

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
December 17, 2015**

The Board of Directors of the Ozarks Transportation Organization met at its scheduled time of 12:00 p.m. in the Ozarks Transportation Organization Large Conference Room in Springfield, Missouri.

The following members were present:

Mr. Harold Bengsch, Greene County	Mr. Ken McClure, City of Springfield (Chair)
Mr. Brian Bingle, City of Nixa (a)	Mr. Andy Mueller, MoDOT (a)
Mr. Steve Bodenhamer, City of Strafford (a)	Mr. James O’Neal, Citizen-at-Large
Mr. Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a)	Mr. Dan Smith, City of Springfield
Ms. Elise Crain, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. Steve Stewart, City Utilities
Mr. J. Howard Fisk, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. Richard Walker, Citizen-at-Large
Mr. Warren Griffith, City of Battlefield	Mr. Brian Weiler, Airport Board (a)
Mr. Jim Krischke, City of Republic (a)	Mr. Ray Weter, 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	Ms. Debra Hickey, City of Battlefield (a)
Ms. Becky Baltz, MoDOT	Ms. Susan Krieger, City of Strafford
Mr. Mark Bechtel, FTA (a)	Mr. Bradley McMahan, FHWA
Mr. Brian Buckner, City of Republic	Mr. Steve Meyer, City of Springfield (a)
Mr. Bob Cirtin, Greene County	Mr. J. Everett Mitchell, City of Willard (a)
Mr. Chris Coulter, Greene County (a)	Mr. Shane Nelson, City of Ozark
Mr. John Elkins, Citizen-at-Large (a)	Mr. Dan Salisbury, MoDOT (a)
Mr. Craig Fishel, City of Springfield	Mr. Mark Schenkelberg, FAA
Mr. Wendell Forshee, City of Willard	Mr. Brian Steele, City of Nixa
Mr. Rick Gardner, City of Ozark	Mr. Bob Stephens, City of Springfield
Mr. Corey Hendrickson, City of Willard	

Others Present: Mr. Joshua Boley, Ms. Sara Fields, Mr. Jacob Guthrie, Ms. Natasha Longpine, and Ms. Debbie Parks, Ozarks Transportation Organization; Ms. Cinda Rodgers, Cinda Rodgers, CPA; Mr. Jared Keeling, City of Republic; Mr. Mike Schilling, City of Springfield; Mr. Matt Hough, Congressman Long’s Office; Mr. David Stokely, Senator Claire McCaskill’s Office; Mr. Scott McKee and Ms. Elizabeth Prestwood, MoDOT; Mr. Giacomo Bologna, News-Leader; Mr. Carl Carlson, Olsson Associates.

Mr. McClure called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

I. Administration

A. Introductions

B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Mr. Fisk made the motion to approve the Board of Directors December 17, 2015 meeting minutes. Ms. Crain seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of the October 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Bengsch made the motion to approve the October 15, 2015 Board of Directors meeting minutes. Mr. Weiler seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Public Comment Period

None.

E. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Fields stated that there was a handout on the new transportation bill. The funding tables were released for the STP-Urban funding. Staff extrapolated a little, using estimates to calculate OTO's STP-Urban allocation for the five-year life of the bill. It starts with a five percent increase and ends up with a fifteen percent increase by 2020. The other side of the page is funding by state, comparing FY15 and FY20. It starts at five percent to just under fifteen percent. It is good news as long as the State can match federal funds.

There are still Transportation Alternative Projects in the bill. The funding levels are not known yet. As soon as those are known, staff will let everyone know. It looks like Recreational Trails are funded in the new bill as well as County BRO and On-System Bridge money. The OTO organization will receive planning funds and that follows the same lines, five percent up to fifteen percent.

The bill contains something new. The bill gives Congress rescission authority in 2020. That means that any state that does not spend their funds by 2020, can have the funds rescinded. The sub allocated amounts through OTO cannot be rescinded. But the OTO funds still have to be spend in the same timeframes. Over the next month there should be more information coming on what that means for the state funding levels.

Staff has been working on the Long Range Transportation Plan and prioritizing projects. Prioritization criteria is being looked at and projects will be selected. The subcommittee will meet in January to look at it further. The Travel Sensing Units are up and running. The units are not running as well as they should be yet. It is unknown when the units will be fully functional. The units are having some technology issues, communicating with each other. It is hopeful that it will be fixed in the next couple weeks and reports will start to be produced.

Ms. Fields stated that the Highway and Transportation Commission was in town and she presented on the Battlefield Road/U.S. 65 Interchange project. The presentation highlighted how the OTO uses the Cost Sharing Program and how the region partners. It was also to talk about how much the region appreciates the Cost Share Program and how we hope that it will be reinstated. She has also been calling the jurisdictions to see what the

small project priorities are. The OTO would like to be ready if there is a couple million in funds that come available and to know if communities could match the funds.

