

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
October 18, 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. Travis Koestner, MoDOT
Mr. Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a)	Mr. Andy Mueller, MoDOT (a)
Commissioner Bob Cirtin, Greene County	Mr. Jim O’Neal, Citizen at Large
Mr. Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)
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 Ashley French, City of Strafford	Mr. Jeremiah Shuler, FTA (a)
Mayor Rick Gardner, City of Ozark	Mayor Brian Steele, City of Nixa
Mayor Corey Hendrickson, City of Willard	Mayor Jeff Ussery, City of Republic
Mr. Travis Koestner, MoDOT	Mr. Richard Walker, Citizen-at-Large
Mr. Michael Latuszek, FHWA (a)	

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Others Present: Ms. Joelle Cannon, Senator Roy Blunt’s Office; Mr. Carl Carlson, Olsson Associates; Mr. Chuck Branch, Ozark; Mr. Frank Miller, Mr. David Wyman, and Ms. Jenny Hall, MoDOT; Mr. Randell Wallace, Kutak Rock; 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. Cirtin moved to approve the October 18, 2018 agenda. Mr. Cameron seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**C. Approval of the June 21, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Cameron moved to approve the August 16, 2018 Meeting minutes. Mr. Weter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**D. Public Comment Period for All Agenda Items**

Mr. Cameron addressed a letter from the City of Republic that had been sent to the OTO regarding the US Highway 60 Corridor from Highway MM to James River Expressway on into Springfield. He noted the City of Republic had a developer who had approached them regarding developing along Highway 60. He stated the objective is to keep the traffic flow moving, and in evaluating the proposed development, it was evident that a traffic light would impede the flow of traffic.

Mr. Cameron noted while this development may not happen, the question is what the long-term plan is for protecting the interests of the Highway 60 Corridor to avoid excessive stops between Republic and Springfield. He added that is the intent of this letter.

**E. Executive Director's Report**

Sara Fields stated that the MoDOT Planning Partners' meeting was very good. She noted Governor Parsons had attended and stated his support for infrastructure and workforce development, and specifically asked for support for Proposition D. She stated that the Director of MoDOT, Patrick McKenna also spoke to the need for infrastructure. She added she was able to speak to some of the major concerns the OTO has, highlighting real data such as volume to capacity ratios, fatalities, etc. She noted her "take away" from the meeting was that Missouri has great leadership that is invested in ensuring the best transportation system for its citizens.

Ms. Fields stated a brochure regarding Proposition D, which highlights the allocations to every City and County, was distributed to the Board members. She outlined the various entities she had visited and shared information regarding the proposal, and offered to go to any meeting the members may know about to provide education regarding the transportation needs in our area.

Ms. Fields reminded the Board of Directors the OTO Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for October 25, 2018, at Touch Restaurant beginning at 7:30 am. She indicated she would provide talking points prior to the breakfast for the Board to use when speaking to the Legislators.

Chair Smith stated he wanted to compliment Ms. Fields on her presentation at the MoDOT Partners' meeting. He said she did a great job in representing the OTO, and Mr. Koestner did a great job representing the Southwest District.

## **F. MoDOT Update**

Travis Koestner stated he wanted to reiterate Dan's comments on Sara's presentation at the Partner's meeting. He introduced David Wyman from the Southeast District of MoDOT and Jenny Hall who is over billboards for MoDOT. He stated MoDOT attempts to have directors visit around the state and welcomed them to the Southwest District.

Mr. Koestner stated he had asked to take a few minutes to discuss the projects MoDOT is working on. He noted the project discussion has become more detailed as the OTO and the Board have done an excellent job in addressing issues as they have come up. He noted he and Andy have discussed the necessity of having more detailed discussions with the OTO Technical Planning Committee to make sure community input is included in the decisions MoDOT makes for selecting projects for inclusion in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Mr. Koestner said the first project he wanted to address is I-44, which is a Statewide project. He said he believes that the I-44 project will require both three-laning and auxiliary lanes. He said the ballpark cost is around \$55 to \$60 million. He said he believed MoDOT could hold off on I-44 until the bridges are in need of repair.

The next project Mr. Koestner discussed was Highway 65. He said the contractor had started working on the three-laning from Evans Road to Route CC, and MoDOT has determined it would be expedient to proceed with the designing of the next sections. He noted that engineering costs have continued to rise, and getting it completed seemed to be the best option. The portion of Highway 65 from Route CC to Highway 14 is estimated at \$13 million; and from Highway 14 to Highway F is \$9.3 million.

Mr. Koestner stated the next project that is already in the STIP is the Highway 125 and US 60 interchange. He noted this is the highest crash location in the OTO area. He said that the queue at the Highway 125 signal is so long that it causes fatalities at other intersections as well. He said this job is in the STIP, but in his opinion it was not ranked as high as it should be. He said MoDOT estimates this at \$15 to \$16 million due to the need to acquire right-of-way and traffic volumes that will need to be dealt with during construction. He added that the fiscal year for this project is currently 2022; however, MoDOT would be interested in starting it right away. He added it is fine to move the jobs around in the STIP.

