

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2022**

The Board of Directors of the Ozarks Transportation Organization met at its scheduled time of 12:00 p.m. using the Zoom video conferencing platform. The meeting was also livestreamed on Facebook for public participation.

The following members were present:

Mr. Chuck Branch, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. Lynn Morris, Christian County
Mr. Steve Campbell, MoDOT	Ms. Stacy Reese, MoDOT (a)
Mr. Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a)	Mr. Mike Schilling, City of Springfield
Mr. Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large	Ms. Martha Smartt, City of Strafford (a)
Mr. Brad Gray, City of Willard (a)	Mr. Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)
Mr. Skip Jansen, City Utilities Transit	Mr. Richard Walker, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
Mr. Rusty MacLachlan, Greene County	Mr. 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:

Mr. Mokhtee Ahmad, FTA	Mr. Andrew Lear, City of Springfield
Mr. David Cameron, City of Republic (a)	Mr. Bradley McMahan, FHWA
Mr. Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)	Mr. James O'Neal, Citizen-at-Large
Ms. Debra Hickey, City of Battlefield	Mr. John Russell, Greene County (Chair)

Others Present: Mr. Ralph Phillips, Christian County; Ms. Sonya Anderson, Senator Roy Blunt's Office; Mr. Dave Faucett, Ms. Sara Fields, Ms. Natasha Longpine, Ms. Debbie Parks, and Mr. Andy Thomason, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Vice-Chairman Childers called the meeting to order at approximately 12:01 p.m.

I. Administration

A. Welcome and Roll Call

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Chuck Branch	Present	Mr. Rusty MacLachlan	Present
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. Lynn Morris	Present
Mr. Steve Childers	Present	Mr. James O'Neal	Absent
Mr. Jerry Compton	Present	Mr. John Russell	Absent
Mr. Travis Cossey	Absent	Mr. Mike Schilling	Present
Mr. Brad Gray	Present	Ms. Martha Smartt	Present
Ms. Debra Hickey	Absent	Mr. Dan Smith	Present
Mr. Skip Jansen	Present	Mr. Richard Walker	Present
Mr. Andrew Lear	Absent	Mr. Brian Weiler	Present

A quorum was present.

B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Mr. Weiler moved to approve the January 20, 2022 agenda. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman Childers called for a roll call vote.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Rusty MacLachlan	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. Lynn Morris	Aye
Mr. Steve Childers	Aye	Mr. James O'Neal	Absent
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. John Russell	Absent
Mr. Travis Cossey	Absent	Mr. Mike Schilling	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye	Ms. Martha Smartt	--
Ms. Debra Hickey	Absent	Mr. Dan Smith	Aye
Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye	Mr. Richard Walker	Aye
Mr. Andrew Lear	Absent	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye

The motion passed.

C. Approval of November 18, 2021 Minutes

Mr. Weiler moved to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2021 meeting. Mr. Branch seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman Childers called for a roll call vote.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Rusty MacLachlan	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. Lynn Morris	Aye
Mr. Steve Childers	Aye	Mr. James O'Neal	Absent
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. John Russell	Absent
Mr. Travis Cossey	Absent	Mr. Mike Schilling	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye	Ms. Martha Smartt	--
Ms. Debra Hickey	Absent	Mr. Dan Smith	Aye
Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye	Mr. Richard Walker	Aye
Mr. Andrew Lear	Absent	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye

The motion passed.

D. Public Comment Period for All Agenda Items

Vice-Chairman Childers advised there were public comments included in the packet. Vice-Chairman Childers asked for comments or questions.

E. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Fields reported that work continues on the North 13 Corridor Study, looking at alternatives and cost. There will be a public meeting on February 10th at 4:00 pm to present the alternatives to the public. There is also a website, North13Study.com.

Work continues on trail projects. OTO is waiting on paperwork approval to send the RFQ out for design services on the piece in Greene County on City Utilities property. The overpass study in Christian County is continuing, looking at the best location and the cost associated with it. This will hopefully be wrapped up in February/March.

Staff is still monitoring and waiting for information regarding the Bipartisan Federal Infrastructure Law. The bridge funding tables were released which gave a state-by-state total. It also talked about a 15% off-system bridge set-aside that is 100% funding. It does not appear that a match will be required for the BRO funds anymore. OTO is waiting for more information from MoDOT since they receive them as a block. MoDOT distributes the money and will design a process on how that will be done.

