

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 15, 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. Chuck Branch, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. James O'Neal, Citizen-at-Large
Mr. David Cameron, City of Republic (a)	Ms. Stacy Reese, MoDOT (a)
Mr. Steve Campbell, MoDOT	Mr. John Russell, Greene County (Chair)
Mr. Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a)	Mr. Mike Schilling, City of Springfield
Mr. Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large	Ms. Martha Smartt, City of Strafford (a)
Mr. Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)	Mr. Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)
Mr. Skip Jansen, City Utilities Transit	Mr. Richard Walker, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
Mr. Rusty MacLachlan, Greene County	Mr. 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:

Mr. Mokhtee Ahmad, FTA	Mr. Lynn Morris, Christian County
Mr. Brad Gray, City of Willard (a)	Mr. Bradley McMahon, FHWA
Ms. Debra Hickey, City of Battlefield	Mr. Mark Schenkelberg, FAA
Mr. Andrew Lear, City of Springfield	

Others Present: Ms. Sonya Anderson, Senator Roy Blunt's Office; Mr. Jeremy Pruett, Representative Billy Long's Office; Mr. Steve Prange, CMT; Ms. Sara Fields, Ms. Natasha Longpine, Ms. Nicole Stokes, and Mr. Andy Thomason, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Chairman Russell called the meeting to order at approximately 12:01 p.m.

**I. Administration**

**A. Welcome and Roll Call**

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Chuck Branch	Present	Mr. Rusty MacLachlan	Present
Mr. David Cameron	Present	Mr. Lynn Morris	Absent
Mr. Steve Childers	Present	Mr. James O'Neal	Present
Mr. Jerry Compton	Present	Mr. John Russell	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	Absent	Mr. Brian Weiler	Present

A quorum was present.

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

Mr. Childers moved to approve the September 15, 2022 agenda. Mr. Cameron 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. Weiler moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Mr. Cameron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda items:

1. July 21, 2022 Minutes
2. Financial Statements for 2021-2022 Budget Year
3. FY 2023 Operational Budget Amendment One
4. Annual Listing of Obligated Projects
5. FY 2023-2026 TIP Amendment One

**E. Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Fields reported the Safe Streets for All Planning safety grant was submitted today asking for a little over \$250,000 to conduct a regional safety study. A plan must be in place to apply for the Safe Streets for All for Infrastructure Grant.

OTO staff continue to look for funding opportunities. Information regarding possible funding opportunities are being sent out via email.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission was in Springfield on September 7<sup>th</sup>. A joint presentation was made by Mr. Weiler with the Springfield-Branson National Airport, Mr. Rosenbury with the City of Springfield, Mr. Morrow with the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, and OTO.

The 2022 Legislative Breakfast will be October 20<sup>th</sup>. This will be an opportunity to present the OTO Legislative Priorities, to meet the candidates, and to get to know each other.

The Governor's Cost Share Program is due September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Stevenson, the OTO Project Manager, is managing the Main Street project for the City of Nixa, the Chadwick Flyer Trail Phase II and the Chadwick Flyer Trail Phase III.

There have been two STIP Prioritization meetings held. The next meeting is September 29<sup>th</sup>. The Technical Planning Committee is working through what priorities will be asked for from MoDOT. Inflation is impacting the list of needs.

**F. MoDOT Update**

Ms. Reese shared the Governor's Cost Share is due September 30<sup>th</sup>. Please let MoDOT know if in need of a letter of support. The Governor made a stop at the interchange of the Mulroy and I-44 improvement project on September 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be unfunded needs meetings held in mid-



November, one in Springfield and one in Joplin. The day of the Board meeting, September 15<sup>th</sup>, was MoDOT's Day of Remembrance honoring 138 of their workers who lost their life in the line of duty. They have held meetings with the City of Springfield and the City of Ozark on what they want their cities to look like. Work continues on James River Freeway. Currently, there is bridge work being done. The expansion to six lanes will continue next spring with completion in 2024.

Mr. Campbell expanded on the unfunded needs process. MoDOT is focused on operational safety improvements.

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

Mr. Pruett with US Representative Long's Office reported this was their first week back after an August recess. They will go back to recess in October due to the elections. The fiscal year ends September 30<sup>th</sup> with either a passage of a budget or a continuing resolution. Congressman Long has been working with Senator Burlison to help with his transition to the office, if elected, which the poll numbers indicate.

Ms. Anderson with Senator Roy Blunt's Office shared that the Senator is in DC working. They are working on the appropriations process. The government is funded through the end of September. They are working on a continuing resolution to fund the government through December 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **II. New Business**

#### **A. FY 2023 UPWP Amendment One**

Ms. Fields stated an amendment was proposed to the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Budget. Ms. Fields detailed the changes.

##### **Revenue**

- Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) increase of \$50,782 to \$231,525
- Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) increase of \$36,378 to \$925,953

##### **Expense**

- Telephone and Internet increase of \$1,800
- Computer Upgrades/Equipment increase of \$2,000
- IT Maintenance Contract decrease of \$1,200
- Transportation Consulting Services increase of \$106,351

Mr. Cameron made a motion to approve FY 2023 UPWP Amendment One as revised by the Executive Committee. Mr. Weiler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **B. Funding Plan for Carbon Reduction and TAP Funding**

Ms. Fields shared that OTO has additional funding appropriated for transportation alternatives and carbon reduction programs resulting from the IIJA (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act). This represents a significant amount of funding and there is a timeline for funds to be obligated. The FY 2022 funds would have to be obligated by September 2025, but ideally would be planned for obligation by September 2024.

