

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 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:

Chuck Branch, Christian Co Citizen-at-Large	Frank Miller, MoDOT (non-voting)
Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a)	James O’Neal, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
Jerry Compton, OTO Citizen-at-Large	John Russell, Greene County
Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)	Martha Smartt, City of Strafford (a)
Karen Haynes, City of Republic (a)	Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)
Brandon Jenson, City of Springfield	Richard Walker, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
Derek Lee, City of Springfield	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	Lynn Morris, Christian County
Debra Hickey, City of Battlefield	Greg Williams, City of Willard (a)
Skip Jansen, CU Transit Representative	Mark Schenkelberg, FAA
Rusty MacLachlan, Greene County	Daniel Weitkamp, FHWA

Others Present: Jered Taylor and Ethan Scroggins, Congressman Burlison’s Office; Ryan Stehn and Matt DeMoss, CMT; Sara Fields, David Knaut, Natasha Longpine, Debbie Parks, and Nicole Stokes, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Chair Childers called the meeting to order at approximately 12:02 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	Absent
City of Battlefield Elected Official	Debra Hickey	Absent
City of Nixa Elected Official	Travis Cossey (a)	Present
City of Ozark Elected Official	Steve Childers (a)	Present
City of Republic Elected Official	Karen Haynes (a)	Present
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	Present

City of Springfield City Council Member	Derek Lee	Present
City of Strafford Elected Official	Martha Smartt (a)	Present
City of Willard Elected Official	Greg Williams (a)	Absent
City Utilities Transit Representative	Skip Jansen	Absent
Greene County Commissioner	Rusty MacLachlan	Absent
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 moved to approve the September 21, 2023 agenda. Chuck Branch seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Approval of July 20, 2023 and July 24, 2023 E-Meeting Minutes

Jerry Compton moved to approve the July 20, 2023 and July 24, 2023 E-Meeting minutes. Jim O’Neal 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 an update on funding and August redistribution. The State of Missouri did not receive as much in the August redistribution as was available. The MPOs and MoDOT worked together to create a plan to recover more of that funding. OTO’s balance prior to the summer was approximately \$21 million. OTO staff worked to get approximately \$17 million obligated. Obligation is open until the end of September. A significant amount of the \$4 million left is the Sidewalk Cost Share Program. There were not as many applications for the program as anticipated. MoDOT may not have the matching funds to continue the program. Applications are still open.

The EV Grant Program paperwork has been delayed due to the lack of guidance on implementation. Staff are working through those issues.

Last year staff submitted a federal RAISE grant for the MM Corridor. Staff went through a debriefing with the DOT regarding reasons the grant was not awarded. The scores were lower this year than the prior year. Staff are discussing if a submittal should be made again for the grant.

Staff submitted, and did not receive, a grant for I-44. Due to there being future grant opportunities, OTO contracted with Crawford, Murphy, & Tilly to see if the Highway 13 and Interstate 44 interchange would score higher on a Benefits Cost Analysis.

The OTO Grants Webpage is still live.

The House overrode the veto for the I-44 funding but the Senate did not pick it up.

The Legislative Breakfast will be November 9th at 7:30 a.m.

The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Prioritization meetings have concluded. A list of recommendations will go before the Technical Planning Committee in October and then the Board of Directors in November. Inflation has affected the funding.

The Safe Streets and Roads for All grant is moving forward. OTO has received over \$200,000 in federal funds to develop a Safe Streets Action Plan for the region. This will make the OTO MPO area eligible for implementation grants. The Action Plan should be completed in September of 2024. The staff is currently selecting consultants for that plan.

The OTO Civil Engineer position has been filled with a start date in early October.

Sara Fields and Natasha Longpine will be attending the AMPO National Conference the week of September 25th.

F. MoDOT Update

Frank Miller reported that there are some early indications that inflation numbers may be getting better. Beaver Road near Buc-ee's will be closed through October. Work is beginning on the roundabout at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. There is not an official start date for the widening of Route 65 at Ozark. The contractor is planning the bridge widening in the fall with the road widening beginning in the spring. The road closure for the sinkhole repair on James River Freeway should end Friday, September 22nd. MoDOT has started their project estimations for the TIP/STIP update process. The final mowing for the season will be in October.