OTO is waiting on updated amounts for the Surface Transportation Block Grant and TAP Funding. TAP Funds are expected to double.

A second meeting was held regarding the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and project recommendations. Two meetings were held in January. Meetings are typically held in February, but it was an expedited time-frame at MoDOT's request. Ms. Fields reviewed the recommendations made by the Committee. OTO will not know if these recommendations make it into the STIP until around May.

F. MoDOT Update

Mr. Campbell stated turnover at MoDOT continues to be a big problem. In 2021, MoDOT lost 825 people which is the highest number ever. Turnover and sickness has created challenges in MoDOT's winter efforts.

Project updates include: James River is about to reach its winter pause point; the work on 13 is more/less done with some minor finishes; there are a few active bridge projects and ADA projects that can be worked on during the winter. There is a lot of development activity happening at a rapid pace including permit type reviews. Some of these present challenges with safety and operational studies.

Ms. Reese shared MoDOT Southwest is looking to add an additional Project Manager in their Design Department.

G. Legislative Reports

Ms. Anderson with Senator Blunt's Office reported Senators were scheduled to be on a break this week, but the break was cancelled to work on the Election Bill and the motion that could potentially eliminate the filibuster. The Election Bill did not pass nor did the motion to eliminate the filibuster. The US Treasury released the final rule earlier this month regarding ARPA Funds. Ms. Anderson has sent out an email with a summary of the rule. The rule included a provision for replacing lost revenue which offers a standard allowance for government services, defined as roads and infrastructure. For appropriations, they are working off of the budget passed in late October 2020. In December they passed a continuing resolution to continue to fund the government through February 18th.

III. New Business

A. FY 2021 Independent Financial Statement Audit Report

Ms. Fields stated Ms. Cinda L Rodgers, CPA, PC, conducted the audit of the Ozarks Transportation Organization's financial accounting and reporting practices for the fiscal year-ending June 30, 2021. The audit for FY 2021, which ran from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 was included for the Board of Directors review and acceptance. There were no findings included as part of this audit. The ending fund balance for June 2021 was \$454,838. This was a decrease from the prior year balance of

\$489,275 by \$34,437 (due to a change of the dues deadline).

Mr. Jansen made a motion to accept the Fiscal Year 2021 Independent Financial Statement Audit Report. Mr. MacLachlan seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman Childers called for a roll call vote.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Rusty MacLachlan	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. Lynn Morris	Aye
Mr. Steve Childers	Aye	Mr. James O'Neal	Absent
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. John Russell	Absent
Mr. Travis Cossey	Absent	Mr. Mike Schilling	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye	Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Ms. Debra Hickey	Absent	Mr. Dan Smith	Aye
Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye	Mr. Richard Walker	Aye
Mr. Andrew Lear	Absent	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye

The motion passed.

B. FY 2022-2025 TIP Administrative Modifications Two, Three, and Four

Ms. Longpine reported there was one item included as part of Administrative Modification 2 to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program.

- **Chadwick Flyer Crossing Study (OK2206-22AM2)**
Increasing the programmed amount from \$35,000 to \$43,750 and clarifying the scope as Phase 1.

There was one item included as part of Administrative Modification 3 to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program.

- **Shuyler Creek Trail (EN2010-22AM3)**
Adding TAP funding in place of STBG-U funding in the amount of \$450,000.

There were two items included as part of Administrative Modification 4 to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program.

- **Campbell and Republic Road Intersection (SP1818-22AM4)**
Changing Project Sponsor from City of Springfield to MoDOT.
- **Republic Road Lane Widening (SP1902-22AM4)**
Changing Project Sponsor from City of Springfield to MoDOT.

This was informational only. No action was required.

C. FY 2022-2025 TIP Amendment Three

Ms. Longpine shared there were seven items included as part of Amendment Number Three to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program.

