

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 21, 2024**

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:

Chuck Branch, Christian Co Citizen-at-Large	Stacy Reese, MoDOT (non-voting)
Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large	John Russell, Greene County
Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)	Martha Smartt, City of Strafford (a)
Mark Crabtree, City of Battlefield	Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)
Derek Lee, City of Springfield	Donna Stewart, City of Willard (a)
Rusty MacLachlan, Greene County	Kelly Turner, City Utilities
Lynn Morris, Christian County	Richard Walker, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
James O'Neal, 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:

Cecelie Cochran, FHWA (non-voting)	Andrew Nelson, City of Republic (a)
Ben DeClue, City of Ozark (a)	Mark Schenkelberg, FAA
Brandon Jenson, City of Springfield	Vacant, FTA

Others Present: Kristi Bachman and Greg Chapman, MoDOT; Eric Franklin, City of Republic; Bradley Jackson, Christian County; Sean Matlock, OWN, Inc.; Dave Faucett, Sara Fields, David Knaut, Natasha Longpine, Debbie Parks, Nicole Stokes, and Jen Thomas, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at approximately 12:01 p.m.

I. Administration

A. Welcome and Roll Call

By-law Position	Member	Attendance
BOD Citizen-at-Large	Jerry Compton	Present
Christian County Citizen-at-Large	Chuck Branch	Present
Christian County Elected Official	Lynn Morris	Present
City of Battlefield Elected Official	Mark Crabtree	Present
City of Nixa Elected Official	Travis Cossey (a)	Present
City of Ozark Elected Official	Ben DeClue (a)	Absent
City of Republic Elected Official	Andrew Nelson (a)	Absent
City of Springfield Citizen-at-Large	Richard Walker	Present
City of Springfield Citizen-at-Large	James O'Neal	Present
City of Springfield City Council Member	Dan Smith (a)	Present
City of Springfield City Council Member	Brandon Jenson	Absent

City of Springfield City Council Member	Derek Lee	Present
City of Strafford Elected Official	Martha Smartt (a)	Present
City of Willard Elected Official	Donna Stewart (a)	Present
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

Richard Walker moved to approve the March 21, 2024 agenda. Jerry Compton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Approval of January 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Jerry Compton moved to approve the January 18, 2024 meeting minutes. Chuck Branch 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 shared that there was funding included in the State's House proposed budget for I-44. The ask for the Springfield area was for \$16 million. The funding in the proposed budget is \$165.5 million extra for the Springfield area. It is \$720 million total for sections in Springfield, Joplin, and Rolla. The proposed funding would cover the rebuild that was requested, all phases of the Highway 13 and I-44 interchange and extend the widening project from Highway 125 in Strafford to West Bypass in Springfield. This is step one out of three. The budget will go before the Senate and then the Governor.

Debbie Parks, OTO's Grants Administrator, is distributing a monthly Grants newsletter. The newsletters include upcoming grant opportunities and OTO funding opportunities. This information can also be found on the OTO website.

OTO is accepting engineering applications for trail projects. The deadline is April 1st. This is to help with obligating funds by September 30th as well as get trail projects engineered and ready to go for other grant opportunities.

An upcoming grant opportunity for full trail and sidewalk projects will open July 1st and close August 1st. This is for any phase of any trail or sidewalk project.

OTO attended the planning partner meeting with MoDOT where they highlighted the issue of the August redistribution and the Fund Balance. MoDOT hosted a Lean process event in St. Louis. This focused on how to get projects and funding to move more quickly for the local agencies in the St. Louis area. From this process, a list of actions of where the process could be improved were identified. The biggest issue the state is facing is inflationary pressure on the projects in the STIP.

An email was sent to the OTO Board Members regarding the Executive Director's trip to Washington, DC with the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO). Meetings were held with the Association of Counties, the League of Cities, and the Regional Commissions to talk about aligning priorities as local agencies going into the next Transportation Reauthorization Bill which expires in 2026. The OTO priorities continue to be direct funding to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) instead of going to the state DOTs, fixing the obligation limitation – the August Redistribution issue allowing OTO to carry over funds, moving the IJA discretionary funding to formula funding to MPOs, and reduced local match. Meetings were also held with the Missouri legislative delegation.

The OTO Travel Demand Model is being updated. Population and employment projections are part of the update. Once the model is updated the FF Extension Study will be revisited to see if it is still needed and if so, how it is needed.

The priorities that were discussed and ranked at the Board of Directors Strategic Planning Session were sent out to the members who were unable to attend so they could rank their top priorities. A strategic plan will be formed from those actions along with identifying priority actions.

The Transportation Improvement Program is currently open for updates. Staff have been meeting with member jurisdictions to understand priorities going into the next STIP selection process.

