OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 15, 2015

The Technical Planning Committee of the Ozarks Transportation Organization met at its scheduled time of 1:30 p.m. in the OTO Conference Room.

The following members were present:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mr. Rick Artman, Greene County HighwayMr. David Brock, City of RepublicMr. Randall Brown, City of Willard Mr. King Coltrin, City of StraffordMr. Travis Cossey, City of NixaMs. Diane Gallion, City Utilities (a)Ms. Dawne Gardner, City of Springfield (a)Mr. Martin Gugel, City of Springfield (a) | Mr. Adam Humphrey, Greene County (Chair)Mr. Tom Johnson, Missouri State UniversityMr. Joel Keller, Greene County Hwy Dept. (a)Mr. Brad McMahon, FHWAMr. Frank Miller, MoDOTMr. Andrew Seiler, MoDOTMr. Todd Wiesehan, Christian County |

1. *Denotes alternate given voting privileges as a substitute when voting member not present*

The following members were not present:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mr. Mokhtee Ahmad, FTA RepresentativeMr. Joshua Bird, Christian County (a)Mr. David Bishop, R-12 School DistrictMs. Kristy Bork, SGF (a)Mr. Doug Colvin, City of Nixa (a)Mr. Rick Emling, R-12 School District (a)Mr. Andrew Englert, Missouri State University (a)Mr. Jason Haynes, City of Springfield (a)Mr. Rick Hess, City of BattlefieldMr. Jay Huff, Missouri State University (a)Mr. Kirk Juranas, City of SpringfieldMr. Kevin Lambeth, City of Battlefield (a)Mr. Larry Martin, City of OzarkMs. Diane May, SMCOG (a) | Mr. J. Everett Mitchell (a)Mr. Kent Morris, Greene County PlanningMr. Kirk Nonen, BNSFMs. Beth Schaller, MoDOT (a)Mr. Mark Schenkelberg, FAA RepresentativeMr. Shawn Schroeder, Springfield-Branson National AirportMs. Mary Lilly Smith, City of SpringfieldMr. Kelly Turner, CU TransitMr. Garrett Tyson, City of Republic (a)Ms. Janette Vomund, MoDOT Ms. Eva Voss, MoDOTMr. Terry Whaley, Ozark GreenwaysMr. Bob Wilslef, City of Ozark (a)Mr. Chad Zickefoose, MoDOT (a) |

Others present were: Ms. Paula Brookshire, City of Springfield; Mr. Todd Chandler and Mr. Dan Mann, Olsson Associates; Mr. Joshua Boley, Ms. Sara Fields, Mr. Jacob Guthrie, Ms. Natasha Longpine, and Ms. Debbie Parks, Ozarks Transportation Organization; Mr. Jason Ray, SMCOG.

Mr. Adam Humphrey called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

* 1. **Administration**
1. **Introductions**
2. **Approval of the Technical Planning Committee Meeting Agenda**

Mr. Gugel made the motion to approve the revised July 15, 2015 Technical Planning Committee meeting agenda. Mr. Coltrin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

1. **Approval of the May 20, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Gugel made the motion to approve the May 20, 2015 Technical Planning Committee minutes. Mr. Wieshan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

1. **Public Comment Period for All Agenda Items**

None.

1. **Executive Director’s Report**

Ms. Fields stated that OTO has been working on travel time sensing technology in conjunction with the City of Springfield and MoDOT. The goal is to get real time traffic information, as far as time between certain intersections on the National Highway System. The committee reviewed submittals and is close to a contract. Once under contract, the implementation should take approximately eight weeks. The Long Range Transportation Plan subcommittee meeting is July 23. The Local Coordinating Board for Transit has been working on a Marketing subcommittee to better market transit to the community.

Ms. Fields stated that Ms. Longpine had presented the OTO progress on Performance Measures at the MOVITE Conference and a four state conference call among DOTs. City Utilities has a Triennial Review by FTA scheduled for July 22 and OTO staff will be assisting. There was a letter from the Department of Transportation that discusses the expiration of the Highway Bill at the end of July. The DOT will be going into cash management protocol if there is not an extension. Once an action is taken there will be more information on the progress payments.

1. **Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Report**

Ms. Longpine stated that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee had been working on a couple of projects. The committee was trying to finalize the Trail Implementation Plan. The plan looks at each segment of the priority trail corridors and looks at what easements are needed and the scoping of the sections. This would give a time frame and cost estimate where available to complete the two corridors. The committee is also finalizing work on the annual Bicycle and Pedestrian Implementation Report. This report documents the activities that have happened over the past year. There will be a Safety Education Summit held in November to share resources available and brainstorm how to better promote Bicycle and Pedestrian safety in the area. This will include schools, parks, law enforcement and other stakeholders.

1. **MoDOT Update**

Mr. Miller shared the link on the MoDOT website “Road to Tomorrow.” It is an initiative to look at I-70 and ways to improve technology or build the roadway of the future. He explained the initiative.

1. **Legislative Reports**

None.

