OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2018

The Technical Planning Committee of the Ozarks Transportation Organization met at its scheduled time in the OTO Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:40 p.m. by Vice Chair Randall Brown.

The following members were present:

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| Mr. Randall Brown, City of Willard (Vice Chair)  Ms. Megan Clark, SMCOG  Mr. Eric Claussen, City of Springfield (a)  Mr. King Coltrin, City of Strafford  Mr. Tom Dancy, City of Springfield (a)  Mr. Adam Humphrey, Greene County  Mr. Joel Keller, Greene County (a) | Mr. Mary Kromrey, Ozark Greenways  Mr. Frank Miller, MoDOT  Mr. Andrew Nelson, City of Republic (a)  Mr. Jeff Roussell, City of Nixa  Mr. Andrew Seiler, MoDOT  Mr. Kelly Turner, City Utilities Transit  Mr. Garrett Tyson, City of Republic |

1. *Denotes alternate given voting privileges as a substitute when voting member not present*

The following members were not present:

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| Mr. Mokhtee Ahmad, FTA Representative  Mr. Rick Artman, Greene County  Mr. Joshua Bird, Christian County (a)  Ms. Kristy Bork, Springfield/Branson Airport (a)  Ms. Paula Brookshire, City of Springfield (a)  Mr. John Caufield, BNSF  Mr. Doug Colvin, City of Nixa (a)  Mr. Justin Coyan, Springfield Chamber of Commerce  Mr. Rick Emling, R-12 School District (a)  Ms. Dawn Gardner, City of Springfield (a)  Mr. Martin Gugel, City of Springfield (Co-Chair)  Mr. Tom Johnson, Missouri State University  Mr. Kirk Juranas, City of Springfield (Co-Chair)  Mr. Kevin Lambeth, City of Battlefield (a) | Mr. Bradley McMahon, FHWA  Mr. Kent Morris, Greene County Planning  Mr. David O’Connor, City of Willard (a)  Mr. Jeremy Parsons, City of Ozark (a)  Mr. Jason Ray, SMOG (a)  Mr. David Schaumburg, Springfield/Branson Airport  Mr. Mark Schenkelberg, FAA Representative  Mr. Frank Schoneboom, City of Battlefield  Mr. Jeremiah Shuler, FTA Representative (a)  Ms. Mary Lilly Smith, City of Springfield  Ms. Janette Vomund, MoDOT  Ms. Eva Voss, MoDOT  Mr. Todd Wiesehan, Christian County  Mr. Chad Zickefoose, MoDOT |

Others present were: Jeremy Pruett, Congressman Billy Long’s Office, Mr. Dan Wadlington, Congressman Roy Blunt, Ms. Brenda Cirtin, Mr. David Faucett, Ms. Sara Fields, Mr. Scott Godbey, Ms. Natasha Longpine, and Mr. Andy Thomason, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Mr. Randall Brown, Vice-Chair, Technical Planning Committee Chairman, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:40 pm.

* 1. **Administration**

1. **Introductions**

Those in attendance made self-introductions stating their name and the organization they represent.

1. **Approval of the Technical Planning Committee Meeting Agenda**

Mr. Turner moved approval of the Technical Planning Committee Meeting Agenda for January 17, 2018. Mr. Keller seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

1. **Approval of the September 20, 2017, Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Coltrin moved for approval of the minutes from the November 15, 2017 Technical Planning Committee Meeting. Mr. Humphrey seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

1. **Public Comment Period for All Agenda Items**

There were no speakers present to address the Committee.

1. **Staff Report**

Sara Fields stated Springfield had been awarded a CDC Walkability Grant in which six individuals from the Community, OTO, Ozark Greenways, Springfield City Council, the Health Department, and Public Works are going to Atlanta in April to develop a strategic plan for walkability in Springfield.

Ms. Fields congratulated Natasha Longpine for having received a Master’s Certificate in Transportation and Urban Systems from North Dakota State University.

Ms. Fields said DNR made a recreational trail grant announcement, but Ms. Fields stated she believes only Springfield is applying. She noted this information had been sent to the Board, and if anyone needed a letter of support, to please let staff know.

