

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 21, 2024**

The Technical Planning Committee of the Ozarks Transportation Organization met at its scheduled time in person. A quorum was declared present. Chair Parsons began the meeting at approximately 1:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Eric Claussen, City of Springfield	Chad Ray (a), Springfield-Branson National Airport
Matt Crawford, City Utilities	Mike Ruesch, City of Willard
Karen Haynes, City of Republic	Jeff Roussell, City of Nixa
Adam Humphrey, Greene County	Beth Schaller, MoDOT
Tristan Losh, City of Battlefield	Aishwarya Shrestha (non-voting), SMCOG
Frank Miller, MoDOT	Mark Webb, Greene County
John Montgomery (a), Ozarks Greenway	Todd Wiesehan, Christian County
Jeremy Parsons, City of Ozark (Chair)	

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

The following members were not present:

Keith Adams, Springfield Public Schools	Tim Schowe, City of Strafford
Steve Childers, City of Springfield	Ben Vickers (non-voting), Springfield Chamber
Joel Keller (a), Greene County	Jeremy Wegner, BNSF
Martin Gugel, City of Springfield	Vacant, FTA
John Matthews, Missouri State University	Daniel Weitkamp, FHWA
Mark Schenkelberg, FAA	

Others present were: Jered Taylor, Congressman Eric Burlison's Office; Kimberly Ader, MoDOT; Scott Bachman, City of Springfield; Garrett Brickner and Dorothy Holbrook, Wilson & Company; Mary Kromrey, OWN/City of Battlefield; Derrick Estell, Toth & Associates; Nicole Boyd, Dave Faucett, Sara Fields, David Knaut, Natasha Longpine, Debbie Parks, and Jen Thomas, Ozarks Transportation Organization.

I. Administration

A. Introductions

Chair Parsons welcomed everyone.

B. Approval of the Technical Planning Committee Meeting Agenda

Adam Humphrey made a motion to approve the Technical Planning Committee Meeting Agenda for August 21, 2024. John Montgomery seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Approval of June 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Adam Humphrey made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2024 Technical Planning Committee meeting. Mike Ruesch seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. Public Comment Period for All Agenda Items

Chair Parsons advised there were public comments included in the packet. Chair Parsons asked for comments or questions.

E. Executive Director's Report

Sara Fields shared that staff have been working on the STIP priorities through Committee. The revised scores will be sent out today. The Board of Directors have been working on the Legislative Priorities which will be decided at the September meeting. The OTO Strategic Plan was approved at the July meeting. This shows what OTO will be working on over the next 5 years. The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission will be in Springfield on September 5th. A schedule will be sent out later. The OTO Legislative Breakfast will be October 10th at 7:30 am with breakfast being served at 7:15 am.

F. Legislative Report

Jered Taylor with Congressman Eric Burlison's office stated Congressman Burlison is in town for the month of August for the August recess. They have been taking tours and visiting with businesses throughout the district. They visited Branson touring the 86 project and Longcreek Bridge with MoDOT and the contractor. Burlison's transportation staff met with OTO staff. They also went to Joplin to speak with some of the rail industry to discuss the Rail Safety Act that is going through Congress. Congress will return to session in approximately a week.

G. MoDOT Report

Frank Miller reported MoDOT's High Priority Unfunded Needs list comment period goes through Friday, August 23, 2024. There was a good turnout at the Springfield meeting for the Unfunded Needs list.

MoDOT staff continue to work on the Asset Management Plan.

MoDOT Director Patrick McKenna has resigned. The Deputy Director will be the interim director.

Beth Schaller shared the 125/60 Interchange and the 160/CC intersection are open. Work continues on Route AA signal improvements. The ADA improvement work continues on Kansas Expressway as well as repaving the roadway.

H. Committee Reports and Grant Opportunities

David Knaut stated OTO held two Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meetings. There was a call for projects. This will be discussed later in the meeting. The CY 2023 Bicycle and Pedestrian Implementation Report was updated. Approximately 4.4 miles of trail have been completed and funded approximately 4.9 miles of trail.

There was one meeting of the Traffic Incident Management Subcommittee (TIMS). Discussion was held regarding better HAZMAT incident coordination.

There were two meetings of the Local Coordinating Board for Transit (LCBT). The Board has been working toward OTO becoming a designated recipient of FTA for 5310 funding.

Debbie Parks shared OTO is working alongside the Ozarks Clean Fuel Coalition to submit a grant for the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) grant program. An REI was issued for private entities that may be interested in partnering with OTO. It closed last week. The City of Springfield also applied. There have been 26 ports applied for at 5 different locations. The project is \$1.5 million. OTO is requesting \$1.23 million in federal funding. The grant is due August 28th.

The Reconnecting Communities grant opportunity is open. This grant is to help reconnect communities previously cut off from economic opportunities by transportation infrastructure. The application is due on September 30, 2024. The minimum award is \$5 million.

The Safe Streets and Roads for All application for the planning and demonstration grant is open.

There is a Wildlife Crossings Program open through the USDOT. It closes September 4, 2024. If any jurisdiction needs a letter of support, let OTO staff know.

The Railroad Crossing Elimination Program applications are due September 23, 2024. The minimum award is \$1 million in federal funds.

MoDOT's Cost Share Program application is open. The applications are due September 23, 2024. The deadline for having conversations with jurisdictions has passed for this round. If a community has a project for the Cost Share Program but has not been in discussion with MoDOT, it is recommended to start preparing it for the next round in January.

MoDOT has a Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP) that is open for traffic studies. The award is up to \$12,000 with a 20% match. It closes on September 13, 2024. The applications can be submitted to Andrew Seiler.