Mr. Weiler commented that Ms. Fields did a good job when the Commission was in town representing the region and thought she represented the OTO well.

F. MoDOT Update

Mr. Mueller gave an update on a few impacts of the FAST Act to MoDOT. It allows the State to plan. The Act also requires that Missouri, North Carolina, and Virginia proceed with the pilot projects to toll an existing interstate. There is conditional approval right now to toll I-70. One of the states already has a project in motion and the other state has plans. The State of Missouri does not have a plan yet. Every year some other state has petitioned to get that authority since it was not used. It gives the State of Missouri a one-year extension.

A competitive grant program for large, predominately highway projects that benefit the national freight network, has been added to the bill. Ms. Fields stated that the minimum grant size is \$25 million. Mr. Mueller stated that with the new legislative session approaching, the priorities are somewhat the same but there are a few new priorities. Primary enforcement of the safety belt law is still a priority. MoDOT also supports a Texting Ban for Drivers of all ages. MoDOT is also supporting a Waterways Trust Fund, which would serve as a dedicated funding source of revenue dollars. He outlined the results of the MoDOT's Roads to Tomorrow Initiative and shared an idea proposed for a possible commercial motor vehicle platooning pilot. That was one of forty five tier three proposals that MoDOT has determined to have merit in regards to a solution for I-70.

Mr. Mueller mentioned that the federal funding level does not solve the State of Missouri's funding problem. There is still \$160 million in new state revenue needed to be added to the federal amount, to do all the things needed. There is another 2 cent fuel tax increase proposal introduced in the legislature. It does stay under the constitutional income limit. It would generate about \$80 million state wide. This would give MoDOT \$56 million and the \$24 million to counties and cities. It would generate about one-third of the money needed to generate additional funding that would bring back all the additional items that need to be done.

Mr. Bingle asked if the legislators needed to approve legislation to authorize more. Mr. Weter stated that last year's proposal increased by 2 cents for three years. Mr. Mueller stated that this proposal is for a flat 2 cents a gallon. He stated that the issue of federal match is not an issue anymore. The reason for that is the fact people are buying cars again. The State of Missouri was eight percent above projections. MoDOT revenue came in at four percent ahead of projections for the past year. That is predominately from sales taxes but it is also from additional fuel revenue.

G. Legislative Reports

Mr. Hough gave a couple updates on the FAST Act. He stated it was good to have a five-year bill to allow planning. There are some provisions to increase requirements for railroad safety. It gives the states more leeway to deal with hazardous material issues. There is also model in place for bus transportation funding. There are provisions in place to allow private

investment in infrastructure. He gave a brief summary of the FAST Act and the OMNI Bus bill in Congress. The OMNI Bus bill proposal would keep EPA and IRS funding down.

Ms. Fields stated that when Mr. Blunt was in town he mentioned that Congress might not fund the EPA's action on the Waters of the US. Mr. Hough stated it holds the EPA back at 2008 levels and the agency is not able to reallocate funding or give additional funding for any new regulation or enforcement program. The Waters of the US might fall under the new programs.

II. New Business

A. Amendment Number Eight to the FY 2015-2018 TIP

Ms. Longpine stated that this is Amendment Number Eight to the Transportation Improvement Program. There are a lot of new projects. MoDOT has eight proposed for scoping or resurfacing pavement rehabilitation. There are two projects looking at expressway intersection improvements and freeway ramp safety improvements. Those projects are open ended right now. The hope is that there will be a list that as more money comes available the money can be targeted to the list. The project for Route H Bridge, which is Glenstone, over South Dry Sac, is the last bad bridge in the OTO area. The City of Republic is removing the Planning Street Assessment. The City of Republic is still moving forward with the project, but will be using local funds. Item ten is the Section 5339 FTA funds to City Utilities, to purchase two para-transit buses. Mr. Weter inquired about the Route 14 resurfacing. He asked if the resurfacing would continue after the scoping project. Mr. Mueller stated that the \$2,000 is not a normal amount. Ms. Longpine stated that it is usually how the scoping shows up. Mr. Mueller stated it must be an engineering amount for research only. The project just keeps the route on the pavement plan which is a regular cycle, designed to keep the pavement in good condition.

Mr. Cirtin made the motion to approve Amendment Eight to the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Weter seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Annual Listing of Obligated Projects

Ms. Longpine stated that this report is published each year after the conclusion of the TIP year, which runs October 1 through September 30. She gave a brief update on the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects.

Mr. Fisk made the motion to approve the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects and publish it by December 30, 2015. Ms. Crain seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Federal Funds Balance Report

Ms. Longpine stated that the Federal Funds Balance Report is prepared twice a year and covers the Surface Transportation Funding, which includes the STP-Urban, Bridge and Rehabilitation funds, Transportation Alternatives Program and the Small-Urban area. She gave a brief summary of the report. She stated that without the Cost Share Program statewide, it is up to each community to sponsor enough projects to keep the balance down.

