

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

The Board of Directors of the Ozarks Transportation Organization met at its scheduled time of 12:00 p.m. in person and using the Zoom video conferencing platform. The meeting was also livestreamed on Facebook for public participation.

The following members were present:

Mr. Chuck Branch, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. John Russell, Greene County (Chair)
Mr. Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large	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. Andrew Lear, City of Springfield	Mr. Richard Walker, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
Mr. Lynn Morris, Christian County	Mr. Brian Weiler, Springfield-Branson Airport (a)
Mr. James O’Neal, Citizen-at-Large	

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

The following members were not present:

Mr. Mokhtee Ahmad, FTA	Ms. Debra Hickey, City of Battlefield
Mr. David Cameron, City of Republic (a)	Mr. Rusty MacLachlan, Greene County
Mr. Steve Campbell, MoDOT	Mr. Bradley McMahan, FHWA
Mr. Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a)	Ms. Stacy Reese, MoDOT (a)
Mr. Brad Gray, City of Willard (a)	

Others Present: Mr. Ralph Phillips, Christian County; Ms. Sonya Anderson, Senator Roy Blunt’s Office; Mr. Jeremy Pruett, Representative Billy Long’s Office; Mr. Dave Faucett, Ms. Sara Fields, Ms. Natasha Longpine, Ms. Debbie Parks, Ms. Nicole Stokes, and Mr. Andy Thomason, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Chairman Russell called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m.

**I. Administration**

**A. Welcome and Roll Call**

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Chuck Branch	Present	Mr. Rusty MacLachlan	Absent
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. Lynn Morris	Present
Mr. Steve Childers	Absent	Mr. James O’Neal	Present
Mr. Jerry Compton	Present	Mr. John Russell via Zoom	Present
Mr. Travis Cossey	Present	Mr. Mike Schilling	Present
Mr. Brad Gray	Absent	Ms. Martha Smartt	Present
Ms. Debra Hickey	Absent	Mr. Dan Smith	Present
Mr. Skip Jansen	Present	Mr. Richard Walker	Present
Mr. Andrew Lear	Present	Mr. Brian Weiler	Present

A quorum was present.

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

Mr. Weiler moved to approve the March 17, 2022 agenda. Mr. Lear seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. John Russell	Aye

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously.

**C. Approval of January 20, 2022 Minutes**

Mr. Lear moved to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2022 meeting. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for a vote of members in attendance and then a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. John Russell	Aye

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously.

**D. 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.

**E. Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Fields reported that a lot of OTO's work lately has been centered around a federal discretionary grant. OTO staff is working with CMT on the I-44 INFRA Grant and are currently waiting for the federal notice to come out. RAISE grants are due in the middle of April.

The OTO Growth Trends report is delayed this year due to the Census data being released late.

OTO staff are currently wrapping up the Chadwick Flyer Crossing Study across US 65 in Christian County. Staff are also working on selecting an engineer for construction of the Chadwick Flyer Trail at the Lake Springfield and City Utilities property on the former rail line. Construction is targeted to be in 2023 for the 1.2-mile section.

The DED has a request for information for ARPA funds. OTO has put in a funding request for the Chadwick Flyer overpass as well as a request for the City of Springfield's portion.

The Board of Directors had requested a 5-year funding plan for Ozark Greenways' operation. In the past 2 years, OTO has funded them at \$50,000 a year and are exploring ways to continue that funding. Staff will submit a plan to the Executive Committee in April with an identified funding source and amount.

Staff are continuing to work on next year's budget which should be presented at the next Board meeting. One highlight of the budget, OTO anticipates continuing funding studies of some kind. One possibility would be the FF extension. RAISE Grants will be considered again next year. Staff is requesting input from the Board of Directors for study ideas.

OTO is implementing new TIP software. The next round of the TIP will look different.

Staff continue to monitor the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding amounts and implementation. Ms. Fields serves as the Policy Committee Chair for the Association of MPOs. Their primary task is advising the DOT on the best way to implement some of the policies. They also monitor the discretionary programs and notices of funding availability.

The North Highway 13 Study is currently out for online public meeting. The consultants wrapped up their study with 5 to 7 alternative options for the interchange and improvements to that corridor. They are all on the website North13Study.com with a survey open until Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> where the public can make suggestions. This interchange is included in the I-44 INFRA Grant.

The FF Study in Battlefield is kicking off this week. The study is working towards what the road would look like, what it would function like, and what the access would look like.

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

MoDOT staff were unable to attend, so Ms. Fields shared an update provided by Steve Campbell with MoDOT. MoDOT's primary focus is to deliver the Construction Program. There were already a lot of projects within the STIP which require design, right of way, and construction. MoDOT continues to work on a draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program with an expected completion date in May. It will then be open for public comment with adoption following in July.

In the Southwest District for FY 2022 to-date, they have awarded \$115 million worth of projects which averages 1.8% over their estimated costs.

MoDOT will be letting the Long Creek Bridge in April. MoDOT has added a new Project Manager to the team which will put them at 6, though still 3 short of what they need. MoDOT's biggest challenge is turnover. Operations staff are hopeful the snow is over and will start working on litter pickup.

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

Ms. Anderson with Senator Blunt's Office stated the government has been operating under a continuing resolution which was set to expire last Friday. The House and Senate passed an appropriations bill and the President signed it on Tuesday. This was a \$1.5 trillion Bill that funds the government through September 2022. It also includes \$782 billion in defense funding which is a 6% increase over FY 2021. Senator Blunt helped secure approximately \$265 million for projects that are specific to Missouri. As far as the Department of Transportation as a whole, this bill includes \$775 million for RAISE Grants, \$350 million for essential air services, \$18.5 billion for federal aviation, and \$60.7 billion for the Federal Highway Administration. This legislation also includes \$486 million for the Reconnect Pilot Program that will help underserved areas have access to broadband. RAISE Grant applications are due April 15<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Fields and Ms. Anderson have been keeping in contact regarding OTO's RAISE Grant application. The Appropriations Bill included \$14 billion in aid for Ukraine.