1. **New Business**
2. **Amendment Number Six to the FY 2015-2018 TIP**

Ms. Longpine stated that the OTO accepts applications and awards projects for Human Service Vehicles and Beyond ADA through the Federal Transit Administration. This funding is FTA 5310 funding. This is included programmatically in the TIP. The individual projects are detailed in the next agenda item. This amendment is amending the TIP Amendment from December 2014. There was FY 2013 and FY 2014 funding and now there is FY 2015 being added. There are some ADA projects through City Utilities for sidewalks, bench work, and some human service vehicles. There is administrative funding for MoDOT and City Utilities as well.

Mr. Brown made the motion to recommend approval of TIP Amendment Number Six to the Board of Directors. Ms. Gardner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

1. **5310 Program of Projects**

Ms. Longpine stated that the OTO is required to provide a list of the individual projects for the FTA 5310 funding. The OTO Local Coordinating Board for Transit solicits, reviews, and approves the awards for funding the applications. There is remaining FY 2014 funding that was not awarded December 2014. There is also estimated FY 2015 funding. There were six vehicles awarded. Arc of the Ozarks, Burrell, and Christian County Enterprises received one vehicle each. OATS received three vehicles. City Utilities received funding for ADA improvements for sidewalks and bus stops. City Utilities and MoDOT are receiving Administration funding.

Mr. Wiesehan made the motion to recommend approval of the Program of Projects to the Board of Directors. Mr. Brock seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

1. **Public Participation Plan Evaluation**

Mr. Boley stated that public comment is a big part of what the OTO does. Public comment gives an idea of what the public is experiencing out on the roads. There is an evaluation being done for 2015. He discussed the various ways that the OTO obtains public comment. The OTO developed a new logo and the comment@ozarkstransportation.org email address. There are two Facebook campaigns #mondaymaps and the Wednesday photo from around the OTO area. The OTO also placed posters on the City Utilities buses and terminals.

There was a Transportation Input Initiative that was conducted from January to April 2014. The data collected from that went on to the Board of Directors. The OTO also has Performance Measures to keep track of the OTO benchmarks and to try and perform better each year.

The OTO started to track social media engagement and other avenues of public input such as public meetings, survey results, and website usage. The data will continued to be monitored and tracked.

Mr. Boley stated that the OTO also set new action items. Staff will rework the press releases to be less technical. The information will be friendlier for the general public. Staff will also create a giveusyourinput.org comment database. The comments will stay on the site for six months, and then will be removed to another location. There will also be an increase in the social medial outlet participation. The OTO currently has a Facebook and Twitter presence. The goal is to increase the followers by 50 in the next year.

The OTO would also like to conduct a Transit System Promotion Campaign. The OTO website will be redesigned and reconfigured. The goal is to have a one click accessible website for all documents.

1. **Performance Measures Report**

Ms. Longpine stated that in 2011 there were eleven separate Performance Measures developed in the adopted Long Range Transportation Plan. The annual report is produced to show the progress on each measure. She discussed the different measures in the infographic.

Mr. McMahon inquired about the Performance Measure on the bus stops being within a distance of the households. He wondered since development is taking place, but not within the proximity to current bus stops, could bus stops be added to those locations. The idea would be for City Utilities to identify the need to put bus stops in the new locations to improve the Performance Measure. He wondered if City Utilities was working on that issue. Ms. Longpine stated that would require looking at the density of the areas of new development. Some of the areas are spread out. Ms. Gallion stated that City Utilities is looking at the issue right now because the new transfer facility is being built. It will change the dynamics of the existing routes. It would be a good time to examine the issue because each route is being examined individually to see if changes can be made.

1. **Long Range Transportation Plan Survey Results**

Ms. Longpine stated that the Public Involvement Campaign for the Long Range Transportation Plan ran from March to May. There were 483 responses to the survey. It was marketed at multiple events including business expos in the surrounding communities, on websites and in utility mailers. The survey included questions such as the Priority List of Projects. Ms. Longpine summarized the Long Range Transportation Plan Survey questions and results. The survey was answered mostly by individuals in the 35 to 65 age range. The OTO also looked at the location of where the individual lived compared to where the person worked.

Mr. McMahon inquired how many surveys were completed. Ms. Longpine stated 480. The paper and online surveys were combined online. Mr. McMahon inquired if this was the first survey that OTO had conducted for a plan. Ms. Longpine stated no, it had been done in the past. Mr. McMahon inquired on how the surveys compared. Ms. Longpine stated that there were a lot more surveys this time. There were only about 100 for the last plan. Mr. McMahon inquired if it was from a different approach. Ms. Longpine stated that the first plan had traditional public meetings. The new plan public input was conducted at events where the public was already attending. This allowed staff to talk to a lot of people and to discuss items not just in the survey. Mr. McMahon commended the OTO.

