

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
June 19, 2014**

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. Kirk Juranas, City of Springfield (a)
Mr. Harold Bengsch, Greene County	Mr. Jim Krischke, City of Republic (a)
Mr. Steve Bodenhamer, City of Strafford (a)	Mr. Lou Lapaglia, Christian County (Chair)
Mr. Steve Childers, City of Ozark (a)	Mr. J. Everett Mitchell, City of Willard (a)
Mr. Jerry Compton, City of Springfield	Mr. Brian Steele, City of Nixa
Mr. J. Howard Fisk, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. Jim Viebrock, Greene County
Mr. Quinton Hamp, City of Battlefield	Mr. Brian Weiler, Airport Board (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 Bingle, City of Nixa (a)	Mr. Andy Mueller, MoDOT (a)
Mr. Richard Bottorf, Airport Board	Mr. Shane Nelson, City of Ozark
Mr. Brian Buckner, City of Republic	Ms. Robin Robeson, City Utilities
Mr. John Elkins, Citizen-at-Large (a)	Mr. John Rush, City of Springfield
Mr. Tom Finnie, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. Dan Salisbury, MoDOT (a)
Mr. Craig Fishel, City of Springfield	Mr. Mark Schenkelberg, FAA
Mr. Wendell Forshee, City of Willard	Mr. Tim Smith, Greene County (a)
Ms. Teri Hacker, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. Bob Stephens, City of Springfield

Others Present: Ms. Sara Fields, Mr. Jacob Guthrie, Ms. Natasha Longpine, Mr. Curtis Owens, and Ms. Debbie Parks, Ozarks Transportation Organization; Mr. Dan Wadlington, Senator Roy Blunt's Office; Mr. Dan Smith, Greene County Highway; Mr. Keith Ray Mackie, Senator Bob Dixon's Office; Ms. Lauren Dow, Senator Claire McCaskill's Office; Mr. Chris Jones, City Utilities; Mr. Frank Miller, MoDOT; Mr. Ruby Farber, Missourians for Safe Transportation and New Jobs.

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

## **I. Administration**

### **A. Introductions**

### **B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda**

Mr. Bengsch made the motion to approve the June 19, 2014 Meeting Agenda. Mr. Fisk seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

### **C. Approval of the April 17, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Fisk made the motion to approve the April 17, 2014 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Viebrock seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

### **D. Public Comment Period**

Ms. Fields stated that under three comments had been received, plus an additional email that OTO was copied on about the project list.

### **E. Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Fields stated that there had been a Board of Directors Training in April. Guidebooks were passed out to anyone who was unable to attend. She stated that the new fiscal year begins July 1, so staff is wrapping up projects to end the year. Some of the projects include the Performance Measurement Report that should be in the next agenda, as well as the Growth Trends Report, which uses the building permit data. That should also be in the next agenda. Staff has been working hard on the Travel Demand Model. It looks like the model will not be wrapped up this fiscal year. At the next meeting there will be a budget amendment to the new budget for funding to pay for the rest of the Travel Demand Model. The draft Transportation Improvement Program just went to committee and will go to public comment shortly. There are also the Travel Time Collection Units, but it will be later in the year before those are purchased. OTO is working with MoDOT and the City of Springfield to implement those units. Staff has also been working toward completing an Enhancement Application so that there will be a December deadline for the applications for Enhancement funding. There has also been work done on a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Plan and other items that will be discussed under Item L. Jacob Guthrie is the new OTO GIS Technician.

### **F. Legislative Reports**

Ms. Dow stated that Dan Stokely was the new District Director at Senator McCaskill's Office. He will be attending the Board meetings.

Mr. Wadlington stated that there were a few items. The gas tax bill is on the table. The Senate has revealed a two year, 12-cent gas tax bill. The Senate has agreed formally, that this is a bipartisan effort to reduce fees and to offset that and make it more palatable to other members of the Senate. The House has a plan to take savings from ending Saturday mail delivery to transfer to the Highway Trust Fund. There will probably be another extension of the Highway Bill. Any bill will continue the Off-System Bridge Program. That program will probably stay in the bill and receive additional funding. The highway bill is being worked on, but it is unlikely to be done by the end of September.

## II. New Business

### A. **Administrative Modification Number Two to the FY 2014-2017 TIP**

Ms. Longpine stated there was one item included as part of Administrative Modification Number Two to the FY 2014-2017 TIP. The OTO Public Participation Plan allows staff to make minor modifications to the Transportation Improvement Program, as long as it meets certain requirements. For this project, funds are moving from one fiscal year of the TIP to another fiscal year of the TIP, moving spending from FY 2015 and FY 2016 into FY 2014. The funding was also adjusted, but it was less than 15 percent of the total project cost. The modification was for pavement improvements on Route 65.

