

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 18, 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)  
Jerry Compton, OTO Citizen-at-Large  
Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)  
Greg Chapman, MoDOT (non-voting)  
Skip Jansen, City Utilities Transit  
Brandon Jenson, City of Springfield  
Derek Lee, City of Springfield  
Rusty MacLachlan, Greene County

Lynn Morris, Christian County  
James O'Neal, Springfield Citizen-at-Large  
Martha Smartt, City of Strafford (a)  
Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)  
Tommy VanHorn, City of Battlefield (a)  
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:

Mokhtee Ahmad, FTA  
Chuck Branch, Christian Co Citizen-at-Large  
Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a)  
Andrew Nelson, City of Republic (a)

John Russell, Greene County  
Mark Schenkelberg, FAA  
Daniel Weitkamp, FHWA

Others Present: Tucker Jobes, Senator Schmitt's Office; Bradley Jackson, Christian County; Frank Miller, MoDOT; Dave Faucett, Sara Fields, David Knaut, Natasha Longpine, Debbie Parks, JD Stevenson, and Nicole Stokes, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Treasurer Travis Cossey, filling in as Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 12:02 p.m.

**I. Administration**

**A. Welcome and Roll Call**

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Steve Bodenhamer	Present	Lynn Morris	Present
Chuck Branch	Absent	Andrew Nelson	Absent
Steve Childers (Chair)	Absent	James O'Neal	Present
Jerry Compton	Present	John Russell	Absent
Travis Cossey (filling in as Chair)	Present	Martha Smartt	Present
Skip Jansen	Present	Dan Smith	Present
Brandon Jenson	Present	Tommy VanHorn	Present
Derek Lee	Present	Richard Walker	Present
Rusty MacLachlan	Present	Brian Weiler	Present

A quorum was present.

**B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda**

James O'Neal moved to approve the May 18, 2023 agenda. Tommy VanHorn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**C. Approval of March 16, 2023 Minutes**

Brian Weiler moved to approve the March 16, 2023 minutes. Skip Jansen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**D. Public Comment Period for All Agenda Items**

Travis Cossey advised there were public comments included in the packet, and then asked for comments or questions.

**E. Executive Director's Report**

Sara Fields shared about the trip to Washington, DC and meeting with representatives from Congressman Burlison's, Senator Hawley's, and Senator Schmitt's offices. OTO's priorities were shared with the Congressman and Senators.

OTO has open Grant applications. The Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) has been combined with the Carbon Reduction Program into one. All projects are for trails and sidewalks. The Board allocated \$750,000 for EV Charging Stations for OTO member jurisdictions only and Missouri State University. The applications are all due June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The bid for the Chadwick Flyer Phase III was awarded. The bid was about 9% over the engineer's estimate. Construction should begin within the next month. Covid Relief funds funded this project due to it being able to move quickly. Two other projects were funded with the COVID Relief funds. One was the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Trail which MoDOT agreed to manage and will be letting Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. The second project was the Chadwick Flyer Phase II and is currently under design and should go to construction in 2024.

OTO wrote a grant, and the City of Ozark submitted an application for ARPA funds through the Department of Economic Development for Tourism and was awarded \$1.179 million as part of a \$3.75 million project. This will be used for an overpass for the Chadwick Flyer Trail over US 65. Construction is targeted for 2024.

MoDOT Cost-Share applications are due June 20<sup>th</sup> to the District and July 20<sup>th</sup> to the Cost-Share Committee. OTO currently has two active cost-share projects. One is with the City of Ozark on Highway CC and one is with the City of Republic on Highway MM.

Staff shared a call for projects for the Off System Bridge Program which are due June 9<sup>th</sup> through MoDOT.

The announcement for the RAISE Grants will be coming out at the end of June.

Staff developed a Grants page on the OTO website which will provide upcoming grant opportunities. If jurisdictions need assistance writing a grant or seeing if a project qualifies, reach out to staff.



There are openings to manage projects within the OTO Project Management services. The focus will be from award to MoDOT authorization to bid the project, managing the design phases and paperwork.

Staff have been working on developing the TIP.

Staff have also been working on the next STIP Prioritization round. Staff met with the OTO jurisdictions to discuss their priorities. The Board of Directors will see the proposed STIP Prioritization in the fall.

OTO is managing the FF Corridor Study and the Route 66 Trail Study.

Staff is working on an Electrical Vehicle Plan with an RFP in July.

