

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
January 15, 2014**

The Technical Planning Committee of the Ozarks Transportation Organization met at its scheduled time of 1:30 p.m. in the OTO Conference Room.

The following members were present:

Mr. Don Clark, Missouri State University	Mr. Bill Robinett, MoDOT
Mr. King Coltrin, City of Strafford	Mr. Ralph Rognstad, City of Springfield
Ms. Dawne Gardner, City of Springfield (a)	Ms. Beth Schaller, MoDOT (a)
Mr. Chris Jones, City Utilities Transit	Mr. Andrew Seiler, MoDOT
Mr. Kirk Juranas, City of Springfield	Mr. Dan Smith, Greene County Highway Dept.
Mr. Joel Keller, Greene County Hwy Dept. (a)	Mr. Dan Watts, SMCOG
Mr. Frank Miller, MoDOT	Mr. Todd Wiesehan, Christian County

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

The following members were not present:

Mr. Mokhtee Ahmad, FTA Representative	Mr. Kevin Lambeth, City of Battlefield (a)
Mr. David Bishop, R-12 School District	Mr. Larry Martin, City of Ozark
Ms. Kristy Bork, SGF (a)	Ms. Diane May, SMCOG (a)
Mr. David Brock, City of Republic	Mr. Brad McMahon, FHWA
Mr. Randall Brown, City of Willard (a)	Mr. Kent Morris, Greene County Planning
Mr. Doug Colvin, City of Nixa (a)	Mr. Mark Schenkelberg, FAA Representative
Mr. Travis Cossey, City of Nixa	Mr. Shawn Schroeder, SGF
Mr. Rick Emling, R-12 School District (a)	Mr. Jeff Seifried, Springfield Chamber
Ms. Diane Gallion, City Utilities (a)	Ms. Cheryl Townlian, BNSF
Mr. Jonathan Gano, City of Springfield	Mr. Garrett Tyson, City of Republic (a)
Mr. Martin Gugel, City of Springfield (a)	Ms. Eva Voss, MoDOT
Mr. Jason Haynes, City of Springfield (a)	Mr. Terry Whaley, Ozark Greenways
Mr. Rick Hess, City of Battlefield (Chair)	Mr. Bob Wilslef, City of Ozark (a)
Mr. Jay Huff, Missouri State University (a)	Mr. Chad Zickefoose, MoDOT (a)
Mr. Adam Humphrey, Greene County	

Others present were: Ms. Sara Fields, Ms. Natasha Longpine, Mr. Curtis Owens, Ms. Debbie Parks, and Ms. Melissa Richards, Ozarks Transportation Organization; Ms. Stacy Burks, Senator Roy Blunt; Mr. Jered Taylor, Congressman Billy Long; Mr. Jeremy Parsons, City of Ozark; Ms. Krista Gawlowski, Senator Claire McCaskill.

As the Chair and Vice-Chair were unavailable, Mr. Dan Smith, the alternate for Adam Humphrey, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

I. Administration

A. Introductions

B. Approval of the Technical Planning Committee Meeting Agenda

Mr. Juranas made the motion to approve the January 15, 2014 Meeting Agenda. Mr. Coltrin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of the November 20, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Coltrin made the motion to approve the November 20, 2013 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Robinett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Public Comment Period for All Agenda Items

None

E. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Fields stated that MoDOT has been working with Greene County on the Safety Plan because Greene County was third in the state for fatalities. MoDOT hired a company Leidos to look at Greene County specifically and produce a plan to reduce fatalities. OTO staff has been participating. OTO staff has also been working on the Travel Demand Model, which is in the calibration stage. All the data has been input, now it is calibrated to make sure it produces the right outputs. The project is still about two months from completion. This model has the best data going in. There are a lot of measures in place for quality control. There were a few issues with the last model that have been resolved with this model. It can be used to run different scenarios.

OTO staff has been working on transit. FTA expanded the program that provided vans to human service agencies to include operations and ADA. FTA allocates the funds to the OTO like the STP-Urban program. There has been a challenge to see who should administer the program. Staff has been working with MoDOT to assign MoDOT the administration responsibilities. MoDOT has been working on a Memorandum of Understanding. Once the MOU is complete, then there will be a project application for approval that will be sent to the agencies seeking funds.

