

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
April 16, 2020**

The Board of Directors of the Ozarks Transportation Organization met at its scheduled time of 12:00 p.m. using the ZOOM video conferencing platform. The meeting was also livestreamed on Facebook for public participation.

The following members were present:

Mr. Chuck Branch, Citizen-at-Large  
Mr. Steve Campbell, MoDOT  
Mr. Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a)  
Mr. Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large  
Mr. Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)  
Mr. Bob Dixon, Greene County  
Ms. Debra Hickey, City of Battlefield  
Mr. Skip Jansen, City Utilities

Mr. Andrew Lear, City of Springfield  
Mr. James O'Neal, Citizen-at-Large  
Ms. Stacy Reese, MoDOT (a)  
Mr. Mike Schilling, City of Springfield  
Ms. Martha Smartt, City of Strafford (a)  
Mr. Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)  
Mr. Brian Weiler, Airport Board (a)

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

The following members were not present:

Mr. Mokhtee Ahmad, FTA  
Mr. Harold Bengsch, Greene County  
Mr. David Cameron, City of Republic (a)  
Mr. Chris Coulter, Greene County (a)  
Mr. John Elkins, Citizen-at-Large (a)  
Ms. Jan Fisk, City of Springfield  
Ms. Ashley French, City of Strafford  
Mr. Rick Gardner, City of Ozark  
Mr. Brad Gray, City of Willard (a)  
Mr. Corey Hendrickson, City of Willard  
Mr. Michael Latuszek, FHWA (a)

Mr. Ken McClure, City of Springfield (a)  
Ms. Laurel McKean, MoDOT (a)  
Mr. Bradley McMahan, FHWA  
Mr. Daniel Nguyen, FTA (a)  
Mr. Ralph Phillips, Christian County  
Mr. Mark Schenkelberg, FAA  
Mr. Frank Schoneboom, City of Battlefield(a)  
Mr. Matthew Simpson, City of Springfield (a)  
Mr. Brian Steele, City of Nixa  
Mr. Jeff Ussery, City of Republic  
Mr. Richard Walker, Citizen-at-Large

Others Present: Mr. Kirk Juranus, City of Springfield; Mr. Frank Miller, MoDOT; Mr. Jeremy Pruett, Congressman Billy Long's Office; Mr. Randell Wallace, Kutak Rock; Mr. Dave Faucett, Ms. Sara Fields, Ms. Natasha Longpine, and Mr. Andy Thomason, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Chair Cossey called the meeting to order at approximately 12:10 p.m.

**I. Administration**

**A. Introductions**

Self-introductions were not made due to the challenges associated with video conferencing.

**B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda**

Mr. O'Neal moved to approve the April 16, 2020 agenda. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Harold Bengsch	---	Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	---	Mr. James O'Neal	Aye
Mr. Steve Childers	Abstain	Mr. Ralph Phillips	---
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. Mike Schilling	Aye
Mr. Travis Cossey	Aye	Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Bob Dixon	Aye	Mr. Dan Smith	Abstain
Mr. Brad Gray	---	Mr. Richard Walker	---
Ms. Debra Hickey	Aye	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye

The motion passed.

**C. Approval of February 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. O'Neal moved to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2020 meeting. Mr. Compton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Harold Bengsch	---	Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	---	Mr. James O'Neal	Aye
Mr. Steve Childers	Aye	Mr. Ralph Phillips	---
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. Mike Schilling	Aye
Mr. Travis Cossey	Aye	Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Bob Dixon	Aye	Mr. Dan Smith	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	---	Mr. Richard Walker	---
Ms. Debra Hickey	Aye	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye

The motion passed.

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

Chair Cossey asked if there was any public comment. Ms. Fields reported that due to digital nature of this meeting, public comments needed to be submitted by 5pm on April 15. No comments had been submitted. Mr. Cossey asked Mr. Faucet if there were any comments on Facebook. Mr. Faucet said no. The public comment period was closed.

**E. Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Fields thanked everyone for participating in the OTO's first Zoom board meeting. She said the agenda for today's meeting had been paired down to just a few essential items. She also wanted to get everyone a chance to hear from MoDOT and legislators.

Ms. Fields reported that the CARES Act included funding for transit and airports that will benefit our region. CU Transit received funding that can be used for operations or capital. CU expects it will be used for operations. The airport also received some funding. Mr. Weiler said given the decline in air traffic, he expects the funding will be needed just to support paychecks and basic operations.

Ms. Fields also reported on the travel impacts associated with COVID-19. Traffic is down nationwide by 40 to 50%. Few trips also translates into lower gas tax revenue. Revenue is expected to be down by 30%. There are efforts underway, led by AASHTO, to ask for additional federal support to backfill the gap. There is hope this funding will be included in a future COVID-19 support bill.

Mr. Childers asked about how the requested federal funds might be distributed. He wondered if it would be distributed based on the normal formulas or if it would rely on an application process/ previously submitted applications. Ms. Fields said she didn't know. The current round of INFRA is already funded. Mr. Pruitt said the support for infrastructure funding in future COVID-19 funding bills has fluctuated. There had been talk of infrastructure in the "COVID-3" bill, but COVID-3 may focus on issues arising from the passage of COVID-2. There is no guarantee that infrastructure will be included in COVID-4, should that even happen.

#### **F. MoDOT Update**

Mr. Campbell reported that COVID-19 is impacting MoDOT operations. Staff is teleworking, if possible. However, road maintenance must be done in person. MoDOT is trying to implement a one person per vehicle policy, but their fleet is not large enough to handle that in every situation. They are working statewide to reprioritize the May through September lettings, so liabilities don't exceed expected revenues. \$58 million in projects have been removed from the state's May letting already. Locally, the Glenstone interchange and resurfacing along US 60 have been delayed. MoDOT is also delaying light-duty fleet and other non-essential purchases.

