

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
August 16, 2018**

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:

Commissioner Harold Bengsch, Greene County	Mr. Brad Gray, City of Willard (a)
Mr. Steve Bodenhamer, City of Strafford (a)	Mr. Skip Jansen, City Utilities
Mr. David Cameron, City of Republic (a)	Mr. Andy Mueller, MoDOT (a)
Mr. Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a)	Mr. Jim O’Neal, Citizen at Large
Commissioner Bob Cirtin, Greene County	Mr. Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)
Mr. Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. Richard Walker, Citizen-at-Large
Mr. Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)	Mr. Brian Weiler, Airport Board (a)
Dr. Elise Crain, Citizen-at-Large	Commissioner Ray Weter, Christian County
Mayor Debra Hickey, City of Battlefield	

(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. Laurel McKean, MoDOT (a)
Mr. Chris Coulter, Greene County (a)	Mr. Bradley McMahan, FHWA
Mr. John Elkins, Citizen-at-Large (a)	Mr. Daniel Nguyen, FTA (a)
Ms. Jan Fisk, City of Springfield	Mr. Mark Schenkelberg, FAA
Mayor Rick Gardner, City of Ozark	Mr. Jeremiah Shuler, FTA (a)
Mayor Corey Hendrickson, City of Willard	Mayor Brian Steele, City of Nixa
Mr. Travis Koestner, MoDOT	Mayor Jeff Ussery, City of Republic
Mr. Michael Latuszek, FHWA (a)	

Others Present: Mr. David Stokely, Senator Claire McCaskill’s Office; Mr. Jeremy Pruett, Representative Billy Long’s Office; Mr. Carl Carlson; Mr. Jason Haynes, Mr. Christopher Kinzel, Mr. Cory Imhoff, HDR, Inc.; Ms. Brenda Cirtin, Ms. Kimberly Cooper, Mr. Dave Faucett, Ms. Sara Fields, Ms. Natasha Longpine, and Mr. Andy Thomason, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m.

I. Administration

A. Introductions

Those in attendance made self-introductions stating their name and the organization they represent.

B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Mr. Cameron moved to approve the August 16, 2018 agenda. Mr. Weiler seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

C. Approval of the June 21, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Weter moved to approve the June 21, 2018 Meeting minutes. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

D. Public Comment Period for All Agenda Items

No public comment has been received since the packet was distributed and there was no one present to address the Board of Directors.

E. Executive Director's Report

Sara Fields announced that Andy Thomason had been promoted to Senior Planner, due to his taking on additional duties. She noted that David Faucett had been working on the project list for MoDOT for next year's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). She noted MoDOT had requested this list by October, and the subcommittee, which consists of members of the Technical Planning Committee, will be meeting the first of September to prioritize this list.

Ms. Fields stated the Missouri Highway Commission had met in Springfield in July and she had discussed with them the process by which the OTO selects transportation projects. She added she believed it was important for the Commission to know that projects are selected based on a data-driven process, not political motivations. She stated she had also discussed how the area is growing and believed that was new information for some of the members of the Commission.

Ms. Fields said that during this Commission meeting the 2019-2023 STIP was approved. She added that during the public comment portion of the meeting, Mr. Dwayne Holden from Highland Springs and Gerald Andrews from the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, addressed the Commission and requested an interchange at the entrance to Highland Springs and the Sports Hall of Fame. She noted the Commission thanked them for their comments, but no action was taken.

F. MoDOT Update

Andy Mueller stated MoDOT is beginning the I-44 bridge design fill project. He stated he anticipates it will impact between 25 and 35 bridges, depending on the proposals from the industry. He reminded the Board that the number of bridges that are in fair to poor condition continues to grow. He stated this project should go a long way in helping stop that trend.

Mr. Mueller stated the next phase of the Hwy 65 rebuild project is currently in progress. He said southbound Hwy 65 remains closed between Valley Water Mill Road and I-44, but is scheduled to reopen August 19, but the bridge won't be open until August 22. He added the next six-laning of Hwy 65 from Evans Road and Hwy CC is under contract and the work is expected to begin after Labor Day.

G. Legislative Reports

Jeremy Pruitt from Congressman Billy Long's Office stated the House is in recess, so the Representatives are back in their Districts. He noted that in January, the new House of Representatives and Senate will be back in session and the President is indicating he wants infrastructure to be a priority for next year.

