

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2023**

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:

Steve Bodenhamer, City of Willard (a)	Andrew Nelson, City of Republic
Chuck Branch, Christian County Citizen-at-Large	John Russell, Greene County
Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a) Chair	Mike Schilling, City of Springfield
Jerry Compton, OTO Citizen-at-Large	Martha Smartt, City of Strafford (a)
Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)	Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)
Debra Hickey, City of Battlefield	Richard Walker, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
Skip Jansen, City Utilities Transit	Brian Weiler, Springfield-Branson Airport (a)
Andrew Lear, City of Springfield	

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

The following members were not present:

Mokhtee Ahmad, FTA	James O’Neal, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
Rusty MacLachlan, Greene County	Mark Schenkelberg, FAA
Lynn Morris, Christian County	Daniel Weitkamp, FHWA

Others Present: Mike Ussery and Tucker Jobes, Senator Schmitt’s Office; David Cameron, City of Republic; Frank Miller, MoDOT; Tommy VanHorn, City of Battlefield; Dave Faucett, Sara Fields, Natasha Longpine, Debbie Parks, and Nicole Stokes, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

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

I. Administration

A. Welcome and Roll Call

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Steve Bodenhamer	Present	Lynn Morris	Absent
Chuck Branch	Present	Andrew Nelson	Present
Steve Childers (Chair)	Present	James O’Neal	Absent
Jerry Compton	Present	John Russell	Present
Travis Cossey	Present	Mike Schilling	Present
Debra Hickey	Present	Martha Smartt	Present
Skip Jansen	Present	Dan Smith	Present
Andrew Lear	Present	Richard Walker	Present
Rusty MacLachlan	Absent	Brian Weiler	Present

A quorum was present.

B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Brian Weiler moved to approve the January 19, 2023 agenda. Chuck Branch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Approval of November 17, 2022 Minutes

Travis Cossey moved to approve the November 17, 2022 minutes. Chuck Branch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Recognition of Service

Sara Fields presented David Cameron with a plaque commemorating his service as the OTO Treasurer and Secretary and membership on the OTO Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Brad Gray who could not attend, was recognized for his service to the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, as well.

E. Public Comment Period for All Agenda Items

Chair Childers advised there were public comments included in the packet. Chair Childers asked for comments or questions.

F. Executive Director's Report

Sara Fields shared the application for the MEGA Grant for I-44 was not approved. Currently, there is a request for \$28 million in a General Revenue Request with the State of Missouri to fund part of the project. This project would add one lane in each direction, fix the I-44/Highway 13 Interchange, and rebuild the pavement. Representative Owen is working hard on this request.

In the Governor's proposed budget there was funding for railroad crossings proposed. If it is approved and as the staff learn more, information will be sent out. There was also a proposed reduction in state funding for transit support.

Statewide Transportation Improvement Program meetings are scheduled for February with the STIP Committee which is the Technical Planning Committee. Board members are welcome to attend. Once funding estimates are received, Frank Miller with MoDOT will look at what is already programmed and let the STIP Committee know if any funding is left to see if additional projects can be programmed or if projects will need to be delayed. Due to inflation, project costs are approximately 18% more than expected.

Staff is working with the City of Republic on a second round of RAISE funding for the MM Corridor. It is for a third section that is not funded. The feedback received from the last application was good. The reviewers could not find anything wrong with it except one formula error in the Benefit Cost Analysis. That will be corrected in the next submission.

A DED Tourism Grant has been submitted in cooperation with the City of Ozark for the Chadwick Flyer Trail US65 Overpass. The request was for \$1.5 million along with \$1.5 million from OTO TAP funds. Eligibility is still being reviewed for that program.

There are trail projects included in the Agenda that are being recommended for funding due to they already have right-of-way in place. Staff is planning another round of applications in April.

Applications for the Sidewalk Cost Share were due January 10th. Four applications were received. Staff is currently discussing whether to keep the application cycle open or setting another round. The OTO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and MoDOT will be reviewing the applications.

The City of Springfield and Christian County put in for the Bridge Infrastructure Program. There has been no update on the awarding of that program.

All member jurisdictions are encouraged to reach out for assistance with grants. Staff will continue to look for additional grants and funding opportunities. Also, project management services are available.

The Growth Trends Report will be on the next agenda.

Natasha Longpine has been promoted to Transportation Planning Manager and will oversee all transportation planning projects and staff working on those projects.

A job opening for a Multimodal Planner has been posted by OTO. Lynne Haggerman, an HR consultant, will screen applicants and present OTO with recommendations.

Staff is monitoring state and federal funding opportunities and regulations. John Russell shared that he and Bob Dixon visited with Legislators in Jefferson City regarding the Fix I-44 project and received positive feedback with good local support.

G. MoDOT Update

Frank Miller reported that Steve Campbell, the SW District Engineer, retired effective January 1, 2023. MoDOT is currently taking applications for that position.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission is looking at a funding forecast and may approve it in February.

