

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

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

Others Present: Mr. Joshua Boley, Ms. Sara Fields, Ms. Natasha Longpine, Mr. Curtis Owens, and Ms. Debbie Parks, Ozarks Transportation Organization; Mr. Rick Artman, Greene County; Mr. Jacob Capeder and Mr. Frank Miller, MoDOT; Mr. Matt Hough, Congressman Long's Office; Mr. Kirk Juranas, City of Springfield; Mr. David Rauch, Senator McCaskill's Office; Mr. Dan Wadlington, Senator Blunt's Office; Mr. Jerry Compton, Citizen.

Mr. Cirtin called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

I. Administration

A. Introductions

Mr. Cirtin announced that Mr. Jerry Compton had not won the last election. He complimented Mr. Compton for being a public servant and his service for the OTO and the City of Springfield. Ms. Fields presented an engraved clock to Mr. Compton in honor of his time serving on the OTO Board and as the OTO Chairman. Mr. Compton stated it had been an honor to serve on the OTO Board and as the OTO Chairman. He thanked the Board of Directors.

Mr. Cirtin introduced Ken McClure, Jerry Compton's replacement on the Board of Directors. Mr. McClure gave a brief introduction of himself. He thanked Mr. Compton for his service.

B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Mr. Bengsch made the motion to approve the April 16, 2015 Board of Directors Agenda. Mr. Fisk seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

C. Approval of the February 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Krischke made the motion to approve the February 19, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes. Mr. O'Neal seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

D. Public Comment Period

Ms. Fields stated that the OTO had received one public comment via the giveyourinput.org website. The giveyourinput.org site is set up to post all the different items that require public comment. This public comment is from David Riddle. He requested that City Utilities Transit service changes also go through the OTO's public input process. He is specifically commenting on the Public Participation Plan amendment in the agenda. The details are not all worked out, but City Utilities is amenable and the OTO is amenable to City Utilities using the site to obtain the public comment that the public might have. It is in the research stage.

E. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Fields stated that Ms. Baltz would make a Senate Bill 540 presentation later in that agenda. The OTO sent a letter asking for support. Letters were sent to every Senator and Representative in the State of Missouri. The OTO also requested that the other jurisdictions send a letter and offered to mail the letters. The City of Republic accepted the offer and the Representatives letter were mailed yesterday. Email addresses were provided to the Board members to contact the Senators directly. Greene County and the City of Springfield sent letters directly. Mr. Weter stated that Christian County also sent a letter.

Mr. O'Neal inquired if it was still okay to send out a letter. Ms. Fields stated that there was still time. Mr. O'Neal stated he would send out a letter. Ms. Fields stated that the OTO staff had been working with the Long Range Transportation Plan update. Staff had been busy with public meetings and materials.

Ms. Fields stated that she had been working on the Springfield Greene County Community Focus Report, in which she was the Chair of the Transportation Section. The draft is now complete and the full report would be coming out in the fall.

The Executive Committee has met twice. The committee has been specifically looking at the OTO Budget and the Bylaw amendment that is on the agenda. There has also been meetings regarding data collection for the Congestion Management Process and the best way to coordinate the effort. A lot depends on the Travel Time Run Units, which will either be Bluetooth or wireless technology. MoDOT is the project manager on the acquisition and the RFP has been issued with a closing date of May 21.

Staff members have taken a class on Effective Public Involvement from the National Highway Institute. Mr. Boley received a certificate for completing the course. This is part of the effort to keep in touch with the best way to involve the public. There have also been multi state conference calls with MoDOT and other DOTs talking about the best way to implement Performance Measures that are coming out of the USDOT in regards to the MAP 21 Transportation Bill. The OTO will be required to report in on the performance of the road and transit systems in the OTO area.

Ms. Fields stated that there was also a new member orientation prior to the February Board meeting. Staff issued a call for FTA 5310 projects for Human Service vehicles. The FY 2014 funding was not all awarded and there is now FY 2015 funds available. The goal is to award the funds so the agencies can get new vans to transport passengers to the different services that are needed.