### B. **Amendment Number Three to the FY 2014-2017 TIP**

Ms. Longpine stated that Amendment Number Three to the FY 2014-2017 TIP was a request from MoDOT to add scoping to the Route 13 Bridge over Radio Lane. That is just north of I-44 on Route 13. The total cost is \$6,000.

Mr. Viebrock made the motion to approve TIP Amendment Number Three to the FY 2014-2017 TIP. Mr. Bengsch seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### C. **Draft 2015-2019 STIP**

Mr. Miller stated that the MoDOT STIP is the statewide version of the OTO's Transportation Improvement Plan. The STIP reflects what the OTO will submit in the draft TIP. Very little was added to the STIP because of funding projections. The only exception was the Cost Share Program. The last round of Cost Shares that were approved in November were added to the STIP. This area had three Cost Shares. The City of Springfield had the Division and 65 Interchange and the Kearney and Packer Intersection Improvements. There was also Route 160 and Route 14 Intersection Improvements. There were two other changes that are seen. Last year, there were Safety Improvements to various locations. There are location updates for that. There are some incremental safety improvements on North Glenstone Avenue. There were some resurfacing projects and MoDOT is required by law to install curb ramps on sidewalks. These projects have been split into two projects. The contractors prefer to deal with paving as one project and curb ramps in another. There have been no other changes to this STIP.

Mr. Fisk made the motion to endorse the Draft 2015-2019 STIP. Mr. Juranas seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### D. **Federal Funds Balance Report**

Ms. Longpine stated that the OTO receives funding from four categories of the Surface Transportation Program. These are STP-Urban, Small Urban, Bridge Rehabilitation Maintenance, and the Transportation Alternatives Program. MoDOT has a Funds Lapse Policy that limits OTO to a balance no greater than three years allocation. OTO distributes this funding among the member jurisdictions, but MoDOT looks at the OTO balance as a whole. The OTO also needs to be aware that federally, Congress could rescind that funding at any time. OTO can prevent violating MoDOT's Fund Lapse Policy by either obligating funds or by participating in MoDOT's Cost Share Program. Funding that is programmed in the STIP as part of a Cost Share Project does not count against the balance. Unfortunately,

MoDOT has suspended the Cost Share Program so the OTO will not be able to utilize this to reduce the balance.

There is an expanded Introduction Section in the report to explain each funding type, as well as information on the balance itself and the risk of rescission of those funds. The STP-Urban Balance is an example of where those MoDOT Cost Shares will make a difference. The balance is currently over \$23 million and the maximum allowed is \$16 million. There are \$13 million programmed as Cost Shares so that brings the balance down to \$10.5 million. The Small Urban Balance is not very large, just a little left over from when Springfield was not a TMA, before the boundaries were expanded. Bridge Maintenance and Rehabilitation funding is awarded competitively and the current programmed project is the bridge at the Battlefield/65 Interchange.

For the Transportation Alternatives Program, there is a little funding from the newest allocation, but it has not been awarded yet. This funding is awarded competitively. The FY 2013 funding has been awarded. This fall there will be an application for the FY 2014 and FY 2015 funding.

There is information on the allocation and obligations by jurisdiction and by projects. There are also the balances for each jurisdiction and fund type. Generally, staff would like to encourage everyone to focus on programming those funds, even if it is working on engineering now for a later project. That way as funds are received in those programs, the funds will obligated quickly.

**E. FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment**

Ms. Parks stated that with only six business days left in the fiscal year there would be an Amendment Number One to the FY 2014 UPWP. The reason is that part of the budget includes match from In-Kind and Direct Cost. MoDOT has been generously working away on some projects, which will allow the OTO to claim an additional \$26,000 in MoDOT Direct Cost. In order for that to go on the OTO books and be submitted to the federal government for a disbursement on the Consolidated Planning Grant, an amendment is needed. This means that the OTO revenue will go up to \$927,918, an increase of \$26,000. That translates to an 80 percent value on the federal side. The Consolidated Planning Grant will increase to \$733,976. This helps keep the OTO Operating Reserve higher. There is the possibility that the Highway Trust Fund will go bankrupt, so that is important.

Mr. Childers made the motion to approve the proposed FY 2014 UPWP Amendment. Mr. Juranas seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**F. Financial Statements for 3rd Quarter 2013-2014 Budget Year**

Mr. Lapaglia stated that Mr. Krischke was not yet at the meeting, so Ms. Parks would make the presentation. Ms. Parks stated that Mr. Krischke, the Treasurer, reviews the financial statements and would normally present the statements to the Board. There was nothing out of the ordinary on the Third Quarter Statements. The OTO is still below budget. The year would probably end below the projected budget due to the travel time units moving to next fiscal year. At the end of the third quarter there was \$22,925 in revenue. That was due to the timing of reimbursements from the Consolidated Planning Grant that did not fall in the same reporting period.