Project estimates are up. Bids are coming in about 20% over estimates.

The SW District had 9 applicants for the Governor's Cost Share Program. Seven of those were awarded.

There is a lot of corridor work going on in the Springfield area. This includes Kearney, Glenstone, Sunshine, and Chestnut. The work being done includes resurfacing, ADA improvements, and safety and operational improvements.

The widening of James River Freeway is under contract. Preparation for sound walls is currently underway. Sound walls will go up first and then work on widening Republic Road and finally widening James River Freeway from Kansas to Campbell. It will take a couple of summers for completion of all of the projects.

H. Legislative Reports

Tucker Jobes, Senator Schmitt's SW Missouri District Director, introduced himself and Mike Ussery, also with the SW Missouri Office for Senator Schmitt. Their offices are still getting set-up. Once they are set-up, contact information will be shared. Staff will be looking out for opportunities to assist in

grant applications and getting information to OTO and their members. They are available as a resource and encouraged OTO members to contact them.

II. New Business

A. **FY 2022 Independent Financial Statement Audit**

Travis Cossey reported that Cinda L Rodgers, CPA, PC, conducted an audit of the OTO's financial accounting and financial practices for the fiscal year-ending June 30, 2022. The auditor's opinion states that the financial statements are presented fairly in all material aspects. There were no findings included as part of the audit. The audit included Single Audit Procedures under the Uniform Guidance Act since the OTO receives more than \$750,000 in federal reimbursements during the fiscal year. The staff are doing a fantastic job. The auditor was appreciative of the staff's efforts and impressed with the books. There were no recommendations.

The ending fund balance for June 2022 was \$349,934. This was a decrease from the prior year balance of \$454,838 by \$104,449. This reduction was a result of delayed grant reimbursements.

Dan Smith made a motion to accept the Fiscal Year 2022 Independent Financial Statement Audit report. Skip Jansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. **Electric Vehicle Charging Proposal**

Sara Fields shared that OTO has been allocated approximately \$12 million over five years to spend on transportation enhancements and carbon reduction. Funding to establish a sidewalk cost share program for state owned roadways and for trail planning services has already been allocated. Staff presented a proposal to set aside funding for electric vehicle charging stations. The funding would be allocated through a competitive process. Any remaining funds after the set aside would be available for trails and sidewalks in the locally owned roadway system. An open application is expected in the spring to commit remaining funding through 2025.

Andrew Lear made a motion to approve \$750,000 be reserved from the Carbon Reduction Program funding allocated to OTO for the purpose of providing electric vehicle charging stations. Skip Jansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. **Chadwick Flyer Phase III Bid Packet and Contract Authority**

Sara Fields stated the Chadwick Flyer Phase III will construct another small portion of the overall planned Chadwick Flyer Rail Trail. The objective of this project is to construct a ten-foot-wide multi-use trail across property owned by City Utilities of Springfield. OTO hired an engineering consultant firm, Crawford, Murphy, and Tilly, Inc., to assist in the construction design and project management. CMT is finalizing the trail design and has developed plans and bid documents. After receiving the Notice to Proceed with bids from MoDOT, the construction bid packet will be advertised. OTO intends to hire a contractor to construct the project.

Andrew Nelson moved to approve the included resolution to authorize OTO to advertise and accept bids for the Chadwick Flyer Phase III and authorizes the Executive Director to accept the lowest responsible and responsive bid within budget and execute the contract for such bid. Dan Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. **FY 2023-2026 TIP Amendment Three**

Natasha Longpine shared there were seven items included as part of Amendment Number Three to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program.

1. ***Revised* Route CC Capital Improvements (OK2102-23A3)**
The City of Ozark received MoDOT Cost Share funding in June and the project has been updated to reflect current costs, funding responsibilities and construction in FY 2025. The total programmed cost is \$5,481,233 plus \$100,000 in prior funding.
2. ***New* Project Development for Route CC Capital Improvements (OK2301-23A3)**
This is a companion project to OK2102 and reflects the phases before construction, including design, ROW, and utilities. The total programmed amount is \$1,671,536.
3. ***New* Chadwick Flyer US 65 Crossing (OK2304-23A3)**
At its November meeting, the OTO Board of Directors approved the use of TAP funds on the Chadwick Flyer US65 Crossing project, which has been submitted for a grant through DED ARPA funding. While an announcement has not been made regarding the grant funding, staff wanted to ensure the TIP amendment process was underway so as to be ready. The total programmed cost is \$3,750,000.
4. ***New* Chadwick Flyer Spur to Ozark High School (OK2302-23A3)**
This City of Ozark project will provide a 10-foot wide trail that connects the Chadwick Flyer to the Ozark High School. The total programmed cost is \$155,520, with \$124,200 in TAP funds.
5. ***New* Garrison Springs Trail (OK2303-23A3)**
This City of Ozark project will provide a 10-foot wide trail following Garrison Springs from 3rd Street to the community forest. The total programmed amount is \$550,000 with \$440,000 in CRP funds.
6. ***New* LeCompte/Eastgate Trail (SP2313-23A3)**
This City of Springfield project will add a trail to parallel the LeCompte /Eastgate road improvement projects from Division north to the BNSF railroad. The total programmed amount is \$478,950 with \$383,160 in TAP funds.
7. ***New* Grand Street (SP2314-23A3)**
This City of Springfield project will replace sidewalk along Grand Street with a 10-foot wide trail, between Kansas Expressway and Grant Avenue. The total programmed amount is \$550,000 with \$440,000 in CRP funds.