II. New Business

A. *Transportation Plan 2040* Amendment 9A

Natasha Longpine stated that for projects to be included in the Transportation Improvement Program, they must be on the Constrained List of Projects in the Long Range Transportation Plan. This proposed amendment moves the Proposed Route 60 Freeway Improvements from FR 213 to FR 247, including Route 125 interchange, from the Unconstrained Project List to the Constrained List so that it can be programmed into the TIP.

Ms. Longpine added that any amendment to the Long Range Transportation Plan requires the plan be updated to reflect the performance-based planning requirements of the FAST Act. This proposed amendment includes the addition of those performance measures.

Dr. Crain moved the Board of Directors approve *Transportation Plan 2040* Amendment 9a. Mr. Cameron seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

B. *Transportation Plan 2040* Amendment 9B – Greene County MTP Amendments

Natasha Longpine stated this proposed amendment reflects two changes to the Major Thoroughfare Plan requested by Greene County. The first is a realignment of proposed Farm Road 94 to connect straight across to AB. The second is the removal of proposed Farm Road 140 between Orchard Crest and West Bypass.

Ms. Longpine added that Greene County will take these changes through their approval process based on the recommendation of the OTO Board of Directors. Any action taken by the Board will be considered pending until Greene County has approved it.

Mr. O'Neal moved the Board of Directors approve *Transportation Plan 2040* Amendment 9B. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

C. Federal Functional Classification Map Change Request

Andy Thomason stated the City of Nixa had applied for a Federal Functional Classification change. He added that the Federal Functional Classification designates the highways and roadways that are eligible for federal funding. Nixa has asked to change portions of Truman Blvd., and Norton Rd. He added that these two roads are currently classified as "local" and Nixa is seeking "major collector" status. He said the two roads do not currently connect, but some proposed development will create a north/south corridor.

Sara Fields added that the Board's approval does not mean the classification has been changed; the Federal Highway Administration must approve the change for it to be in effect.

Mr. Cameron moved the Board of Directors approve the Federal Functional Classification change. Mr. Cossey seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

D. Nixa Trail Study Addendum

Andy Thomason stated staff is excited to have the completed Nixa Addendum to the Regional Trail Study. He briefly reviewed the history and the process that had been followed for this project. Mr. Thomason added that Nixa had been given a donation of park land on Route AA, which bordered the James River. He said the Community leaders had a desire to see this land connected to the developed portions of Nixa, so an addendum to the OTO's contract with Alta was signed, seeking two or three proposed trail connections. Mr. Thomason reviewed for the Board the proposed trail alignment, noting there was approximately 84 miles of trails, with 12 miles being incorporated into the Regional Trail Study. Mr. Thomason noted that with the completion of this addendum, the OTO now has a Regional Trail proposal that includes connections to all the communities in the OTO boundaries.

Dr. Crain moved the Board of Directors accept the *Nixa Addendum to the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Investment Study*. Mr. O'Neal seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

E. Draft FY 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program

Natasha Longpine stated the Draft FY 2019-2022 had been sent to the Kindles and explained to the Committee how to access it. She noted the TIP takes projects from the Long Range Plan and designates which projects will be constructed over the next four years. She added this is a four year program and must be fiscally constrained. She said the OTO is required to show all regionally significant projects, regardless of their federal funding. She noted the only public comment that had been received was from CC Links in Christian County who contracts with OATS for service. Ms. Longpine stated CC Links had requested OATS services be expanded from what they are currently providing, but she noted the OTO does not have funding available for this service. However, she said she is aware that OATS is looking at ways it can accommodate this request.

Ms. Longpine reviewed the Draft TIP with the Committee highlighting the performance-based planning section, which is new this year. She added the Draft TIP was available for public comment throughout the OTO region. Ms. Longpine briefly reviewed the funding for the projects, noting that Roadways takes the bulk of our funding.

In response to a question, Ms. Longpine stated the agenda packet contains a document that outlines the proposed changes that USDOT recommended. She added these changes have been incorporated in the document that is currently before the Board of Directors.

Mr. Bengsch moved the Board of Directors approve the FY 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program, with changes as recommended by USDOT. Mr. Childers seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

F. LAGERS Participation

Sara Fields briefly reviewed the process that the OTO had been through to be able to participate in LAGERS. Ms. Fields noted that in advance of getting this legislation drafted, the OTO had asked for an actuarial valuation by LAGERS, which is included in the agenda packet. She stated that LAGERS noted the first action the OTO must take is a 45-day comment period so that the public can review the assumptions of the actuarial. She added that following the public comment period, then the draft resolution will be placed on the next Board of Directors' meeting agenda.

