OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2016

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. David Brock, City of RepublicMr. Randall Brown, City of Willard Mr. King Coltrin, City of Strafford (Vice-Chair)Mr. Travis Cossey, City of NixaMs. Dawne Gardner, City of Springfield (a)Mr. Rick Hess, City of BattlefieldMr. Adam Humphrey, Greene County Mr. Tom Johnson, Missouri State University | Mr. Kirk Juranas, City of SpringfieldMr. Joel Keller, Greene County Hwy Dept. (a)Mr. Larry Martin, City of Ozark (Chair)Mr. Frank Miller, MoDOTMr. Jason Ray, SMCOGMr. Andrew Seiler, MoDOTMr. Kelly Turner, City Utilities TransitMr. Todd Wiesehan, Christian County |

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

The following members were not present:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mr. Mokhtee Ahmad, FTA RepresentativeMr. David Bishop, R-12 School DistrictMr. Rick Artman, Greene County HighwayMr. Justin Coyan, Springfield Chamber of CommerceMr. Martin Gugel, City of SpringfieldMr. Nicholas Konen, BNSFMr. Brad McMahon, FHWAMr. Kent Morris, Greene County Planning | Mr. Mark Schenkelberg, FAA RepresentativeMr. Shawn Schroeder, Springfield-Branson National AirportMr. Jeremiah Shuler, FTA RepresentativeMs. Mary Lilly Smith, City of SpringfieldMs. Janette Vomund, MoDOT Ms. Eva Voss, MoDOTMr. Terry Whaley, Ozark Greenways |

Others present were: Ms. Carolyn Halverson, City of Willard; Mr. Jeremy Pruett, Congressman Billy Long’s Office; Mr. Joshua Boley, Ms. Sara Fields, and Ms. Debbie Parks, Ozarks Transportation Organization; Mr. Dan Wadlington, Senator Roy Blunt’s Office; Mr. Brandon Jenson, SMCOG.

Mr. Larry Martin, Technical Planning Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm.

* 1. **Administration**
1. **Introductions**
2. **Approval of the Technical Planning Committee Meeting Agenda**

Mr. Hess made the motion to approve the May 18, 2016 TPC Agenda. Mr. Cossey seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

1. **Approval of the March 16, 2016-Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Cossey made the motion to approve the March 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Hess seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Fields stated that Tab 2 of the agenda contains the public comment that has been received. The OTO went out for public comment in preparation of beginning the Transportation Improvement Program. Letters were mailed to the list of interested parties.

1. **Staff Report**

Ms. Fields stated that Ms. Longpine is in Jefferson City, MO for training on Performance Measures with MoDOT. Staff continues to work on the Long Range Transportation Plan. The draft plan should be on the July Technical Planning Committee meeting. The Transportation Alternatives Program is the replacement for the Enhancement Funds. There will be approximately $600,000 and applications are expected in the fall. That program was drastically cut with MAP-21. The OTO’s GIS Specialist, Jacob Guthrie, has left to work in St. Charles County. The OTO will be filling the Planner position first that was left vacant last year. The Planner position was going to be filled after July 1, but it will be moved up. The job was posted and interviews are being conducted.

Ms. Fields mentioned that an email about the STIP had been sent out. There is a public comment period that ends on June 10. OTO would like to send a letter of support on behalf of the cities, because MoDOT listened to the priorities. There will be a letter sent out telling everyone how it will look. It would be nice to send it up to the Highway Commission to show support for including the OTO in the planning process and listening to the area.

1. **MoDOT Update**

Mr. Miller stated that the report was being covered by other agenda items.

1. **Legislative Reports**

Mr. Pruett stated that there is not much going on with transportation since the FAST ACT passed last year. Congressman Billy Long is currently working on a letter to the Homeland Security Subcommittee asking for an increase of the H2B Temporary Visas. There has been some push back lately with people thinking it is a push for more foreign workers coming into the United States. That is not the case, this is something that the constituents and companies around here are asking for. It is for temporary, seasonal employees, for jobs like landscaping and housekeeping. The statistics have found that it actually creates more jobs for full time workers.

Mr. Martin inquired if there was an update on the Riverside Bridge in Christian County. Mr. Pruett stated that he had not heard an update on the bridge.

