

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 16, 2023**

The Board of Directors of the Ozarks Transportation Organization met at its scheduled time of 12:02 p.m. in person.

The following members were present:

Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a)	Lynn Morris, Christian County
Mark Crabtree, City of Battlefield	Stacy Reese, MoDOT (non-voting)
Karen Haynes, City of Republic (a)	John Russell, Greene County
Skip Jansen, CU Transit	Martha Smartt, City of Strafford (a)
Brandon Jenson, City of Springfield	Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)
Derek Lee, City of Springfield	Richard Walker, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
Rusty MacLachlan, Greene County	

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

The following members were not present:

Chuck Branch, Christian Co Citizen-at-Large	Mark Schenkelberg, FAA
Mokhtee Ahmad, FTA	Brian Weiler, Springfield-Branson Airport (a)
Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large	Daniel Weitkamp, FHWA
Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)	Greg Williams, City of Willard
James O'Neal, Springfield Citizen-at-Large	

Others Present: Jered Taylor and Ethan Scroggins, Congressman Burlison's Office; Cecelie Cochran, FHWA; Greg Chapman and Frank Miller, MoDOT; Tommy VanHorn, City of Battlefield; Sara Fields, David Knaut, Natasha Longpine, Debbie Parks, Nicole Stokes, and Jen Thomas, 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	Absent
Christian County Citizen-at-Large	Chuck Branch	Absent
Christian County Elected Official	Lynn Morris	Present
City of Battlefield Elected Official	Mark Crabtree	Present
City of Nixa Elected Official	Travis Cossey (a)	Absent
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	Absent
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	Present
Greene County Commissioner	Rusty MacLachlan	Present
Greene County Commissioner	John Russell	Present
Springfield-Branson National Airport Board Member	Brian Weiler (a)	Absent

A quorum was present.

B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Derek Lee moved to approve the November 16, 2023 agenda. Richard Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Approval of September 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Skip Jansen moved to approve the September 21, 2023 meeting minutes. Karen Haynes 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 introduced OTO's new Transportation Engineer, Jennifer Thomas.

Chadwick Flyer is open and ready to walk on.

OTO was successful in obligating the Surface Transportation Block Grant going into the fiscal year, which ended September 30th. Greene County received a good bid on Kansas Expressway Phase II. There are still Transportation Alternatives Program funds for sidewalks and trails. There have been many projects awarded but will not get to construction until 2025. Letters have been sent out detailing bonus funding that may be available if a project's funds can be obligated by the end of 2024. Applications for cost share projects on MoDOT routes are still open. An open round in the fall of 2024 is planned with awarding going through 2027.

There have been discussions with MoDOT concerning Fund Balances. There is concern that funding is being lost statewide. There is a meeting scheduled for November 29th to discuss what a carryover allowance would look like.

Staff are in negotiations for a lobbying contract. A contract should be in place within the next 2 weeks. This will be in plenty of time prior to the Legislative Session.

The Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant safety analysis contract was awarded to Lochmueller. The equity and engagement contract was awarded to CMT. A final draft is expected in October of 2024.

A thank you was given to all those who were able to attend the Legislative Breakfast. Staff received a lot of good feedback.

F. MoDOT Update

Stacy Reese shared that Eric Curtit, Transportation Planning Director retired and Llans Taylor is now filling that position. Travis Koestner has also retired, and that position is still open.

MoDOT held two Legislative forums, one in Springfield and one in Joplin.

MoDOT is short hundreds of snowplow drivers statewide and is currently hiring emergency help.

MoDOT is in their estimate update season. Funding targets will not be available until January.

Inflation is looking better overall for the SW District. The SW District is 1% under programmed estimates for 31 projects. For the Urban area, costs are 30% over programmed estimates due to the Kearney project.

Current projects include the James River Freeway widening, Glenstone ADA improvements, sign replacements within the urban area, and the improvements near Buc-ee's. Route 65 widening from CC to Highway 14 will begin soon. Highway 14 in Nixa is wrapping up. A solicitation for letters of interest for the Environmental Study on I-44 was done this week.

G. Legislative Reports

There were no legislative updates.

II. New Business

A. Financial Statements for 1st Quarter for FY 2023-2024

Debbie Parks presented the financial statements for the 1st quarter of FY 2023-2024.

Martha Smartt made a motion to accept the first quarter financial statements for FY 2023-2024. Skip Jansen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. FY 2025-2029 STIP Priorities

Sara Fields reviewed the priorities for inclusion in the FY 2025-2029 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program recommended by a subcommittee of the Technical Planning Committee.

Mark Crabtree made a motion approving the STIP priority list as presented, additionally, directing staff to collaborate with the TPC to refine prioritization criteria, ensuring regional distribution without undue project elevation, and furthermore, instructing staff to work with the TPC to narrow down the unfunded needs list to projects fitting within established parameters. Rusty MacLachlan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Proposed Bylaw Amendment

Sara Fields shared the proposed bylaw amendment to charge member jurisdictions a project fee for federally funded projects and to change the timing of when notice of dues is sent.

Martha Smartt made a motion to approve the Bylaw Amendment as presented which included a \$1000 per project fee to the annual dues statement and dues statements being sent out at the end of June. Derek Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. FY 2024-2027 TIP Administrative Modification One

Natasha Longpine reviewed the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program TIP Administrative Modification One for ADA improvements at various locations.

This was informational only. No action was required.

E. National Performance Targets

Natasha Longpine highlighted the proposed performance targets relating to safety.

Dan Smith made a motion to support the statewide targets. Skip Jansen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

F. Urban Area Smoothing

Natasha Longpine shared the recommendations for adjustments to the urban areas in the MPO boundary.

John Russell made a motion to adjust the urban areas within the OTO boundary as proposed. Brandon Jenson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

G. Appointment of 2024 OTO Officers and Executive Committee Members

Sara Fields presented the Board of Directors Nominating Committee's 2024 Slate of Officers and Executive Committee members.

Skip Jansen made a motion to appoint the 2024 OTO Officers and Executive Committee as presented. Dan Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

H. Board of Directors 2024 Meeting Schedule

Sara Fields shared the 2024 Board of Directors meeting schedule.

This was informational only. No action was required.

III. Other Business

A. Board of Directors Member Announcements

John Russell shared Greene County went out to bid for Kansas Phase II. The estimates were approximately 18% higher than the what the actual costs were.

Steve Childers stated Ozark had a Governor's Cost Share project, the Historic Mill Bridge. That project is getting ready to have its final walkthrough.

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, the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

DocuSigned by:
MARTHA SMARTT
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Martha Smartt
OTO Secretary