



OZARKS
TRANSPORTATION
ORGANIZATION
A METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Ozarks Transportation Organization is pleased to announce the completion of its *Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Investment Study*. **The goal of the trail study is to provide a framework for connecting communities with trails.** This study provides regional leaders with information on the cost of implementing a regional bicycle and pedestrian trail network. It also provided refined alignments for individual trails within that regional network. The study is available at www.giveusyourinput.org. This latest information will help community leaders make future funding decisions, understand the scope of trail network development, and provide a framework for prioritizing future projects.

The proposed regional trail network included in this study contains nearly 76 miles of trail corridors. The corridors connect OTO communities and provided key linkages within the City of Springfield. Through this study, alternative alignments within each corridor were developed, the alignments were evaluated, and costs were estimated for the preferred alignment.

The regional trail network included in this investment study could cost approximately \$100 million and \$103 million to construct. Funding has not been identified for these trail projects, but now community leaders have details they can use to plan, select, and advance projects. The study considered environmental concerns, easements needed, and the costs of individual trail segments.

OTO sought in involve the community throughout the development of this project. Public meetings were held during April and June 2016 to seek input on the development of this study. A website, www.ototrailstudy.com, was created to share project information and gather feedback. Input received was incorporated into the study and effected proposed trail alignments.

This study was led by Alta Planning + Design, Inc., a nationally recognized multi-modal transportation firm that specializes in the planning, design, and implementation of bicycle,

pedestrian, greenway, park, and trail corridors and systems. The firm is based in Portland, OR, with offices in St. Louis, Kansas City, and Bentonville, AR. Also involved were CFS Engineers, and CJW Transportation Consultants.

Visit www.giveusyourinput.org under 'Make a Comment' or the OTO offices to review the *Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Investment Study* in further detail and to submit comments. Comments can also be submitted in writing to Ozarks Transportation Organization, 2208 W. Chesterfield Boulevard, Suite 101, Springfield, Missouri 65807, emailed to comment@ozarkstransportation.org, or faxed to 417-862-6013. The OTO Board of Directors will review and vote on accepting the amended *Program Management* on February 15, 2018 at 12:00 pm.

For more information, contact: Andy Thomason, Planner, Ozarks Transportation Organization, 2208 W. Chesterfield Boulevard, Suite 101, Springfield, Missouri 65807, 417-865-3047.

Ozarks Transportation Organization is your Springfield-regional Metropolitan Planning Organization, or MPO. The MPO is a body of elected and appointed members who work together with local, state and federal elected officials and policy-makers, serving to make funding and planning decisions for transportation within the Springfield, MO region.

Public input is a cornerstone of our operations. To tell us what you think, please email us at comment@ozarkstransportation.org. Find us on Facebook, or on Twitter @giveusyourinput. Or call, or stop by our office at 2208 W. Chesterfield Boulevard, Suite 101, in beautiful Chesterfield Village.

Si usted necesita la ayuda de un traductor del idioma español, por favor comuníquese con la Andy Thomason al teléfono 417-865-3042, cuando menos 48 horas antes del plazo.

Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Andy Thomason at 417-865-3042 at least 2 working days prior to the expiration of the public comment period.

If you need relay services please call the following numbers: 711 - Nationwide relay service; 1-800-735-2966 - Missouri TTY service; 1-800-735-0135 - Missouri voice carry-over service.

OTO fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see www.ozarkstransportation.org, or call 417-865-3042.