She thanked MoDOT and the members because of the MoDOT Direct Cost and In-Kind. That resulted in \$17,058 for the third quarter. The OTO had \$457,748 in expenses at the end of the third quarter. There is an Operational Budget Profit and Loss Report, which is a summary of the expenses. The Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual shows what the expenses are opposed to the budget. There is also a Balance Sheet included. The Operating Fund Report shows that there is a \$290,000 Operating Fund. There is also the OTO Progress Report that was supplied to MoDOT and the federal government on the work that has been done on the UPWP as it correlates to the budget.

Mr. Viebrock made the motion to accept the third quarter financial report. Mr. Weiler seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **G. Program Management Plan**

Mr. Owens stated that the Program Management Plan is required by the FTA under the Enhanced Mobility for Seniors Program. The 5310 program provides funds for capital and operating expenses for seniors and those with disabilities. The Program Management Plan, itself, is descriptive of the steps that the OTO takes to administer the program. The OTO adopted the MOU with City Utilities and MoDOT to administer the program. The OTO is responsible for the grant application and selection process. MoDOT is responsible for the traditional 5310 programs, which is vehicles, and City Utilities is responsible for the ADA, which is the ADA amenities and sidewalks. The plan outlines this process and it has gone to the Local Coordination Board as well as the Technical Planning Committee. Once the plan is approved it will be sent to City Utilities who will submit it to FTA.

Mr. Hamp made the motion to approve the Draft Program Management Plan. Mr. Fisk seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **H. Missourians for Safe Transportation and New Jobs**

Mr. Lapaglia introduced Mr. Ruby Farber with the Missourians for Safe Transportation and New Jobs. Mr. Farber gave the Board an update on the importance of Amendment 7 to the safety and transportation of the area.

Mr. Childers inquired about the tax break bills that were brought up and vetoed by the Governor at the recent session. He asked if the initiatives would be in direct conflict with Amendment 7 if the tax breaks were passed. It seems they would potentially reduce the projected amount of revenues that the sales tax could create. Have the individuals behind the initiative done any work to evaluate the potential loss in revenue related to the initiatives. Mr. Farber stated that off the top of his head, the budget for Missouri is approximately \$23 billion dollars. That figure mentioned is around \$800 million. If that is taken as a percentage it could be derived that it would be several million, which would not impact the tax too much. He would have to figure it out with actual figures.

Mr. Lapaglia thanked Mr. Farber for the presentation. He added that there were questions on if MoDOT would go to a toll system. He was thankful for the information that the toll would not be considered for ten years as part of the tax. Mr. Farber stated it would have to go to a vote of the people to enact a toll during or after the ten year period.

## **I. Resolution of Support**

Ms. Fields stated that with the Draft Resolution there is a revenue projection for the OTO. The OTO, called Southwest Urban by MoDOT, \$223.6 million over a ten year period. There is also funding projections for the individual communities that are projected on the ten year and annual basis. The choice to support it is primarily on the basis that there is no other funding available. The latest STIP projections are \$8 million a year for the OTO area. This could increase to \$30 million a year. \$8 million is not enough to take care of the system, let alone build anything new. The resolution also talks about how MoDOT had used the Amendment 3 funding. The OTO project was the 60/65 Interchange. That was well run and responsible. There was additional Amendment 3 funding that was distributed to the member jurisdictions. The big project there was to six-lane 65. The OTO has seen MoDOT deliver on projects recently and trusts MoDOT to do that on additional funding. That is the kind of language in the resolution.

Mr. Compton stated that there are no amounts in this. In the draft for public comment, there are amounts given and it should be appropriate to recommend that those amounts as a sum, be included in the motion. This would avoid a question later on the intent of the Board. He stated he would like to make a motion to recommend the ¾-cent project list that is included in the agenda with \$25.5 million in emerging needs, partnerships and grant matching; and \$5 million for Bicycle and Pedestrian Partnerships and grant matching be incorporated into the project list for the 3/4-cent project list.

Mr. Childers inquired if his motion was to simply to say that it requires a match but not a percentage. Mr. Compton stated right now the intent was just to have those amounts identified, so that if at some point in time, the funding went from \$24.5 million and it is itemized down to \$6 million, they would be more comfortable with the amounts in the motion.

Mr. Krischke stated that the resolution is more for support. He inquired why this motion was with the letter of support, it would be better with the next agenda items. Mr. Lapaglia stated that Mr. Compton has agreed to move it to the next topic.