Ms. Fields added the 21st Century Missouri Transportation System Task Force had issued their report. She stated she would send the link to the report following the meeting, but noted the report calls for an immediate investment in the transportation system, which includes a $.10 fuel/gas and $.12 diesel tax increase. She said this could not be approved by the Legislature but would require a vote. She noted the Legislature would have to place this on the ballot. She added the report also calls for other funding to be made available for multi-modal needs. She stated the report also discusses longer-term options, such as indexing the gas tax and going to a user-fee system.

Ms. Fields said a few months ago she had worked on a ten-year scenario as to what could be done if the level of funding discussed in the report was available. She referenced the handout that had been distributed and reviewed the project list. Ms. Fields stated that MoDOT was in agreement with this list and had worked with the OTO to develop it. Ms. Fields reviewed the multi-modal projects that had been submitted. She noted that to be eligible for funding, a trail had to be on a MoDOT route, and only three trails met these criteria.

# MoDOT Update

# Frank Miller stated MoDOT is just beginning the process of updating the STIP (Statewide Transportation Improvement Program). It will be released later this year. Mr. Miller stated that MoDOT had received new funding targets for this area and that the projections had reduced slightly. He added that 2019 had dropped considerably, but that 2020 and 2021 had only dropped a small percentage. He noted that 2023 had been reduced a little more, due to the increase in the cost-share program, which will increase to $40 million.

1. **Legislative Reports**

Dan Wadlington, Senator Roy Blunt’s Office, stated that at this point the focus is trying to keep the government open, but there is no mention of infrastructure in what is currently being discussed. He added there is some discussion about earmarks, which he said had always been good for our area. He said so far there is no mention of an infrastructure program due to there being other issues that need to be dealt with before it is discussed, and the fact there is still no funding source.

Jeremy Pruett stated Congressman Long had introduced a bill to help expand Broadband. He noted that this issue is a real concern for rural areas. He stated that no reliable Internet service is what keeps some communities from being able to attract businesses.

1. **New Business**
2. Administrative Modification Number Two to the FY 2018-2021 TIP

Natasha Longpine stated staff had moved $6,856 from the National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) to High Priority Projects (HPP) in order to utilize the funding from FY 2009 Appropriations Bill Earmark. This funding will go towards the Route 60 Guardrail Improvements. She noted this is a minor change of funding sources between federal funding categories or between state and local sources.

Vice-Chair Brown noted this item is for informational purposes only; no action is required.

1. Amendment Number Three to the FY 2018-2021 TIP

Natasha Longpine stated staff is requesting an amendment to the FY 2018-2021 TIP (Transportation Improvement Program). She stated the City of Springfield is interested in using $2,000,000 of STGB-U (Surface Transportation Block Grant-Urban) Funding to rehabilitate the Jefferson Avenue Footbridge. She indicated this would include replacing some structural portions of the bridge, painting it, adding lighting, meeting ADA standards, etc. She said the City would be contributing a $500,000 match for this project.

Eric Claussen added the bridge is in a state of disrepair and is closed to the public due to its unsafe condition. He added that when it is rehabilitated, it will also be made ADA accessible so that all citizens may enjoy it.

Ms. Fields stated that City Council has not yet agreed to the plan being proposed, but that City staff wished to begin the process due to time constraints.

With no additional questions or comments, Mr. Miller moved to recommend approval of FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Number Three to the Board of Directors. Mr. Humphrey seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

1. Amendment to the Program Management Plan

Andy Thomason stated the OTO is responsible for the project selection process for the Section 5310 Enhancing Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities grant program. He added that Federal guidelines state if grant funds go to more than one sub-recipient you must have a document that outlines the process for awarding these funds, the types of projects that are eligible, what the selection criteria looks like, etc. Mr. Thomason said that for the OTO, that document is the Program Management Plan (PMP).

Mr. Thomason noted that with the adoption of a new Transit Coordination Plan (TCP), the Local Coordinating Board for Transit (LCBT) updated portions of the PMP. Mr. Thompson said during the course of the review of the PMP, the LCBT determined there was a need to revise the selection criteria and narrow the list of eligible projects. Mr. Thomason stated that based on surveys and responses to questionnaires, the LCBT identified a need for evening and weekend services, intercity services, and greater flexibility in ride scheduling. He added that criteria were added to the PMP to prioritize projects with these features.