The OTO Newsletter is sent out monthly which includes grant information. Let staff know to be added to the distribution list. The newsletter is also on the OTO website.

I. Federal Fund Status Update

Jen Thomas reported that currently there is approximately \$7.4 million that needs to be obligated by the end of the fiscal year. There is approximately \$6.6 million in the final stages. Approximately \$1.1 million is in engineering contracts to be executed and \$1.9 million in STIP MoDOT projects.

II. New Business

A. FRA Long Distance Service Study Resolution of Support

Natasha Longpine reviewed the FRA Long Distance Passenger Rail Study.

John Montgomery made a motion to recommend the Board of Directors approve a resolution of support for passenger rail through the OTO region. Karen Haynes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Congestion Management Process Evaluation

Dave Faucett presented the Congestion Management Process evaluation, a draft document which monitors congestion in the OTO area.

Todd Wiesehan made a motion to recommend the Board of Directors accept the Congestion Management Process Evaluation. Adam Humphrey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. FY 2027-2027 TIP Administrative Modification 7

Natasha Longpine stated revisions had been made to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Plan.

- Chadwick Flyer Phase V (EN2405)
Added \$50,000 funding for meeting reasonable progress and due to increased costs, plus moving remaining engineering to construction in FY 2025.
- Chadwick Flyer US 65 Crossing (OK2304)
Moving remaining engineering to FY 2025 and adding STBG-U funds to construction.

This was informational only. No action was requested.

D. TAP Project Schedule Extension

Jen Thomas reported that the Springfield-Greene County Park Board requested to revise the schedule outlined for reasonable progress for the Lost Hill Greenway Bridge project.

Eric Claussen made a motion to recommend the Board of Directors approve the revised reasonable progress schedule for the Lost Hill Greenway Bridge. Jeff Roussell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

E. Trail and Sidewalk Project Funding Recommendation

David Knaut presented the projects proposed for the TAP/CRP funding.

- City of Battlefield – Engineering/Design – Wilson’s Creek Trail and Phase 2 FF Pedestrian Improvements
- City of Ozark – Construction – Trail/Sidewalk Hwy CC Chadwick Flyer Connection
- City of Springfield – Engineering/Design and Construction – South Creek Greenway Trail – Sunset/Glenstone Crossing Improvements
- City of Strafford – Engineering/Design – Route 66 trail Phase 3
- City of Willard - Engineering/Design – 160 Underpass

Mike Ruesch made a motion to recommend the Board of Directors approve TAP/CRP funding for the trail and sidewalk projects. Adam Humphrey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

F. Destination 2045 Amendment 7

Natasha Longpine highlighted the changes recommended to the Constrained Projects List. Updates were needed to include I-44 improvements from US 65 to Route 125 and to reflect the additional funding and updated costs for the I-44 projects between US 160 and Route 125.

- US 160 to 13 Widening
- Route 13 to Glenstone – Sound Study/Widening/Pavement Rebuild
- Glenstone to US 65 – Widening/Pavement Rebuild
- US 65 to Route 125

- Route 13 Interchange – Phases 1-4
- New Melville Bridge

John Montgomery made a motion to recommend the Board of Directors approve the *Destination 2045* Amendment Seven. Karen Haynes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

G. FY 2025-2028 TIP Amendment One

Natasha Longpine stated there were proposed changes to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program.

- *New* Wilson’s Creek Trail and Phase 2 FF Pedestrian Improvements (EN2501)
- *New* South Creek Greenway Trail – Sunset/Glenstone Crossing Improvements (EN2502)
- *New* Route 66 Trail – Phase 3 (EN2503)
- *New* US 160 Underpass East of Route AB (EN2504)
- *New* Trail/Sidewalk Highway CC Chadwick Flyer Connection (EN2601)
- *New* I-44 Safety Project (MO2521)
- *New* I-44 Pavement Project (MO2522)
- *New* Hines and ZZ (RP2503)

Adam Humphrey made a motion to recommend the Board of Directors approve the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment One. Frank Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

H. Safe Streets and Roads for All Update

Natasha Longpine shared OTO had a booth promoting the plan and talking about safety at the Route 66 Festival. The estimated attendance at the festival was around 74,000. There will be another booth at the Ozark Expo on September 7th. Staff are working with the City of Springfield to coordinate a pop-up demonstration. The planned date is September 11th. Information will be sent out once all the details have been finalized. Everyone is invited to stop by. Lochmueller, the Engineering Consultants, are working on an Implementation Matrix, an informative part of the plan. Staff on working on a tiered list of priorities. A list of initiatives and planning type projects is being developed. Lochmueller is finishing up a policy and process memo. The City of Republic submitted a supplemental planning grant. The announcement of whether it was awarded should be coming soon. The City of Springfield passed a Vision Zero Resolution. The goals of the resolution match the proposed goals in the OTO SS4A plan, zero fatalities by 2040 and zero serious injuries by 2050.

III. Other Business

A. Technical Planning Committee Member Announcements

Matt Crawford shared the new CU Transit bus routes and schedule changes would begin September 29th. Service will be reduced on Sundays with those hours being moved elsewhere in the schedule. CU will be presenting their Board with a request to reduce fares by 20%. If approved, it will then go before the Springfield City Council in September with an October 1st start date. Staff are also working on a new passenger information system.

Jeremy Parsons stated there has been 1000 linear feet of trail put in for the trail near the Tracker Marine plant.

B. Transportation Issues for Technical Planning Committee Review

There were no transportation issues for Committee review.

C. Articles for Technical Planning Committee Member Information

Chair Parsons noted there were articles of interest included in the Agenda Packet.

IV. Adjournment

Karen Haynes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Adam Humphrey seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:26 p.m.



Jeremy Parsons
Technical Planning Committee Chairman-Elect