OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 18, 2012

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:

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| Mr. David Brock, City of Republic  Mr. Don Clark, Missouri State University | Mr. Frank Miller, MoDOT  Mr. Duffy Mooney, Greene County Highway Dept. |
| Mr. King Coltrin, City of Strafford  Mr. Travis Cossey, City of Nixa | Mr. Ralph Rognstad, City of Springfield  Mr. Andrew Seiler, MoDOT |
| Ms. Carol Cruise, City Utilities | Ms. Cheryl Townlian, BNSF |
| Ms. Hollie Elliott, Springfield Chamber (a) | Ms. Eva Voss, MoDOT |
| Mr. Nick Heatherly, City of Willard | Mr. Terry Whaley, Ozark Greenways |
| Mr. Joel Keller, Greene County (a)  Mr. Larry Martin, City of Ozark | Mr. Todd Wiesehan, Christian County (Chair) |

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. Brad McMahon, FHWA |
| Mr. Rick Artman, Greene County Highway Dept. | Mr. Ryan Mooney, Springfield Chamber |
| Mr. David Bishop, R-12 School District | Mr. Kent Morris, Greene County Planning Dept. |
| Mr. Randall Brown, City of Willard (a) | Mr. Troy Pinkerton, MoDOT (a) |
| Mr. Rick Emling, R-12 School District (a) | Mr. Bill Robinett, MoDOT |
| Ms. Diane Gallion, City Utilities (a) | Mr. Mark Roy, Springfield-Branson Airport (a) |
| Mr. Jonathan Gano, City of Springfield | Ms. Beth Schaller, MoDOT |
| Ms. Dawne Gardner, City of Springfield (a) | Mr. Mark Schenkelberg, FAA Representative |
| Mr. Martin Gugel, City of Springfield (a) | Mr. Shawn Schroeder, Springfield-Branson Airport |
| Mr. Jason Haynes, City of Springfield (a) | Mr. Dan Smith, Greene County Highway Dept. |
| Mr. Rick Hess, City of Battlefield | Mr. Garrett Tyson, City of Republic (a) |
| Mr. Jay Huff, Missouri State University (a)  Mr. Kirk Juranas, City of Springfield | Mr. Dan Watts, SMCOG  Mr. Bob Wilslef, City of Ozark (a) |
| Mr. Kevin Lambeth, City of Battlefield (a) |  |
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Others present were: Ms. Debbie Parks, Ms. Sara Edwards, Mr. Curtis Owens and Mr. Chris Stueve, Ozarks Transportation Organization; Ms. Stacy Burks, Senator Roy Blunt’s Office; Ms. Shelia Schmitt, City Utilities Transit; Mr. Jered Taylor, Congressman Billy Long’s Office; Mr. David Rauch, Senator Claire McCaskill’s Office; Mr. Bob Rubino, Citizen.

Mr. Wiesehan called the July 18, 2012 Technical Planning Committee meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

## Administration

# Introductions

Ms. Cruise introduced the new City Utilities Transit Director Shelia Cruz. Ms. Cruz will be taking the position officially in October.

# Approval of the Technical Planning Committee Meeting Agenda

Mr. Wiesehan stated there was a reordering of the agenda. Item E is being pushed back behind Item A of Section II.

Mr. Martin made the motion to approve the agenda with the changes. Mr. Miller seconded and the agenda was approved unanimously.

# Approval of the May 16, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Brock made the motion to approve the May 16, 2012 Meeting minutes. Mr. Mooney seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

# Public Comment Period for All Agenda Items

None.

# New Business

1. Rideshare Program Proposal

Ms. Fields stated that Federal Highway ruled that the Rideshare Matching Program was not eligible under the current planning funding that the OTO receives. It was removed from the budget and a subcommittee was formed to look at how it could be funded. The subcommittee met several times and reviewed the program, the direction, how it was funded, and how much it would cost. The subcommittee is recommending that the program be turned over to the City of Springfield Department of Environmental Services. The City of Springfield’s Department of Environmental Services works with the Ozarks Clean Air Alliance and the Partnership for Sustainability, doing a lot of the same things as the OTO as far as promoting the program.

It would cost the OTO $31,000 in STP-Urban funds to keep the program. The reason is that the OTO would have to bill staff costs and indirect costs to the program since currently there is only one funding source. If OTO were to use an additional funding source, all overhead costs would have to be proportionally billed as well. These overhead costs would not be part of the costs if managed by the City of Springfield, so it would only cost $10,000. The only cost would be the amount to run the online Rideshare matching program Ozarkscommute.com as well as about $2,000 in promotional materials. The City would include staff time. City Utilities currently donates a bus wrap for advertising for Ozarkscommute.com and that could be used for local match.

There is a budget showing if the OTO ran the program and one showing if the City of Springfield ran the program. There are also some scenarios for STP-Urban funding of $31,000 or $10,000. If a decision is not made about the program, it is paid through December 31. After that time, the website would go off- line. Based on the work with the subcommittee, staff is recommending that the program be transferred over to the City of Springfield and added to the Transportation Improvement plan as well. .

