

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 16, 2021**

The Board of Directors of the Ozarks Transportation Organization met at its scheduled time of 12:00 p.m. in-person and 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. James O’Neal, Citizen-at-Large
Mr. Steve Campbell, MoDOT	Ms. Stacy Reese, MoDOT (a)
Mr. Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a)	Mr. John Russell, Greene County (Vice-Chair)
Mr. Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. Mike Schilling, City of Springfield
Mr. Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)	Ms. Martha Smartt, City of Strafford (a)
Mr. Skip Jansen, City Utilities Transit	Mr. Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)
Mr. Andrew Lear, City of Springfield (Chair)	Mr. Tommy VanHorn, City of Battlefield (a)
Mr. Rusty MacLachlan, Greene County	Mr. Richard Walker, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
Mr. Lynn Morris, Christian County	

(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. Bradley McMahan, FHWA
Mr. David Cameron, City of Republic (a)	Mr. Brian Weiler, Springfield-Branson Airport (a)
Mr. Brad Gray, City of Willard (a)	

Others Present: Mr. Frank Miller, MoDOT; Ms. Sonya Anderson, Senator Roy Blunt’s Office; Mr. Ralph Phillips, Christian County; Mr. Dave Faucett, Ms. Sara Fields, Ms. Natasha Longpine, Ms. Debbie Parks, Ms. Nicole Stokes, and Mr. Andy Thomason, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Chairman Lear called the meeting to order at approximately 12:03 p.m.

I. Administration

A. Welcome and Roll Call

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Mr. Chuck Branch	Present	Mr. Lynn Morris	Present
Mr. David Cameron	Absent	Mr. James O’Neal	Present
Mr. Steve Childers	Present	Mr. John Russell	Present
Mr. Jerry Compton	Present	Mr. Mike Schilling	Present
Mr. Travis Cossey	Present	Ms. Martha Smartt via Zoom	Present
Mr. Brad Gray	Absent	Mr. Dan Smith	Present
Mr. Skip Jansen	Present	Mr. Tommy VanHorn via Zoom	Present
Mr. Andrew Lear via Zoom	Present	Mr. Richard Walker	Present
Mr. Rusty MacLachlan	Present	Mr. Brian Weiler	Absent

A quorum was present.

B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Mr. Childers moved to approve the September 16, 2021 agenda. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. Chairman Lear called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Tommy VanHorn	--

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Approval of July 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Jansen moved to approve the minutes from the July 15, 2021 meeting. Mr. Childers seconded the motion. Chairman Lear called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Tommy VanHorn	--

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously.

D. Public Comment Period for All Agenda Items

Chairman Lear advised there were public comments included in the packet. Chairman Lear asked for comments or questions.

E. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Fields reported a new camera system was installed in the conference room. It is working well so far. Also, there has been a transition from Kindles to iPads.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission was in Springfield September 8th & 9th. They held two workshops along with their regular meeting. One workshop was on employee compensation. The second workshop was concerning low volume roads, which are roads with less than 400 vehicles per day. Funding distribution is based on volume, population, and employment. During their regular scheduled meeting, Ms. Fields, along with Mr. Morrow with the Springfield Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Cameron with the City of Republic, had the opportunity to present issues facing Springfield, congestion and safety needs, and the upcoming development in Republic. OTO's outreach to Legislators in regard to passing Senate Bill 262 was based on an unfunded needs list and completing these projects, not diverting funding for other purposes/areas. Their next meeting is October 7th.

OTO continues to monitor federal legislation. Earmarks out of the House may still be a possibility. The original Earmark list included \$4 million for the Chadwick Flyer, \$1.8 million for I-44, \$3 million for the Grant Street Streetscape and Underpass at MSU, and \$3.2 million for MM.

OTO staff have been working on STIP Prioritization and it is complete in Committee. It will go before the Technical Planning Committee and the Board of Directors for final approval.

OTO is negotiating a contract for the North 13 Corridor Study. It should start within the next 30 days with public input. A public meeting is planned in October which will be held on-line and in person.

Agreements for the Battlefield FF Study, Ozark Chadwick Flyer Highway 65 Crossing Study are in place. Contracts and consultants will be decided soon.

The Legislative Breakfast will be held November 3, 2021 at The Old Glass Place from 7:30 am – 9:00 am. Save the Date emails will be sent out soon.

Ms. Debbie Parks recently started with OTO. Ms. Parks formerly was the Republic Finance Director and prior to that worked for OTO.

F. MoDOT Update

Mr. Campbell thanked all of those who were able to attend the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission meeting and/or workshops. Those in attendance spoke highly of the OTO area and how everyone works together.

MoDOT is working toward preparing for the winter season. There are a lot of jobs posted as well as a lot of hiring happening. They continue to see workforce challenges.

