



OZARKS TRANSPORTATION
ORGANIZATION

LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD FOR TRANSIT MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2016
3:00 p.m.
OTO Conference Room
2208 W Chesterfield Blvd., Suite 101
Springfield, MO

ATTENDEES

Diane Gallion	Cari Wright
JJ Bowler	Linda Starr
Jeff Robinson	Jason Ray
Andrew Seiler	

STAFF PRESENT

Andy Thomason	Sara Fields	Natasha Longpine	Mark Scott
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I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Gallion brought the meeting to order at 3:01pm. She made a special introduction of Mr. Thomason, a new staff member at OTO. Ms. Gallion told the group Mr. Thomason would take over as staff liaison to the LCBT. Mr. Thomason briefly introduced himself to the group. Introductions of other attendees were then made.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Gallion asked if anyone wished to make public comment on any agenda item. No public comments were made.

III. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 11, 2016 AGENDA

Ms. Starr made a motion to approve the agenda of the August 11, 2016 meeting. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 9, 2016 MINUTES

Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 9th meeting. Ms. Starr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

a) 5310 Vehicle Update

Mr. Thomason stated that although Ms. Christy Evers from MoDOT Multimodal was unable to attend, he had some information from her to report. Three buses had been ordered for OATS on 8/10/16. Agreements had been sent to Christian County Enterprises and Arc of the Ozarks for signatures on 7/18/16. One bus had been ordered for Burrell Center on 8/3/16 and one bus was ready for pickup with payment of match. Ms. Longpine suggested that the Burrell Center bus ready for pickup was likely an FY12 purchase and commented it would be good to close out that grant year.

Ms. Longpine reported that NAMI had made the decision to return the monies it had been awarded. This decision increases the amount of unobligated 5310 funds available.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a) Additional Vehicle Application

Ms. Longpine, Ms. Fields, and Mr Thomason explained to the committee why they were being presented with a new 5310 application. The Council of Churches was under the impression it could only apply for one vehicle. However, the council was in desperate need to replace two buses, Ms. Fields indicated. Also, many of the LCBT members commented on the status of the council's fleet during the original scoring process. Given those comments, Ms. Fields encouraged the council to apply for a second vehicle. The LCBT had only awarded 57% of the solicited funds. Ms. Starr and Ms. Bowler agreed that the council needed new vehicles and served an important role in the region.

The Council of Church's request for \$52,000 in federal funds received 60 points.

Ms. Wright asked how the remaining FY17 funds would be award, as requested or by another call for projects. Generally, the group thought another call for projects was the best way to fairly award the funds.

Ms. Wright made a motion to (1) award funding to the Council of Churches and (2) wait until another call for projects was conducted before additional funds were award. Ms. Gallion seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Possible Update of Transit Coordination Plan

Mr. Thomason reported that he had reviewed recent versions of the Transit Coordination Plan (TCP). The TCP had been updated in 2012 and 2014. A comparison of the two plans revealed strong similarities. Key elements of the plan, including the public participation had not been updated in the 2014 plan. Federal law requires the plan to be updated every five years. If the 2014 plan was not a 'full' update, the 2012 plan would need to be updated in 2017. Mr. Thomason asked the committee what they remembered about the 2014 update process. No one remembered completing public outreach as part of the update. Generally, the group acknowledged an update of the plan was needed.

Mr. Thomason also discussed the MO RIDES and the concept of mobility management. Given the rise of Mobility Management nationally and the new player in the OTO region, Mr Thomason thought now would be a good time to reconsider TCP strategies. Mr. Ray also indicated SMCOG would be updated their CPT-HSP in the near future and there might be an opportunity to coordinate planning processes.

The group decided to have the following items on the agenda for the next meeting:

- MO RIDES Presentation
- General Discussion of TCP, including list of providers and draft survey questions

The group also decided to focus on the TCP update at the February 2017 meeting.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Thomason reported that the FTA had published its final rule on Transit Asset Management Plan. The majority of 5310 recipients should be exempt from the new rule. CU and OATS will have to comply with the new rules. Mr Thomason shared a brief handout on the new rule. Ms. Gallion also reported that the new Public Transportation Safety rules had also been published. Ms. Gallion and Mr Robinson expressed some frustration with the amount of additional work required to comply with the new rules.

Ms. Gallion reported that the CU Paratransit program was looking to contract out a large portion of its services to taxi companies to save money. Recent analyses revealed many Paratransit users were ambulatory and taxis would be a more affordable method of providing service.

Ms. Wright asked the group if anyone was aware of a new Taskforce on Transportation in Springfield. She expressed some frustration that not all transportation providers were included on the Taskforce. Ms. Fields said the group came from the City's push in Council Zone 1. She reported on some of the items the taskforce had discussed and said she could convey messages from the LCBT to the taskforce.

Ms. Starr spoke of the current challenges facing sheltered workshops in the US. Efforts were underway to require typical federal minimum wage to be paid to all sheltered workshop employees, a wage rate that wasn't feasible under typical sheltered workshop environments.

Mr. Robinson reported that OATS will be starting two deviated fixed-route systems in the coming months. One system would provide service between Springfield and Stone/Taney counties. Routes would start in Lampe and Hollister. The other system would serve residents in Wright and Douglas Counties. Buses would connect Mountain Grove to Springfield and Ava to West Plains. If one of those systems didn't work, a service might be extended to Barry/Lawrence Counties. Fares will be \$6 for one-way and \$10 for a round trip.

The group discussed the date of the next meeting. It was decided to move the date to October 13 from the regularly scheduled November 10th.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Wright made a motion to adjourn at 4:25. Ms. Starr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.