Another round of TIGER funding is expected. Staff has been discussing what that looks like and the possibility of another application. FTA gave a briefing on how the OTO can improve the last TIGER application. There were some good pointers for future applications.

Staff is working on the Growth Trends Report which will be coming out in the spring. If there is additional information that a jurisdiction would like to see included, members are asked to forward that request to the OTO office. Staff is also getting ready for the next TIP cycle.

OTO staff has a new website called Giveusyourinput.org. The public will be directed there for all public input in one easy place. It is in the beginning stages and will be used in some of the coming initiatives.

There should be a formal announcement coming from MoDOT about MoDOT suspending the Cost Share and Economic Development Program. MoDOT will no longer be taking applications for the Cost Share Program. That is indefinite, due to the federal uncertainty, MoDOT will not be able to fund the programs that are currently out in 2016 & 2017. MoDOT will also not add any projects to the 2015 STIP. This is based on news stories and MoDOT staff. Mr. Juranas stated it was an official Commission Action. Ms. Fields stated that was correct, but the official announcement with details has not been released yet.

II. New Business

A. Administrative Modification One to the FY 2014-2017 TIP

Ms. Longpine presented the two parts of Administrative Modification Number One to the FY 2014-2017 TIP: moving Route NN Pavement Improvements and West Bypass Pavement Improvements from FY 2015 to FY 2014.

Ms. Longpine asked Mr. Miller if that is because the funding was available sooner. Mr. Miller stated that MoDOT operates off a July to June funding year, while the OTO funds begin in October. MoDOT would like to start the resurfacing projects in August and September, so that is why a change in TIP years is needed.

B. Amendment Number Two to the FY 2014-2017 TIP

Ms. Longpine presented Amendment Number Two to the FY 2014-2017 TIP which included three projects: scoping for Brookline Avenue Railroad Crossing, Route 65 Resurfacing at Sunshine Street, and Scoping for I-44 Operational Improvements.

She pointed out the new sheet for the Roadway Section of the Fiscal Constraint. She stated that this report is something that will be seen going forward. There were no funds showing the available state and federal funding under a prior year. It was summed up independently. One of the requirements of the TIP is that there is fiscal constraint per fiscal year. By documenting the available prior funding for the state and federal side and showing the running total, the constraint can be clearly shown. This is a separate sheet that will go forward with that amendment.

Mr. Juranas inquired if the Route 65 Resurfacing was within the limits of the original interchange and if it included the concrete over Sunshine in the inside lane. Mr. Miller stated that the asphalt transition at Sunshine and 65. He stated it was asphalt only and not concrete grinding on this project.

Mr. Rognstad made the motion to recommend approval of TIP Amendment Number Two. Mr. Juranas seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

C. Regional Priorities for Bicycle and Pedestrian Needs

Ms. Longpine stated that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee had been working on a narrowed down and specific set of priorities. The existing needs list is quite extensive and addresses a lot of individual projects. These projects can range from 20 feet to a 3-mile trail. The BPAC developed two priorities that came out of the OTO Long Range Transportation Plan. Pieces can also be pulled out or point to the whole corridor depending on the funding opportunity.

The two priorities that the committee developed is the Route 66 Corridor from the OTO East Boundary to the OTO West Boundary. Projects along this corridor may include streetscapes and bicycle accommodations. The route was set based on MoDOT's signage program with the historical Route 66. One key component is the trail that Strafford designed between Strafford and Springfield. There has also been discussion about SMOG being aware in case Greene County would like to continue the project out of the OTO boundaries.

The second priority is to connect downtown Springfield to downtown Republic via the Jordan Creek/Wilson's Creek/Shuyler Creek Trail. The map shows the missing pieces in brown. There are just a few pieces left to finish the connection. This would give the area a really long trail. The M/ZZ and Farm Road 182 Corridor at this point is on the street. Depending on the connection with the Battlefield it could have a side path.

The BPAC asks that there be flexibility to use alternate pieces along these routes if opportunities are presented.

