

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 17, 2022**

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:

Mr. Steve Bodenhamer, City of Willard (a)	Ms. Stacy Reese, MoDOT (a)
Mr. David Cameron, City of Republic (a)	Mr. John Russell, Greene County (Chair)
Mr. Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a)	Mr. Mike Schilling, City of Springfield
Mr. Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)	Ms. Martha Smartt, City of Strafford (a)
Mr. Skip Jansen, City Utilities Transit	Mr. Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)
Mr. Rusty MacLachlan, Greene County	Mr. Richard Walker, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
Mr. Lynn Morris, Christian County	Mr. Daniel Weitkamp, FHWA

(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. Chuck Branch, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. James O’Neal, Citizen-at-Large
Mr. Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. Mark Schenkelberg, FAA
Ms. Debra Hickey, City of Battlefield	Mr. Brian Weiler, Springfield-Branson Airport (a)

Others Present: Ms. Erin Engelmeyer, Senator Josh Hawley’s Office; Mr. Jeremy Pruett, Representative Billy Long’s Office; Ms. Mary Kromrey, Ozark Greenways; Mr. Frank Miller, MoDOT; Mr. Dave Faucett, Ms. Sara Fields, Ms. Natasha Longpine, Ms. Debbie Parks, and Ms. Nicole Stokes, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Chairman Russell called the meeting to order at approximately 12:03 p.m.

I. Administration

A. Welcome and Roll Call

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Steve Bodenhamer	Present	Mr. Rusty MacLachlan	Present
Mr. Chuck Branch	Absent	Mr. Lynn Morris	Present
Mr. David Cameron	Present	Mr. James O’Neal	Absent
Mr. Steve Childers	Present	Mr. John Russell	Present
Mr. Jerry Compton	Absent	Mr. Mike Schilling	Present
Mr. Travis Cossey	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	Absent

A quorum was present.

B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Mr. Childers moved to approve the November 17, 2022 agenda. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment Period for All Agenda Items

Chairman Russell advised there were public comments included in the packet. Chairman Russell asked for comments or questions.

D. Adoption of the Consent Agenda

Mr. Cameron moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda items:

1. September 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes
2. Financial Statements for 1st Quarter 2022-2023 Budget Year
3. FY 2023-2026 TIP Amendment Two
4. Board of Directors 2023 Meeting Schedule

E. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Fields advised that staff have sent letters requesting new Board of Directors seat appointment letters, even if appointees have not changed, to update the OTO records for 2023. Also, each Board member in attendance was provided a Conflict of Interest Statement to sign which comes from Best Practices for Grant Management Guidelines.

A Chadwick Flyer Showcase was held on November 15th. The Showcase was in cooperation with Ozark Greenways, the City of Ozark, the City of Springfield, and CMT. There were at least 121 people in attendance. There have been 108 survey responses received so far. The survey is open until the end of the week. The survey is on the Ozark Greenways' website and on social media. The Showcase was held to highlight the entire trail from Ozark to Springfield and to get public input. Rail removal has started on the portion OTO has been working on with City Utilities. The project is still in final design stage with bidding to start beginning of 2023 and construction beginning in the spring. By the end of 2023, the 1.75 mile trail should be completed.

The OTO Project Manager continues to work on projects. Jurisdictions are encouraged to contact OTO with any federal aid projects for assistance in shepherding through the process, through the contract, or through the consultant hiring. A minimal fee may be charged in the future. The Project Manager's work has resulted in large savings in consulting fees.

Staff continue to look for grant opportunities and process applications. Jurisdictions should reach out to Debbie Parks with any questions.

Ms. Fields is working with City Utilities and their Route Optimization Study Committee. City Utilities is conducting a route study to look at their overall route design. A big part of the study is public input.

The City of Springfield received a grant for the Lake Springfield Master Plan which feeds right into the Chadwick Flyer Trail. Ms. Fields is part of a committee for this Master Plan.

OTO is working on getting a Route 66 Trail, from Springfield to Strafford, alignment contract underway. A contract should be signed within the next few weeks and a study started soon after. The study will be looking for the best placement for the trail along the old Route 66 corridor. This will help to connect Strafford to the Regional Trail system.

The Route FF Corridor Study in Battlefield is wrapping up. An initial draft of the report has been put out for public comment by the City of Battlefield and MoDOT. A public meeting will be held with the results of the study and public comments.

Ms. Fields introduced the new Federal Highway representative, Mr. Daniel Wietkamp.