1. ***NEW* - Route FF Corridor Improvements Scoping (BA2202-22A3)**
Scoping for corridor improvements from Route M to Farm Road 194 in Battlefield for a total programmed amount of \$150,000.
2. ***NEW* - ITS Scoping at Various Locations (MO2214-22A3)**
Scoping for ITS improvements at various locations in the SW Urban District for a total programmed amount of \$100,000.
3. ***REVISED* - Interchange Improvements at Route 60 and Route 125 (RG0901-22A3)**
Updating project programming to reflect final cost estimate and local participation by Greene County and the City of Rogersville, for a total programmed amount of \$23,293,155 (50% is from rural Southwest District).
4. ***REVISED* - Route MM Improvements – I-44 to Route 360 (RP1703-22A3)**
Updating project to reflect construction and the City of Republic Cost Share award for a total programmed amount of \$10,038,698.
5. ***NEW* - Glenstone Safety Improvements Scoping (SP2218-22A3)**
Scoping for safety improvements on Glenstone from McClernon Street to Republic Court in Springfield for a total programmed amount of \$20,000.
6. ***NEW* - James River Freeway Interchange Improvements Scoping (SP2219-22A3)**
Scoping for interchange improvements at Kansas Expressway (Route 13) in Springfield for a total programmed amount of \$150,000.
7. ***NEW* - US 60 and US 65 Interchange Improvements Scoping (SP2220-22A3)**
Scoping for interchange operational improvements at Route 60 (James River Freeway) and Route 65 in Springfield for a total programmed amount of \$150,000.

Ms. Smartt made a motion to approve Amendment 3 to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Branch seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman Childers called for a roll call vote.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Rusty MacLachlan	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. Lynn Morris	Aye
Mr. Steve Childers	Aye	Mr. James O'Neal	Absent
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. John Russell	Absent
Mr. Travis Cossey	Absent	Mr. Mike Schilling	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye	Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Ms. Debra Hickey	Absent	Mr. Dan Smith	Aye
Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye	Mr. Richard Walker	Aye
Mr. Andrew Lear	Absent	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye

The motion passed.

D. Federal Functional Class Change Request

Mr. Thomason reported that pursuant to §470.105.b, the State of Missouri, in conjunction with OTO, must maintain a functional classification map. This map is different from the Major Thoroughfare

Plan, which is part of the Long Range Transportation Plan. The Federal Functional Classification System designates Federal Aid Highways, i.e., those eligible for federal funding.

Summary of the submitted application materials:

The City of Springfield has requested the following changes to the federal functional classification system.

1. **Roadway Name** – Kansas Avenue, Walnut Lawn to Battlefield
Current Functional Classification – Local
Requested Functional Classification – Major Collector
Major Thoroughfare Plan – Collector
2. **Roadway Name** – El Camino Alto Drive, Buena Vista Street to Monastery Street
Current Functional Classification – Local
Requested Functional Classification – Minor Collector
Major Thoroughfare Plan – Collector
3. **Roadway Name** – Monastery Street
Current Functional Classification – Local
Requested Functional Classification – Major Collector
Major Thoroughfare Plan – Collector
4. **Roadway Name** – Lakewood
Current Functional Classification – New Road, El Camino Alto Drive to Republic Rd.
Requested Functional Classification – Minor Collector – *All*
Major Thoroughfare Plan – Collector – *All*

The City of Willard has requested the following changes to the federal functional classification system.

1. **Roadway Name** – New Melville Road, Route AB to Farm Road 103
Current Functional Classification – Local
Requested Functional Classification – Minor Collector
Major Thoroughfare Plan – Collector
2. **Roadway Name** – Knight Street – from Route AB to Miller Road
Current Functional Classification – Local
Requested Functional Classification – Minor Collector
Major Thoroughfare Plan – Local*
***Staff Comments:** Knight Street in Willard is not currently shown as a collector on the OTO's Major Thoroughfare Plan. Staff believes Knight Street meets the requirements of a collector and will address the MTP inconsistency as it updates the entire MTP in the coming months.

Mr. Compton made a motion to approve the Functional Classification Change requests. Mr. MacLachlan seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman Childers called for a roll call vote.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Rusty MacLachlan	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. Lynn Morris	Aye
Mr. Steve Childers	Aye	Mr. James O'Neal	Absent
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. John Russell	Absent
Mr. Travis Cossey	Absent	Mr. Mike Schilling	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye	Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Ms. Debra Hickey	Absent	Mr. Dan Smith	Aye
Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye	Mr. Richard Walker	Aye
Mr. Andrew Lear	Absent	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye

The motion passed.