Mr. Miller inquired if an example would be connecting the Route M/ZZ trail with the Battlefield. Ms. Longpine stated that originally both options had been shown, but unless something changes, the on-road would happen sooner. This does not preclude funding for other projects in the plan, it just allows the efforts to be more focused.

Mr. Rognstad made the motion to recommend approval of the priority list to the Board of Directors. Mr. Coltrin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Transportation Demand Management Report

Mr. Owens presented the Transportation Demand Management Report. He stated that during the past year the OTO had picked up Associate Electric, Missouri State University, and Ozarks Technical Community College as large employers in the area. He stated that the Department of Environmental Services had been promoting the Rideshare program for the past year. The Department of Environmental Services promoted the Rideshare program at 70 events with 10 being dedicated to just the Rideshare program and air quality in the OTO area.

The Department of Environmental Services also ran ads in Greene Magazine, Springfield Business Journal, and ran radio ads on KSMU. The Rideshare program has also been included in the Green Score Program. OTO staff contacted top employers in the area and finalized 3 new portals. OTO staff has also been logging calls to the program. There have been 43 calls since June.

He encouraged member jurisdictions to place the Rideshare link on the jurisdictions' home page. Currently Webster County has placed it on their website. There is also a bus wrap to promote the program. Since 2013, there have been an increase of 129 active accounts. Since March 2013 there has been a 12 percent increase in the car pool matches.

E. Public Input Process for One-Cent Sales Tax Project List

Ms. Fields gave an overview of the process to be used to develop the public input process for a project list for a proposed statewide one-cent transportation sales tax. A private citizen investor group had been looking at a one-cent sales tax for the State of Missouri. At this point it is not clear if it would be an initiative petition or would go through the State

Legislature. All of the polling shows that there would need to be an approved project list in order for a sales tax to pass.

MoDOT has decided to develop the project list by looking to the RPCs and MPOs. The OTO is in charge of developing a project list for the OTO area. The Board approved a subcommittee made up of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee and members of the OTO Board with the purpose of establishing a Public Input Process. This Public Input is to make sure the regional priorities that were established in 2008 are still the same priorities that the public wants.

OTO Staff is looking at cheap ways to obtain public comment such as a text vote or voting on the website. The subcommittee will give the report to the OTO staff and establish a special task force that includes all the member jurisdictions. In the event the OTO has to prioritize projects, the Long Range Transportation Plan Prioritization Process will be used. The LRTP Prioritization Process gives a score based on economic development, current state of operations (including AADT and accidents), and multi-modal aspects. If the OTO moves beyond the priority projects or is not able to fund all of the priority projects, that is the criteria that will be used.

MoDOT is requiring this list by July 1st. The vote is planned for November 2014 assuming that there are enough signatures or the legislature votes to put it on the ballot. The goal is to have the input process designed by the end of February, with input coming in during the month of March.

The belief is that the one cent tax would generate between \$250 to \$300 million dollars over a 10 year period. That would make a big dent in the OTO Regional Priority Lists.

F. OTO In-Kind Match Letters

Ms. Parks requested new In-Kind letters. She explained the difference in the two types of in-kind match letters. Volunteers and elected officials should fill out the Volunteer Rate form. The rate is currently set at \$19 an hour. Employees of the jurisdiction should fill out the Paid Position Form documenting the actual hourly rate with fringe benefits. If the salary is from federal funding sources, then a form should not be filled out.

Mr. Smith inquired how much the OTO receives from the in-kind. Ms. Parks stated it is usually over \$4,000 and makes a small difference.

G. OTO Technical Committee Appointment

Ms. Parks explained the need for an official membership appointment letter on file from each jurisdiction. She encouraged each jurisdiction to submit a letter signed by the mayor, commissioner or director of each jurisdiction. This is a requirement of the OTO Bylaws.

H. "On the Move" Update

Mr. Miller stated that there is not a lot to report. Some public comments have been received on the MoDOT Long Range Plan. A couple of the comments in the OTO area are about improving Route CC and Route 14 in Christian County.