Ms. Fields noted the OTO is recommending the participation in LAGERS begin on January 1, 2019. She added she wanted to explain the questions that the OTO must answer prior to participating. She reviewed the questions and the recommendations, which are also being recommended by the Executive Committee. These recommendations are the plan the L-6 plan, non-contributory, with the final average salary being five years. She stated the rule of 80 is not being recommended.

Ms. Fields addressed the unfunded liability, stating it was believed the OTO should fund the unfunded liability upfront rather than adding it to the annual contribution rate. She noted the actuarial states the L-6 benefit will be a 14.1 percent contribution rate; however, if the unfunded liability is funded at the beginning, the annual percentage drops to 11.2 percent. This will also make the plan fully funded on day one.

Ms. Fields stated that all that is being requested for today is the commencement of the 45-day public comment period and the resolution be placed on the next Board of Director's meeting.

Mr. Weter moved that the OTO initiate the 45-day public information period and that the Board of Directors consider the resolution at the next Board of Directors' meeting. Dr. Crain seconded the motion and it was approved with Mr. Cirtin abstaining.

G. Year-End Financial Statements

David Cameron reviewed for the Board of Directors the year-end financial statements for the 2017-2018 budget year. He noted the total income for the fiscal year was \$921,692.39 and the total expenses was \$834,521.95. He added the next income for the fiscal year was \$37,170.44. He explained the budgeted income was less than the actual income due to some of the income being received and deposited in July 2018, which is the beginning of the next fiscal year.

Following a brief review of the year-end financials, Mr. Compton moved to the Board of Directors accept the OTO Operational and UPWP Year-End Financial Statements for the 2017-2018 Budget Year. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

H. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Guidelines and Application

Andy Thomason stated the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) subcommittee has reviewed the application and guidebook for this program and have made some minor changes. Mr. Thomason noted that the committee recognizes that trails and sidewalks are

very important to the communities in the OTO area. He added that in recognition of this, the committee made a minimum of \$750,000 available for sidewalks. In addition, they increased the maximum trail project size to \$400,000. The committee believes these changes will ensure larger trail projects and smaller sidewalk connections will now be eligible to receive funding.

Mr. Thomason reviewed the scoring criteria for the Board, noting the criteria with the most changes pertained to public involvement and regional significance. He noted the committee also determined to fund infrastructure projects as opposed to non-infrastructure positions such as a Safe Route to School coordinator.

Mr. Thomason reviewed the timeline for the submission of applications, noting the Board will be approving the applications at their December meeting. Mr. Smith asked if there was representation from all the jurisdictions on the TAP subcommittee, to which Mr. Thomason responded, "Yes."

Mr. Childers moved the Board of Directors approve the TAP Guidelines and Application. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

I. OTO/MoDOT Freeway Study

Jason Haynes, a consultant with HDR, greeted the Board of Directors, noting the study he will be presenting was in line with the TIP that was discussed earlier in the meeting. Mr. Haynes added this study is in line with the mission of the OTO, which is to determine priority projects using real data. Mr. Haynes reviewed for the Board his PowerPoint presentation on the process for performing the study and the subsequent recommendations. He noted the study centered on I-44 and US 60 from West Bypass to Highway 125.

Mr. Haynes stated the study looked at 2017 traffic counts and then used the OTO travel demand model growth rates to project traffic demands for 2040. He added this resulted in 20 projects being identified, based on high crash rates and poor LOS/capacity deficiencies, bridge and roadway deficiencies, and excessive queue lengths. Mr. Haynes outlined the process and formula used to project the cost of the projects. He then reviewed the list of projects, both using the Benefit/Cost Methodology and the Net Benefits Methodology.

Following a brief discussion, Dr. Crain moved the Board of Directors accept the freeway study. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

J. Resolution of Support for Proposition D

Sara Fields stated that Proposition D is the Missouri fuel tax increase. The Legislature is proposing an increase of 2.5 cents per gallon annually for four years, which is a 10-cent increase. She noted that if this measure is approved by the voters in November, it will free up current revenue that is being used to fund the Missouri Highway Patrol. The revenue could then be used for roadway projects.

