

**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 21, 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:

Travis Cossey, City of Nixa (a)	James O’Neal, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
Mark Crabtree, City of Battlefield	Stacy Reese, MoDOT (non-voting)
Eric Franklin, City of Republic	John Russell, Greene County
Brandon Jenson, City of Springfield	Martha Smartt, City of Strafford (a)
Eric Johnson, City of Ozark	Dan Smith, City of Springfield (a)
Derek Lee, City of Springfield	Kelly Turner, City Utilities
Rusty MacLachlan, Greene County	Wes Young, City of Willard (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)	Vacant, FTA (non-voting)
Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large	Richard Walker, Springfield Citizen-at-Large
Lynn Morris, Christian County	Brian Weiler, Springfield-Branson Airport (a)

Others Present: Heidi Thomas and Peter Williams, Lochmueller Group; Scott Bachman, City of Springfield; Tucker Jobes, Senator Schmitt’s Office; Frank Miller, MoDOT; 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	Absent
Christian County Citizen-at-Large	Chuck Branch	Absent
Christian County Elected Official	Lynn Morris	Absent
City of Battlefield Elected Official	Mark Crabtree	Present
City of Nixa Elected Official	Travis Cossey (a)	Present
City of Ozark Elected Official	Eric Johnson	Present
City of Republic Elected Official	Eric Franklin	Present
City of Springfield Citizen-at-Large	Richard Walker	Absent
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)	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)	Absent

A quorum was present.

B. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Mark Crabtree made a motion to approve the November 21, 2024 agenda. Travis Cossey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Approval of September 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Kelly Turner made a motion to approve the September 19, 2024 meeting minutes. Brandon Jenson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. 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.

E. Executive Director’s Report

Sara Fields thanked all of those who were able to attend the Legislative Breakfast. The OTO Legislative Priorities were shared at the breakfast. These priorities will be mailed to local state representatives in January. Will Marrs, the OTO Lobbyist, will keep staff up to date as the budget process moves forward.

OTO worked with the City of Republic to apply for a Rural RAISE Grant for MM which has not been announced. Staff received questions from the USDOT regarding the application. In the event this is not awarded, staff, along with the City of Republic, are working on another RAISE grant for the MM project. It is due at the end of January.

The Travel Demand Model, the projected traffic on the OTO roadway network, should be completed any day. Once this model is done, staff will look at the FF Corridor again.

The OTO Project Manger is handling 6 trail design projects and 8-10 EV Charger projects
The EV Charger bids should be in by the end of January and awarded soon after.

The City of Springfield received a Safes Streets for All Grant in the amount of \$940,000 to continue safety planning efforts.

The OTO Auditor finished the audit in October. The draft report looks good and staff do not anticipate any issues.

The Board and staff thanked Chair Derek Lee for his service over the past year.

F. MoDOT Update

Stacy Reese shared that Ed Hassinger was announced as the new Director for MoDOT.

MoDOT will be hosting Legislative forums in December, one in Springfield and one in Joplin.

MoDOT hosted an Industry Meeting in Jefferson City on November 20th. There were over 140 attendees.

Plans are still on track for the first piece of the I-44 project in Springfield with December bidding. This would be for the piece from Highway 13 to Highway 65 with pavement replacement and six-laning. The Design Build Project will begin in 2025. MoDOT opened a position for an I-44 Project Director. Kristy Bachman has been assigned to that position.

The James River Freeway project is wrapping up. There is still some barrier wall work to finish.

Work continues on Kansas and Kearney ADA improvements.

MoDOT hosted a planning partner meeting with the rural partners.

MoDOT has a report of completed projects over the last 10 years across the state. The report is broken out by counties. The SW District had a total of 793 projects, the most for the state, that have been completed in the past 10 years. If anyone would like a copy, contact the MoDOT SW District offices.

G. Legislative Reports

Tucker Jobs with Senator Schmitt's Office reported the National Defense Reauthorization Act will probably get done before the end of the year.

A Farm Bill draft was introduced by Senator Stabenow. A one-year extension of the current farm bill will probably be passed instead.