F. MoDOT Update

Stacy Reese reported that work continues on Glenstone, Kansas, James River Freeway, and Highway 65 South. There will be resurfacing work on several of the lettered routes. Upcoming work includes the bridge at PP/K on I-44, Route J/NN bridge on Route 60, and the bridge at 413/Sunshine.

MoDOT held a public meeting for the portion of I-44 that is already funded in the STIP. There was a great turnout and the staff received good comments. The comment period is open until April 2nd, comments can be submitted online.

April 15th – 19th is National Work Zone Awareness Week.

MoDOT staff are working on litter cleanup. Every four weeks staff are alternating cleaning the median barriers.

G. Legislative Reports

There were no Legislative Reports.

II. New Business

A. Sunshine Street Presentation

Kristi Bachman presented the Sunshine Street East Corridor study.

This was informational only. No action was required.

B. Safe Streets and Roads for All Update

Natasha Longpine shared an update on the Safe Streets and Roads for All Action Planning Grant.

This was informational only. No action was required.

C. Growth Trends Report

Dave Faucett presented the OTO Growth Trends Report.

This was informational only. No action was required.

D. Financial Statements for 2nd Quarter FY 2024 Budget Year

Travis Cossey highlighted the second quarter financial statements.

Martha Smartt made a motion to accept the second quarter financial statements for the FY 2024 budget year. Jerry Compton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

E. MoDOT/OTO Sidewalk Cost Share Program Recommendations

Natasha Longpine presented the projects recommended by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee to receive TAP funding recommendation.

- The City of Republic – Route MM
- The City of Springfield – Connection from Doling, across I-44, to Norton

Rusty MacLachlan made a motion to approve the resolutions and certifications for trails and MM. Kelly Turner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

F. FTA 5310 Funding Recommendation

David Knaut presented the FTA Section 5310 Vehicle Funding Recommendation.

- FTA 5310 – Nova Center of the Ozarks, Inc – estimated \$18,280
- FTA 5310 – OATS, Inc – estimated \$57,033
- FTA 5310 – Ozark Senior Center - estimated \$23,894
- FTA 5310 – Southwest Center for Independent Living DBA empower:abilities – estimated \$13,284

Dan Smith made a motion to approve awarding FTA 5310 funding to the Nova Center of the Ozarks, OATS, the Ozark Senior Center, and the Southwest Center for Independent Living DBA empower:abilities. Jim O'Neal seconded the motion. The motion passed.

G. FY 2024-2027 TIP Amendment Three

Natasha Longpine reviewed the items included as part of Amendment Number Three to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

- *Revised* Weaver Road Improvements (BA2402)
- *Removed* Jefferson Avenue Footbridge (EN1803)
- *Removed* Kali Springs Trail (EN2409)
- *Removed* Chadwick Flyer Trailhead (EN2404)
- *Removed* Garrison Springs Trailhead (EN2408)
- *Revised* Chadwick Flyer Spur to OHS (OK2302)

Travis Cossey made a motion to approve Amendment 3 to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program. Martha Smartt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

H. FY 2024-2027 TIP Administrative Modifications Two, Three, and Four

Natasha Longpine reported there was one item each included as part of Administrative Modifications 2 and 3, and 3 items as part of Administrative Modification 4 to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

Administrative Modification 2:

- Route MM Ramp Intersection Improvements at I-44 (RP2201, RP2401)

Administrative Modification 3:

- Finley River Trail Extension (RP2407-24AM3)

Administrative Modification 4:

- Job Order Contracting for Guard Cable and Guardrail Repair (MO2307)
- Melville Road Bridge over I-44 (SP1911)
- I-44 Add lanes and Replace Bridges from Kansas to Glenstone in Springfield (SP2310)

This was informational only. No action was required.

I. Federal Funds Status Update

Jen Thomas highlighted the Federal Funds Status Update. Staff have developed an FY 2024 status 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.

This was informational only. No action was required.

III. Other Business

A. Board of Directors Member Announcements

Kelly Turner shared City Utilities completed the Transit Optimization Study. The study was presented to the City Utilities Board and Springfield City Council. There has been good feedback. There will be some changes to the routes and a possible small reduction in fares. A recommendation will go to FTA, the CU Board and Springfield City Council. There will also be a public comment period.

Rusty MacLachlan stated as part of the larger fund packet for Southwest Missouri is \$1.5 million for a study for the James River Extension.

Derek Lee thanked the OTO staff for their work in creating project write-ups, budgets, and exhibits for the City Council for their focus on Ungapping the Map as part of the City of Springfield's Quality of Place Initiative.

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 Lee 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, the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.



Martha Smartt
OTO Secretary