District Administrative Officer Scott Bachman is retiring. Greg Chapman, who was formerly District Construction Materials Engineer, will be his replacement.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission took action during one of the workshops in Springfield to support a market-based adjustment to MoDOT's salary structure which is not a blanket cost of living adjustment. It is a strategically placed market-based adjustment that varies across the job titles at MoDOT which is included in the appropriations request for Fiscal Year 2023.

The Commission also took action on MoDOT's Legislative Priorities. The Commission will be focusing on one item which is distracted driving.

The number of bridges in poor condition has plateaued. This is due to a great planning process and bridge plan for the SW District. It is a good indicator that progress is being made.

MoDOT is currently working towards completing their summer work projects. The biggest project MoDOT is getting ready to open is the Missouri-Arkansas connector.

G. Legislative Reports

Ms. Anderson, with Senator Blunt's Office, provided an update that the Senate has been in recess for their state work period since mid-August. They have just returned to Session. Right before they went to break, the Senate passed the bi-partisan Infrastructure Bill, in a vote of 69-30. This is a large package that Senator Blunt had been negotiating. This bill is estimated to bring at least \$8 billion to the State of Missouri. Out of that \$8 billion it is estimated that Missouri will receive approximately \$6 billion for federal highway programs and over \$480 million for bridge repair and replacement.

That bill is now in the House. The deadline for the House to bring up the bill is September 27th. The bill also includes the Surface Transportation reauthorization which is very important to Missouri.

The end of the fiscal year is September 30th. The budget deadline is approaching for the House and Senate Committees to set their recommendations for the budget committees.

Senator Blunt's office appreciates the support letters from the OTO area they have been receiving for the expansion of I-44 to six lanes.

II. New Business

A. **Financial Statements for 4th Quarter 2020-2021 Budget Year**

Ms. Fields stated the fourth quarter financial statements for the 2020-2021 Budget Year were included for consideration. This period includes April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021. The fourth quarter expenses total 80.0 percent of the budget. The revenue was 74.3 percent of the budget. Ms. Fields detailed the OTO Operational Financial Statements and the UPWP Financial Statements.

Mr. O'Neal made a motion to accept the Fourth Quarter Financial Statements for the 2020-2021 Budget Year. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion. Chairman Lear called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Tommy VanHorn	Aye

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously.

B. **FY 2022 Operational Budget Amendment One**

Mr. Fields reported the Ozarks Transportation Organization maintains a separate operational budget from the approved Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Budget. With the adoption of the original operational budget, only \$100,000 of the \$300,000 for the North Highway 13 Corridor Study was budgeted. The UPWP budget includes the \$100,000 for OTO's share and the TIP includes the entire \$300,000. This fulfills the federal requirement for budgeting and contracts, however, the revenue and expenses associated for the entire study need to be accounted within the operational budget.

Amendment One:

Revenue

- Increase the Local Jurisdiction Match Funds revenue line to \$213,208.16.
- Adding a North Highway 13 Corridor Study Revenue line \$240,000.
- Decreasing the Surface Trans Block Grant Revenue line to \$76,800.

Expense

- Increasing the Trans Consult/Model Services Expense line by \$200,000 for a total of \$396,000

Ms. Smartt made a motion to approve the OTO FY 2022 Operational Budget Amendment One. Mr. Childers seconded the motion. Chairman Lear called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Tommy VanHorn	Aye

The motion passed.

C. Annual Listing of Obligated Projects

Ms. Longpine stated Ozarks Transportation Organization is required by federal law to publish an Annual Listing of Obligated Projects. The OTO Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects was available in the Agenda for member review. Ms. Longpine reviewed the ALOP.

Mr. Smith made a motion to accept the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects and direct staff to publish by September 28, 2021. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. Chairman Lear called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Tommy VanHorn	Aye

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously.

D. Destination 2045 Plan Draft

Ms. Longpine shared that *Destination 2045* is the culmination of a multi-year effort to update the Ozarks Transportation Organization's long range transportation plan (LRTP). OTO is required to update the LRTP every five years. The previous plan, *Transportation 2040*, was adopted in August 2016.

The planning process for *Destination 2045* began in 2019 with the development of an updated travel demand model. In 2020, OTO conducted visioning meetings with the Technical Planning Committee and the Board of Directors. Public input was sought, and a survey was conducted. Through 2020 and into 2021, OTO met with members of the Technical Planning Committee as the *Destination 2045* planning committee to develop the plan.

Destination 2045 includes a vision for the region, defined goals and actions for plan implementation, and detailed project lists based on what can be afforded between now and 2045. Ms. Longpine detailed the projected revenue, constrained projects (inflated), and unconstrained projects (un-inflated).

