

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 21, 2024**

The Technical Planning Committee of the Ozarks Transportation Organization met at its scheduled time in person. A quorum was declared present. Chair Nelson began the meeting at approximately 1:31 p.m.

The following members were present:

Eric Claussen, City of Springfield	Frank Miller, MoDOT
Matt Crawford, City Utilities	Angela Nelson (a), Greene County (Chair)
Martin Gugel, City of Springfield	Jeremy Parsons, City of Ozark
Karen Haynes, City of Republic	Jeff Roussell, City of Nixa
Tristan Losh, City of Battlefield	Mike Ruesch, City of Willard
Joel Keller (a), Greene County	Beth Schaller, MoDOT
Mary Kromrey, Ozark Greenways	Mark Webb, Greene County

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

The following members were not present:

Keith Adams, Springfield Public Schools	Aishwarya Shrestha (non-voting), SMCOG
Steve Childers, City of Springfield	Jeremy Wegner, BNSF
John Matthews, Missouri State University	Daniel Weitkamp, FHWA
David Schaumburg, Springfield-Branson Airport	Todd Wiesehan, Christian County
Mark Schenkelberg, FAA	Vacant, FTA
Tim Schowe, City of Strafford	

Others present were: Erin Engelmeyer, Senator Hawley's Office; Tucker Jobes, Senator Schmitt's Office; Jered Taylor, Congressman Burlison's Office; Kimberly Ader, MoDOT; Corey Becker, City of Nixa; Adam Humphrey, Greene County; Cliff Spangler, City of Ozark; Dave Faucett, Sara Fields, David Knaut, Natasha Longpine, Debbie Parks, Nicole Stokes, and Jen Thomas, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

I. Administration

A. Introductions

Chair Nelson welcomed everyone.

B. Approval of the Technical Planning Committee Meeting Agenda

Jeff Roussell made a motion to approve the Technical Planning Committee Meeting Agenda for February 21, 2024. Martin Gugel seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Approval of October 18, 2023 and January 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Mary Kromrey made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2023 and January 16, 2024 Technical Planning Committee Meetings. Mike Ruesch seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. Public Comment Period for All Agenda Items

Chair Nelson advised there were public comments included in the packet and asked for comments or questions.

E. Executive Director's Report

Sara Fields shared the December Technical Planning Committee meeting was cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. Staff thanked Jeff Roussell for being the TPC Chair for 2023 and welcomed Angela Nelson as the Chair for 2024.

Members were advised there was a packet of information to fill out that included contact information, a conflict of interest form, and a Title VI survey.

Meetings have been scheduled with each of the member jurisdictions to discuss priority projects on the MoDOT system and off of the MoDOT system. Discussion will also include the update to the Travel Demand Model and how staff are forecasting growth for the region and member jurisdictions. There will be current project updates and discussion regarding unfunded needs.

There will be a call for trail and sidewalk projects in July. Applications will be due August 1st. Applications will be taken for any phase of the project, including PE only. Funding will be awarded through FY 2027. They will be staged awards.

F. Legislative Report

Erin Engelmeyer, with Senator Hawley's Office, shared the Senate was on recess this week and the Senator was traveling around Missouri. When the Senate reconvenes, they will be taking up the Continuing Resolution which expires next month with the second portion expiring in April. Prior to leaving for break, they took up two pieces of legislation. One was regarding the border. When that did not pass, they took out a supplemental security portion that would provide aide to Ukraine, Israel, and Tawain. The Senator did not vote for either one due to the funding to Ukraine not having any oversight or accountability. The Senator continues to support Israel.

Tucker Jobes with Senator Schmitt's Office stated the FAA Reauthorization Bill passed the Senate Commerce Committee last week. Senator Schmitt supported the bill. The bill included a lot of changes including increased safety standards in the form of more FAA safety inspections. In addition, it will bring more air traffic controllers into the field. There is a shortage of approximately 3000 air traffic controllers nationwide. It boosts funding for the essential air service program and doubles funding for the small community air service program. The Springfield-Branson National Airport received a \$5.3 million grant for five new jet ways. The Senator formed the Senate Epilepsy Caucus. The caucus will focus on innovation, research, and data. The Senator filed a bipartisan bill, the AI and Critical Technology Workforce Framework Act. This will help train the workforce on AI to be competitive with others around the world.

G. MoDOT Report

Frank Miller reported MoDOT has been working on their construction program. There have been some significant estimate increases on existing projects. Statewide estimates are up approximately 13%. For the OTO area, they are up 28%

Beth Schaller shared work continues on James River Freeway. There will be some lane shifts on Campbell for the work being done on the James River Freeway bridge. There will also be traffic shifts at the Highway 60 and 125 project near Rogersville. Sidewalk and ADA work continues. Mowing will start up again soon. Trash pick-up is also a focus.

H. Committee Reports and Grant Opportunities

David Knaut stated there have been two Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meetings. They discussed topics for 2024 and shovel-ready projects to UnGap the Map for trails. There were two meetings for the Local Coordinating Board for Transit. Their focus was on the call of projects that they had. They will have a meeting February 22nd to award projects. There was a Traffic Incident Management Subcommittee meeting in which they discussed tow truck permitting.

Debbie Parks shared staff is preparing a RAISE Grant application for Highway MM in Republic in cooperation with MoDOT and the City of Republic. It will be submitted on February 28th. Staff are supporting the City of Springfield with their RAISE Grant application, which is UnGap the Map, an urban trail project. MoDOT has a Cost-Share application process, the deadline is April 12, 2024. The Bridge Investment Program NOFO has been released, which is for bridges less than \$100 million. That will close on March 19th. There is a Buses and Bus Facility NOFO open and closes on April 25th. More NOFOs are expected to be announced in the Spring. Thriving Communities will open back up as well as the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Grant Program. In June, MEGA and INFRA are expected to be announced. More grant opportunities include the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program and the Reconnecting Communities pilot program. The Safe Streets and Roads for All NOFO was just released.