The next project discussed was Route 160 at AA and CC. This project is noted as traffic improvements, with a lot of the work being various interchange configurations or at-grade work. The MoDOT designers have conducted a Value Engineering study (VE) for this project and are meeting with all the partners involved to go over the study and determine the best way to proceed. He noted this job is slated for 2023 with an estimated cost of \$18 million in construction.

Mr. Koestner noted Route 60 is where MoDOT is seeing a lot of traffic; particularly US 60 west of Glenstone to past the US 60/Highway 65 interchange. He stated he is not sure if all the partners are ready to begin the work to make the necessary improvements.

Mr. Koestner stated MoDOT appreciates the City of Republic's concern regarding US 60 to Highway 413. He stated MoDOT would work with the City on how it should look west of Highway 413. He stated he recognizes the impact this has on traffic studies and also development in both the City of Springfield and the City of Republic.

The final project Mr. Koestner discussed was the US 60 east past Highway 125. He stated he believed this was the only section of four-lane roadway in the OTO area that still has at-grade intersections. He noted that MoDOT does not believe the Highland Springs entrance is the correct place for an interchange; but is open to the US 60/Farm Road (FR) 189 area, noting they have had meetings with the owner of the property at this location. He said he believes this is a better location due the hill and curve at the Highland Springs entrance. He added the MoDOT engineers believe the crash rate will increase if an interchange is put in this location.

Mr. Koestner stated these were the projects he wanted to highlight today and that MoDOT would be scheduling more time with the Technical Planning Committee to have indepth conversations regarding priorities. Mr. Koestner stated there are a lot of great projects in the STIP, but noted he believed the order and financing might require more indepth conversations.

Mr. O'Neal asked the spacing on US 60 from Highway 65 to FR 189. Mr. Koestner noted it is 1.1 miles, from both US 60 and Highway 125. In response to a question from Mr. O'Neal, Mr. Koestner reiterated that Mr. Childress is in favor of an interchange at this location.

Chair Smith asked Ms. Fields what the next step in the process should be. Ms. Fields responded MoDOT would be taking more time at the Technical Committee meetings to discuss future projects and their prioritization. She noted there is also a subcommittee that discusses the prioritization and scoring of the proposed projects and MoDOT was welcomed to take time at those meetings as well.

After some additional discussion, Ms. Fields stated she believed the best way to proceed was for the Board to approve the FY 2020-2024 STIP Priorities that was on the current agenda. Starting with the next fiscal year, MoDOT and the Technical Committee will begin to have more indepth discussions on future projects and how they are scored and ranked. She noted she plans to add thirty minutes to the Technical Planning Committee meetings for this discussion.

#### **G. Legislative Reports**

Joelle Cannon, Senator Roy Blunt's Office, stated she did not have any updates for the Board as the House and Senate are in recess until after the election. She stated she anticipates having some information on the BUILD grants in December.

## **II. New Business**

### **A. 2020-2024 STIP Priorities**

Sara Fields stated MoDOT, in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration, asked the OTO for priorities for developing the STIP. She added she had also included the project

prioritization glossary that was used to score the projects. She noted the project scoring to be a starting point and that communities are welcome to come and indicate why they believed the data might not be an accurate picture of what is truly happening.

Ms. Fields noted a subcommittee had met and recommended the list included in the packet; the Technical Planning Committee had also recommended the Board approve the proposed priority list of projects.

Ms. Fields noted this is the fourth year this scoring criteria has been used to develop a list of priorities. She added that MoDOT has done an excellent job of programming these projects in the STIP. She noted she was recommending the Board approve this list of projects and then the Technical Planning Committee will work with MoDOT for developing the criteria for future lists.

Mr. Bengsch moved the Board of Directors approve the list of priorities for consideration by MoDOT for inclusion in the FY 2020-2024 STIP. Mr. Compton seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**B. Amendment Number One to the FY 2019-2022 TIP**

Natasha Longpine noted this was the first amendment to our current TIP. She stated it was a scope addition to add a southbound turn lane from Plainview Road to Farm Road 157. She added this does not affect the cost of the project, but due to the length of the turn lane a full amendment is required.

Mr. Cameron moved the Board of Directors approve FY 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Number One. Mr. Weter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**C. Bridge, Pavement, and System Performance Measures**

Natasha Longpine stated there is a requirement from the Federal Government to establish performance targets. The OTO is working with MoDOT to establish these targets, each which have its own requirements and timelines. She added the ones for consideration at this time are the Bridge and Pavement, and System Performance targets. There are six individual targets that comprise the Bridge and Pavement targets, which look at both Interstate and non-Interstate pavement. They also look at systems that are in good condition and those that are in poor condition. She said both the subcommittee and the Technical Committee voted to keep the statewide targets as the OTO targets in place.

Ms. Longpine stated there are six individual targets for System Performance, but only three of them apply to the OTO. Again, the subcommittee and the Technical Committee voted to keep the statewide targets as the OTO targets.