Ms. Fields noted the OTO is working on a brochure that could be used by the member entities to show how much revenue each jurisdiction would receive from the tax. She added

the OTO's adopted list of priorities would be used to determine spending if the additional funding becomes available.

Mr. Weiler moved the Board of Directors approve a resolution of support for Proposition D. Mr. Cameron seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

III. Other Business

A. Board of Directors Member Announcements

Dan Smith announced the City of Springfield is seeking input from citizens regarding projects for the next ¼-cent capital improvement sales tax. He distributed the survey that is being provided to citizens for input.

Mayor Debra Hickey thanked those involved in the improvements to Republic Road to FF Highway. She stated it has been a real benefit to the City of Battlefield.

B. Transportation Issues for Board of Directors Member Review

Travis Cossey noted that he had a concern he wished to bring to the Board, followed by a request. He stated that currently Hwy 14 from Fort Street to Ridgecrest is under design. He added that the design does not include pedestrian infrastructure, which he believed was contrary to both OTO and MoDOT design requirements. He expressed his concern regarding this indicating this area is highly residential. Mr. Cossey moved the OTO formally request MoDOT to include pedestrian infrastructure in the design in conformance with the design standards. Mr. Cirtin seconded the motion.

Mr. Childers stated the City of Ozark experienced the same issue when they were making improvements to the portion of Hwy 14 that was in Ozark. He noted the project was so large, it had to be split into phases. He stated he believed the pedestrian component was in keeping with the safety performance measures that had been discussed earlier in the meeting. Mr. Childers asked if Mr. Cossey's motion was simply for the portion of Hwy 14 from Fort Street to Ridgecrest. Mr. Cossey responded in the negative, noting that his intent was to have the OTO request MoDOT look at this requirement system wide. Mr. Cossey amended his motion that the OTO request MoDOT comply with the design standards for improvements to the system within the MPO area. Mr. Cirtin seconded the amendment.

Andy Mueller stated MoDOT approves design exceptions for most projects based on feasibility and cost. He noted there are several design standards that are not applied to every project. Mr. Mueller asked for clarification as to whether the motion was requesting MoDOT to "consider" or to "design the project" with pedestrian accommodations. He said it could be designed for these accommodations and asked if there would be any consideration to cost-sharing on this project. Mr. Cossey stated he believed there was a design requirement and a specified need for such improvements and did not believe the City of Nixa should be asked to contribute to a cost that was a design standard. He stated he believed using funds in this way was counter-productive to Nixa's needs for their local system. He reiterated he was not asking for MoDOT to go above and beyond the standards; just to comply with the design standards.

Following additional discussion on design standards and exceptions that are made to them, the motion as amended was unanimously approved.

C. Articles for Board of Directors Member Information

Chair Dan Smith noted there were articles of interest included in the packet for the members review as time allows.

IV. Closed Meeting

Mr. Compton moved the Board of Directors hold a closed meeting to discuss individually identifiable personnel records, performance ratings or records pertaining to employees or applicants for employment pursuant to Section 610.021 (13), RSMo 2017; and this meeting, record, and vote shall be closed, and the Board of Directors shall stand adjourned at the end of the closed meeting. Mr. Weter seconded the motion and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

Aye: Bengsch, Bodenhamer, Cameron, Childers, Cirtin, Compton, Cossey, Crain, Hickey, Gray, Jansen, O'Neal, Smith, Walker, Weiler, and Weter.

Nay: None.

Absent: Fisk.

Mr. Cossey briefly reviewed the actions taken by the Executive Committee in the meeting of July 11, 2018. He noted they had unanimously approve Ms. Fields' Strategic Planning Status report and Performance Objectives as presented. He added they proposed Ms. Fields' be given a 4% merit increase and an additional five days of vacation that must be taken consecutively.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Compton moved the Board of Directors accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee and approve the Strategic Planning Status report as presented; the Performance Objectives as presented; a 4% merit increase, and an additional five days of vacation that must be taken consecutively. Mr. Cameron seconded the motion and it was approved by the following roll call vote:

Aye: Bengsch, Bodenhamer, Cameron, Childers, Cirtin, Compton, Cossey, Crain, Hickey, Gray, Jansen, Smith, Walker, Weiler, and Weter.

Nay: None.

Absent: O'Neal and Fisk.

With no additional business to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:15 p.m.