The Legislative Breakfast will be held on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am at Drury.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission will be in Springfield on June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The Springfield Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a reception. Matt Morrow (Springfield Chamber of Commerce), John Russell (Greene County Commissioner), and Sara Fields (OTO Executive Director) will be presenting on partnerships and successes like I-44.

OTO hired a new staff member, David Knaut, who is the Multimodal planner.

#### **F. MoDOT Update**

Greg Chapman, Assistant SW District Engineer, reported inflation has impacted projects. Projects are averaging more than 20% over original programmed amounts. Crews continue to work on the James River Widening project from west of Kansas to National. The sound wall barrier at National should be completed in a couple of weeks. ADA improvements continue on Glenstone. Sidewalk removal continues at Evergreen and Kearney. Signal and ITS improvements continue in various locations. Work is continuing around Buc-ees, as well as along 14 in Ozark. A preview of funding was shared. Regarding MoDOT's litter pick-up efforts to date, 56,700 bags of trash have been picked up on state routes in the Southwest District. This took approximately 34,700 labor hours.

#### **G. Legislative Reports**

Tucker Jobes, Senator Schmitt's Office, shared the Senator is working on rules and regulations that are causing issues for businesses and local governments. The Senator introduced a new bill called the Eraser Act. It requires that with any new rule proposed by an agency or department, three existing regulations have to be repealed and must be commensurate with the rule that is being introduced. The Senator co-sponsored the REINS Act with Senator Paul. It broadens the Congressional Review Act to require congressional approval of major rules that cost \$100 million or more. The Senator voted against the new rule on heavy-duty vehicle emission requirements. It would drastically increase the cost of any large diesel vehicle. The Senator voted for the Rail Safety Bill from Senator Vance. This would raise the safety standards for rail companies and raise the maximum fines for infractions.

## **II. New Business**

### **A. Financial Statements for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter FY 2023 Budget Year**

Travis Cossey stated the third quarter financial statements for the FY 2023 (July through June 2023)

Budget Year were included for consideration. This period includes January 1, 2023, through March 31, 2023. Travis Cossey and Debbie Parks presented the financial report.

Martha Smartt made a motion to accept the Financial Statements for the Third Quarter FY 2023 Budget Year. Tommy VanHorn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**B. FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program and Budget**

Debbie Parks reported that OTO is required to prepare a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) on an annual basis. This includes plans and programs the MPO will undertake during the fiscal year. The UPWP is programmed into tasks. Debbie Parks reviewed the tasks for the Board.

The UPWP contains the proposed budget for FY 2024 for inclusion in the contract with MoDOT for funding the OTO annual operational expenses. The budget is based on the federal funds available and the local 20 percent match. The total amount budgeted for FY 2024 UPWP is \$1,597,423. The UPWP also includes FTA 5307 Transit Funds going directly to City Utilities in the amount of \$168,000. City Utilities is providing the local match in the amount of \$42,000. Debbie Parks reviewed the FY 2024 UPWP and budget for the Board.

Skip Jansen made a motion to approve the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program and to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a program agreement with MoDOT. Tommy VanHorn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**C. FY 2024 Operational Budget**

Debbie Parks shared the OTO prepares an operating budget annually. This budget includes the various grant budgets as well as OTO operational expenses. This operating budget is the compilation of all OTO revenue and expenses from all sources. The FY 2024 Operating Budget includes the FY 2024 UPWP, Safe Streets and Roads for All grant, and Chadwick Flyer Trail Phase III budgets, plus some additional expenses that are not billable to the federal grant. Once approved, this will be OTO's audited budget. Debbie Parks presented the FY 2024 Operational Budget to the Board.

Martha Smartt made a motion to approve the FY 2024 Operating Budget. Tommy VanHorn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**D. SS4A Grant Agreement**

Debbie Parks stated on February 1, 2023, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced that the Ozarks Transportation Organization was awarded a Safe Streets for All grant, in the amount of \$228,000. This grant will provide support for the development of a comprehensive regional Safety Action Plan. With this plan in place, OTO member jurisdictions will be able to apply for implementation grant funding in future years.

Skip Jansen made a motion to approve the included resolution to authorize the OTO Executive Director to enter into the grant agreement for the SS4A grant award. Mike Schilling seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**E. Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Match**

Sara Fields shared the Safe Streets and Road for All grant from the USDOT requires a local match. The match is needed in the amount of \$57,200. The goal of the plan is to create a regional safety plan to identify fundable safety improvements for future grant opportunities. Staff are proposing to bill the match in proportion to population to the OTO member jurisdictions.