Mr. Heatherly stated that he was on the subcommittee but missed the second meeting. He inquired if there was any discussion in the second meeting about what the program was going to do and how it was going to be monitored. Ms. Fields stated that the number of users would still be gauged by how many people sign up. There is a disadvantage once some someone signs up and finds a carpool, because they may leave the system and not be reflected in the numbers. That is a flaw in the program, but is the same with all carpool programs.

The subcommittee has decided to focus more on employers because people feel more comfortable with people they know instead of complete strangers. Barbara Lucks thought the City would like to focus more on the employers and not the general public. There would be a gauge, then, using the number of employer portals.

Mr. Martin made the motion that the TPC make a recommendation to the Board of Directors that the Rideshare Program be transferred to the City of Springfield Environmental Services and $10,000 in STP-Urban funding be recommended to fund the program. Mr. Heatherly seconded and the motion was carried.

# Executive Director’s Report

Ms. Fields stated that the Blue Ribbon Panel was in town in June. The panel was talking about the state of transportation in Missouri, funding needs, and the possibility for funding opportunities. Members of OTO that spoke were Mr. Steve Childers, Mr. Nick Heatherly, and Mr. Howard Fisk. They did a wonderful job articulating the needs for both their individual cities and the region as a whole. There were also several people talking about ways to fund transportation. The panel should be coming out with a report with some suggested solutions.

City Utilities had a Triennial review and that report is included. To sum it up it was a perfect review, which the reviewer stated was only the second time in 25 years. It is very rare to have no deficiencies found in a Federal review.

There is a handout for the Advocacy Advance Tools to Increase Biking and Walking. The last Board of Directors meeting approved the TIP amendments and LRTP amendments that were discussed at the last TPC meeting. The City of Springfield and MoDOT have been doing a study to look at the James River Interchange and how that works together with the Republic Road Intersection as well as access management along the Campbell Corridor. There will be a public meeting on July 24 at the Library Center.

There is an additional handout about the Transportation Enhancements. Mr. Chris Stueve will be leaving OTO employment on Friday so direct any questions to other staff. Mr. Mooney stated that Mr. Stueve would be coming to work at Greene County as Facilities Management Technician.

1. **FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program**

Ms. Fields introduced Mr. Owens for the TIP presentation. Mr. Owens stated that the 2013-2016 TIP is a four-year improvement program where OTO has federal funds designated for specific projects. The update process began in May with the request for TIP projects. The TIP subcommittee met on July 2 and reviewed the draft document. The Board meeting will be on August 16 and hopefully the program will be approved. It will go on to FHWA to be in place by September 30. Part of the process involves public comment which makes copies of the TIP available in the OTO office, online, in the CU Transit Building, and the Library Center. A public notice was placed in the Springfield News-leader and the Community Freepress. All of the public comment will be submitted to the Board of Directors.

Sections of the TIP include the Introduction, Aviation, Bicycle/Pedestrian, Roadway, Transit, Financial and the Appendix. In the Aviation section there is approximately $8.5 million programmed through the AIP fund which is administered through the FAA. There were nine projects this year. The largest one was the reimbursement program. In the Bicycle and Pedestrian section there was no new funding programmed. At this point, projects are using funding from previous years awarded of $3.8 million. It includes sidewalks, bike/ped, and trail connections. The largest project is the pedestrian improvement on Kearney Street.

Mr. Owens highlighted major projects included in the Roadways Section. Available funds totaled $168 million, including $101 million State and Federal funds and $40 million in sub allocated STP-U and Bridge. Of this, $131 was programmed, with $96 million for roadways, $3 million for railroad crossings, $27 thousand for ITS, $182 thousand for scoping, and $52 million for debt service.

The LCBT met and reviewed applications for the 5310, 5316, and 5317 programs. This year the group selected Burrell for a raised roof modified van and OATS for a mini bus that would accommodate up to two wheelchairs plus other passengers. City Utilities was awarded the 5316 & 5317 funds of $151,000 and was $75,000, respectively.

Ms. Fields stated there were several changes since the draft was sent out. Primarily the changes include the Rideshare program. That had to be the added to TIP because of using STP-Urban funds. There were several pages added that Mr. Miller requested from MoDOT, including 14/NN scoping and splitting out the Route 60 project with ADA work on Route 60 in Republic.

As for state and federal funding availability, the projection has increased, though less than $40 million. Of the $37 million remaining that is not programmed, $31 million is STP-U and $18 million is for FY 13-16 funds. The OTO has not been real proactive in spending the advance funds, which is not recommended beyond the new transportation bill.

The City of Springfield has some Cost Share Projects coming up that require the passage of the 1/8 cent sales tax. These projects cannot be programmed until the vote and passage. Additionally, some figures were updated throughout the TIP.

OTO staff is still addressing ONEDOT comments. Due to delays developing the web-based TIP, the review by ONEDOT was delayed. The motion will need to recognize incorporation of these recommendations.