1. **Major Thoroughfare Plan Amendment**

Ms. Fields stated that the City of Springfield had requested an amendment to Kansas Expressway between James River Expressway and Republic Road as part of the Major Thoroughfare Plan Update. There was an expedited time line on this request, so it has been pulled out of the larger Major Thoroughfare Plan request. She outlined the requested change. She stated that due to a difference between the City of Springfield’s adopted standards the drive way access would be 300 foot instead of the OTO’s 330 standard on a primary arterial. The effect of down grading Kansas Expressway past James River Freeway would allow a driveway on the west side of Kansas Expressway. This would require public comment between now and the Board of Directors meeting. The request had been brought to the Board of Directors in 2011, but had been denied. There had been a lot of discussion at the Board of Directors meeting on the characteristic of the roadway of Kansas Expressway and maintaining it as an expressway. There has been a Federal Functional Classification change to this section of roadway to reclassify it as a primary arterial. She discussed the difference between a Major Thoroughfare Plan and Federal Functional Classification as well as the traffic volumes of the section of roadway.

Ms. Fields stated that staff was not recommending the reclassification because it would be better to preserve the orderly flow of traffic to reduce congestion points and traffic conflict points. Also to preserve the access restrictions and maintain the needed capacity for the future looking ahead to 2040. The argument is that James River Freeway would be a breaking point for the primary arterial classification. Mr. Miller inquired if the business would still have to apply with the City of Springfield for driveway access. Mr. Gugel stated the business would have to go through the process and it would not be guaranteed. The City of Springfield was primarily looking at it because of the classification of Kansas Expressway to the south.

There was discussion about the traffic projections and the traffic counts. There was also discussion about a right-in right-out access crossing two dual rights and safety data on dual rights. There was discussion on the spacing of traffic lights, ramps and right-ins and right-outs for the various classifications of roadways.

Mr. Miller inquired about plans for Kansas Expressway south of Republic Road. He wondered if it could be changed to an expressway in the future. Mr. Humphrey stated that the right-of-way was the issue. The County planned the road as a primary arterial and so the right-of-way obtained was for that. There has been a lot of development since. There are limitations on ever expanding beyond a primary arterial. The question would be where is the logical break point for Kansas to transition to a primary arterial.

Mr. Humphrey stated that OTO staff was not recommending approval of the change.

Mr. Gugel made the motion to recommend approval of the proposed Major Thoroughfare Plan Amendment to the Board of Directors. Ms. Gardner seconded and the motion failed unanimously.

Mr. Cossey made the motion to recommend denial of the proposed change to the Board of Directors. Mr. Wiesehan seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

1. **Major Thoroughfare Plan**

Ms. Longpine stated that the OTO Major Thoroughfare plan had been under review since last fall. It was on hold until there were model results. Staff met with every community during the spring and discussed changes. There was a reality check to ask what realistically could be completed or what right-of-way could be obtained by 2040. It also needed to make sense for the whole region. The Major Thoroughfare Plan subcommittee and Long Range Transportation Plan subcommittee have reviewed the changes. The changes are being brought for concurrence to the Technical Planning Committee and the Board of Directors. After that each community will take the Major Thoroughfare Plan to their governing bodies for approval and adoption before being included in the Long Range Transportation Plan. She outlined some of the key changes in the proposed Major Thoroughfare Plan, including the region’s first designated boulevard along ZZ by Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield.

Ms. Longpine stated that there was a rural collector designation added in a pink line. Rural collector takes the right-of-way down to 50 feet and does not include sidewalk, curb, or gutter. It will bring the roads up to a good driving standard. Staff is also developing a Design Standard Brochure.

Mr. Cossey made the motion to recommend concurrence of the proposed Major Thoroughfare Plan changes and Design Standards keeping consideration of the previous motion to deny that particular change of Kansas Expressway. Mr. Brock seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Cossey inquired the process for taking the Major Thoroughfare Plan to the Councils and Boards. Ms. Fields stated after the Board of Directors approves the plan, then it can be taken to the Councils and Boards for approval. She would be happy to attend any meetings if requested.

1. **Other Business**
2. **Technical Planning Committee Member Announcements**

Mr. Humphrey stated that Greene County had finished the selection process for the Kansas Expressway project going south of Republic Road. Greene County was in the process of pursuing contract negotiations with Burns and McDonald as the prime Engineering Consultant. The local contact for the design team would be Great River Engineering.

1. **Transportation Issues for Technical Planning Committee Member Review**

Mr. Brock inquired about the Department of Transportation letter and how it states “unable to incur new obligations.” He wondered how that affected LPAs that have new projects. Mr. Miller stated he had not heard anything officially. There was discussion on the different funding mechanisms being discussed in the House and Senate.

Mr. Brock asked if there would be any issues getting funds obligated. Mr. Miller replied it would be better to hurry. Mr. McMahon stated that if the project has been programmed and it is ready to move on, based on past appropriations there should not be a problem. Mr. Brock stated that the TAP projects are future appropriations. Ms. Fields stated that the TAP funding assumed there would be an appropriation on September 1. The last time this happened Federal Highway stopped processing payments. The letter states that if the department goes on furlough because there is no funding, then payments would not be processed from Federal Highway. Mr. McMahon stated that there was not discussion on this at the Federal Highway office. Mr. Miller stated that if Federal Highway could not obligate, then the payments would have to stop. Ms. Fields stated it might be more for effect.

###### Articles For Technical Planning Committee Member Information

Ms. Fields discussed a few of the articles.

1. **Adjournment**

Mr. Gugel made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Coltrin seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