Mr. Wadlington stated that Congress is working on an Appropriations Bill. Right now the main item is the Zika Virus. Figuring out how to spend $1 billion to stop the Zika Virus from spreading. The Administration does not think that is enough and wants $2 billion. It looks like there might be an agreement at $1.1 billion to eliminate mosquitos over the southern United States. The Senator is also working to increase the spending on medical research.

1. **New Business**
2. **Administrative Modification 7 to the FY 2015-2018 TIP**

Ms. Fields presented Administrative Modification 7 to the FY 2015-2017 TIP as found in the agenda.

1. **Amendment Number Eleven to the FY 2015-2018**

Ms. Fields presented the 4 items on the FY 2015-2016 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Number Eleven.

Mr. Juranas made the motion to recommend approval of TIP Amendment Number Eleven to the Board of Directors. Mr. Brown seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

1. **Federal Funds Balance Report**

Ms. Fields stated that twice a year the OTO publishes the Federal Funds Balance Report to give the jurisdictions a snap shot of the funding available, the recent allocation, what the balance is and what is in danger of funds lapse. Right now, it looks to be okay on September 30, because there are some projects that should be obligated fairly quickly. The funds are actually programmed a little above the allocation so everything looks good. Greene County, City of Battlefield, City of Ozark, City of Strafford and the City of Willard are exceeding the available balances. The hope is that with the Intersection Cost Share Program that might change. Greene County is working on the Kansas Expressway Extension Project so that will take care of itself. The City of Battlefield is programming sidewalks and the City of Republic is also working on it.

1. **LRTP Draft Constrained and Unconstrained Project List**

Ms. Fields stated that staff has been working on the plan. The Long Range Transportation Plan Subcommittee met to go over the projects on the constrained and unconstrained list. The subcommittee also looked at the intersections, making sure proposed intersections for the Cost Share Program were added. There were only a couple projects added. Some funding was broken up between years as the list was looked at. Overall, it is the same list that the subcommittee looked at. Unless the list is changed by the Technical Planning Committee or Board of Directors, this is the list that will appear in the Long Range Transportation Plan. Projects cannot go into the Transportation Improvement Program unless it is in the Long Range Transportation Plan. If there is a project that is being planned in the next five years and it does not appear in the constrained list, it needs to be added or the Long Range Transportation Plan will have to be amended with the Transportation Improvement Program. Overall, the unconstrained list is about $500 million short on funding.

Mr. Brock made the motion to recommend approval of the LRTP Proposed Constrained Project List. Mr. Humphrey seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

1. **MoDOT Draft FY 2017-2021 STIP**

Mr. Martin inquired if there had been public comment on the MoDOT Draft FY 2017-2021 State Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. Fields stated that it is open for public comment through June 10. The Highway Commission is taking Public Comment on the STIP as it is proposed. Mr. Martin asked if there had been activity. Mr. Miller stated that there have been comments. MoDOT is eliminating 3 federal aid programs. STP funding for small cities is one of the programs. This will impact the City of Republic and indirectly impact the City of Willard. He stated that right now the STP Small Urban is distributed by the 2000 Census. In the 2010 Census the City of Republic went into the City of Springfield and the City of Willard became a Small Urban area. If the program would continue, MoDOT would update it for 2010 Census and the City of Willard would have a small allocation of funding through that program. However, in the OTO area the way the funding distribution works is that it is taken off the top and totaled into the rest of the STP Urban and it is pretty negligible. Outside the OTO area, people are commenting that the program should not go away. The funds are used for ADA and resurfacing. Some communities do not care. The City of Joplin gets $270,000 a year and there are some comments there. Also within the Southwest District’s STIP proposal is $10 million for Intersection Cost Sharing with OTO and $5 million outside the OTO. The City of Joplin has already written a letter of support for the outside OTO project. There has not been comments from the average person yet.

Ms. Fields offered more detail on the Suballocated Program. The City of Republic received $33,000 and the OTO gets $5.7 million in STP-Urban so it is negligible. If the program does not go away the City of Republic does not get it anyway. It goes into the pot and is redistributed. The City of Willard is much smaller than the City of Republic, so it would be around $12,000 or $15,000. The bigger concern is the bridge funds that MoDOT is discussing not suballocating, which was around $251,000 last year. However, it sounds like if the program goes away it will be redistributed through a formula and the area will come out ahead instead of behind. MoDOT would get the funds for the area instead of it being suballocated to OTO. MoDOT definitely has bridges to spend money on. The impact to the OTO area is not there. The OTO will not have to manage it. Staff will not object unless the members want to.