F. MoDOT Update

Ms. Baltz gave a brief history on the MoDOT funding situation. MoDOT has 34,000 miles of road and 10,000 bridges to maintain. She gave a comparison of Missouri to the rest of the Midwest Region. The fuel tax rate has remained the same for 20 years. And now Missouri is faced with only a \$325 million budget to maintain the 34,000 mile transportation system, which would require a minimum of \$485 million a year to maintain. The Missouri road system has been divided into a primary and supplementary systems. The primary system would retain the best connectivity across the state. The supplemental roads in the OTO region like Kearney, Glenstone, and Kansas would not have funding for anything but the most basic maintenance.

Senate Bill 540 was originally proposed at 2+2+2 with indexing to keep up with inflation. It was a 2 cent fuel tax increase for the next 3 years. The Bill has since been changed to be just a onetime 2 cent proposal, because of concern over the Hancock Amendment. She described how the original proposal would have restored the full maintenance budget for both the Primary and Supplemental System. It would not solve the complete transportation funding problem but it would be a big step. She described where to find further information on the MoDOT website and encouraged the members to subscribe to Commissioner Millers emails.

Mr. O'Neal inquired if the revised Senate Bill with the 2 cent funding contained indexing. Ms. Baltz stated it does not have the indexing. Mr. O'Neal inquired if there was a chance

that the indexing would be reinstated or if the 2 cent proposal was the final proposal. Ms. Baltz stated that 2 cent bill was the final bill.

Mr. Weter inquired how much the total revenue generated would be from the 2 cent proposal. Ms. Baltz stated it would total \$78 million, with part going to the Highway Patrol, Department of Revenue, cities, and counties. MoDOT would receive approximately \$55 million. Mr. Smith inquired if the 2 cents passed, would that allow the bridges that had closed to be reopened. Ms. Baltz stated a few of the bridges would reopen, she was unsure if all could be reopened. She stated that the largest concern is not being able to match federal funds. In 2017, MoDOT will no longer be able to match \$70 million in federal funds. In 2018, MoDOT would lose \$400 million in federal funds. The 2 cent proposal would delay the returning of federal funds 2018 and 2019 respectively. It does not solve all the problems but is a step in the right direction. Ms. Baltz stated that overall the Senators were generally supportive. Senator Burlison is a no tax individual so he would not support any tax increase.

G. Legislative Reports

Mr. Rauch stated that Ms. Baltz had brought up the challenges that the State of Missouri may have in matching federal dollars. As of right now there is a question on whether there will be federal dollars. The federal funding mechanism for transportation will expire next month. The Extension is going to run to May 2015. It will expire and most likely there will be another extension. There is no consensus on how to fund this funding challenge. At the federal level there is a 17 cent federal gas tax that has been in place for 20 years with no indexing for inflation. There are few options that have been brought up for additional funding. The gas tax itself seems to be the only option. There has been a discussion of a 12 cent per gallon increase with an inflationary adjuster, but there is no consensus yet. There will probably be extensions for a longer period.

Mr. Wadlington stated that there had been a proposal for repatriating some corporate profits. Senator McCaskill and Senator Blunt both support repatriating corporate profits since there is a \$20 billion a year deficit in the Federal Highway Fund. If the funds are repatriated at 7 or 8 percent then it would raise the \$20 billion a year deficit and then with the gas tax there could be a \$450 billion six year Highway Bill. There is bipartisan support in the Senate, but not in the House.

Mr. Rauch added that a couple of the challenges coming forefront with the discussion on Transportation funding is the larger infrastructure issue.

II. New Business

A. Administrative Modifications 3 and 4 to the FY 2015-2018 TIP

Ms. Longpine stated that the OTO Public Involvement Program allows the OTO to make simple modifications to the TIP that are small in scope. There are two Administrative Modifications. The City of Willard's cost estimate was higher for the Jackson and Main sidewalks than originally estimated. The second modification was for the Chestnut Railroad overpass. BNSF helped fund some of the expense so the funding sources have been adjusted.