E. Statement of Priorities on Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure

Mr. Thomason stated the *Statement of Priorities* is the companion document to the OTO's regional trail plan *Towards a Regional Trail System*. The regional trail plan describes OTO's implementation strategies for connecting communities with trails and allowing people to travel throughout the region without a car. This *Statement of Priorities* describes the local bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure that will allow people to safely travel within a community without a car once they arrive. Together, these two documents describe a future where intercity bicycle and pedestrian travel is feasible, safe, and as efficient as possible.

The *Statement of Priorities* is supplemented by a brief report, entitled *On the Path to Connected Pedestrian and Bicycle Networks*, providing local examples of each priority. The report further describes the ideal network of sidewalks and on-street facilities and highlights the many places where elements of the ideal exist within the Ozarks. This was an informative report rather than a report focused on planning or implementation. Mr. Thomason reviewed the report for the Board of Directors.

Mr. Jansen made a motion to approve the Statement of Priorities and accompanying report. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman Childers called for a roll call vote.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Rusty MacLachlan	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. Lynn Morris	Aye
Mr. Steve Childers	Aye	Mr. James O'Neal	Absent
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. John Russell	Absent
Mr. Travis Cossey	Absent	Mr. Mike Schilling	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye	Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Ms. Debra Hickey	Absent	Mr. Dan Smith	Aye
Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye	Mr. Richard Walker	Aye
Mr. Andrew Lear	Absent	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye

The motion passed.

F. September 30, 2021 Federal Funds Balance Report

Ms. Longpine shared Ozarks Transportation Organization is allocated Urban Surface Transportation

Block Grant (STBG-Urban) funds, formally known as STP-Urban funds, each year through MoDOT from the Federal Highway Administration. MoDOT has enacted a policy of allowing no more than three years of this STBG-Urban allocation to accrue. If a balance greater than 3 years accrues, funds will lapse (be forfeited).

OTO has elected to sub-allocate the STBG-Urban funds among the jurisdictions within the MPO area. Each of these jurisdiction's allocations are based upon the population with the MPO area. OTO's balance is monitored as a whole by MoDOT, while OTO staff monitors each jurisdiction's individual balance. When MoDOT calculates the OTO balance, it is based upon obligated funds and not programmed funds, so a project is only subtracted from the balance upon obligation from FHWA. OTO receives reports showing the projects that have been obligated. MoDOT's policy allows for any cost share projects with MoDOT that are programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, although not necessarily obligated, to be subtracted from the balance. The next deadline to meet the MoDOT funds lapse policy is September 30, 2022.

Staff has developed a report which documents the balance allowed, the balance obligated, and the balance that needs to be obligated by the end of the Federal Fiscal Year in order to not be rescinded by MoDOT. The report also outlines projects programmed to use STBG-Urban funding, so jurisdictions can have a clear picture of what is remaining. Ms. Longpine reviewed the report.

Congress continues to propose rescissions as part of the annual budgeting process. The only action that prevents a rescission of federal funding is obligation. It is recommended that this funding be obligated as quickly as possible to protect against further rescissions. OTO commends those who have taken action to plan for the use of available funds. While the current balance is now much below the allowed amount due to the recent obligations of several projects, members should be aware that balances accrue quickly and should continue to be monitored.

This was informational only. No action required. OTO is requesting each jurisdiction review the report for any inaccuracies or changes in project status and advise staff.

III. Other Business

A. Board of Directors Member Announcements

Ms. Smartt shared appreciation of the study MoDOT is conducting on the intersection in Strafford.

B. Transportation Issues for Board of Directors Member Review

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

C. Articles for Board of Directors Member Information

Vice-Chairman 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, Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman Childers called for a roll call vote.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Rusty MacLachlan	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. Lynn Morris	Aye
Mr. Steve Childers	Aye	Mr. James O'Neal	Absent
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. John Russell	Absent
Mr. Travis Cossey	Absent	Mr. Mike Schilling	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	Aye	Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Ms. Debra Hickey	Absent	Mr. Dan Smith	Aye
Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye	Mr. Richard Walker	Aye
Mr. Andrew Lear	Absent	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye

The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

David Cameron

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David Cameron
OTO Secretary