

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
June 18, 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 (Chair)
Mr. Harold Bengsch, Greene County	Mr. J. Everett Mitchell, City of Willard (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. Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a)	Mr. Steve Stewart, City Utilities
Mr. Bob Cirtin, Greene County	Mr. Richard Walker, Citizen-at-Large
Mr. Warren Griffith, City of Willard	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. Susan Krieger, City of Strafford
Mr. Mark Bechtel, FTA (a)	Mr. Bradley McMahon, FHWA
Mr. Brian Buckner, City of Republic	Mr. Steve Meyer, City of Springfield (a)
Mr. Chris Coulter, Greene County (a)	Mr. Andy Mueller, MoDOT (a)
Mr. John Elkins, Citizen-at-Large (a)	Mr. Shane Nelson, City of Ozark
Mr. Craig Fishel, City of Springfield	Mr. Dan Salisbury, MoDOT (a)
Mr. J. Howard Fisk, Citizen-at-Large	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; Mr. Rick Artman, Greene County; Mr. Tom Johnson, Missouri State University; Mr. Frank Miller and Mr. David Mitchell, MoDOT; Ms. Emma Lee Smothers and Mr. David Stokely, Senator McCaskill’s Office; Mr. Dan Wadlington, Senator Blunt’s Office; Mr. Todd Chandler, and Mr. Dan Mann, Olsson Associates.

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

I. Administration

A. Introductions

Individuals around the room introduced themselves.

B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Mr. Weiler made the motion to approve the June 18, 2015 agenda. Mr. Griffith seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

C. Approval of the April 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Bengsch made the motion to approve the April 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Weter seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

D. Public Comment Period

None.

E. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Fields stated that the OTO had concluded the survey for the Long Range Transportation Plan. The results have been distributed. There were 483 responses and the survey ran from March 5 to May 22. There were six public input events. The survey was on several websites and was included in utilities mailers. The most prevalent responses were from the City of Nixa, though the City of Willard had a good showing as usual. The survey asked for both the home and work postal code so the correlation could be understood. The survey also asked about the age range. The most prevalent age brackets were 55 to 64 and the second was 35 to 44. One of the questions asked was "what is the most important issue in the OTO region?" The answer that came in first was safety and the second was reducing congestion.

Mr. McClure remarked that the response with the lowest concern was decreased funding. He commented on how there can be safety and reducing congestion without concern for decreasing funding. Ms. Fields stated that the question might have been asked incorrectly. The question will be asked differently the next time. The survey also asked the top transportation problems. The first response was traffic congestion, second was poor pavement condition, and the third was lack of biking and walking options. The same questions were asked about the neighborhood. The responses were about the same. A question was asked if a person had \$100 to spend on transportation how the person would spend it. New highway construction came in first. Bicycle lanes and trails second and third was intersection/interchange improvements.

Ms. Fields stated that there was another sheet to the handout that staff will email to the Board members about the projects. The Amendment 7 list was used. It appears that people were concerned about projects in their own cities. When asked if a project was important, the top projects were 160 to the City of Nixa, as well as Hwy 14. The lowest project was the Business Route 65 in the City of Ozark. That project did not have a strong regional showing. The final question asked was what funding mechanism would be supported and the highest ranking was an increase in sales tax. The lowest ranking was the fuel tax.

Staff has been working on the Major Thoroughfare Plan. There is a meeting scheduled to go over the 200 proposed changes. It has been reviewed at great lengths. Staff has also been working with the Transit Marketing Subcommittee that will be implementing the Transit Coordination Plan. The subcommittee is looking at ways to market transit. The Local Coordinating Board of Transit put out a call for FTA 5310 projects, which is for human

service vehicles. The Local Coordinating Board of Transit is meeting after the Board of Directors meeting to review the applications and award the vehicles to the human service agencies. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee has been working on the Trail Implementation Plan.

Staff continues to be involved with area Chambers of Commerce. Ms. Fields mentioned that Ms. Longpine will present at MOVITE on what the OTO is doing in regards to Performance Measures in preparation of meeting the national requirements for Performance Measures.

City Utilities has a FTA compliance review in July. OTO staff will be participating in the review. MAP-21 was extended to July 31. That is two months short of the fiscal year so there is only 10 of the 12 months federal funding available this fiscal year.