B. Amendment Number Four to the FY 2015-2018 TIP

Ms. Longpine stated that there are seven items. The last item indicates that it had been through an e-meeting of the Technical Planning Committee. The TPC recommended approval to the Board of Directors for the MoDOT maintenance project in the e-meeting. She described the seven TIP Amendments. The City of Springfield projects called for the removal of the Jordan Creek Trail at West Meadows and replacing it with the College Street Phase II. This is a pedestrian plaza at College and Broadway. The Jordan Creek Trail was originally awarded Transportation Alternatives Funding. Due to some unresolved liability concerns on the railroad tracks, the City of Springfield requested the funding move to the next awarded project, which is the College Street Phase II.

Mr. Griffith made the motion to approve amendment Number Four to the FY 2015-2018 TIP. Mr. Weter seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

C. Public Participation Plan Amendment

Mr. Boley stated that wording was being added to the Public Participation Plan to satisfy the requirements for Public Participation for City Utilities Transit and all FTA programs. The amendment adds required language from FTA to fulfill the grant requirements on public participation for transit projects. This does not change what the OTO already does. It just reiterates it in a legal way, what the OTO has already been doing. He described the amendment changes.

Mr. O’Neal made the motion to approve the Amendment to the Public Participation Plan. Mr. Kruschke seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

D. OTO Growth Trends Report

Mr. Guthrie presented a PowerPoint on some of the highlights of the Growth Trends Report. The Growth Trends Report is the annual report that shows the growth between the OTO’s member jurisdictions in the five county MSA which includes Christian, Dallas, Greene, Polk, and Webster Counties. This report is compiled from the use of permit data provided to staff by the municipalities in the OTO along with some US Census data. He thanked the jurisdictions for providing data and stated that the full report was available on the OTO website.

E. Briefing on the Long Range Plan Update

Ms. Fields gave an update on the Long Range Plan Update that staff had been working on. The Update is titled “Transportation Plan 2040”. She stated that Ms. Longpine would be the project manager. The OTO is required by federal law to update the plan every five years. The last plan was adopted at the end of 2011, so the update is due by the end of 2016. There are requirements on what goes into the transportation plan and that includes the facilities the OTO have, how those facilities are performing, and looking at the environment. There will need to be a forecast of funding. The plan also looks at the operational improvements that can be made to the signal system or the system as a whole. Finally where funds should be invested and if there should be transportation enhancements made.

If the OTO's members want to spend federal dollars on a project it has to appear in the Long Range Transportation Plan before it can go into the Transportation Improvement Plan. That is laid out in federal law. The current plan, Journey 2035, shows projected revenue of \$600 million and identified projects over \$1.5 billion. There is a lot of population growth projected. She showed a presentation that showed the growth of Greene County roads from 1985 to the present.

The OTO started the Major Thoroughfare Plan update process in November with subcommittee meetings. The subcommittee looked at the current plan as proposed and what changes needed to be made. The decision was made to meet with each individual jurisdiction to look over the specifics for their area. The subcommittee is paying special attention to the projected traffic, to make sure the roads are not being overestimated. There has also been discussions with Christian County on how to apply urban standards to a county that is developing in 3, 5, and 10 acre tracks.

Ms. Fields stated that staff had been out receiving public input. There is a survey entitled "what transportation projects matter to you." This survey is on the giveyourinput.org site. Staff have been passing out giveaways at community events. She outlined the public events and giveaways. She stated that 350 surveys had been received so far. One of the survey questions is "what is one of the top transportation problems?" The answers were 23% traffic congestion, 19% not enough bicycle accommodations, 17% pavement conditions, 15% safety and accidents. She highlighted a few of the top priority projects, but reminded the Board that the surveys were predominately from the south at this point. She stated staff hoped to have the Major Thoroughfare Plan changes completed and up to the subcommittee and then reviewed by the Board. Then the plan is for the cities and counties to adopt the changes to get the required public input. When that is complete the changes would come back for adoption.

The Long Range Transportation Plan subcommittee meetings will start next month and the projected draft is will be completed in early 2016 with the adoption in the summer of 2016. She let the member jurisdictions know that there were giveyourinput.org promotional materials if the jurisdictions would like to help promote the public input process.

