

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
October 19, 2017**

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:

Mr. Steve Bodenhamer, City of Strafford (a)	Mr. Skip Jansen, City Utilities
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)
Dr. Elise Crain, Citizen-at-Large	Mr. Brian Weiler, Airport Board (a)
Mr. Brad Gray, City of Willard (a)	Commissioner, Ray Weter, Christian County
Mayor Debra Hickey, City of Battlefield (a)	

*(a) Denotes alternate given voting privileges as a substitute for voting member not present*

The following members were not present:

Mr. Mokhtee Ahmad, FTA	Mayor Corey Hendrickson, City of Willard
Commissioner Harold Bengsch, Greene County	Mr. Travis Koestner, MoDOT
Mr. Randy Brown, City of Willard (a)	Ms. Laurel McKean, MoDOT (a)
Mr. David Cameron, City of Republic (a)	Mr. Bradley McMahan, FHWA
Mr. Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)	Mr. Steve Meyer, City of Springfield (a)
Mr. Chris Coulter, Greene County (a)	Mr. Daniel Nguyen, FTA (a)
Mr. John Elkins, Citizen-at-Large (a)	Mr. Mark Schenkelberg, FAA
Councilman Craig Fishel, City of Springfield	Mr. Jeremiah Shuler, FTA (a)
Ms. Jan Fisk, City of Springfield	Mayor Brian Steele, City of Nixa
Mayor Rick Gardner, City of Ozark	Mayor Jeff Ussery, City of Republic
Warren Griffith, City of Battlefield	Mr. Richard Walker, Citizen-at-Large

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Others Present: Mr. Frank Miller, MoDOT; Ms. Joelle Cannon, Senator Roy Blunt’s Office; Mr. David Stokely, Senator Claire McCaskill’s Office; Mr. Jeremy Pruett, Representative Billy Long’s Office; Ms. Brenda Cirtin, Ms. Kimberly Cooper, Mr. Dave Faucett, Ms. Sara Fields, and Mr. Andy Thomason, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Chair Weter called the meeting to order at approximately 12:08 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 19, 2017 agenda. Mr. O’Neal seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**C. Approval of the August 17, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Smith moved to approve the August 17, 2017 minutes. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

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

Brenda Cirtin stated the OTO has received several emails regarding repaving of Elfindale Street between Fort Street and Kansas Expressway. She stated these have been forwarded to the City of Springfield as this is their area of responsibility. No one was present to speak to any item on the agenda.

**E. Executive Director’s Report**

Sara Fields stated the invitations for the OTO Legislative Breakfast have been sent and staff is receiving responses. She indicated that she would be giving a short presentation, and have MoDOT provide some information and then leave plenty of time for questions.

Ms. Fields noted the Trail Study is being finalized and the consultant is preparing the final report. She noted that the trail study could be viewed at [www.ototrailstudy.com](http://www.ototrailstudy.com). She added there is a segment showing suggested alignments as the consultant has proposed best alignments and alternative alignments.

Ms. Fields said staff has been working with the Performance Measures Subcommittee and they are recommending targets for safety for both, vehicular accidents and pedestrian/bicycle accidents. She noted that there are a few members of the Technical Planning Committee on the Subcommittee. She noted that the Subcommittee will be making recommendations for ways to possibly reduce the number of accidents.

Ms. Fields stated she has been working on the Springfield Community Focus Report that will be released October 24, 2017. She noted there is a transportation section that focused on providing options for all citizens.

Ms. Fields updated the Board of Directors on the retirements of Terry Whaley and Brian Bingle, noting the information regarding the celebrations for these two individuals will be forwarded to the Board for their calendars.

**F. MoDOT Update**

Mr. Andy Mueller stated that MoDOT has completed the Hwy 65 resurfacing project. He noted everything had gone smoothly and people seemed to be happy with the results. He recommended everyone go to their website and watch the video, if they have not already done so.

In response to a question regarding the life cycle of the pavement, Mr. Mueller noted it was 25 years. It was noted that what had been replaced was forty years old. He added that concrete has a much longer life-cycle than asphalt, which needs some type of treatment at least every seven years.

Mr. Mueller stated the Chestnut Expressway project is not on schedule, but he believes it will still be completed by the year's end. He added the final traffic switches have been made on Hwy 65 South, so there is no longer an "s" curve when travelling in that direction. He stated this project will be completed by the end of November.

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

Ms. Joelle Cannon, Senator Blunt's Office, stated the Senate was voting on the budget, which was twenty days past the due date. She added Brian Weiler had testified in Congress regarding some TSA security monitoring efforts. Ms. Cannon stated that Mr. Weiler did an excellent job representing Springfield. Mr. Weiler said what was being discussed would directly impact the Springfield Branson National Airport.

Ms. Cannon said she hears from several entities regarding collecting sales tax on Internet sales. She said Senator Blunt has been a supporter of this legislation and it is being considered for inclusion in the tax reform bill. Ms. Cannon suggested the OTO have the TIP (Transportation Improvement Projects) priorities ready in the event an infrastructure bill is introduced in the near future.