Public comment has been provided to the TPC. The Willard School District sent a letter requesting to widen 160. One individual would like to remove the railroad near the Rountree Neighborhood. Parkview High School would like a freeway going downtown. Another person in Rountree would like more bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. OTC had some comments requesting additional biking and pedestrian improvements near the campus.

Staff has been corresponding with MoDOT regarding the next round of Enhancement funds because FY 12 Enhancement funds were not released and were being held until the new transportation bill was approved. There are no guarantees but there is expectation for a call of projects for both the FY 12 and FY 13 funds this fall. The FY 12 money would be under the current enhancement program and the FY 13 would be under the new, MAP-21 so there is uncertainty in how that will work. There might be less funding available in FY 13 but more will be known as fall approaches. The TPC should be aware this is coming in order to prepare some projects for the fall.

Mr. Martin made a motion that the Technical Committee recommend to the Board of Directors the changes as submitted and reviewed including the whole FY 2013-2016 TIP to the Board of Directors. Mr. Mooney seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

1. MAP-21 Summary

Ms. Fields stated that the President signed the new Transportation Bill MAP-21, on July 9. It approved the rest of FY 12 (which goes through September) and then through September 30, 2014. Federal Highway has released funding tables which show level funding. There is a little inflation for 2014, but overall the funding levels are maintained. Enhancements are changed to Transportation Alternatives. Transportation & Bicycle Education Activities have been removed. Those have been funded in the past and are now an unallowable expense. Safe Routes to School and Recreational Trails are now in the Transportation Alternatives. It is not clear how the funding will be distributed. It states that 50 percent of the funding goes to the State and is sub allocated based on population. If that is the case, it will come to OTO and the region will decide how to sub-allocate those funds. The whole program looks as though it was reduced by 34 percent; however OTO is up in population, so there are a lot of calculations to be made before the dollar amount is known. Typically, the OTO gets around $500,000 a year, so it might be down a little from that.

The TIGER projects have also changed. The DOT has stated there is a new mega-projects category that is funded at $500 million, which will be the new TIGER. The speculation is that there will no longer be the old TIGER program, just these new projects of national and regional significance. Only DOT’s, Transit Agencies, and Indian Tribes may apply for the program. This means the OTO will not be able to apply for TIGER unless there is some other type of bill.

The OTO budget is funded through new bill. It looks like the funding level will be up a little from 12 percent to 14 percent. Overall the big picture of this bill is that it reduces the number of funding programs in the Highway Program, for a total of 9. This is about 2/3 of the programs it used to be. MoDOT has stated it will make it easier because there used to be 60 some categories, this allows the funds to be spent quicker. There are now performance measures added to the planning process. There had been discussion that this was coming and so some performance measures had been built into the OTO Long Range Plan. It will also be required of the TIP. It is unclear at this time how it will be incorporated in the TIP process, but it appears that the OTO will have to prove that it is meeting some objectives before the projects are added. That is going to be a change and create some additional work on this end. Also, a TIP amendment may be necessary to reflect these program changes once more is known.

Ms. Burks stated that from Senator Blunt’s perspective there were a few additional items in the new transportation bill. For those individuals representing counties, the Senator’s Amendment on the BRO program was included in the Bill so the program will continue for the next 26 ½ months. The Senator was pleased to support that amendment. There are some BRO projects in the region of significance. The other item was for farming families. The Senator was proactive in seeking a farm vehicle exemption under this new bill. There are some pretty onerous regulations coming down from ONEDOT and Federal Motor Carriers that would have required farm operators to have a CDL license to transport farm items. That would have amounted to a substantial cost, so there is now an exemption for farm transportation within 150 miles of the farm and it does include crossing State lines. This is going to help the agricultural community out, especially this year, when a lot of farmers are hurting in terms of revenues generated by farms.

Mr. Taylor stated that there was a discussion earlier in the year about the truck weight and that has been postponed. It will not be studied for another two years until 2014.

Mr. Rauch stated that the Bill did include a reauthorization of the Federal Flood Insurance Bill as well as several other things. It is a good example of the few compromises Congress has been able to achieve during this session and there probably will not be a lot more until after the election. The Senator was pleased to see the 27 month extension; the variance in proposals was from three months to two years. One of the contingents continues to be funding. There is a gap between what the gas tax brings in and what is being appropriated. Congress spent a lot of time trying to figure out where the extra money needs to come from to provide funding going forward. Hopefully, after the election period is over it can be addressed more comprehensively.

## Other Business

# Technical Planning Committee Member Announcements

Ms. Elliot encouraged everyone in city limits to vote for the 1/8-cent renewal for transportation.

###### Transportation Issues for Technical Planning Committee Member Review

None.

1. Articles For Technical Planning Committee Information

Ms. Fields stated there are a couple additional articles on the MAP-21 Bill. One is about the mega projects which replace TIGER funding.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m. Mr. Martin made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Whaley seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