G. Legislative Reports

Jered Taylor with Congressman Eric Burlison's office stated a couple of weeks ago Speaker McCarthy launched the official impeachment inquiry into the President. The Congressman sits on one of the committees that has been assigned to look into the inquiry, the House Oversight & Accountability. The other two committees are Judiciary and Ways and Means. The Congressman is heavily involved in the process.

It is unknown at this time if the Government will shut down in a couple of weeks. There has been discussion regarding a short term CR that would last for 30 days to give time for a budget to be agreed upon. The Congressman is asking for spending cuts. If a shutdown were to happen, 85% of the federal government would still be open. Social Security checks would still go out. Medicare and Medicaid are already fully funded.

II. New Business

A. Route 66 Trail Alignment Study

Ryan Stehn and Matt DeMoss with Crawford, Murphy, & Tilly presented the final Route 66 Trail Study.

Travis Cossey made a motion to accept the Route 66 Trail Alignment Study. Brandon Jenson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Legislative Priorities

Sara Fields reviewed the proposed 2024 Legislative Priorities.

Jim O’Neal made a motion to adopt the 2024 Legislative Priorities with the rewording of the last Federal Legislative Priority to read “Reduction in match requirements to 10 percent for *all federal funds*”. Derek Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. FY 2023-2026 TIP Administrative Modification Seven

Natasha Longpine detailed the FY 2023-2026 TIP Administrative Modification Seven.

This was informational only. No action was required.

D. FY 2024-2027 TIP Amendment One

Natasha Longpine shared the FY 2024-2027 TIP Amendment One.

Martha Smartt made a motion to approve Amendment 1 to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program. Dan Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

E. Annual Listing of Obligated Projects

Natasha Longpine reviewed the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (ALOP).

Dan Smith made a motion to accept the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects. Travis Cossey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

F. Federal Functional Classification Change Request

Natasha Longpine presented the Federal Functional Classification Changes.

Martha Smartt made a motion to approve the Federal Functional Classification Change request. Chuck Branch seconded the motion. The motion passed.

G. Financial Statements for FY 2022-2023 Budget Year

Debbie Parks detailed the financial statements for the FY 2023 Budget Year.

Martha Smartt made a motion to accept the Financial Statements for the FY 2023 Budget Year. Dan Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

H. UPWP Administrative Modification One

Debbie Parks shared the UPWP Administrative Modification One.

This was informational only. No action was required.

I. FY 2024 Operational Budget Amendment #1

Sara Fields reviewed the FY 2024 Operational Budget Amendment One.

Derek Lee made a motion to approve the FY 2024 Operational Budget Amendment One. Jim O’Neal seconded the motion. The motion passed.

J. Nominating Committee – Vacancies for Calendar Year 2023

Travis Cossey shared the Nominating Committee’s recommendations for the calendar year 2023 vacancies. The Nominating Committee presented Derek Lee for the Vice-Chairman position and Martha Smartt as the Secretary.

Jerry Compton made a motion to appoint the 2023 OTO Officers and Executive Committee as presented for the vacant seats. Jim O’Neal seconded the motion. The motion passed.

K. Nominating Committee – For Calendar Year 2024

Sara Fields requested volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee that will appoint or reappoint OTO officers and members of the Executive Committee for calendar year 2024. Jerry Compton, Travis Cossey, and Brian Weiler volunteered to serve.

Jerry Compton made a motion to appoint the volunteers to the Nominating Committee. Martha Smartt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

III. Other Business

A. Board of Directors Member Announcements

Brian Weiler shared the Airport continues to grow. The Airport is running 70% ahead of their record year, right now. They are currently working on the Airport Master Plan. There is a public meeting on October 17, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Springfield Art Museum.

John Russell stated the Kansas Extension Phase I is approximately 85% complete. It will probably be open mid-December. It was delayed due to discovering previously unknown AT&T lines.

Steve Childers reported the City of Ozark will be completing a Governor’s Cost Share project, the Mill Pond Bridge, within the next two weeks. The ribbon cutting will probably be the first week of October.

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, Jim O’Neal made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian Weiler seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

DocuSigned by:
MARTHA SMARTT
Martha Smartt
OTO Secretary