Ms. Reese reported MoDOT would be hosting a virtual public meeting for the US 60/MO 125 interchange. MoDOT will be presenting design concepts 2 and 3.

#### **G. Legislative Reports**

Mr. Pruett reported Congressman Long is safely sheltering at home but remains actively involved with local needs and the national policy discussion. House leadership has delayed the resumption of the current session and is discussing ways to conduct business away from Washington D.C. Infrastructure spending is a good way to create jobs, but there isn't clear support for including it in any future COVID-19 spending bills. Congressman Long expects infrastructure would be at least a year away if it isn't included in the current response.

Mr. Pruett also reported a key piece of broadband legislation was recently passed. This bill provided funding to map areas without broadband. By knowing the existing gaps, future funding can be more efficiently spent.

## **II. New Business**

#### **A. Amendment to the OTO Articles of Incorporation**

Ms. Fields reported an issue with the Articles of Incorporation was discovered during a recent broad legal review. Currently, the OTO's assets would all go to the City of Springfield if it were to ever dissolve. She believes this is a provision that dates to when the OTO was apart of the City of Springfield. The proposed amendment would stipulate the OTO's assets be distributed to member jurisdictions, based on the most recent dues statements.

Mr. Wallace, the OTO legal counsel, also said this amendment would need to be approved by the governing body of each member jurisdiction. The articles of incorporation are like the OTO's constitution, and, as such, amendments must be supported by the constituent communities. Mr. Wallace can help draft the necessary ordinance language for each community.

Mr. Dixon made a motion to approve the amendment to the OTO's Articles of Incorporation. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Harold Bengsch	---	Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	---	Mr. James O'Neal	Aye
Mr. Steve Childers	Aye	Mr. Ralph Phillips	---
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. Mike Schilling	Aye
Mr. Travis Cossey	Aye	Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Bob Dixon	Aye	Mr. Dan Smith	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	---	Mr. Richard Walker	---
Ms. Debra Hickey	Aye	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye

The motion passed.

#### **B. Resolution to Amend the OTO Bylaws**

Mr. Wallace reported the Bylaws were initially reviewed to address employee indemnification. However, additional changes were identified. In addition to addressing indemnification, the proposed amendment includes shifting responsibility for changes to the employee manual and job descriptions to the Executive Director from the Executive Committee. Mr. Wallace said the changes were outlined in a memo included in the agenda packet and in a redline version of the bylaws.

Ms. Fields reported another possible change was identified by an OTO partner shortly before this meeting. Section 3.0 of the bylaws references compliance with a comprehensive plan for any future boundary changes. Again, this provision seems to date from a time when the OTO was apart of the City of Springfield. Federal law contains a process for amending MPO boundaries. Ms. Fields proposed this sentence be removed.

Mr. Dixon made a motion to approve the resolution to amend the OTO bylaws, including the deletion of the sentence in Section 3.0. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Harold Bengsch	---	Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	---	Mr. James O'Neal	Aye
Mr. Steve Childers	Aye	Mr. Ralph Phillips	---
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. Mike Schilling	Aye
Mr. Travis Cossey	Aye	Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Bob Dixon	Aye	Mr. Dan Smith	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	---	Mr. Richard Walker	---
Ms. Debra Hickey	Aye	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye

The motion passed.

**C. 2020 Calendar Year Action Items**

Ms. Fields reported the list of 2020 action items is a mix of new and old items. Items 6 and 7 were added last year, and she is proposing item 8 this year. She provided an overview of each proposed action item.

Mr. Schilling made a motion to approve the 2020 Calendar Year Action Items. Mr. Dixon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Harold Bengsch	---	Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	---	Mr. James O'Neal	Aye
Mr. Steve Childers	Aye	Mr. Ralph Phillips	---
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. Mike Schilling	Aye
Mr. Travis Cossey	Aye	Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Bob Dixon	Aye	Mr. Dan Smith	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	---	Mr. Richard Walker	---
Ms. Debra Hickey	Aye	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye

The motion passed.

**III. Other Business**

**A. Board of Directors Member Announcements**

Mr. Weiler said he had some good news to share. Despite the uncertain times, the airport received bids for less than the engineer's estimate for its major taxiway project. The project will cost around \$7 million.

Ms. Fields asked Mr. Jansen if he would share some information regarding some recent transit system changes. He said the transit department had come up with a way to provide drivers with additional protection from the airborne spread of COVID-19. One of the supervisors came up with the idea of using canvas and transparent plastic sheeting, like used in Jeep Wrangler soft tops, to provide 360-degree driver protection. They worked with an upholsterer in Nixa and rapidly equipped the bus fleet with these additional guards.

**B. Transportation Issues for Board of Directors Member Review**

There were no transportation issues to be considered.

**C. Articles for Board of Directors Member Information**

Chair Cossey noted there were articles of interest included in the packet for the members to review as time allows.

**IV. Adjourn meeting.**

With no additional business to come before the Board, Mr. Dixon moved the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Weiler seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Harold Bengsch	---	Mr. Skip Jansen	Aye
Mr. Chuck Branch	Aye	Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Mr. David Cameron	---	Mr. James O'Neal	Aye
Mr. Steve Childers	Aye	Mr. Ralph Phillips	---
Mr. Jerry Compton	Aye	Mr. Mike Schilling	Aye
Mr. Travis Cossey	Aye	Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Bob Dixon	Aye	Mr. Dan Smith	Aye
Mr. Brad Gray	---	Mr. Richard Walker	---
Ms. Debra Hickey	Aye	Mr. Brian Weiler	Aye

The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:10 p.m.

DocuSigned by:



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Steve Childers

OTO Secretary