meeting.

OTO would like to purchase digital space on billboards for a public education campaign to let the public know who OTO is, drive public comment, and use it for specific projects in the future like the long-range plan. This is included in the agenda.

F. MoDOT Update

Frank Miller shared that the new MoDOT Deputy Director is Eric Schroeter.

The first wave of I-44 projects let in December. This includes pavement rebuild and widening from Kansas Expressway to Highway 65. It also includes the trail underpass that OTO, the City of Springfield, and Greene County contributed funds towards. The second piece is the essential design build project which will complete a series of projects from Joplin to Webster County. The broader environmental study for I-44 continues.

The projects MoDOT has let have come in under bid statewide.

MoDOT operations have been dealing with snow.

G. Legislative Reports

Tucker Jobes with Senator Schmitt's Office shared the Senator's committees have been updated. The Senator was previously on the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee and the Senate Armed Services Committee. Senator Schmitt is still on those committees and added the Senate Judiciary Committee. The Senate is working through the confirmation process for President Trump's appointments. Discussion is going on regarding the funding deadline coming up in March. Tax cuts and immigration issues will be top subjects.

Jered Taylor with Congressman Burlison's Office reported the Congressman was appointed to Transportation and Infrastructure and Government Oversight again. The Congressman has asked for the same subcommittee assignments as last year. They were the Highways and Transit Subcommittee, the Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, and the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee. In addition to those, the Congressman requested to be on the Government Oversight's DOGE Subcommittee. The bill the Congressman filed concerning the issues at Table Rock Lake successfully passed and the President signed it. This bill helps many homeowners around the lake. The Congressman's staff have already begun having discussions on the Highway bill coming up. They have a new staff person, Hannah, in DC that will be handling transportation issues.

H. Federal Funds Obligation Status Update

Jen Thomas shared currently OTO is at 4% obligation towards the annual allocation. MoDOT's mandated minimum is 100% for FY 2025. The mandated goal is 120%.

II. New Business

A. FY 2024 Independent Financial Statement Audit Report

Eric Johnson, OTO Treasurer, presented the FY 2024 Independent Financial Statement Audit Report. The auditor's opinion states that the financial statements were presented fairly in all material aspects. There were no findings included as part of this audit.

Derek Lee made a motion to accept the FY 2024 Independent Financial Statement Audit Report. Martha Smartt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. FY 2025 Budget Amendments

Debbie Parks reviewed the budget amendments for the Board.

Kelly Turner made a motion to approve the FY 2025 Operational Budget Amendment, UPWP Budget Modification, and Safe Streets and Roads for All Budget Amendment. Dan Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Federal Discretionary Grant Support

Debbie Parks shared the Resolutions of Support for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant and the Promoting Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Grant.

Jerry Compton made a motion to approve the included resolutions and TIP inclusion certificates as provided. Derek Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. Safe Streets and Roads for All *Destination Safe Streets Plan*

Natasha Longpine presented the SS4A Safety Action Plan *Destination Safe Streets*.

Brian Weiler made a motion to approve the *Destination Safe Streets* and the Leadership Commitment Resolution. Jim O'Neal seconded the motion. The motion passed.

E. FY 2025-2028 TIP Administrative Modification One

Natasha Longpine presented changes to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program.

1. South Creek Greenway – Posenke (EN2415-25AM1)
Increased CRP funding from \$128,303 to \$132,650 and Local funding from \$32,076 to \$33,162 for a new total programmed amount of \$165,812.
2. Blue Stem Phase I North Ozark Greenway (EN2421-25AM1)
Decreased CRP funding from \$58,424 to \$57,811 and Local funding from \$14,607 to \$14,453 for a new total programmed amount of \$57,811.
3. Finley River Trail Western Expansion (EN2422-25AM1)
Increased CRP funding from \$89,714 to \$91,416 and Local funding from \$22,428 to \$22,854 for a new total programmed amount of \$114,270.
4. Lost Hill Greenway Bridge (EN2402-25AM1)
Moved \$33,500 from Construction to Engineering and the total programmed amount remains the same at \$150,000.
5. Trail/Sidewalk Hwy CC Chadwick Flyer Connection (EN601-25AM1)

Changed federal funding source from TAP to CRP.