F. MoDOT Update

Ms. Baltz stated that earlier in the month the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission introduced a project on I-70. MoDOT has requested proposals from companies on how the companies might work for and fund I-70. There was a presentation about technology ideas that might work on the interstate and this presentation prompted the Commission to look for other ideas and input. MoDOT is looking at ideas that have not already been vetted. She stated that there was information available about the proposal process on the MoDOT website.

She stated that MoDOT has been having discussions about how to continue the push for transportation when the legislative sessions are out. Each of the seven districts is looking for personal stories in the area on how the lack of transportation improvement has impacted the area. The thought is to make it more personal to connect with the people. The City of Republic, in the OTO area, has the industrial park. There are a lot of trucks coming in and out on a two lane road. She detailed examples from Clinton, MO.

She updated the Board of Directors on the status of the Battlefield Road/65 project and the upcoming closure for seven days. The Chestnut Expressway Rail Project has been postponed. The judge overseeing the condemnation process, recused himself, which has delayed the hearing.

G. Legislative Reports

Mr. Stokely gave an update on the federal funding for the Highway Bill. He was not optimistic that there would be a long term bill before the recess.

Mr. Wadlington agreed with Mr. Stokely. He stated that there was several option on the table, but there seems to be a lot of divided politics. He distributed an article from Politico that provided more facts. It appears there is an impasse on funding the Highway Bill. He discussed the various scenarios and possible outcomes.

Mr. O'Neal brought up an article by Michael McAuliff in the Huffington Post. It was in reference to the testimony that Bill Graves, President of the American Trucking Association, gave before the House Ways and Means Committee.

II. New Business

A. **OTO Chairman Appointment**

Mr. Cirtin stated that pursuant to the adopted chair rotation, the City of Springfield will fill the chairman position for calendar year 2015. This seat has been left vacant by the departure of Mr. Jerry Compton. The City of Springfield is proposing Mr. Ken McClure fill the chairman position for 2015.

Mr. Krischke made the motion to appoint Mr. McClure as OTO Chairman for Calendar Year 2015. Mr. Weiler seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McClure took over the Chair position and thanked the Board.

B. **Administrative Modification 5 to the FY 2015-2018 TIP**

Ms. Longpine stated that the agenda contained ten items that are included in the Administrative Modification Number Five. The OTO Public Involvement Policy allows the OTO to make minor changes to the Transportation Improvement Program. The first change was for the City of Willard to move construction funding to engineering. There is not a change to the overall cost of the project. The remaining items are part of a large amendment request that MoDOT made with the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. The OTO is not producing a new Transportation Improvement Program this year. She outlined the changes included in the Administrative Modification Five.

C. **Amendment Number Five to the FY 2015-2018 TIP**

Ms. Longpine stated that there are twenty-eight items included in Amendment Number five to the FY 2015-2018 TIP. MoDOT has submitted a large request to coordinate with the FY 2016-2019 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. There were two items added since the Technical Planning Committee meeting. There was funding listed in the federal funding category and the items have been changed to MoDOT advance construction. She outlined a few of the items included in the amendment.

Mr. O'Neal made the motion to approve Amendment Number Five to the FY 2015-2018 TIP. Mr. Weiler seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

D. **Federal Functional Classification Map Change Request**

Ms. Longpine stated that the Functional Classification Map is how roads are determined to be eligible for federal aid. It is different from the Major Thoroughfare Plan, which is how the OTO would like to see the roadways used. The Functional Classification Map is the current use of the roads. The City of Strafford made a request to upgrade Washington Avenue to a Major Collector from Local. OTO staff, in concurrence with the City of Strafford and MoDOT, looked at the broader plan of the City of Strafford to upgrade several other roads to Collector status. This will allow the City of Strafford to spend some of the STP-Urban funds and adjust some of the alignments.

MoDOT is requesting a change for Evans Road. There is a section of Evans Road that is acting as a local connector as opposed to part of the road network. The request is to bring it down to a local connector.