I. FY 2015 Unified Planning Work Program Subcommittee and Project Proposals

Ms. Fields stated that the OTO asks for a UPWP subcommittee annually to review the OTO work program. The OTO enters into a contract with MoDOT for the work performed by staff during the year and MoDOT funds the operations. A majority of the work is the same every year, like the Transportation Improvement Program. This subcommittee is usually run by email. She asked for volunteers to serve on the subcommittee and for any work projects that TPC members would like to see included in the FY 2015 work program. The subcommittee members would review the projects in the FY 2015 work program.

Mr. Joel Keller, Ms. Eva Voss, Mr. Todd Wiesehan, one representative from Springfield to be determined at a later date, Mr. Chris Jones, and Mr. Larry Martin were on the volunteer slate.

Mr. Coltrin made the motion to approve the slate of volunteers. Mr. Rognstad seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

J. Title VI Plan

Mr. Owens stated that the FTA issued Circular 4703.1 which requires the OTO to put together a Title VI Program. The program includes each of the approved policies already in place, such as the LEP (Limited English Proficiency) Plan, OTO's Public Participation Plan, and the OTO's Title VI Complaint Form, Procedures and Notifications. The program covers two sections of the Circular 4703.1, with which MPOs are required to comply, Chapters 3 and 6. It takes the already existing plans and compiles them into one document. The Program will be forwarded to MoDOT. The MoDOT due date is March 31, 2014. MoDOT is compiling the Title VI information to forward to FTA.

Mr. Smith had heard in another meeting discussion on a new law adding veterans and disabled as a category to not be discriminated against. Ms. Fields wondered if it was in the hiring process. Mr. Owens stated there was nothing in this Circular Guidance.

Mr. Rognstad made the motion to recommend to the OTO Board of Directors regarding adoption of the Title VI Plan. Mr. Juranas seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Other Business

A. Technical Planning Committee Member Announcements

Mr. Rognstad stated the Healthy Living Alliance and Ozark Greenways will be hosting the "Walk This Way!" event on March 6. There is a ribbon cutting at Doling Park with the LINK, for the new bridge, trail, and sidewalks. The event will finish with a meeting with Mark Fenton, an alternative transportation expert.

Mr. Miller stated that MoDOT is undertaking the Statewide Freight Plan. It is called "Freight on the Move." There is going to be a series of meetings across the state. The target audience is the freight providers and major industries that move a lot of freight. The Springfield area meeting is on February 7 at the Springfield-Branson National Airport.

Ms. Burks stated that the continuing resolution passed the Senate. There is a short continuing resolution to extend through January 18 for final procedural motions. There will be a nine month version of the budget for the rest of the year. Senators Blunt and

McCaskill are both calling for investigations as to why a 737 landed on a very short runway in Hollister, as opposed to the Branson Airport.

Mr. Smith inquired about the Transportation Bill since it runs out in September. Ms. Burks stated it is too far out to guess. There are some sizeable pieces completed on the new bill, but the issue is how to fund the Highway Trust Fund. That is a sizable issue since transportation will have to be paid for and there is a large debate on how to do that. There will have to be a tax, whether it is a gas tax or otherwise, but it would impact what is discussed at the state.

Mr. Taylor stated he was confident that nothing would happen with the Highway Trust Fund until after September, maybe February of next year, depending on the election results. Ms. Burks stated there was a 5 week recess this year instead of 4 weeks.

Mr. Juranas stated that the numbers that were sent out on the One Cent Sales Tax Initiative and the generated funds went down significantly. He inquired if this was because there was no inflation. Mr. Miller stated that there is some inflation. Mr. Juranas stated it went down by about 25 percent. Ms. Fields stated she thought it was because MoDOT was talking about taking 10 percent off the top, 5 percent for counties and 5 percent for cities. The announcement made said it would be a 40 percent increase and that was the number for counties, not cities. When the overall total went down from 35 percent to 25 percent, it took the counties down to about 33 percent. There was a misunderstanding that the 40% was for both cities and counties and that could not be possible.

Mr. Miller stated that was correct, that with the old proposal MoDOT was stating 40 percent, but with the cities it was not 40 percent, it was 30 percent. For counties it was actually around 38 percent.

B. Transportation Issues for Technical Planning Committee Member Review

None.

C. Articles For Technical Planning Committee Member Information

Ms. Fields discussed a few of the articles.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

X

Travis Cossey
Technical Planning Committee 2014 Chair