Mr. Thomason stated there is a Memorandum of Understanding between the OTO, City Utilities, and MoDOT which defines the roles and responsibilities for the grant program, and exclusively references the administration of grant funds related to vehicle purchases. Mr. Thomason noted the PMP has been amended to reduce the list of eligible traditional activities to vehicle purchases only.

Mr. Thomason said the final change is the requirement that all recipients participate in E-verify, which must be confirmed at the time of application.

Mr. Claussen moved to recommend approval of the amendment to the Program Management Plan to the Board of Directors. Mr. Turner seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

1. OTO Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Investment Study Review

Andy Thomason reviewed the history of this project for the benefit of the new members. He noted this project came from a discussion held at a TAP (Transportation Alternative Program) Subcommittee meeting in 2016. He stated in the past the TAP Subcommittee concentrated on smaller, non-motorized projects, such as sidewalks, safe route to school, etc. At the meeting in August 2016, there was discussion on funding projects that might have a regional impact, as opposed to several smaller projects. It was suggested that staff look at the possibility of linking some of the trails in the region.

Mr. Thomason said staff discussed the need for additional information regarding alignments, cost estimates, etc. He said staff recommended hiring a consultant that could provide the information necessary to determine if the TAP Committee wished to proceed in this way. He said following the Board’s approval of the funds for the consultant, the RFP process was followed and ultimately the contract was signed with Alta Planning and Design.

He reviewed the process Alta followed to develop the proposed map and alignments. The study evaluated approximately 76 miles of proposed trail corridors. These corridors came from community meetings, site visits, existing land ownership patterns, key points of interests, and input from BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee). Mr. Thomason noted the PEL (Planning Environmental Linkages) process was very useful in this study as it provided some valuable existing information.

Mr. Thomason stated no formal prioritization of trails was completed as part of this study, but a methodology for prioritizing was put in place. The estimated costs range from $100 million to $103 million to complete the regional trail network. He noted the prioritization methodology will be used to evaluate projects each time TAP funds are made available for regional trail projects. He added additional information could be found at [www.ozarkstransportation.org/Documents/OTO)\_Trail\_Investment\_Study\_Complete.pdf](http://www.ozarkstransportation.org/Documents/OTO)_Trail_Investment_Study_Complete.pdf).

Following Mr. Thomason’s presentation, Vice-Chair Brown thanked staff for all the hard work that was put into this trail study. Ms. Kromrey moved to recommend acceptance of the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Investment Study to the Board of Directors. Mr. Tyson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

1. UPWP Subcommittee and Project Proposals

Sara Fields stated the UPWP (Unified Planning Work Program) is the document attached to the grant request for the OTO Operational funds. She said it delineates the projects that the OTO will be doing during the year that will assist in obtaining federal funding. She noted many of the projects are recurring, but there is the ability to add a few new projects. She noted the UPWP Subcommittee assists in determining what new projects should be added and ensuring we are complying with the contract. She added she is looking for volunteers to serve on this Subcommittee.

Mr. Humphrey moved the following be appointed to the FY 2019 UPWP Subcommittee: Eva Voss, Kelly Turner, King Coltrin, Garrett Tyson, and Kirk Juranas. Mr. Roussell seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

1. **Other Business**
   1. **Technical Planning Committee Member Announcements**

Garrett Tyson stated the City of Republic is beginning to launch a comprehensive planning process. He added he would appreciate any input any members of the Committee might have.

Kelly Turner thanked the OTO staff for all their assistance in the ridership survey that City Utilities conducted in December.

* 1. **Transportation Issues for Technical Planning Committee Member Review**

Natasha Longpine stated she wanted to let the Committee know that as the OTO begins the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) process, part of that process will be reviewing the systems and operational maintenance funding that the local jurisdictions are responsible for. She noted this was highlighted in the certification review process the OTO underwent last year.

Sara Fields noted that Andy Thomason had received his American Institute of Certified Planners Certification in November.

* 1. **Articles for Technical Planning Committee Member Information**

Vice-Chair Brown noted there had been several articles distributed in the agenda packet and encouraged the members of the Committee to review them as they had time.

**Adjournment**

With no additional business to come before the Committee, Mr. Kelly moved the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Coltrin seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.