

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 25, 2025**

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:

Kim Ader, MoDOT (non-voting)	Eric Johnson, City of Ozark (a)
Steve Bach, Springfield Citizen-at-Large	Marshall Kinne, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
Cecelie Cochran, FHWA (non-voting)	Rusty MacLachlan, Greene County
Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large	Lynn Morris, Christian County
Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)	John Russell, Greene County (Chair)
Mark Crabtree, City of Battlefield	Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)
Eric Franklin, City of Republic	Kelly Turner, City Utilities

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

The following members were not present:

RJ Flores, Christian Co Citizen-at-Large	Mark Schenkelberg, FAA (non-voting)
Brandon Jenson, City of Springfield	Brian Weiler, Springfield-Branson Airport (a)
Derek Lee, City of Springfield	Wes Young, City of Willard (a)

Others Present: Tucker Jobes and Mike Ussery, Senator Schmitt's Office; Scott Bachman, City of Springfield; Nicole Boyd, Dave Faucett, David Knaut, Natasha Longpine, Debbie Parks, and Jen Thomas, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

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

I. Administration

A quorum was present.

A. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Marshall Kinne made a motion to approve the September 25, 2025 agenda. Steve Bach seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. 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. There were no in-person or online comments.

C. Adoption of the Consent Agenda

Travis Cossey made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Dan Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Consent Agenda Items:

1. July 17, 2025 Minutes
2. Financial Statements for FY2025 Budget Year
3. FY 2026-2029 TIP Administrative Modification 1
4. Annual Listing of Obligated Projects

D. Executive Director's Report

Natasha Longpine provided an update of upcoming legislative activity, projects, and ongoing work at the OTO.

E. MoDOT Update

Kim Ader provided the MoDOT update.

F. Legislative Reports

Tucker Jobes with Senator Schmitt's office provided a Legislative update.

G. Federal Funds Status Update

Jen Thomas provided the Federal Funds Status Update.

II. New Business

A. Federal Fund Carryover Letter

Natasha Longpine presented the proposed letter to the Missouri and Highways Transportation Commission requesting changes to the federal funds carryover policy.

Dan Smith made a motion to approve the letter. Lynn Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. 2026 Legislative Priorities

Natasha Longpine reviewed the proposed legislative priorities for the 2026 legislative session.

Jerry Compton made a motion to adopt the 2026 Legislative Priorities. Marshall Kinne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Amendment 1 to the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program

Natasha Longpine highlighted the changes requested to the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program.

1. *Revised* I-44 Safety Project (MO2521)

MoDOT requested to consolidate this project with the broader design-build project from Joplin to Conway. The project description, MoDOT Job Number, and programming information has been updated, as well as the revenue projections for MoDOT to account for the larger project.

Dan Smith made a motion to approve Amendment 1 to the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program. Travis Cossey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. FY 2026 Operational Budget Amendment #2

Debbie Parks presented the FY2026 Operational Budget Amendment.

Revenue added:

- Carbon Reduction Program funds - \$397,348
- Local Match Reserves - \$99,337

Expense added:

- Transportation Consultants - \$496,685

Jerry Compton made a motion to approve FY2026 Operational Budget Amendment Number Two. Eric Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

E. Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement – Ward Branch Project Management

Debbie Parks reviewed the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement with the City of Springfield.

Marshall Kinne made a motion to approve the Executive Director enter into an Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement with the City of Springfield to provide construction project management for the Ward Branch Greenway Trail and execute a supplemental agreement with MoDOT for the additional Carbon Reduction Program Funds. Eric Franklin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

F. Construction Services Contract Ward Branch Greenway Trail

Debbie Parks highlighted the Ward Branch Greenway Contractor contract.

Dan Smith made a motion to approve the Executive Director to advertise, bid, award, and execute a contract with a qualified contractor upon successful execution of an ICA between the City of Springfield and OTO. The contractor contract shall not exceed five hundred thousand dollars. Kelly Turner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

G. Memorandum of Agreement – Pembroke and 160 Study

Debbie Parks presented the Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Nixa for the Pembroke and 160 Study.

Travis Cossey made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to use up to \$60,000 of the OTO transportation consultant budget for the Route 160/Pembroke Study, with the City of Nixa providing the local share up to \$15,000 and authorize the Executive Director to sign the included Memorandum of Agreement for project administration. The draft MOA currently provides for the estimated \$50,000, but the Executive Director could revise up to the allowed \$75,000. Eric Franklin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

H. Consultant Services Contract Route 160 & Pembroke Ave Ext Traffic Study

Debbie Parks reviewed the Pembroke and 160 Study consultant contract.

Eric Johnson made a motion to approve the Executive Director enter into a contract with the selected consultant Crawford, Murphy, and Tilly for up to fifty thousand dollars upon successful execution of a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Nixa and OTO. The Board also approves the Executive Director to enter into contract revisions if needed up to seventy-five thousand dollars. Dan Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

I. FTA 5310 Funding Awards

David Knaut presented the selected applicants for Federal Transit Administration vehicle funding.

1. FTA 5310 – OATS, Inc.

OATS was recommended by the LCBT to receive an estimated \$157,000 in FTA Section 5310 funding to replace two vehicles of their fleet with one wide body cutaway vehicle and one high roof extension van supporting their contracted transportation services for the Greene County Tax Board, and the MO Dept of Mental Health within the OTO region. Match is provided by OATS in the estimated amount of \$39,400.

2. FTA 5310 – VSL Springfield Assisted Living LLC

The VSL Springfield Assisted Living LLC was recommended by the LCBT to receive an estimated \$61,656 in FTA Section 5310 funding to replace their current vehicle with a medium roof extended conversion van supporting their client-based transportation services for seniors at their facility also known as Creekside at Elfindale Assisted living. The vehicle will also be used at the other Creekside at Elfindale facilities if needed. Match is provided by the LLC in the estimated amount of \$15,414.

Rusty MacLachlan made a motion approve awarding FTA 5310 funding to OATS and VSL Springfield Assisted Living LLC. Travis Cossey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

J. Nominating Committee

Natasha Longpine requested volunteers/nominations to serve on the nominating committee to appoint or reappoint OTO officers and members of the Executive Committee for the calendar year of 2026.

Steve Bach, Eric Franklin, Marshall Kinne, and Dan Smith volunteered to serve on the committee.

Lynn Morris made a motion to appoint Steve Bach, Eric Franklin, Marshal Kinne, and Dan Smith to the Nominating Committee. Kelly Turner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

III. Other Business

A. Board of Directors Member Announcements

Rusty MacLachlan shared the Kansas Expressway Extension will open between 9:00 am – 10:00 am on Friday, September 26th.

B. Transportation Issues for Board of Directors Member Review

There were no transportation issues for member review.

C. Articles for Board of Directors Member Information

Chair Russell noted there were articles of interest included in the packet for the members to review.

IV. Adjourn meeting

Travis Cossey made a motion to adjourn. Marshall Kinne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.



John Russell
OTO Chair