



OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
A METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD FOR TRANSIT MEETING MINUTES

February 9, 2017
3:00 p.m.
OTO Conference Room
2208 W Chesterfield Blvd., Suite 101
Springfield, MO

ATTENDEES

Diane Gallion	JJ Bowler
Jeff Robinson	Linda Starr
Megan Clark	Andrew Seiler

STAFF PRESENT

Andy Thomason

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Gallion brought the meeting to order at 3:05pm. Brief introductions were made.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Gallion asked if anyone wished to make public comment on any agenda item. No public comments were made.

III. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 9, 2017 AGENDA

Ms. Starr made a motion to approve the agenda of the February 9, 2017 meeting. Ms. Bowler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 12, 2016 MINUTES

Ms. Starr made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2017 meeting, with minor edits. Ms. Funk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

a) 5310 Vehicle Update

Mr. Thomason reported the necessary paper work had not been completed to include the Dec 2016 vehicle awards into the TIP. As a result, the vehicle purchases will be delayed 2 months. They will go before the TPC in March and the Board in April.

Mr. Thomason also reported he was in conversation with MoDOT to determine expected purchases with FY 17 funds. MoDOT is showing available funds to purchase 3 vehicles with FY 17 funds, while OTO is showing funds to purchase 2. Mr. Thomason will report back to the LCBT once this discrepancy is shorted out.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a) Review TCP Survey Results

Mr. Thomason reported good participation in the three TCP surveys. The User survey was completed by 106 individuals. The participation in the Agency and Provider survey was much lower, 6 and 4 respectively. During the 3 days since the survey closed, Mr. Thomason spent more time synthesizing the results of the survey than creating summary tables and narratives. He provided the group with dashboard printouts of the Agency and Provider survey, and with all the short answer responses from the User Survey. Overall, the User survey indicated people were happy with their transportation options and Agencies/Providers struggled with funding.

b) Identification of Regional Needs

Mr. Thomason shared with the committee the synthesis of User needs and of Agency/Provider needs he had drafted over the last 3 days. He reported he looked for broad themes and more specific needs. The user survey seemed to reveal the themes of spontaneity and flexibility. Users wanted to be able to travel spontaneously and travel to spontaneous destinations. The current scheduling systems used by many transportation providers did not easily allow for same day travel, nor the provider have occasional service to destinations like Branson, State Parks, or garage sales. For the Agencies and Providers, the theme of capacity was obvious. Agencies identified the need to serve a wider range of destination, while the providers identified capacity issue with current their fleet size, except with CU Transit. Beyond these themes, Mr. Thomason reported he identified 5 specific user needs and three needs for agencies and providers.

The following discussion and comments were made. Ms. Bowler commented the themes and needs reflected the current state of the region as she understood it. She did not know how to address them, but they seemed correct. Ms. Gallion reported that CU had recent discussions about will-call services and same-day reservations. The needs identified by Mr. Thomason seemed in line with what Ms. Gallion's experiences. Mr. Robinson reported, legislation was being considered to change Medicaid into state block grants. This change would likely result in reduced Medicaid transportation funding, impacting the availability of services in the region.

c) Discussion of Potential Strategies

In order to help generate a conversation, Mr. Thomason provided the group with a copy of the strategies for the current TCP. He indicated the high priority strategies from the 2012 plan matched up with the themes and needs identified in the User and Agency/Provider surveys. Ms. Gallion

agreed that not much has changed over the last 5 years. Ms. Clark commented that the strategy of identifying a single source of information might be removed. She thought it was too broad for any one organization. The conversation shifted to the topic of mobility management and MoRides. Generally, the committee was on board with the idea of mobility management, but wanted to see a local resource, not a statewide resource. They also recognized the costs might be prohibitive. Ms. Gallion and Ms. Clark discussed the need for volunteers. Ms. Gallion stated CU's Ambassadors program was important for teaching people how to ride the bus. However, many of the caregivers they trained did not stay with their human service agency very long. Finally, the need to promote after hours and weekend transit would make it important to have a targeted strategy or action.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Clark shared with the group information on the establishment of the Transportation Collaborative. The collaborative working to define its mission and its focus area. Ms. Clark encouraged Mr. Robinson to attend if possible. Mr. Robinson also shared information on OATS new routes in Christian County. The primary purpose is employment trips. Most trips will be between Christian County and Springfield. The route is open to anyone.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Starr made a motion to adjourn at 4:15. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.