Mr. Miller stated that the STP-Small Urban is $3.5 that is distributed to about 30 cities. The OTO gets more than all the small cities put together. The Kansas City and St. Louis get the bulk of the STP-Large Urban. The third program is the Small Urban Bridges. Cities with populations between 5,000 and 200,000 can apply for On-System Bridge Improvements. The bridge has to be on the On-System list. The only agency eligible is the City of Republic and there is nothing on their list that is eligible. This is a very small impact program, but all together it is about $10 million in funds that would be running back through the MoDOT distribution formula. The OTO gets roughly 5 percent so the estimate is $500,000 for the OTO area. It would have to be on the MoDOT system. Mr. Brock asked if the STP-Small Urban funds would go back through the funding formula. Mr. Miller stated the assumption was that it would, if for some reason it does not then he was not sure how it would work. There are significant bridge needs throughout the state in the northern part of the Southwest District. At this point the assumption is that it would be distributed through the typical funding formula.

Ms. Fields stated the list of eighteen projects had been prioritized in February. The projects were scored and talked about by the LRTP Subcommittee. An email was sent out to that effect. Eight of the projects appear in the STIP. MoDOT went down the list and picked those projects. Ms. Fields highlighted the OTO area projects included in the STIP.

Mr. Juranas stated that the City of Springfield is pleased as well and will be sending a letter from the Mayor. Ms. Fields stated that along those same lines, the State Legislature added a $20 million Statewide Cost Share for this upcoming fiscal year. The Governor signed the budget, it is unknown if he will withhold funds on this program. It is unknown when the applications will be put out. When the applications are put out the OTO will propose one or two intersection projects, instead of using local money.

Mr. Turner asked how the scoring will be administered. Will it be MoDOT or will Politian’s be involved. Mr. Miller stated that was unsure, but if it operates like the previous Cost Shares it will be decided by a committee of MoDOT staff. Mr. Turner asked if there would be earmarks since it is General Revenue funds. Ms. Fields was unaware of any earmarks. Mr. Miller replied that there were actually earmarks in the budget, but did not know if there were any in the final budget. Last year there was an earmark for guardrails for a woman in the news, whose house was flooded and then a car went off the road into her kid’s room. There has been no earmarking in the Cost Share Program. The $20 million would not go very far if it was earmarked. Greene County did have an earmark for a railroad crossing. Mr. Humphrey stated it was a safety improvement. Mr. Miller wanted to know if had made the final budget and Mr. Humphrey had not heard.

Mr. Miller stated that MoDOT was having to ADA address access every time a road was resurfaced. MoDOT would start going beyond that in the OTO area. MoDOT was looking at replacing the shoulders on West Kearney with a full size walk and working on 2 pedestrian crossings, Chestnut/West Bypass and Kansas/Grand. Those projects were pointed out through the Council Zone One Initiative on Poverty as a way to help people to get to jobs. Mr. Martin asked if it is the same type of ADA improvements that are going on in the City of Ozark right now. Mr. Miller stated yes. The OTO area is in a place where it can go beyond the bare access. The rest of the District is trying to keep up with ramps.

Ms. Fields commented that on the action requested, the Technical Planning Committee comments will not be able to be on the Board of Directors agenda. The public comment period ends in June. It was expected to end in July. Staff is looking for a recommendation on comments that should be submitted, since the Board of Directors will not have time to hear it.

Mr. Miller stated that the only item not on the priority list is the six-laning from U.S. 65 from Evans Road to Hwy CC. It is still on the Priority Corridor List. MoDOT is concerned since the current project goes to Evans Road. The concern is that traffic does not break there. Evans Road is not the big differencing area. The concern is that it will be a bottle neck when it is done.

