

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
JULY 18, 2024**

The Board of Directors of the Ozarks Transportation Organization met at its scheduled time of 12:00 p.m. in person.

The following members were present:

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| Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large | James O’Neal, Springfield Citizen-at-Large |
| Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a) | John Russell, Greene County |
| Ben DeClue, City of Ozark (a) | Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a) |
| Eric Franklin, City of Republic | Kelly Turner, City Utilities |
| Derek Lee, City of Springfield | Richard Walker, Springfield Citizen-at-Large |
| Rusty MacLachlan, Greene County | Brian Weiler, Springfield-Branson Airport (a) |
| Frank Miller, MoDOT (non-voting) | Wes Young, City of Willard (a) |
| Lynn Morris, Christian County | |

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

The following members were not present:

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| Chuck Branch, Christian Co Citizen-at-Large | Mark Schenkelberg, FAA (non-voting) |
| Cecelie Cochran, FHWA (non-voting) | Martha Smartt, City of Strafford (a) |
| Marc Crabtree, City of Battlefield | Vacant, FTA (non-voting) |
| Brandon Jenson, City of Springfield | |

Others Present: Scott Bachman, City of Springfield; Bradley Jackson, Christian County; Tucker Jobes, Senator Schmitt’s Office; Nicole Boyd, Dave Faucett, Sara Fields, David Knaut, Natasha Longpine, Debbie Parks, and Jen Thomas, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m.

I. Administration

A. Welcome and Roll Call

By-law Position	Member	Attendance
BOD Citizen-at-Large	Jerry Compton	Present
Christian County Citizen-at-Large	Chuck Branch	Absent
Christian County Elected Official	Lynn Morris	Present
City of Battlefield Elected Official	Mark Crabtree	Absent
City of Nixa Elected Official	Travis Cossey (a)	Present
City of Ozark Elected Official	Ben DeClue (a)	Present
City of Republic Elected Official	Eric Franklin	Present
City of Springfield Citizen-at-Large	Richard Walker	Present
City of Springfield Citizen-at-Large	James O’Neal	Present
City of Springfield Council Member	Dan Smith (a)	Present

City of Springfield Council Member	Brandon Jenson	Absent
City of Springfield Council Member	Derek Lee	Present
City of Strafford Elected Official	Martha Smartt (a)	Absent
City of Willard Elected Official	Wes Young (a)	Present
City Utilities Transit Representative	Kelly Turner	Present
Greene County Commissioner	Rusty MacLachlan	Present
Greene County Commissioner	John Russell	Present
Springfield-Branson National Airport Board Member	Brian Weiler (a)	Present

A quorum was present.

B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Travis Cossey moved to approve the July 18, 2024 revised agenda with Item M added. Lynn Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Public Comment Period for All Agenda Items

The Chair advised there were public comments included in the packet and then asked for comments and questions.

D. Adoption of the Consent Agenda

The Chair stated any member of the Board of Directors could request to remove an item from the Consent Agenda to be discussed separately.

- Consent Agenda Items:
1. May 16, 2024 Minutes
 2. Destruction of OTO Records
 3. Administrative Modification Six to the FY 2024-2027 TIP
 4. EV Charger Procurement, Contract Execution, and Resolution
 5. Planning Process and Financial Capacity Certifications

Brian Weiler moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Jerry Compton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

E. Executive Director’s Report

Sara Fields stated the Highway Commission approved the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and with it they added a project for \$166.5 million for improvements on I-44 from 160 in Springfield to 125 in Strafford. The funding amount for the OTO MPO area matches estimates that includes six-lanes for that segment, pavement rebuild, the trail and the underpass, esthetic improvements to the bridge, and all four phases of the Highway 13/I-44 interchange. This improvement will help with back-ups on I-44.

The City of Springfield was awarded a \$24 million RAISE Grant for their UnGap the Map trail project.

Staff submitted an Active Transportation Grant which asked for engineering funds for around \$1 million for three trails. It was entitled “Tomorrow’s Trails Connecting the Past” due to the historical significance of the Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield, the Trail of Tears, and Route 66.

The Republic MM Grant application that requested rural funding has not been announced.