Jerry Compton made a motion to approve Amendment 3 to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. Skip Jansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Federal Functional Classification Change Requests

Natasha Longpine stated pursuant to §470.105.b, the State of Missouri, in conjunction with OTO, must maintain a functional classification map. The Federal Functional Classification System designates Federal Aid Highways, i.e., those eligible for federal funding.

The Ozarks Transportation Organization has requested the following changes to the federal functional classification system. This application is included.

1. **Roadway Name** – West Ave., US 60 to Miller Road
Current Functional Classification – Local
Requested Functional Classification – Minor Collector
Major Thoroughfare Plan – Collector

2. **Roadway Name** – Miller Road, Western Terminus to West Avenue
Current Functional Classification – Major Collector
Requested Functional Classification – Local
Major Thoroughfare Plan – Collector

Martha Smartt made a motion to approve the Functional Classification Change requests. Andrew Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. National Performance Targets

Natasha Longpine reported MAP-21 established and the FAST Act maintained a performance-based approach to transportation investments, creating National Performance Goals. In keeping with these goals, State Departments of Transportation and Metropolitan Planning Organizations are required to establish targets. This year all targets will be reviewed. So far, OTO has elected to plan and program in support of the MoDOT targets, rather than set OTO-level targets. The MoDOT targets include Safety, System Condition, System Performance, and Transit Asset Management. Natasha Longpine reviewed the MoDOT targets for the Board of Directors.

City Utilities elected to develop their own Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan rather than participate in the statewide plan. Natasha Longpine highlighted the plan. As with other targets set first by MoDOT, OTO can elect to plan and program in support of City Utilities' targets or separate targets. OTO elected to plan and program in support of City Utilities' targets.

Skip Jansen made a motion to support the statewide targets, as well as the safety targets set by City Utilities. Brian Weiler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. MM Corridor RAISE Grant

Debbie Parks stated the USDOT announced the Notice of Funding Availability for the Rebuilding Americas Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants in December 2022. Federal discretionary funding requires a project to appear in at Transportation Improvement Program or have a commitment that a project will appear in the TIP if funding is awarded.

The OTO is working with the City of Republic to reapply for a RAISE Grant for the MM Corridor of Opportunity. OTO staff is writing the grant application. The request will be for a grant of \$25 million for a \$63 million project that will realign MM with an overpass for the BNSF railroad, as well as create 5 lanes from US60 to I-44 as well as provide a trail and sidewalks. The grant application was competitive in the FY 2022 RAISE application cycle.

OTO has prepared a resolution and certificate of inclusion for the Highway MM application. These do not specify the discretionary funding program should another avenue of funding be necessary.

Skip Jansen made a motion to approve the included resolution and TIP inclusion certificate as provided. Mike Schilling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Other Business

A. Board of Directors Member Announcements

Tommy VanHorn shared the City of Battlefield, OTO and CMT will be hosting a Community Open House, Tuesday, January 24th from 4:00-6:00 pm for the Route FF Corridor Study.

Skip Jansen requested when considering charging stations to consider the electric supply. They carry large loads.

Sara Fields stated that MoDOT will be conducting a public meeting for the US Route 60 at Missouri Route 125 Interchange January 19th from 4:30 – 6:30 pm at the Logan-Rogersville High School.

Brian Weiler reported that the Springfield-Branson National Airport had its second busiest year at the airport in its history with 1,109,000 passengers. The Airport continues to grow with 33 million pounds of cargo last year. The Airport would like to present the Master Plan at some point within the next year to the Board of Directors.

Steve Childers shared the City of Ozark’s Governor Cost Share storm water project near The Mill is moving forward.

B. Transportation Issues for Board of Directors Member Review

There were no transportation issues for the Board of Directors member review.

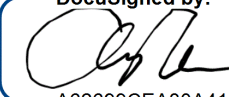
C. Articles for Board of Directors Member Information

Chair Childers noted there were articles of interest included in the packet for the members to review as time allows.

IV. Adjourn meeting

With no further business to come before the Board, Brian Weiler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Skip Jansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

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Andrew Nelson
OTO Secretary