F. MoDOT Update

Ms. Reese reported MoDOT has been working on a lot of Corridor Studies and held Core Team Meetings for projects in the OTO area. A Core Team meeting was just held, and progress is being made for the I-44 widening project. A Virtual Public Meeting was held recently for the East Sunshine Street Corridor project. MoDOT staff have been reviewing comments received from that public meeting.

MoDOT staff is currently working on project updates and updating estimates. Inflation has had a large impact on project estimates. Since July, for the MoDOT SW District, there has been an approximate 18% increase in the programmed amounts (33 projects). The OTO Urban area was roughly 10% on STIP projects. For end of Fiscal Year 2022, it was 34% for 64 projects. Inflation has impacted the funds from the gas tax increase and additional funding.

MoDOT should have funding targets in January. December 5th is the MoDOT Unfunded Needs Meeting at 10:00 at the Library Center on Campbell.

The first snow of the year did not impact the roads which helped in training. There continues to be a driver shortage. The SW District had to shift some of their staff to assist the Kansas City District.

Crash statistics continue to increase due to driver behavior with distracted driving and speeding. MoDOT asks partners to continue to spread the message to slow down, take your time, and put phones down.

G. Legislative Reports

Ms. Engelmeyer, with Senator Hawley's Office, shared the Senate was back in session. New members are going through orientation. The day of the Board meeting, Senator Hawley was in the Homeland Security Committee meeting. The Senate took up the Marriage Act and it will go forward to debate this week. Before the Senate recesses for the holidays, they will discuss the Farm Bill, the NDAA, and the budget.

Mr. Pruetz with Congressman Long's Office stated the Congress was back this week. The Congressman's Springfield office will be closing on November 18th, but they will continue to check messages. The Congress will be discussing the budget which will come up on December 16th.

H. Ozark Greenways Update

Ms. Kromrey gave an update on the activities of Ozark Greenways.

II. New Business

A. Chadwick Flyer US65 Crossing Funding and Support

Ms. Fields stated the City of Ozark is submitting a grant application through the Missouri Department of Economic Development for local tourism asset development, a grant made possible through Missouri's ARPA funding. This project will be to construct the crossing of US65 for the Chadwick Flyer trail, connecting 7.5 miles between Springfield and Ozark. The OTO conducted a Chadwick Flyer overpass study to determine costs and the location to cross US 65. This study provided the information needed to submit the grant. Ms. Fields detailed the partner funding and support for the Crossing.

The Board of Directors was asked to commit \$1,500,000 Transportation Alternatives Program funding to this project, should it be selected through the DED application process. Furthermore, the Board was asked to adopt a resolution of support and commitment to program the project in the TIP upon award of funding.

In September, the OTO issued a request for expression of interest in which over \$17 million of projects were submitted. From the projects that were submitted, staff is working to identify projects that can obligate FY 2022 funds by the end of the fiscal year 2023. This project was submitted and awarded and can meet the deadline.

Mr. Cossey made a motion to approve the use of TAP funding on the Chadwick Flyer US 65 Crossing project, as well as the resolution and TIP Certification of Inclusion. Mr. Cameron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Federal Discretionary Grant Support – City of Springfield

Ms. Longpine shared that Federal discretionary funding requires a project to appear in a Transportation Improvement Program or have a commitment that a project will appear in the TIP if funding is awarded. The City of Springfield is applying for a SMART grant, a discretionary funding program available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) funding is available for demonstration projects focused on advanced smart city or community technologies and systems to improve transportation efficiency and safety.

The City of Springfield is proposing a project titled 7Response – Synchronized Emergency Vehicle and Efficient Network Response, which includes the development of a centralized condition-based Emergency Vehicle Traffic Signal Priority system and mobile CCTV video sharing for the Springfield Fire Department incident responders. Springfield is requesting up to \$2 million for this project. Cost sharing or matching is not required. This is not yet part of the TIP process but will be amended into the TIP should funding be awarded.

Mr. Cameron made a motion to approve the resolution and TIP Certification of Inclusion as provided. Mr. Childers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. September 30, 2022 Federal Funds Balance Report

Ms. Longpine shared that OTO 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 within the MPO area. OTO's balance is monitored as a whole by MoDOT, while OTO staff monitors each jurisdiction's individual balance. The next deadline to meet the MoDOT funds lapse policy is September 30, 2023.

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 for the Committee.

Ms. Longpine further reviewed the impacts of obligation limitation on OTO's allocation.

This was informational only. No action was required.

