



OZARKS TRANSPORTATION  
ORGANIZATION

LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD FOR TRANSIT MEETING MINUTES

October 13, 2016  
3:00 p.m.  
OTO Conference Room  
2208 W Chesterfield Blvd., Suite 101  
Springfield, MO

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ATTENDEES

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Renita Funk	Jason Ray
Diane Gallion	Deana Dothage
Tim Dygon	JJ Bowler
Jeff Robinson	Linda Starr

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STAFF PRESENT

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Andy Thomason	Sara Fields
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I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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Ms. Gallion brought the meeting to order at 3:04pm. She briefly introduced herself and then had those in attendance introduce themselves.

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II. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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III. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 13, 2016 AGENDA

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Mr. Dygon made a motion to approve the agenda of the October 13, 2016 meeting. Ms. Starr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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IV. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 11, 2016 MINUTES

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Ms. Starr made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Starr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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## V. OLD BUSINESS

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### a) 5310 Vehicle Update

Mr. Thomason gave the following update on the status of FY 15 vehicle purchases:

- OATS –MODOT inspected three vehicles on 10/13/16 and the vehicles are ready for delivery
- Christian CO Enterprise – MoDOT ordered vehicle on 09/30/2016
- The Arc of the Ozarks – MoDOT ordered vehicle on 08/18/2016
- Council of Churches – MODOT ordered vehicle on 09/30/2016
- Burrell – MoDOT just received match money; vehicle ready to be inspected and delivery set up

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## VI. NEW BUSINESS

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### a) MO RIDES/ Mobility Management Presentation

Mr. Thomason introduced Deana Dothage to the LCBT. He stated she worked for the Boonslick Regional Planning Commission in Warrenton, MO. Ms. Dothage supervises the Commission's mobility management program call MO RIDES. Mr. Thomason explained he invited Ms. Dothage to speak because MO RIDES is current assisting residents in the Springfield area and because mobility management is eligible for Section 5310 funding.

Ms. Dothage introduced herself and MO RIDES. MO RIDES is a service of the Boonslick Regional Planning Commission in Warrenton, MO. The service was originally created to serve residents of Lincoln, Montgomery, Warren, Franklin, and St. Charles Counties. Overtime, providers and residents from all over the state began to reach out to MO RIDES for assistance, and the program grew.

The goal of mobility management is to coordinate transportation providers to increase efficiency, improve access and reduce costs for riders and providers, and to create partnerships amongst regional agencies, employers, and other stakeholders to increase transportation choice.

MO RIDES has helped individuals find rides to work, medical appoints, social outings, court appearances, shopping, and social services. Although the grants funding MO RIDES are targeted at the elderly and disabled, Ms. Dothage tries to help everyone who calls. She provides callers contact information for providers likely able to help. If the caller is unable to arrange transportation on their own, Ms. Dothage often calls providers herself to try to work out an acceptable solution. She relies on partnerships and relationships with transportation providers to help find solutions.

Ms. Dothage also shared information about mobility management programs at Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission and at Meramec Regional Planning Commission. These programs focus on providing unique services to their regions but also to helping people throughout Missouri.

In responding to questions from LCBT members, Ms Dothage expressed interest in providing services in the OTO area and a willingness to partner with local agencies. Ms. Fields expressed interest in partnering with MO RIDES to help provide customer service to citizens reaching out to OTO for transportation assistance.

## **b) Transit Coordination Plan Update**

Mr. Thomason reminded the group of the upcoming effort to update the TCP. He shared a draft time table for the update process. The process begins in early January and ends with Board of Director adoption in April 2016. Mr. Thomason explained each stage of the update process, including a non-traditional kick-off meeting and on-site survey collection.

Ms Gallion raised concerns over the frequency of meetings during the months of February and March. Mr. Dygon agreed. She asked if some meetings could be combined. Mr. Thomason explained it would change how he approached the meetings, but it would be possible. Ms. Fields agreed. Mr. Thomason also explained how the TCP needed to be approved before OTO's tri-annual review in June. The April Board meeting was an important deadline.

The LCBT agreed the modified time table seemed appropriate.

## **c) TCP Survey Questions**

Mr. Thomason shared with the group a number of different survey questions for the TCP update process. He explained the questions came from similar plans in the central US. He shared how he had grouped questions based on topic to make it easier to review possible questions.

Mr. Ray asked if there would be three surveys created: user, human service agency, and transportation provider. Mr. Thomason explained some plans had combined the Agency and Provider surveys. The LCBT did not think a combined survey was a good idea. Mr. Thomason then confirmed there would be three surveys for the TCP update.

Mr. Thomason asked the group to review the questions and provide input, both for questions and against questions, on the types of questions to include. He said he would send out a date to have these comments submitted by.

## **d) Second Call for Section 5310 Funds**

Mr. Thomason reported on the Section 5310 fund balance. With NAMI returning grant funds and the Council of Churches being awarded additional funds, there remains a balance of FY 16 funds. Grant funds for FY 17 through FY 20 have not been solicited. OTO staff has considered issuing a call for projects during November 2016 for the remainder of FY16 and all of FY2017 funds. The scoring process would occur in December 2016, with final approvals by April 2017.

Ms. Gallion asked if it was possible to offer more of the available funds in November. She said many agencies, including CU, like to plan out expenses for several years. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Dygon concurred. Mr. Thomason and Ms. Fields believed would be possible to offer all remaining funds. The offering in November could include the remainder of FY16 and all of FY 17, FY 18, FY 19, and FY 20 funds. Ms. Fields added that FTA has been encouraging OTO to program more of the available Transit funds.

Mr Robinson asked if it was possible to extend the call for projects to include the first full week of December. He has many calendar year grants he has to apply for during the fall and early winter. OTO staff saw no problem with an extension.

Mr Robinson made a motion to issue a call for projects for the remainder of FY16 and all of FY 17, FY 18, FY 19, and FY 20 Section 5310 funds from Nov 1 to December 9, 2016 using standard OTO applications and guidelines. Scoring will happen on December 15 at 3pm. Mr. Dygon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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## VII. OTHER BUSINESS

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Ms. Gallion reminded the group that CU would be selling 5 paratransit busses in the coming months. She wants to make sure that LCBT members have the opportunity to bid if they are interested. She provided information on how to access the auction and contact the purchasing agent in charge of the sale. Ms. Gallion also explained how some proceeds of the sale may have to be returned to FTA.

Ms. Fields asked if it was possible to transfer ownership of the buses to a local organization instead of selling them and having to give money back to FTA. Ms. Gallion state the new owner would have to comply with FTA rules and regulations, but it was possible. She suggested Ms. Fields contact CU Transit Director Kelly Turner to further discuss this opportunity.

Mr. Robinson reported OATS's new express bus service was beginning this month. Most lines connected outlining communities to Springfield. Some lines did connect to West Plains. The lines are deviated fixed routes, able to deviate up to five miles from the primary route. Riders needing the bus to deviate would be placed on a waiting list. Drivers would pick up as many of the wait list riders as possible without putting the bus behind schedule.

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## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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Mr. Ray made a motion to adjourn at 4:40. Ms. Starr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.