The budget deadline is December 20th. Two different approaches are being considered. One is a 3-month stop gap that would extend it out until March of next year. The other option is working on a budget deal before the end of the year.

Senator Schmitt introduced a National Plan for Epilepsy Act. This will coordinate research and services related to epilepsy across the Federal Government.

The Senator also introduced the Public Safety Free Speech Act. This is for first responders, so they are not punished for voicing their concerns over a job-related event.

Looking forward to next year, the first 100 days, Congress will be working on President Trump's nominations and reviewing tax cuts. The President will be using executive action on issues regarding the border and regulatory reform.

II. New Business

A. **Financial Statements for 1st Quarter for FY 2025**

Debbie Parks highlighted the first quarter financial statements.

Travis Cossey made a motion to accept the first quarter financial statements for the FY 2025 budget year. Martha Smartt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. **Safe Streets and Roads for All Update**

Heidi Thomas and Peter Williams with the Lochmueller Group presented the safety engineering analysis as part of the Safe Streets for All Action Plan.

Rusty MacLachlan made a motion to accept the safety engineering analysis by Lochmueller Group as complete. Dan Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. **FY 2026-2030 STIP Priorities**

Sara Fields reviewed the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program priorities recommended by the Technical Planning Committee for inclusion in the FY 2026-2030 STIP.

Jim O'Neal made a motion to approve the presented list of priorities for consideration by MoDOT for inclusion in the 2026-2030 STIP. Brandon Jenson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

D. **Federal Funds Balance Status Report**

Jen Thomas reported that the OTO area ended the last fiscal year at approximately 130% annual allocation. The mandate set by MoDOT was 110% with a goal of 120%. The OTO area also exceeded the statewide average of 127%. OTO staff thanks all of the jurisdictions and partners for the assistance in exceeding the mandate and goal. The goals for Fiscal Year 2025 have not been set yet.

Natasha Longpine shared that in the agenda was the September 2024 Federal Funds Balance Report and highlighted the report for the Board.

This was informational only. No action was required.

E. **FY 2025-2028 TIP Amendment Two**

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

- ***New* Nicholas and Tracker (CC2504)**
Christian County is requesting to add engineering, ROW, and construction of intersection improvements at Nicholas and Tracker for a total programmed amount of \$1,305,000.
- ***New* MoDOT Permit Review (MO2523)**
MoDOT is requesting to add review of permit projects at various locations for a total programmed cost of \$75,000.

Dan Smith made a motion to approve Amendment Two to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program. Eric Franklin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

F. TAP Project Schedule Extension

Jen Thomas highlighted the requested revisions to the schedule outlined for reasonable progress for the Cheyenne Road Multi-Use Trail and Finley River Extension Project.

Wes Young made a motion to approve the revised reasonable progress schedule for the Cheyenne Road Multi-Use Trail and the Finley River Extension Project. Dan Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

G. 2025 Ozarks Regional Legislative Priorities

Sara Fields reviewed the Springfield Chamber of Commerce’s Ozarks Regional Legislative Priorities.

Wes Young made a motion to support the 2025 Ozarks Regional Legislative Priorities. Jim O’Neal seconded the motion. The motion passed.

H. Board Appointment of 2025 OTO Officers and Executive Committee Members

Brandon Jenson presented the 2025 slate of officers, the Executive Committee members (1-year term), and reappointment of the OTO Citizen-at-Large.

- Chairman – John Russell, Greene County
- Vice-Chairman – Travis Cossey, Nixa
- Secretary – Martha Smartt, Strafford
- Treasurer – Eric Johnson, City of Ozark
- Past Chairman – Derek Lee, Springfield
- Executive Committee – Jerry Compton, Citizen-at-Large
- Executive Committee – Brian Weiler, Airport

OTO Citizen-at-Large – Jerry Compton

Jim O’Neal made a motion to appoint the 2025 OTO Officers, Executive Committee, and OTO Citizen-at-Large as presented. Rusty MacLachlan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

I. Board of Directors 2025 Meeting Schedule

Sara Fields shared the Board of Directors 2025 meeting calendar.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.



Martha Smartt
OTO Secretary