F. Bylaw Amendment

Ms. Fields stated the Executive Committee had met to consider a request from the nominating committee. The request was that the OTO look at adding additional representation from Christian County. The proposal is to change the three Citizen-at-Large Representatives to four Representatives. This would add a bullet that preference be given to all Citizen-at-Large Representatives with transportation knowledge. Another bullet would be added that states that one member nominated by the Christian County Commission, appointed by the MPO, with the City of Ozark and City of Nixa being able to submit candidates to the Christian County Commission.

Mr. Weter stated he had not discussed the position with Mr. Childers or Mr. Bingle, but would if the Bylaw changes were approved.

Mr. Bengsch made the motion to approve the proposed Bylaw Amendment. Mr. Bingle seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

G. GIS Specialist Job Description

Ms. Fields stated that the OTO staff job descriptions were established when the OTO first became independent. After review, it was realized that the old planning technician description was being used. So there is a new job description proposal for the GIS Specialist position. This is in line with the City of Springfield's GIS Specialist position. The Executive Committee reviewed this request and also looked at other openings posted around the state. It is similar to those positions. This description is more appropriate for someone with a GIS degree and doing GIS work.

Mr. Krischke made the motion to approve the proposed GIS Specialist job description. Mr. Griffith seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

H. FY 2016 Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. Fields stated that the UPWP is a federal program required by law. The UPWP outlines the OTO's work for the year and will be attached to the federal contract to receive funds. It basically outlines what the OTO will do in exchange for federal funds. She outline the various tasks in the UPWP. In addition to the normal tasks, the OTO plans to complete the Major Thoroughfare Plan Update, complete a Roadways Design Guidelines Brochure, and to continue and improve the giveyourinput.org site. The Travel Time Collection Units will not be purchased in this fiscal year so those are being brought forward.

There will be amendments to the current Transportation Improvement Program this year. There was no call for projects, since there is no funds there will be no new projects. In the case that transit funding becomes available, a call for projects will be made and an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Plan will be made. Work on the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Plan will begin at the end of the budget year.

There is also the Long Range Transportation Plan Update, work with the OTO's committees, and the cooperative purchase of aerial photography. The OTO pays \$40,000 into the cooperative purchase of aerial photography which the City of Springfield leads. The \$40,000 offsets the member jurisdictions cost. There is a credit because the OTO pays the money and then receives the use of the photography that is needed for the OTO planning activity. The UPWP Budget Appendix was handed out before the meeting. It is largely the same as the OTO Operational Budget. The difference is the UPWP Budget shows some the City Utilities Planning funds and the OTO's in-kind activities from MoDOT and member attendance at OTO meetings. The individual line items are mostly the same figures.

Mr. McClure made the motion to approve the FY 2016 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Smith seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

I. FY 2016 OTO Operational Budget

Ms. Fields stated that the OTO developed a separate budget for auditing purposes because of the in-kind. The auditor, in the past, had inquired where the City Utilities funds were, but the OTO does not receive those funds. Those funds are reflected as required by federal law.

There are two items not in the UPWP budget, one for bank fees and OTO promotional items that cannot be billed to the grant. There is a decrease in the salary line due to the

elimination of a position. The need for transit planning had declined. City Utilities have installed automated passenger counters that report directly to the National Transit Database, eliminated the surveying of ridership levels. Ozarkscommute.com the OTO Rideshare Program was declared ineligible for federal funding so it was transferred to the City of Springfield. MoDOT has also agreed to administer the purchase of the FTA 5310 Vehicle Program. Staff had also been working hard on getting the Civil Rights Documents up to compliance and that work had been completed. Lastly, the TIP will not be produced this year due to the MoDOT funding crisis and no new projects being added. It is not a huge deduction in the salary line overall because there are actually 27 instead of the normal 26 payrolls in this fiscal year. There is a proposed Merit Raise and COLA included for consideration.

Mr. Bingle made the motion to approve the FY 2016 OTO Operational Budget. Mr. Krischke seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

III. Other Business

A. Board of Directors Member Announcements

Mr. Weter stated that the vacant Eastern Commissioner Seat in Christian County had been filled by appointment of the Governor. Ms. Sue Ann Childers was the new Commissioner.

B. Transportation Issues For Board of Directors Member Review

None.

C. Articles for Board of Directors Member Information

IV. Adjourn meeting.

Mr. O'Neal made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Krischke seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.