D. FY 2024-2028 STIP Priorities

Ms. Fields reported that in early 2023 MoDOT is expected to develop funding estimates for use in the 2024-2028 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. Once those estimates are developed, there is a very short window to add projects to the program. MoDOT has asked for a list of prioritized projects to begin estimating project costs. Projects will only be considered after the funding of the asset management plan ensuring that pavement and bridges are kept in good condition and current programmed projects have been adjusted for inflation.

Once adopted by the Board, the list will be forwarded to MoDOT for consideration. This list serves as OTO's request, not a final expected listing of projects.

Future Steps

- MoDOT refines project cost estimates and proposes projects for programming in the STIP (January)
- OTO TPC and Board review the proposed STIP and make recommendation for approval to MoDOT
- Missouri Highway & Transportation Commission adopts Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (July)
- OTO adopts the Transportation Improvement Program incorporating approved STIP projects (July)
- FHWA and FTA authorize projects for obligation as planned in the STIP/TIP

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the presented list of priorities for consideration by MoDOT for inclusion in the 2024-2028 STIP. Ms. Smartt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Unfunded Needs List

Ms. Fields shared that MoDOT has requested a list of unfunded needs that can be used in planning for different scenarios. The request proposed specific funding for three tiers of projects. Projects should not be removed from the list until programmed in the STIP. It should be noted that the cost estimates provided are educated estimates and, in some cases, once a final project is determined, the estimate will be revised. Ms. Fields reviewed the Southwest Unfunded Needs List for the Board.

Mr. Cameron made a motion to approve the list of Unfunded Needs, as presented, for consideration by MoDOT. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Unfunded Multimodal Needs List

Ms. Fields stated that a multimodal unfunded needs list was developed and shared with MoDOT. The list has been incorporated into a statewide list identifying \$1 billion in unfunded multimodal needs. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the STIP Priorities Subcommittee participated in the creation of OTO's list.

MoDOT has not stipulated what modes needed to be included or how the funds should be allocated. OTO chose to include aviation, transit, railroad, regional trails, and local sidewalks/trails.

Staff solicited needs from aviation and transit partners and sought input from members regarding rail needs. Regional Trail needs were identified in consultation with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Local sidewalk and trail funds were allocated to member jurisdictions. Communities, in consultation with OTO staff, selected projects that fit within the established financial constraints.

Mr. Childers made a motion to approve the Multimodal Unfunded Needs List. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Amendment to the OTO Technical Planning Committee Bylaw

Ms. Fields shared that OTO staff is proposing a bylaw amendment to reduce the number of Technical Planning Committee voting members, facilitating a quorum at the bimonthly meetings. The proposal moves some voting members to non-voting members, reduces the number of MoDOT representatives, allows for two alternates per representative, and prohibits individuals from representing more than one voting seat.

Ms. Fields presented the proposed changes.

Mr. Bodenhamer made a motion to approve the proposed Technical Planning Committee Bylaw Amendment. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

H. Appointment of 2023 OTO Officers

Ms. Fields stated pursuant to OTO Bylaws, the OTO Board of Directors is required to appoint the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer for the 2023 OTO Board of Directors and to appoint the remaining members of the Executive Committee. The 2023 Nominating Committee was made up of the following three Board of Directors members: Travis Cossey (City of Nixa), Martha Smartt (City of Strafford), and Dan Smith (City of Springfield).

The Chair and Vice-Chair is prescribed in the Bylaws as a rotation between Greene County, the City of Springfield, and Nixa/Ozark/Christian County. Nominations from the floor may also be made prior to electing each officer.

The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers.

- Chairman – Steve Childers, City of Ozark
- Vice-Chairman – Andrew Lear, City of Springfield
- Secretary – Andrew Nelson, City of Republic
- Treasurer – Travis Cossey, City of Nixa
- Past Chairman – John Russell, Greene County
- Member – Brian Weiler, Springfield-Branson National Airport

- Member – Jerry Compton, OTO BOD Citizen-at-Large

Mr. Childers made a motion to appoint the 2023 OTO Officers and Executive Committee as presented. Mr. Cameron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Other Business

A. **Board of Directors Member Announcements**

Mr. Russell shared that Ms. Fields would be sending an email out for anyone interested in serving as the OTO representative on the Ozark Greenways' Board.

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

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

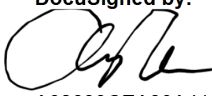
C. **Articles for Board of Directors Member Information**

Chairman Russell 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. Childers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

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Andrew Nelson
OTO Secretary