Dan Smith made a motion to approve billing the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant match to the jurisdictions in proportion to their populations with FY 2025 Dues. Martha Smartt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**F. FTA 5310 Vehicle Funding**

Debbie Parks reported that OTO issued a FTA Section 5310 FY 2021-2023 Call for Projects that closed on March 31, 2023. These funds are for improving the mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities in the OTO area. Non-profit human service agencies and public transportation providers are eligible to apply. The OTO received one application for the traditional funding.

1. FTA 5310 – Ozark Senior Center

The Ozark Senior Center requested funding to purchase a conversion van. The vehicle will support their client-based transportation services for seniors and individuals with disabilities in Ozark and Christian County. The match will be provided by the Ozark Senior Center.

Skip Jansen made a motion to approve awarding FTA 5310 funding to the Ozark Senior Center. Lynn Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**G. FY 2023-2026 TIP Amendment Five**

Natasha Longpine stated there was one item included as part of Amendment Number Five to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program.

1. \*New\* ARPA 5310 Funding (OA2301-23A5)

OATS was previously awarded \$50,972 of Section 5310 funding through the American Rescue Plan for operations. This funding needs to be reflected in the TIP. No match is required.

The Board of Directors approved the award of \$50,792 of American Rescue Plan Section 5310 Funding to OATS Transit at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 19, 2022. The funding was only eligible for operational expenses at transit agencies serving seniors and individuals with disabilities. The project was not included in the TIP at the time due to an ARPA and CRRSAA program exemption for operational project. MoDOT has since requested that the funds be added to the OTO TIP.

Tommy VanHorn made a motion to approve Amendment 5 to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. Jerry Compton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**H. FY 2023-2026 TIP Amendment Six**

Natasha Longpine reported that there was one item included as part of Amendment Number Six to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program.

1. \*Revised\* Nelson Mill Bridge (CC2103-23A6)

Christian County is requesting additional funding to support additional work needed to complete the rehabilitation of Nelson Mill Bridge for a new total programmed amount of \$1,020,000.

Skip Jansen made a motion to approve Amendment 6 to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. Tommy VanHorn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**I. FY 2023-2026 TIP Administrative Modifications Two and Three**

Natasha Longpine shared there were 2 items included as part of Administrative Modification 2 and 1 item as part of Administrative Modification 3 to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program. These changes do not affect Fiscal Constraint as the funding sources and funding years remain the same.

**Administrative Modification 2**

1. ITS Operations and Management (MO2402-23AM2)  
Increasing the amount of STBG-U in FY 2024 from \$392,000 to \$448,000.
2. TMC Signal Replacement, Various Locations (SP2202-23AM2)  
Moving funding from Construction to Preliminary Engineering to coincide with the engineering services contract amount.

**Administrative Modification 3**

1. Chadwick Flyer US 65 Crossing (OK2304-23AM3)  
Moving funding between phases to ensure each funding source is correctly associated with each phase.

This was informational only. No action was required.

**J. Federal Funds Balance Report**

Natasha Longpine stated the OTO is allocated Urban Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG-U) 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. 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 remains. Natasha Longpine highlighted the report for the Board.

This was informational only. No action was required.

**K. Public Participation Plan Annual Evaluation**

Dave Faucett reported that the effectiveness of the OTO's Public Participation Plan and public involvement activities are evaluated annually. This annual evaluation is conducted in accordance with the 2020 Public Participation Plan approved by the Board of Directors on August 20, 2020 and as required by Federal Law 20 CFR 450.316. Through these annual evaluations, the OTO adjusts and modifies public involvement activities in a list of action items to be undertaken preceding the next annual evaluation. Dave Faucett presented the Public Participation Plan Annual Evaluation Report.

This was informational only. No action was required.

### III. Other Business

#### A. **Board of Directors Member Announcements**

Lynn Morris, Christian County Commissioner, invited the Board to the Christian County Ozark Senior Center to view the mural honoring the Chadwick Flyer Trail. A groundbreaking and fundraiser will be held Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm.

#### B. **Transportation Issues for Board of Directors Member Review**

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

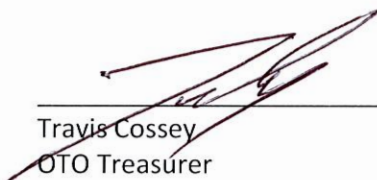
#### C. **Articles for Board of Directors Member Information**

Travis Cossey 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. Tommy VanHorn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

  
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Travis Cossey  
OTO Treasurer