Mr. O'Neal made the motion to approve the proposed Federal Functional Class Changes. Mr. Weter seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Federal Funds Balance Report

Ms. Fields stated that staff tracks the federal funds allocated to the OTO. Tracking the funds gives an idea of the current balance and prevents the area from losing federal funds or having too high a balance. The OTO is in good shape due to MoDOT allowing the current Cost Share to be counted against the balance. There is currently \$17 million, but when the Cost Shares are included, such as the Chestnut Railroad Project, there is only about \$7.2 million. The report goes through May 31, 2015.

There is a sheet included that shows the next year, if the OTO cannot participate in the MoDOT Cost Share Program. The majority of the OTO's funds have been spent in the past on the Cost Share Program. The starting figure is the \$7.2 million and assumes that Congress will pass a short term extension. The last two months of FY 2015 are added in, as well as the FY 2016 which would increase the balance by \$7.1 million. That leaves the OTO with a \$14.4 million balance. The maximum balance that is allowed is \$16.8, so the OTO would still be okay. There are several programmed projects not in the Cost Share Program that are using STP-Urban. The main project is the Kansas Expressway Engineering Project. The other main project is the Main/Aldersgate Intersection in Nixa that is almost a \$1 million.

Staff also monitors the bridge funds. The OTO receives On-System Bridge funding. There will be another allocation after October 1. That will put the area close to the maximum balance. Bridge funding is different because it cannot be used everywhere. It can only be used on bridges classified as substandard on the federal aid system. It has to have met some sort of criteria for repairs. There are only a few in the City of Springfield and the City is checking to see if there are matches to the funding criteria. The OTO has enacted a Reasonable Progress Policy for the Transportation Alternative Projects funding. All the jurisdictions are on track to use the federal funding so there does not appear to be problems.

F. Performance Measures Report

Ms. Longpine stated that there is a Performance Measure Report Infographic that had been handed out. The Infographic summarizes each of the OTO Performance Measures. The Performance Measures were introduced into the OTO planning process through the Long Range Transportation Plan that was adopted in 2011. A report is produced each year to show the progress on the measures. The complete report is in the agenda. She outlined the data included in the Performance Measures Report Infographic.

G. Financial Statements for 3rd Quarter 2014-2015 Budget Year

Mr. Krischke stated that there is nothing remarkable about the 3rd Quarter Report. The Profit and Loss Report is in line with the expectations and budget. On the Operational Profit and Loss Report the revenues are somewhat in line with what the OTO was expecting for the year. It is a little lower, but the expense are down as well. The OTO is at 61% and is 3/4ths through the budget year. The annual budget shows that the OTO is aligned with expectations. There is a net income of \$19,873.00. There are a couple smaller line items that are over the budgeted amount, but none of the major categories are over budget.

The OTO has completed the transition from Great Southern Bank to US Bank. There are two statements and balances reflected on the Operating Fund Balance Report. The UPWP Progress Report has been included. The report shows the progress made on major components of the budget. The OTO is on target for completing the projects by the yearend.

Mr. Weiler made a motion to accept the 3rd Quarter Financial Report. Mr. Griffith seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

III. Other Business

A. Board of Directors Member Announcements

None.

B. Transportation Issues For Board of Directors Member Review

None.

C. Articles for Board of Directors Member Information

Ms. Fields pointed out that the Census released new estimates. Ms. Longpine worked the data up and it is available in the agenda to show the growth of the area.

IV. Adjourn open meeting and call to order closed meeting.

Mr. Cirtin made a motion to adjourn the open meeting and open the closed meeting. Mr. Krischke seconded and the open meeting was adjourned and the closed meeting was opened.

V. Closed Meeting

Pursuant to RSMo 610.021(13), closed meetings are permitted for individually identifiable personnel records, performance ratings or records pertaining to employees or applicants for employment.

Mr. McClure called the closed meeting to order at 12:50 p.m.

There was discussion about the Executive Directors performance and objectives.

Mr. Weter made a motion to accept the Executive Director Performance Objectives for July 2015-June 2016 and to include a 3% salary increase. Mr. Cirtin seconded and the motion was carried unanimously by roll call vote of the following members: Harold Bengsch, Brian Bingle, Steve Bodenhamer, Bob Cirtin, Steve Childers, Warren Griffith, Jim Krischke, Ken McClure, J Everett Mitchell, James O'Neal, Dan Smith, Steve Stewart, Richard Walker, Ray Weter, Brian Weiler.

Mr. Krischke made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Weter seconded and the closed meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.