Mr. Pruett with US Representative Long's Office shared the government is no longer under the continuing resolution. The government is funded until September. In September, the process will probably start over again. There were transportation earmarks that were submitted through the House Bill and passed through the House Bill. The Senate created their own version of the transportation earmarks portion of the Bill. All of the transportation earmarks that were passed through the House were never touched by the Senate so all of them were dropped.

### III. New Business

#### A. Financial Statements for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2021-2022 Budget Year

Mr. Cossey stated that included for consideration were the second quarter financial statements for the 2021-2022 budget year. This period includes October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. The second quarter expenses total 34.1 percent of budget. The revenue was 42.8 percent of budget. Mr. Cossey highlighted the OTO Operational Financial Statements and the OTO UPWP Financial Statements for the Board of Directors.

Mr. Lear made a motion to accept the Second Quarter Financial Statements for the 2021-2022 Budget Year. Ms. Smartt seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. John Russell	Aye

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously.

#### B. FY 2022-2025 TIP Amendment Four

Ms. Longpine reported that four items were included as part of Amendment Four to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program.

1. **\*New\*** Farm Road 223 Bridge Replacement over Little Sac River (GR2210-22A4)  
Greene County is adding a project using BRO funding to replace a bridge over Little Sac River for a total programmed amount of \$660, 000.
2. **\*New\*** Greene County Bridge Projects on FR 102/150/171 (GR2211-22A4)  
Greene County is adding a bundle of bridge projects using BRO funding for a total programmed amount of \$735,000:
  - Farm Road 102 Replacement over branch of S. Dry Sac River (\$300,000)
  - Farm Road 150 Replacement over Wilson's Creek (\$360,000)
  - Farm Road 171 Rehabilitation/Repair over the Little Sac River (\$75,000)
3. **\*Revised\*** Scoping for safety & Operational Improvements on Sunshine St (SP1802-22A4)  
Changing the scope from Glenstone to Bedford to Glenstone to Farm Road 199 and removing funding from FY 2025 in the amount of \$2,000 for a new total programmed amount of \$6,000.
4. **\*Revised\*** Chestnut Expressway Safety Scoping (SP1812-22A4)  
Changing the scope from Kansas Expressway to Glenstone to I-44 to Glenstone, with no change in the programmed amount.

Mr. Cossey made a motion to approve Amendment 4 to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. John Russell	Aye

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously.

**C. Overview of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (IIJA)**

Ms. Longpine shared that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, was signed into law on November 15, 2021. This bill reauthorized the surface transportation program, as well as created several new programs to provide investments in a variety of infrastructure. Ms. Longpine provided an overview of the relevant provisions contained in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

This was informational only. No action required.

**D. OTO 2023-2027 Recommended STIP Project List**

Ms. Fields reported that each year following the OTO annual project prioritization, MoDOT works to develop cost estimates for projects to work toward programming said projects. Once estimates are developed and the amount of available funding is projected, local MoDOT staff works with the Technical Planning Committee to determine the best and most feasible projects to program with available funds. MoDOT will consider OTO's Recommended STIP Project List when developing the FY 2023-2027 Draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. The Draft is typically published for public comment in May and the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission will adopt the STIP in July. The Draft will be provided as soon as available. Ms. Fields reviewed OTO's Recommended STIP Project List.

This was informational only. No action required.

**E. Federal Discretionary Grant Support**

Ms. Fields stated the USDOT announced the Notice of Funding Availability for the Rebuilding Americas Infrastructure and Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants in February and is expected to release the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) notice soon. It is expected that several other programs will run concurrently with INFRA.

The Ozarks Transportation Organization is contracting with Crawford, Murphy, & Tilley (CMT) to prepare a grant for rebuilding, improving safety, improving pedestrian connections, and adding capacity to I-44, branded as FIX I-44. Generally, the project is planned to be over \$120 million with a request of approximately \$70 million. The project will also include the I-44/13 interchange improvement project. As OTO continues to work through the details, the scope and costs are evolving. MoDOT will be the project applicant.

OTO is also working with the City of Republic to apply for a RAISE Grant for the MM Corridor of Opportunity. OTO staff is writing the grant application. The request will be for a grant of \$25 million for a \$55 million project that will realign MM with an overpass for the BNSF railroad, as well as create

5 lanes from US60 to I-44 and provide a trail and sidewalks. As OTO continues to work through the details, the scope and costs are evolving. The City of Republic will be the project applicant.

The City of Springfield is applying for a RAISE Grant for the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge. The request is for a project of up to \$8 million. The bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places and is currently closed until it can be fixed. The City of Springfield had originally planned to utilize STBG-U funds until the project bids far exceeded expectations.

In the event any of the above projects are eligible for additional types of federal discretionary grants, the resolution of support will be valid for any federal grant.

Mr. Compton made a motion to approve the included resolutions and certifications as provided. Mr. O’Neal seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. John Russell	Aye

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously.

**III. Other Business**

**A. Board of Directors Member Announcements**

Mr. Russell shared that Greene County has the Kansas Extension underway.

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

There were no 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. Lear made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. John Russell	Aye

After calling for a vote of member in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

DocuSigned by:  
  
 1373B9A8BA27487...  
 David Cameron  
 OTO Secretary