Mr. Fisk made the motion to endorse the resolution of support for the 3/4-Cent Transportation Sales Tax. Mr. Krischke seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

## **J. Draft ¾-Cent Project List**

Mr. Compton stated he would like to recommend that the ¾-cent project list that is included in the agenda with \$24.5 million for emerging needs, partnerships, and grant making; and the \$5 million for Bicycle and Pedestrian partnerships and grant making be incorporated into the statewide list for the 3/4-cent sales tax.

Mr. Fisk wanted to know why this was so important. If the amount is less than each of these would be for a lessor amount. The motion is requesting that those amounts be frozen. Instead of \$223 million, then if there is \$150 million then there would still be \$5 million retained for Bicycle and Pedestrian. Mr. Compton stated that was good point, that decreased revenue could potentially change the whole scenario. Ms. Fields stated that it could be reduced by whatever percentage. If the revenue is short, the whole list will need

to be revisited. There was discussion on revisiting the scenario if funding projections were low.

Mr. Lapaglia asked if Mr. Compton's motion could state that the OTO would look at the bottom line and make the adjustments from the bottom line. Mr. Compton agreed. Mr. Lapaglia stated that if there are deficiencies in the revenue side then the OTO would look at the overall total and take necessary steps, versus the individual two items that Mr. Compton had requested. Mr. Fisk seconded and the motion carried with one Nay by Mr. Steele.

Mr. Childers stated that the OTO had worked very hard on this list. He had attended every committee leading up to the list. He had been working with the City of Ozark Council closely. The Mayor of Ozark had requested that a few statements be made. The Mayor appreciated the work that has lead up to this. He feels that the list is a strong regional list that serves the region well. That is why the Mayor directed Mr. Childers to vote in support of the list. However, there is one project that the Mayor does not support. That project is the Kansas Expressway Extension, which is the Route 13 Project. The Mayor does not feel that it is in line with the plans that have been presented in the past. The North South Corridor study presents other alternatives that serve the region better. The Mayor feels it is not in the best interest of the area.

Mr. Steele stated that the City of Nixa had the same concerns as Ozark in regards to the project and the future usefulness. As the city that is the main benefactor of where the road would go, the feeling is that there are better places that the money could be spent. The City of Nixa, however, also agreed to support the regional list. Mr. Lapaglia stated that Christian County already has the right-of-way for 160 and it would be easier for Christian County to complete. However, Christian County, looking at seven year projections, does not have the money to extend it from the river on. He stated that Christian County supports the City of Ozark and the City of Nixa, but does not have the funds to finish it.

Mr. Fisk stated that with the limited resources that the OTO has, that the 160 corridor needs to be fully built to take advantage of every safety feature, intersection, lane widening, and shoulder improvement that could be made. Corridors are very important, so the region should build out the corridor and reinvest the money in the corridor before starting a new one.

Mr. Hamp inquired what the City of Springfield's match was on the Cost Share. Mr. Smith stated that the first quarter mile was the City of Springfield's. Mr. Juranas stated the funding would have to be based on the City of Springfield's 1/4-cent sales tax and would be brought to the voters for approval.

Mr. Lapaglia stated that this is all contingent on the tax passing and the area needs the transportation funds.

Mr. Krischke made the motion to recommend the OTO 3/4-cent project list to the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. Mr. Bengsch seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

**K. Support for City Utilities Grant Application**

Ms. Longpine stated that City Utilities was able to get some additional clarification on the cost of the buses and which buses would be replaced, so this information was provided to the members to replace what was in the agenda. City Utilities is asking for nine new vehicles to replace nine 2000 model year buses. That comes to a cost of \$4.1 million with the match being just over \$600,000. This is funding left over from some prior discretionary funds at the Department of Transportation. They have been put into a new grant called "Ladders for Opportunity." Mr. Jones stated that capital grants for bus replacement are few and far between. This is an opportunity to receive a federal grant for some aging fleet replacements. Ms. Fields stated that Ms. Robeson was not able to make the meeting, but as the City Utilities Board Member representative she had expressed her support for the grant request.

Mr. Wadlington stated that Senator Blunt would be preparing a letter of support for this as well.

Mr. Fisk made the motion to approve a letter of support and certification of inclusion in the TIP for the City Utilities Grant Application. Mr. Weiler seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

**L. FY 2014-2015 Strategic Planning Items**

Ms. Fields presented the three areas of focus for the FY 2014-2015 year: involvement, education, and planning. She outlined the different action items under the FY 2014-2015 Strategic Plan.

Mr. Childers made the motion to approve the FY 2014-2015 Strategic Planning Action Items. Mr. Juranas seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

**III. Other Business**

**A. Board of Directors Member Announcements**

Ms. Baltz thanked Ms. Fields and the OTO staff for putting the list together and finalizing the draft. MoDOT changed directions several times and the staff was great to work with that. MoDOT is still taking public comments until July 3.

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

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

**IV. Adjourn.** Mr. Fisk made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.