Mr. Weter moved the Board of Directors support the statewide targets for Bridge, Pavement, and System Performance. Ms. Hickey seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

#### **D. Adoption of Resolution to Participate in LAGERS**

Ms. Fields stated staff is very appreciative of the Board's authorizing the OTO to participate in the Local Government Employees Retirement System (LAGERS). She briefly reviewed the history of the legislation action that was required to allow this to occur. She added that in August the Board directed staff to initiate a 45-day comment period on the actuarial; no comments were received. She stated the Board needs to adopt a resolution to be sent to LAGERS stating the intention of the OTO to begin participation in this plan. She reviewed the Options that the Board must select and staff's recommendations on each. The options to be included are:

1. The OTO will be non-contributory.
2. The final average salary calculation will be for five years.
3. The OTO will not participate in the Rule of 80.
4. The benefit plan selected will be L-6, which is a 2% multiplier, which is the same as the City of Nixa, the City of Springfield, and City Utilities.

In addition, Ms. Fields stated staff is recommending the OTO pay the unfunded liability amount of \$166,512.00 which will make the plan 100% funded on Day 1. This will also reduce the annual contribution that will be required by the OTO to fund the pension.

Mr. Weiler moved the Board of Directors adopt the resolution as presented. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion and it was approved with Mr. Cirtin abstaining.

#### **E. Budget Amendment One to FY 2018-2019 Operating Budget**

Kimberly Cooper stated as the Board has approved the one-time payment to LAGERS for the unfunded Liability, a budget adjustment to the FY 2019 Operational Budget is required. She added this will not be included in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) budget, just the Operational budget. She noted the costs will be covered with the unrestricted funds. She added amendment does comply with the GFOA Best Practices for a fully funded pension plan. She highlighted the information that shows the cost savings by funding the pension at 100% on January 1, 2019.

Mr. Cameron moved the Board of Directors approve the Budget Amendment One to the FY 2018-2019 Operating Budget for the purposes of funding LAGERS future liabilities at 100% effective January 1, 2019. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion and it was approved with Mr. Cirtin abstaining.

#### **F. 2019 Legislative Priorities**

Sara Fields reviewed the proposed 2019 Legislative Priorities, noting these are the priorities that staff and the Board use when speaking with our Legislators, noting the list contained both Federal and State priorities.

Ms. Hickey moved the Board of Directors approve the 2019 Legislative Priorities. Mr. Cossey seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**G. 2017 State of Transportation Report**

Natasha Longpine reviewed the 2017 State of Transportation report and the infographic that had been distributed to the Board. She briefly highlighted some items she believed would be of interest to the Board, noting crashes have increased, but fatalities are down. She added that the airport has been experiencing an increase in passengers, and is just shy of one million.

Chair Smith noted this report and infographic was for informational purposes only and no action of the Board of Directors was required.

**E. Nominating Committee**

Sara Fields stated it is time for the Board of Directors to appoint the officers and Executive Committee for 2019. She stated she was seeking volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. O’Neal moved to appoint Brian Weiler, Travis Cossey, and Brad Gray to serve as the Nominating Committee. Mr. Cameron seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**III. Other Business**

**A. Board of Directors Member Announcements**

Ray Weter noted that Elise Crain’s term on the OTO Board of Directors had expired and she chose not to serve another three-year term. The Christian County Commission is recommending the appointment of Chuck Branch to replace Dr. Crain as the Christian County Citizen-at-Large. Ms. Fields noted this would be voted on at the December Board Meeting.

**B. Transportation Issues for Board of Directors Member Review**

There were no transportation issues to be brought to the Board of Directors.

**C. Articles for Board of Directors Member Information**

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

**IV. Closed Meeting**

Mr. O’Neal moved in accordance with Section 610.021 (1), RSMo. 2017, the Board of Directors hold a closed meeting to discuss legal actions, causes of action, litigation, privileged and confidential communications; and this meeting, record, and vote be closed and the Board of Directors 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: Bodenhamer, Bengsch, Cameron, Childers, Cirtin, Compton, Cossey, Crain, Gray, Hickey, Jansen, O’Neal, Smith, Weiler, and Weter.

Nay: None.

Absent: Fisk, Walker.

Others: Randell Wallace, Sara Fields, Brenda Cirtin

Following a brief discussion with legal counsel, Dr. Crain left the meeting at 1:14 p.m. Ms. Fields reviewed the history of the legal action that was the subject of this Closed Session. Mr. Weter left the Closed Session at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Mr. O’Neal moved the Board of Directors authorize the Insurance Company to settle this lawsuit for a “not to exceed” amount, and that the Executive Committee is authorized to sign the settlement agreement, if it is below the above referenced amount. Mr. Cameron seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote:

Aye: Bodenhamer, Bengsch, Cameron, Childers, Cirtin, Compton, Cossey, Gray, Hickey, Jansen, O’Neal, Smith, and Weiler.

Nay: None.

Absent: Crain, Fisk, Walker and Weter.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:40 p.m.