

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 19, 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:

Kimberly Ader, MoDOT (non-voting)	Rusty MacLachlan, Greene County
Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large	Lynn Morris, Christian County
Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)	James O’Neal, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
Mark Crabtree, City of Battlefield	Martha Smartt, City of Strafford (a)
Eric Franklin, City of Republic	Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)
Brandon Jenson, City of Springfield	Richard Walker, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
Derek Lee, City of Springfield	Brian Weiler, Springfield-Branson Airport (a)

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

The following members were not present:

Chuck Branch, Christian Co Citizen-at-Large	Mark Schenkelberg, FAA (non-voting)
Cecelie Cochran, FHWA (non-voting)	Kelly Turner, City Utilities
Eric Johnson, City of Ozark	Wes Young, City of Willard (a)
John Russell, Greene County	Vacant, FTA (non-voting)

Others Present: Scott Bachman, City of Springfield; Bradley Jackson, Christian County; Mike Ussery, Senator Schmitt’s Office; Jered Taylor and Allison (Intern), Congressman Burlison’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	Present
City of Nixa Elected Official	Travis Cossey (a)	Present
City of Ozark Elected Official	Eric Johnson	Absent
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	Present
City of Springfield Council Member	Derek Lee	Present
City of Strafford Elected Official	Martha Smartt (a)	Present
City of Willard Elected Official	Wes Young (a)	Absent
City Utilities Transit Representative	Kelly Turner	Absent
Greene County Commissioner	Rusty MacLachlan	Present
Greene County Commissioner	John Russell	Absent
Springfield-Branson National Airport Board Member	Brian Weiler (a)	Present

A quorum was present.

B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Jerry Compton moved to approve the September 19, 2024 agenda. Richard Walker 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. July 18, 2024 Minutes
 2. Destruction of OTO Records
 3. Financial Statements for FY 2024 Budget Year
 4. FY 2024-2027 TIP Administrative Modification 7
 5. Annual Listing of Obligated Projects
 6. Federal Discretionary Grant Support

Dan Smith moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Brian Weiler seconded the motion. The motion passed.

E. Executive Director's Report

Sara Fields reported that staff continue to work on grant applications. Currently, there are four grant applications out. The Rural Surface Transportation Program grant for the MM corridor is still out. There is a grant application out for trails for approximately \$1 million. OTO assisted Ozark Greenways in putting a grant application in for transportation engineering for the Frisco Highline Trail at Kearney. A grant has been submitted for EV chargers which would allow private entities to apply for the grant funding if OTO is awarded the grant. Staff will continue to look for grant opportunities and share them in the OTO Newsletter and on the website.

The I-44 funding included the interchange at Highway 13 and I-44 and widening from Highway 160 to Highway 125 in Strafford. MoDOT announced the segment from Highway 13 to Highway 65 would proceed as scheduled for the next fiscal year. The rest would be design build and a timeline has not been established. The design build would include Joplin.

Sara Fields and Natasha Longpine will be attending the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations' Annual Conference in Salt Lake City the week of September 23rd. Sara Fields is the chair of the Policy Committee which is working on national priorities for reauthorization of the transportation bill.

Sara Fields attended the Community Leadership Visit in North Carolina. The visit highlighted the idea of regionalism.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission was in Springfield on September 5th. Sara Fields presented the OTO's priorities and processes as well as some of the needs going forward.

The final STIP Prioritization meeting will be held September 19th with the Technical Planning Committee. The process scores and ranks projects that will be recommended for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program next July.

Jen Thomas, OTO's Transportation Engineer, is managing 12 contracts as project manager. Seven of those projects are trails and five are electric vehicle charging contracts.

The Recovery Act funds went to several trails. A section of the Chadwick Flyer Trail has been completed. The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Trail is almost finished with a tentative date to open in November.

The Federal Highway Administration approved the OTO Transportation Improvement Program on August 5th.

The OTO Auditor was here the first week of September. The results should be out in the next couple of months.

F. MoDOT Update

Kimberly Ader stated September 19th is MoDOT's Day of Remembrance. The High Priority Unfunded Needs public comment period ended. There were various changes made based on those public comments. The final list will be presented to the Highway Commission at the October meeting. It will be available on the MoDOT website after that meeting. Prioritizations for the upcoming STIP cycle are in progress.