Mr. Juranas made the motion to recommend endorsement of the Draft FY 2017-20121 STIP. Mr. Cossey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Juranas inquired if MoDOT’s 325 Plan came from the Highway Commission. Mr. Miller stated it did. When the funding projections were adopted last year, there were really pessimistic projections. The projected federal funds were going down and the state funds would not match at that level. Since then the state revenues came up for the State of Missouri is now able to match the federal money. The federal funds went up as well. MoDOT is federalizing the striping and chip sealing. What that means is that MoDOT is leveraging millions on the federal side. The 325 plan called for $325 million in contract awards statewide and now it is $700 million. It has more than doubled what the projections were. The problem that was being discussed with the 325 plan is that for every dollar you cannot match it is off $5 overall. There was always federal money out there, the state was just not able to use this money until there was match. At the 325 level the Highway Commission said if the whole system could not be taken care of, a system would be selected that could be taken care of and that ended up being the Primary Route System.

1. **Discussion of Intersection Cost Share Proposal**

Ms. Fields stated that one of the items in the STIP is to begin a $5.95 million Intersection Cost Share in fiscal year 2018 and a $6.23 million Intersection Cost Share in fiscal year 2020. Staff has been working behind the scenes, asking members about possible intersection projects and asking for a working list with cost estimates. Most everyone was able to update those estimates, as well as tell what the priorities would be, so some of the items have been taken off and changed somehow. There are thirteen projects. There was a typo in SP4040 which is the City of Springfield project, Republic Road from Chase to Fairview. It is supposed to say it is the intersection at Republic Road and Campbell. It is part of a bigger project which is the widening on Republic Road from Chase to Fairview. The overall project is $4.5 million so it was estimated at $2.5 for the intersection. It was moved from the plan so the description is just not right. This is the best guess at cost estimates. There will change as things progress.

Staff is looking for a discussion on the list and changes. The next steps are listed. The STIP will hopefully be approved as is by the Highway Commission. Once it is approved, the Intersection Cost Share program is approved. Then the project estimates would need to be refined. Before the projects could be programmed or a Cost Share agreement signed there would have to be good numbers. More will be known in July and then the Cost Share Application will be sent out. The idea is that given the fact that there are not projects to exceed the funding, the projects will not have to be prioritized or selected. If a jurisdiction applies and it is on the list, it is a done deal. Hopefully that will not change. The applications will be sent out, then MoDOT will work up the program agreements just like the TIP projects. Those will need to be approved by early fall by the jurisdictions council or commission and then it will go through a STIP/TIP amendment process to actually add the projects to the TIP. Right now the TIP just says Intersection Cost Share. It is important because that will not count towards our STP-Urban balance. The right-of-ways will need to be purchased early 2017 with construction beginning end of 2017 and first half of 2018. That is the plan.

This has never been done before locally, so the OTO is working with MoDOT to make it happen. That is the plan and is subject to change.

Mr. Miller stated that the main concern is that the acquisition of right-of-way would have to happen quickly. There was a question on whether the right-of-way purchase andconstruction was on a yearly calendar or state calendar. Ms. Fields stated the year calendar. There has been discussion with MoDOT if the right-of-way needed to be purchased early, if it could count against the city or county’s 50 percent share and work that in early. That would be a case by case scenario.

Mr. Miller stated that looking at the thirteen projects, eleven related to something else in the STIP happening. Either it was adjacent to that project or looking at safety improvements. The projects will have to be coordinated and a project might get moved to an odd year if that needs to happen.

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

Mr. Hess announced the Annual Trail of Tears Celebration in the City of Battlefield. He stated that there would be a dedication of two parking spaces for Purple Heart Recipients at the Celebration and to welcome the combat wounded at the City Hall in Battlefield.

Mr. Humphrey announced that the Greene County Planning and Zoning Board has officially approved the Greene County update to the Major Thoroughfare Plan. I wanted to thank staff for helping represent the OTO with that. Ms. Fields inquired if the Commission approved it or just Planning and Zoning. Mr. Humphrey stated it a comprehensive plan and is at the discretion of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Mr. Brock stated that the City of Republic was holding a public meeting on June 2. The meeting will be at the community center over the STP road project times and Oakwood Corridor Improvements. The goal is to present the proposed improvements and getting feedback from interested parties.

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

Mr. Miller stated that there is a tracker measure that tracks the performance measurement. There is a mean truck reliability index measure and I-44 does not perform as well as I-70. The problem areas are Joplin, Springfield, and Rolla. This is based on the transponders on the trucks. There was discussion on the issue.

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

Mr. Miller made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Juranas seconded and the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.