In order for projects to appear in the Transportation Improvement Program, they must first appear on the constrained list in the LRTP. Adoption by the OTO Board of Directors is the final action needed for *Destination 2045* to become the region's adopted long range transportation plan. No comments on the final draft were received from MoDOT, FHWA, or FTA.

Mr. Cossey made a motion to adopt *Destination 2045*. Mr. Branch seconded the motion. Chairman Lear called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Tommy VanHorn	Aye

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously.

E. FY 2022-2025 TIP Amendment One

Ms. Longpine reported there were 3 items as part of Amendment Number One to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Program.

1. ***Revised* Bridge Inspections (MO1905-22A1)**
MoDOT is requesting to correct this project to show Greene County's participation in bridge inspections, with a total programmed amount of \$205,000.
2. ***New* Kansas Expressway Safety and Operational Scoping (SP2217-22A1)**
MoDOT is requesting to add a project for scoping safety and operational improvements on Kansas Expressway from Evergreen to Bennett for a total programmed cost of \$300,000.
3. ***Revised* Route MM Improvements – I-44 to Route 360 (RP1703-22A1)**
The City of Republic is requesting to add \$700,000 local Advanced Construction funding to the Route MM scoping project.

Mr. Compton made a motion to approve Amendment 1 to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion. Chairman Lear called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Tommy VanHorn	Aye

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously.

F. 2022 Legislative Priorities

Ms. Fields shared that annually the OTO establishes a list of Legislative Priorities for use when communicating with area legislators. Ms. Fields detailed the priorities.

After some discussion, it was suggested to focus on the priorities of additional funding for the Missouri I-44 corridor and MoDOT employees' increase in compensation as the priorities of focus for the State Legislative Priorities leaving the other priorities as long-term goals. For the Federal Legislative Priorities, focus would be upon additional funding for the Missouri I-44 corridor and

supporting the streamlining of the environmental review process while leaving the other priorities as long-term goals. Board members agreed that Ms. Fields should have the discretion to use any and all of the priorities when needed.

Mr. Cossey made a motion to adopt the 2022 Legislative Priorities and give Ms. Fields discretion to categorize the list into current priorities and long-term priorities based on the Board's Discussion. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion. Chairman Lear called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Tommy VanHorn	Aye

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously.

G. Nominating Committee

Ms. Fields stated OTO staff is seeking nominations or volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee to appoint or reappoint OTO officers and members of the Executive Committee. The Committee usually consists of three members. Mr. Smith, Mr. Cossey, and Mr. Jansen volunteered for the Nominating Committee.

Mr. O'Neal moved to approve the Nominating Committee of Mr. Dan Smith, Mr. Travis Cossey, and Mr. Skip Jansen. Mr. Childers seconded the motion. Chairman Lear called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Tommy VanHorn	Aye

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously.

III. Other Business

A. Board of Directors Member Announcements

There were no member announcements.

B. Transportation Issues for Board of Directors Member Review

Ms. Fields shared that in 2020 MoDOT submitted an INFRA Grant, a federal program to fund infrastructure, for I-44. Funding was not awarded at that time and MoDOT did not reapply in 2021. OTO has been inquiring about resubmitting and updating that application. OTO has been advised to submit in the \$100 million category due to less competition. The previous grants were submitted in the small project category, \$25 million or less, which is a highly competitive category. OTO is working with MoDOT to investigate the plausibility of doing a grant that large. OTO may reach out to the Board of Directors in the future for funding for the application.

Mr. MacLachlan shared that the idea of extending James River Freeway north towards Willard over to Highway 13 to Highway 65 is gaining a lot of traction at the state and federal level. This may be a good opportunity to partner with SMCOG since it is just outside the OTO MPO area. This may also be an option for the INFRA Grant funds.

C. Destruction of OTO Records

Ms. Parks reported the records included in the destruction would be financial records from 2008-2012 that have met the state retention schedule and the requirements for audit as well as records from the City of Springfield before formally becoming Ozarks Transportation Organization. Mr. Russell asked if there may be anything of interest for the Greene County Archives. Ms. Parks stated there may be a few items. Mr. Russell stated he would have Greene County Archives reach out to Ms. Parks.

D. Articles for Board of Directors Member Information


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

IV. Adjourn meeting

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Cossey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. O'Neal seconded the motion. Chairman Lear called for a vote of members in attendance and then for a roll call vote of members attending via Zoom.

Members attending via Zoom	Vote
Mr. Andrew Lear	Aye
Ms. Martha Smartt	Aye
Mr. Tommy VanHorn	Aye

After calling for a vote of members in attendance and members via Zoom, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

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Steve Childers
OTO Secretary