G. Legislative Reports

Mike Ussery with Senator Schmitt's Office reported the budget expires at the end of the month. Senator Schmitt will keep pushing for regular budget orders. In the short term, they will probably have to pass a continuing resolution. The Senator was pleased to work on the Senate Armed Services Committee and advocate for Whiteman Airforce Base to be the second operating base for the B-21 Raider which will be the eventual replacement for the B-2 Spirit Stealth Bomber. The Senator had his first stand-alone bill, the Launch Communications Act, which passed both chambers and will be signed by the President. The bill updates the FCC's spectrum licensing process for commercial space launches and re-entries. There were approximately 79 commercial space launches in 2022 and 117 last year.

Jered Taylor with Congressman Burlison's Office shared the House intended to pass a budget continuing resolution yesterday, it failed. The Congressman was a yes vote on the CR which would

have pushed the budget out until March of next year. This would have prevented having to do an omnibus bill for fiscal year 2025. It also included the SAVE Act which requires citizenship to vote in federal elections.

H. Federal Obligation Status Update

Jen Thomas shared a status update for the federal obligations. Currently, OTO is at 110% of its annual allocations. These are projects that have been fully obligated by the Federal Highway Administration. The projects that are pending, the local entities have submitted everything to the local MoDOT staff, and they have submitted them to Jefferson City. Staff are just waiting for the process to be completed. Once these projects are obligated, it should put OTO at approximately 130% of the annual allocation.

II. New Business

A. FRA Long Distance Service Study Resolution of Support

Natasha Longpine highlighted the FRA Long Distance Passenger Rail Study.

Brandon Jenson made a motion to approve a resolution of support for the recommendations of the FRA Long Distance Service Study. Rusty MacLachlan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Congestion Management Process Evaluation

David Faucett presented the Congestion Management Process Evaluation.

Travis Cossey made a motion to accept the Congestion Management Process Evaluation. Dan Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Program Management Plan/5310

David Knaut reviewed the recommended updates to the Program Management Plan.

Martha Smartt made a motion to approve the Program Management Plan and adopt the resolution authorizing the Executive Director of the OTO to execute and file applications with the Federal Transit Administration. Travis Cossey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. TAP Project Schedule Extension

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

Brandon Jenson made a motion to approve the revised reasonable progress schedule for the Lost Hill Greenway Bridge project. Eric Franklin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

E. Trail and Sidewalk Project Funding Recommendation

David Knaut reviewed the five applications submitted for trail and sidewalk projects using TAP/CRP funding.

- City of Battlefield – Engineering/Design – Wilson’s Creek Trail & 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

Brandon Jenson made a motion to approve the TAP/CRP funding for the five submitted sidewalk and trail projects. Jim O’Neal seconded the motion. The motion passed.

F. Destination 2045 Amendment 7

Natasha Longpine stated changes were recommended to the Constrained Project List. An update to *Destination 2045* is 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.

Dan Smith made a motion to approve Amendment Seven to *Destination 2045*. Brian Weiler seconded the motion. The motion passed.

G. FY 2025-2028 TIP Amendment One

Natasha Longpine highlighted the changes to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program.

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

Brandon Jenson made a motion to approve Amendment One to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program. Travis Cossey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

H. Unfunded Needs List

Sara Fields presented a request for modification to the Unfunded Needs List for the removal of the James River Loop North Study from the list.

Jerry Compton made a motion to approve the modification as presented. Eric Franklin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

I. Legislative Priorities

Sara Fields reviewed the proposed OTO Legislative Priorities for the 2025 Legislative Session.

Brian Weiler made a motion to adopt the 2025 Legislative Priorities. Jerry Compton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

J. Nomination Committee

Sara Fields requested volunteers/nominations to serve on the nominating committee to appoint or reappoint OTO officers and members of the Executive Committee for the calendar year of 2025.

Brian Weiler, Dan Smith, and Brandon Jenson volunteered to serve on the committee.

Richard Walker made a motion to appoint Brian Weiler, Dan Smith, and Brandon Jenson to the Nominating Committee. Eric Franklin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

K. Safe Streets and Roads for All Update

Natasha Longpine presented an update on the Safe Streets and Roads for All Action Plan.

No action was required. Informational only.

III. Other Business

A. Board of Directors Member Announcements

Chair Lee shared a reminder about the OTO Annual Legislative Breakfast on October 10th at 7:30 am at the Judy Thompson Executive Conference Center on the Drury University's campus.

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

Martha Smartt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rusty MacLachlan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.



Martha Smartt
OTO Secretary