Staff continue to explore opportunities for EV funding. There is a Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant available. Grant opportunities appear in the OTO newsletter which is sent out around the first of each month. They are also listed on the OTO website. Staff are available if any jurisdiction has a question regarding the grants.

There is an application call for projects out for the Transportation Alternatives Program which is sidewalks and trails. It is due August 1st and there is \$3.5 million available. This will be the last round of funding available through the current Federal Transportation Bill which expires in 2026. OTO will be awarding FY 2027 funding due to the time it takes to get a project to construction.

Staff continue to work on the SS4A grant. A requirement of the SS4A is to adopt a Vision Zero goal. A proposal for that goal was presented to the OTO Technical Planning Committee. The proposal was zero fatalities by 2040 and zero serious injuries by 2050. The Vision Zero goal will be presented to the Board of Directors in September or November to consider for adoption. The City of Springfield is also working on a Vision Zero goal. Any jurisdiction wanting to apply for future implementation grants for SS4A will need to adopt that goal, as well.

The MoDOT High Priority Unfunded Needs list includes a project under Southwest Rural for Route WW for \$1.5 million. This is the project Greene County Commissioner MacLachlan requested to be added for the extension of James River Freeway. Route WW was a placeholder MoDOT used in their system for the study, not necessarily where it would go.

On the Consent Agenda is the EV Charger procurement. At the last Board of Directors meeting the progressive design build for installation was discussed. Federal Highway has ruled it cannot be a progressive design build process. It will now be a traditional construction bid process. The goal is to have obligation by September 30th.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission will be in Springfield on September 5th. A schedule has not been released. In the past it has been in the morning and usually at the DoubleTree Conference Center in north Springfield. There will be a community presentation for a collaborative approach. If any member would like to be included or have items they would like included, let staff know.

F. MoDOT Update

Frank Miller shared the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission has adopted the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. Staff are working on how to structure the I-44 project and hopefully reduce traffic impacts. It is possible a part of the construction will start this fall. A few of the projects on the Unfunded Needs list were funded. The Unfunded Needs list has become an important document to help identify projects for study and funding.

G. Legislative Reports

Tucker Jobses with Senator Schmitt's Office reported the Senator introduced the Table Rock Lake Property Protection Act. Some property owners around the lake have lease agreements with the Army Corps of Engineers to have septic systems. The Corps advised these property owners to remove the septic systems on Corps property by the year 2030. The bill filed by the Senator would require the Corps to honor the existing agreements.

The Senator also introduced the Separation of Powers Restoration Act of 2024. The Supreme Court struck down the Chevron doctrine. This bill modifies the scope of judicial review of agency actions to authorize courts reviewing agency actions to decide de novo, without giving deference to the agency's interpretation. It would be an even playing field. Each side argues their side and the court decides which has the best argument.

There will probably be a Continuing Resolution for the budget to extend the funding deadline.

H. Federal Obligation Status Update

Jen Thomas stated another obligation had come through since the agenda had been sent out. The obligations are at approximately 30% of the 110% mandate. There is another \$1.5 million that is pending with Federal Highway. After the \$1.5 million is obligated, the obligations will be at approximately 42% of the 110%.

II. New Business

A. FY 2025 Operational Budget Amendment One

Debbie Parks presented the Operational Budget Amendment for FY 2025.

This was informational only. No action was required.

B. Trail Planning and Design Engineering Services Consultant Selection & Contract Authority

Jen Thomas shared the authorization to enter into negotiations with engineering services consultants for trail planning and design engineering services consultant selection.

Wes Young made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to enter into negotiations with engineering services consultants and execute the contracts for consultant services not to exceed the awarded amounts as outlined in the 2024 CRP awards. Ben DeClue seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Resolution to Approve Line of Credit

Debbie Parks reviewed the resolution authorizing a line of credit.

Travis Cossey made a motion to approve a resolution to allow the OTO to renew the business line of credit in the amount of \$350,000 as needed to cover budgeted expenses associated with the EV charger installation project or other federally funded projects. Jim O'Neal seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. Strategic Action Plan

Sara Fields presented the proposed Strategic Action Plan.