Ms. Fields highlighted the eligible activities. MoDOT has elected to allocate statewide funds to MPOs to be used as needed. This allocation results in MoDOT not having these funds to use on sidewalks

on state roads. The Board has already approved funding for Ozark Greenways operations for five years in the amount of \$325,252.

The OTO Executive Director proposed the following recommendation.

1. Establish a 50/50 cost share program with MoDOT to add sidewalks to state highways. Start with 25% of available funds to create a partnership with MoDOT resulting in decreased local matching requirements.
2. Issue a Request for Information for trail and sidewalk projects in order to develop a plan for spending all funds in the timeline required.
3. Staff would develop a plan for using the remaining funding.

Mr. Childers made a motion to approve the allocation of 25% of the Carbon Reduction and Transportation Alternative Funding through FY 2026 to a cost share program with MoDOT to make sidewalk improvements along state highways. Mr. Cossey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. North 13 Transportation Study**

Mr. Thomason reported the North Highway 13 Corridor Study was a partnership between OTO, Springfield, and Greene County to identify needed improvements at the interchange of MO-13 and I-44. Crawford, Murphy, and Tilly (CMT) was contracted to assist in the development of the corridor study. The study area ran from Farm Road 94, in the north, to Kearney Street, in the south. Ultimately, improvements along MO-13 were identified at the I-44 interchange, at Norton Road, and at Farm Road 94. The public was involved throughout the corridor study, with surveys, public meetings, and digital comment cards. The preferred alternative for the interchange and Norton Road includes a southbound to eastbound flyover and the grade separation of Norton Road at Highway 13. The conceptual cost for the Southbound to Eastbound Flyover option is \$48,876,000.

Mr. Thomason and Mr. Prange with CMT, presented the I-44/Route 13 Interchange Conceptual Report.

Mr. Smith made a motion to accept the North Highway 13 Corridor Study. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**D. Federal Discretionary Grant Support**

Ms. Fields stated that Federal discretionary funding requires a project to appear in a Transportation Program or have a commitment that a project will appear in the TIP if funding is awarded. The City of Springfield and Christian County are separately applying for funding through the Bridge Investment Program, a discretionary funding program available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Christian County is applying for a bridge package that includes Green Bridge, Red Bridge, and Hawkins Bridge. These are before the Board for a TIP Amendment but will not be through the approval process until after the application is due. The City of Springfield is seeking a four bridge bundle along Jordan Creek, including crossings at Walnut Street, Main, Boonville, and Campbell. These are not yet part of the TIP process but will be amended into the TIP should funding be awarded.

OTO prepared resolutions and certificates of inclusion for each application. These do not specify the



discretionary funding program should another avenue of funding be necessary.

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

**E. 2021 State of Transportation**

Ms. Longpine reported as another step to inform the public of transportation concerns in the region, OTO has produced a State of Transportation Report, which includes achievements and statistics from 2021. This report is produced annually and made available at public events and on the OTO website. Accompanying the report was an infographic showing progress on the performance measures from the long range transportation plan, *Destination 2045*.

This was informational only. No action was required.

**F. Legislative Priorities**

Ms. Fields stated that annually the OTO establishes a list of Legislative Priorities for use when communicating with area legislators. Ms. Fields reviewed the recommended priorities for the Board.

Mr. O'Neal made a motion to adopt the 2023 Legislative Priorities as presented. Mr. Branch seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**G. Nominating Committee**

Ms. Fields asked for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee which make a recommendation for the Executive Committee members and the OTO officers at the November Board of Directors meeting.

Ms. Smartt, Mr. Cossey, and Mr. Smith volunteered for the Nominating Committee.

**III. Other Business**

**A. Board of Directors Member Announcements**

There were no member announcements for the Board of Directors.

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

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

**C. Conflict of Interest Policy**

Ms. Fields stated the OTO is a recipient of federal funds and is a subrecipient of USDOT grant funding through the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT). As a grant recipient, the OTO must adhere to grant guidance that is outlined in Title 2 § CFR 200 of the Code of Federal Regulations. One of the items required for grant standards protocol is a signed conflict of interest policy from OTO's employees, committee members, and directors of the board.

Staff prepared a Conflict of Interest Policy and Declaration of Conflict Statement to be signed by employees, committee members, and directors of the board. The Conflict of Interest Policy has been previously approved in the OTO's Procurement Policy. The Conflict of Interest Policy will be reviewed and signed on an annual basis.

Board of Directors members were asked to review and complete the Conflict of Interest form.

**D. Destruction of OTO Records**

Ms. Fields shared a list of documents that have met retention per the Ozark Transportation Organization's Sunshine Law and Records Retention Policy. The policy states that OTO complies with the State of Missouri General Record Retention Schedule. The use of federal funds requires the keeping of records for 3 years after the final grant submittal. Many of the documents to be destroyed were never in an electronic form. Documents were from FY 2012, FY 2014, and FY 2015. A detailed list was included in the agenda packet.

**E. 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. Cameron made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. O'Neal seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

  
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John Russell  
OTO Chairman