Mr. David Stokely, Senator McCaskill's Office, stated contrary to the television commercials, the Senator is not opposed to tax reform as long as it meets certain criteria. He stated the Senator is trying to keep an open mind and work on a non-partisan basis. He stated this was a great time to get to know the Congressional delegation. He encouraged those present to let him know if there are issues of concern where Senator McCaskill could be of assistance.

Jeremy Pruett, Representative Long's Office, noted that Springfield has received some very positive publicity in the past few months and had some very influential visitors, such as, the Chairman of the FCC, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Chairman for the Arts. It was noted that three Presidents have visited Springfield; with two past Presidents being here for the opening of the Wonders of Wildlife. Mr. Pruett was asked if Representative Long supported the online sales tax. He responded that in the past Mr. Long has voted in opposition to a bill that was presented, because he believed it was not a fair proposal. He said Mr. Long is fully supportive of a "fair, honest online tax."

## **II. New Business**

### **A. 2019-2023 STIP Priorities**

Sara Fields reminded the Board of Directors that the OTO is currently in fiscal year 2018, which is why it is time to discuss priorities for fiscal year 2019. She stated that MoDOT will begin developing their Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in January 2018. She stated MoDOT had requested that the OTO provide their priorities earlier than

normal, to allow MoDOT plenty of time to determine what projects could be funded. Ms. Fields stated the OTO has projects funded for 2019 and 2020, and is beginning to plan for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Ms. Fields reviewed for the Board of Directors the listing of the projects that are being recommended and the order of those projects. She stated there was a subcommittee of the Technical Planning Committee that worked on establishing the priorities. The Subcommittee recommended the proposed projects to the Technical Planning Committee, who then adopted that recommendation.

Following a brief discussion of the proposed projects, Dr. Crain moved the Board of Directors recommend the presented list of priorities for consideration by MoDOT for inclusion in the 2019-2023 STIP. Mr. Compton seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**B. Amendment Number One to the FY 2018 UPWP**

Kimberly Cooper discussed with the Board of Directors the need for an amendment to the 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). She noted there are three items being proposed and outlined them for the Board. Ms. Cooper noted the pages in the UPWP where these proposed changes could be seen in greater detail.

Mr. Childers moved the Board of Directors approve the proposed UPWP Amendment One. Mr. Jansen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**C. Amendment Number One to the FY 2018-2021 TIP**

Sara Fields stated staff has discussed with the Board of Directors that the OTO wants to partner with MoDOT to study what improvements could be made to I-44 and US 60. She added that MoDOT had some small projects for scoping in this TIP, so they were adding the money they need to cover their portion of the study.

Mr. O'Neal moved to approve FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Number One. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**D. 2018 State of Missouri Legislative Priorities**

Sara Fields stated the OTO would like to establish legislative priorities prior to the beginning of the 2018 Missouri Legislative Session. She briefly reviewed the proposed list of priorities. She added that some of the priorities are the same as the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, as it is important to work in partnership with other Southwest Missouri entities. Ms. Fields stated there is only one item to which the OTO is adamantly opposed and that is the transferring of state-owned roadways to local ownership, with or without funding to offset the cost.

Following a brief discussion on the various options available for funding of transportation needs, Dr. Crain moved to approve the 2018 State Legislative Priorities as presented. Mr. Weiler seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**E. 2016 State of Transportation Report**

Sara Fields stated she had made it a goal to publish a report regarding the state of transportation in the OTO area. She noted that she believed it was important for everyone to know the status of transportation and this report includes the achievements and statistics for 2016. She briefly reviewed the information in the report and encouraged the Board to use this information when working to recruit businesses to the area.

This report was provided for information purposes only; no action of the Board of Directors is required.

**F. Federal Transportation Planning Certification Review**

Sara Fields stated that every four years, the Federal Highway and Federal Transit come together and review the Ozarks Transportation Organization’s planning process. Ms. Fields stated she had reviewed the guidelines and when a “recommendation” is made, the OTO is not required to adopt it. Ms. Fields stated the review team found 19 practices that they believed the OTO did well. She stated the OTO is used as a model in other areas of the country.

Ms. Fields briefly reviewed the eight recommendations the team made and indicated which ones and how they would be implemented into the OTO planning process. Ms. Fields also noted that there were no corrective actions that required attention. She stated the OTO was certified as meeting the federal requirements as set forth in the following statement:

*Based on this review and ongoing oversight by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, the transportation planning process carried out in the Springfield, Missouri Transportation Management Area for the period September 30, 2017 to September 29, 2021 is certified as substantially meeting the requirements as described in 23 CFR Part 450 and 49 CFR Part 613.*

This item was provided for information purposes only; no action of the Board of Directors is required.

**III. Other Business**

**A. Board of Directors Member Announcements**

Dr. Crain stated that each week MoDOT has an updated listing on their website of the work that is being conducted and where. She said this was an effective way to see what is happening in the area.

Mr. Cirtin distributed an informational piece on the County’s one-half cent general revenue sales tax question on the ballot on November 7.

Mayor Hickey stated Battlefield has a Use Tax on the November 7 ballot and encouraged those in attendance to encourage their friends that lived in Battlefield to vote in favor of this issue.

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

None.

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

Chair Weter stated staff had included several articles of interest in the Board packet. He encouraged the members to read them as they had time.

**IV. Adjourn meeting.**

With no additional business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:20 p.m.