Ben DeClue made a motion to approve the Strategic Action Plan. Jerry Compton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

E. FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient

Sara Fields shared the agreed to Memorandum of Understanding for FTA 5310 – Elderly and Disabled funding.

Jim O’Neal made a motion to approve a resolution to request the Governor of Missouri designate OTO and City Utilities transit as the designated recipients for FTA Section 5310 and to approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between OTO and CU Transit for the designated recipients of FTA 5310 Funding. Rusty MacLachlan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

F. TAP Project Schedule Extensions

Jen Thomas reviewed the requests to revise the schedules outlined for reasonable progress of the Garrison Springs Trail project and Grand Street Trail project.

Dan Smith made a motion to approve the revised reasonable progress schedules for the Garrison Springs and Grand Street Trail projects. Lynn Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed.

G. Destination 2045 Amendments Four, Five, and Six

Natasha Longpine highlighted the changes to the Constrained Project List as well as the Major Thoroughfare Plan of *Destination 2045*.

- Amendment Four
 - Updated - moved from Unconstrained to Constrained:
 - 173 Route 125/OO Intersection Improvements
 - 174 Route OO Capacity Improvements
 - Estimate Updates
 - 5 – I-44 Capacity Improvements from Kansas Expressway to Glenstone Avenue > updated Time Band to 2025 and cost to \$51,716,260
 - 126 – Kansas Expressway Capital Improvements Phases I, II, and III from Norton Road to Kearney, including I-44 interchange > updated cost to \$57,224,000
- Amendment Five
 - Major Thoroughfare Plan for Springfield/Greene County
 - Haseltine/Farm Road 115 and Chestnut Expressway – a portion of the proposed principal arterial was removed, the roadway realigned with existing access, and the functional classification changed to collector.
 -
- Amendment Six
 - Major Thoroughfare Plan for Ozark
 - Jackson and Selmore along 17th Street in Ozark from principal arterial to secondary arterial for the entire corridor.

Ben DeClue made a motion to approve *Destination 2045* Amendments Four, Five, and Six with Five and Six pending adoption by their relevant jurisdictions. Richard Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

H. Draft FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program

Natasha Longpine reviewed the Draft FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Kelly Turner made a motion to approve the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program. Dan Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

I. Draft FY 2026-2030 STIP Prioritization Criteria

Sara Fields presented the proposed criteria to be used for prioritizing projects ahead of the 2026-2030 STIP project selection process.

Wes Young made a motion to approve the STIP Project Prioritization Criteria as presented. Jerry Compton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

J. FY 2026-2030 Draft STIP Prioritization Project List

Sara Fields reviewed the list of projects proposed for prioritization ahead of the 2026-2030 STIP project prioritization process.

Commissioner MacLachlan mentioned there was discussion at the Planning and Zoning meeting regarding East Sunshine/D Highway, due to some development, of when it might become five lanes.

Capacity improvements to D Highway will be added to the Draft STIP list.

The Board of Directors were asked to review the project list.

K. I-44 Cost Apportionment

Sara Fields shared the funding agreement and resolution for I-44.

Dan Smith made a motion to approve the included resolution to authorize the Executive Director to execute the cost apportionment agreement for I-44 with MoDOT, Greene County, and the City of Springfield. Wes Young seconded the motion. The motion passed.

L. Federal Discretionary Grant Support

Debbie Parks presented the resolutions of support and certifications to add to the Transportation Improvement Program for Federal discretionary grant applications.

Lynn Morris made a motion to approve the resolutions and TIP certifications as provided. Ben DeClue seconded the motion. The motion passed.

M. Authorization of Concurrence with I-44 Funding

Sara Fields reviewed the approval to concur with the new funding for I-44.

Richard Walker made a motion to approve the new funding for I-44. Jim O'Neal seconded the motion. The motion passed.

III. Other Business

A. Board of Directors Member Announcements

There were no member announcements.

B. Transportation Issues for Board of Directors Member Review

There were no transportation issues for member review.

C. Articles for Board of Directors Member Information

Chair Lee noted there were articles of interest included in the packet for the members to review.

IV. Adjourn meeting

Rusty MacLachlan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jerry Compton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

DocuSigned by:
MARTHA SMARTT
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Martha Smartt
OTO Secretary