II. New Business

A. Safe Streets and Roads for All Update

Natasha Longpine shared that the OTO website includes updates for the Safe Streets and Roads for All action plan on the safety page. During the upcoming meeting with each member jurisdiction, staff will be discussing the different policies the communities have in place that may affect safety. There will be stakeholder meetings in the future. Staff will review the just released NOFO and update the member jurisdictions.

This was informational only. No action was required.

B. OTO Growth Trends Report

Dave Faucett presented the 2023 Growth Trends report to the Board.

This was informational only. No action was required.

C. MoDOT/OTO Sidewalk Cost Share Program Recommendations

Natasha Longpine highlighted the recommended projects:

- City of Republic – Route MM
- City of Springfield – Connection from Doling, across I-44 to Norton

Jeremy Parsons made a motion to recommend TAP/CRP funding for Republic in the amount of \$342,000 for a cost share with MoDOT along MM and for Springfield in the amount of \$302,006 to

create a pedestrian connection as part of the I-44 project. Mary Kromrey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. FY 2024-2027 TIP Amendment Three

Natasha Longpine shared there were multiple items included as part of Amendment Number Three to the FY 2024-2027 TIP Amendment.

- *Revised* Weaver Road Improvements (BA2402)
- *Removed* Jefferson Avenue Footbridge (EN1803)
- *Removed* Kali Springs Trail (EN2409)
- *Removed* Chadwick Flyer Trailhead (EN2404)
- *Removed* Garrison Springs Trailhead (EN2408)
- *Revised* Chadwick Flyer Spur to OHS (OK2302)
- *Pending Revised* RT MM Road Relocation, Railroad Grade Separation, and Corridor Scoping (RP1704)

Tristan Losh made a motion to recommend the Board of Directors approve Amendment 3 to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program. Karen Haynes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

E. FY 2024-2027 TIP Administrative Modifications Two, Three, and Four

Natasha Longpine detailed the items that were a part of Administrative Modifications 2, 3, and 4 to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

Administrative Modification 2 - Route MM Ramp Intersection Improvements at I-44 (RP2201, RP2401):

- RP2201-24AM2 – Original project less ROW and a portion of PE, for a new programmed amount of \$642,000
- RP2401-24AM2 – New project split from RP2201, with just ROW and some PE, for a new programmed amount of \$677,000

Administrative Modification 3 – Finley River Trail Extension (RP2407-24AM3):

- Moved \$32,669 in funds from construction in FY 2025 to preliminary engineering in FY 2024 to allow for finalization of design before construction

Administrative Modification 4:

- Job Order Contracting for Guard Cable and Guardrail Repair (MO2307)
-- Moving funds from FY 2025 to FY 2024 with no other changes
- Melville Road Bridge Over I-44 (SP1911)
-- Moved NHPP and MoDOT funding to STBG-U and Local funding, with no changes to the overall programmed amount.
- I-44 add lanes and replace bridges from Kansas to Glenstone in Springfield (SP2310)
-- Adding City of Springfield STBG-U funding, adding Greene County local funding, and adding OTO TAP funding, all replacing MoDOT and NHPP funding, while also moving construction funds to right-of-way for land acquisition.

This was informational only. No action was required.

F. Federal Funds Balance Report

Natasha Longpine highlighted the September 30, 2023 Federal Funds Balance Report. A status tracker was shared which will be updated regularly on the OTO website.

This was informational only. No action was required.

G. Technical Planning Committee Chair Rotation

Sara Fields presented the Technical Planning Committee Chair rotation. Angela Nelson of Greene County will be serving as the Chair in 2024. Per the rotation, the City of Ozark would hold the Chair-Elect position. The representative from Ozark is Jeremy Parsons.

Mary Kromrey made a motion to elect the Chair-Elect position for 2024 for the Technical Planning Committee as recommended. Jeff Roussell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

H. UPWP Subcommittee

Sara Fields requested volunteers to serve on the UPWP Subcommittee. Mary Kromrey, Karen Haynes, Frank Miller, and Mike Reusch volunteered.

Adam Humphrey made a motion to appoint the volunteers to the UPWP Subcommittee. Jeremy Parsons seconded the motion. The motion passed.

I. TIP Subcommittee

Natasha Longpine requested volunteers to serve on the TIP Subcommittee. Angela Nelson, Kimberly Ader, Cliff Spangler, and Jeff Roussell volunteered.

Mike Reusch made a motion to appoint the volunteers to the TIP Subcommittee. Karen Haynes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

III. Other Business

A. Technical Planning Committee Member Announcements

Mary Kromrey shared the Ozark Greenways 2024 Annual Meeting will be February 29th from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm at the Springfield Art Museum’s Community Room. It will be a drop-in open house style event. Immediately following the Annual Meeting, the Forward SGF speaker series will present The Economics of Community Design Part 2 with speaker Joe Minicozzi, AICP.

Beth Schaller stated there would be an I-44 Corridor Update public meeting March 19th at the Crossway Baptist Church from 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm.

B. Transportation Issues for Technical Planning Committee Review

There were no transportation issues for Committee review.

C. Articles for Technical Planning Committee Member Information

Chair Nelson noted there were articles of interest included in the Agenda Packet.

IV. Adjournment

Jeremy Parsons made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Roussell seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:35 p.m.


Angela Nelson
Technical Planning Committee Chair