This was informational only. No action was required.

F. FY 2025-2028 TIP Amendment Three

Natasha Longpine reviewed the proposed changes to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program.

1. ***Removed*** Jordan Creek Trail Mt. Vernon to College (EN2414)
This project was funded by the UnGap the Map RAISE grant and has been incorporated into SP2515.
2. ***Removed*** Wilson's Creek Trail – Ewing to Rutledge-Wilson (EN2417)
This project was funded by the UnGap the Map RAISE grant and has been incorporated into SP2515.
3. ***Revised*** Ward Branch Greenway – National to Fremont (EN2416)
Programmed amount revised due to increased engineering costs, with a new total programmed amount of \$67,574.
4. ***Revised*** Fassnight Trail from Skate Park to Fort (EN2418)
Programmed amount revised due to increased engineering costs, with a new total programmed amount of \$214,315.
5. ***Revised*** Chadwick Jackson Street Connector (EN2419)
Programmed amount revised due to decreased engineering costs, with a new total programmed amount of \$11,839.
6. ***Revised*** Kali Springs Trail Connector (EN2420)
Programmed amount revised due to increased engineering costs, with a new total programmed amount of \$43,459.
7. ***Reprogrammed*** I-44 Pavement Improvements (GR2302)
FY 2025 funding reprogrammed into MO2521.
8. ***Revised*** I-44 Safety Project (MO2521)
Projects GR2302, SP2301, SP2305, and ST2301 reprogrammed into this project, as well as moving construction into FY 2026, for a new total programmed amount of \$229,062,000.
9. ***Reprogrammed*** I-44 and Kansas Interchange Improvements (SP2301)
FY 2025, FY 2026, and FY 2027 funding reprogrammed into MO2521.
10. ***Reprogrammed*** Bridge Improvements over I-44 (SP2305)
FY 2025, FY 2026, FY 2027 funding reprogrammed into MO2521.
11. ***Reprogrammed*** I-44 Pavement Resurfacing from MO 125 to Webster County Line (ST2301)
FY 2025 funding reprogrammed into MO2521.

Dan Smith made a motion to approve Amendment Three to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program. Richard Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

G. CRP/TAP Project Schedule Extension

Jen Thomas shared the City of Springfield's requests to revise the schedule for reasonable progress for the Sherman Parkway, Mount Vernon & Miller sidewalks, and South Creek Greenway projects.

Jerry Compton made a motion to approve the revised reasonable progress schedule for the Sherman Parkway, Mount Vernon & Miller, and South Creek Greenway projects. Lynn Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed.

H. Destination 2045 Amendment Number 8

Natasha Longpine reported Greene County requested a change to the Major Thoroughfare Plan.

Derek Lee recused himself from this agenda item.

Jerry Compton made a motion to approve *Destination 2045* Amendment Eight. Eric Franklin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

I. 2025 National Performance Targets

Natasha Longpine reviewed the 2025 National Performance Targets.

Rusty MacLachlan made a motion to approve the proposed performance targets. Derek Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed.

III. Other Business

A. Board of Directors Member Announcements

John Russell shared Greene County receives a lot of calls regarding the bridge on Farm Road 193 that collapsed, was removed, and closed. Bids opened January 15th. Construction should start this quarter with completion soon after.

Brian Weiler and Sara Fields shared they are part of the first MoDOT Advisory Council.

B. Transportation Issues for Board of Directors Member Review

There were no transportation issues for member review.

C. Articles for Board of Directors Member Information

Chair Russell noted there were articles of interest included in the packet for the members to review.

IV. Adjourn meeting

Jim O'Neal made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Eric Franklin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Signed by:
Martha Smartt
ABBFBE000000400...
Martha Smartt
OTO Secretary