Ms. Fields stated that both Kansas City and St. Louis have zero balances.

D. STP-Urban Advance Policy Amendment

Ms. Fields stated that the Board had approved a policy allowing jurisdictions receiving less than \$1 million in STP-Urban, to spend up to three years in advance. This is a proposed amendment to the policy. The amendment would allow any jurisdiction receiving less than \$2 million to be allowed to spend three years in advance. Any jurisdiction receiving over \$2 million would be allowed to spend one year in advance. That would allow the City of Springfield to have one year overage and everyone else would be able to spend three years.

The reason for the change to the policy is that MoDOT will allow the OTO to go a full year negative, so that allows it to be opened up to additional jurisdictions.

Mr. Bingle made the motion to approve the STP-Urban Advance Policy Amendment. Mr. Fisk seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

E. Federal Functional Classification Map Change Request

Ms. Longpine stated that this request is related to the annual call for projects. The Federal Functional Classification map is how it is determined which roads to spend federal funds on. This is different from the Major Thoroughfare Plan which provides guidance on roadways. She outlined the four requested projects, two for the City of Republic and the other two for the City of Springfield.

Mr. Bingle made a motion to approve the proposed Federal Functional Class Changes. Mr. Weiler seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bingle asked for a reminder if it the federal classification was anything collector or above. Ms. Fields stated it was collector or above.

F. Independent Single Audit Report for FY 2014-2015

Mr. McClure announced that it was Mr. Krischke's last meeting. Mr. Krischke introduced the OTO auditor, Cinda Rodgers. He let the board know that staff, the auditor, and he had met to discuss the Independent Single Audit. It was a clean opinion with no findings. He complimented staff on the internal controls. He briefly summarized the audit.

Ms. Rodgers gave the Board an update on the audit. She stated that the objective of the audit is to opine if the financial statements are fairly stated in all material aspects in accordance to the Modified Cash Basis of Accounting. It is not a fraud audit, and it is not an internal control audit. It addresses those two questions in the course of the audit, but it is not the focus of the audit. An A-133 Audit was also completed, which is required when more than \$500,000 of federal funds are spent. The main focus of the A-133 audit is looking at compliance with the federal program and the internal controls over compliance. The procedures are looked at in place to make sure they are complaint with the federal grant.

Mr. Krischke made the motion to accept the FY 2014-2015 Independent Single Audit Report. Mr. O'Neal seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Krischke gave a brief summary of his leaving and said goodbye. He introduced Jared Keeling as the Interim City Administrator for the City of Republic.

G. Financial Statements for 1st Quarter 2015-2016 Budget Year

Mr. Krischke stated that the 1st Quarter report was in line with the budget. The expenses are at eighteen percent of the yearly budget. The revenues are a little higher in the 1st Quarter. Those are trending higher now. The revenues exceeded revenues by \$62,720. The Online TIP Tool Maintenance and Travel Model Scenario projects were completed in the 1st Quarter. He pointed out the Unified Planning Work Program Progress report in the back of the section. That projects were about twenty to twenty-five percent completed.

Mr. Krischke made the motion to accept the 1st Quarter financial Report. Mr. Weter seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

H. Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Weiler gave a report of the Nominating Committee, which was made up of himself, Harold Bengsch, and Ray Weter. He stated that there was a proposed list of officers for 2016 and the Citizen-At-Large nomination. All individuals have been contacted and are willing to serve.

Mr. Weiler made the motion to approve the Officers, Executive Committee Members, and Citizen-At-Large for the 2016 OTO Board of Directors. Mr. Fisk seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

I. Recognition of Departing Members and Welcome to new Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Mr. McClure congratulated the Mr. Cirtin, the new Chair and Mr. Weter the new Vice-Chair. He announced that Jerry Compton would be rejoining the Board of Directors as Treasurer.

Mr. Fisk gave a small farewell speech to the Board of Directors. Ms. Fields gave a plaque thanking Howard Fisk for his many years on the Board of Directors, Executive Committee as Secretary, and as Chair of the Local Coordinating Board for Transit. Ms. Fields also gave Mr. Krischke a plaque for his service on the OTO Executive Committee as Treasurer.

J. OTO Board of Directors 2016 Meeting Schedule

Mr. McClure pointed out the 2016 meeting schedule and the change of location to 2208 W. Chesterfield Blvd. Suite 101.

III. Other Business

A. Board of Directors Member Announcements

Ms. Fields announced the Missouri Salute to the Legislature on Wednesday, January 27 and the Missouri Transportation Conference on January 28. She notified the Board of her upcoming vacation the week of January 18.

B. Transportation Issues For Board of Directors Member Review

None.

C. Articles for Board of Directors Member Information

No comments.

IV. Adjourn meeting.

Mr. Fisk made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Krischke seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.