OTO Board of Directors and Technical Planning Committee Visioning Results

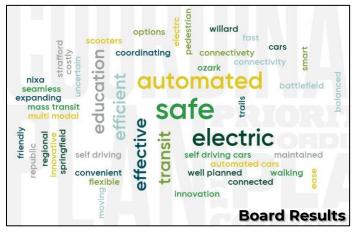
Are we there yet? This is the question the Ozarks Transportation Organization has asked its Board and Technical Planning Committee members at recent visioning workshops. The OTO kicked off a long range transportation planning process, dubbed *Destination 2045*, on January 30th by asking Board members to envision the future of transportation in the Ozarks. The Technical Planning Committee considered these same questions on February 24th.

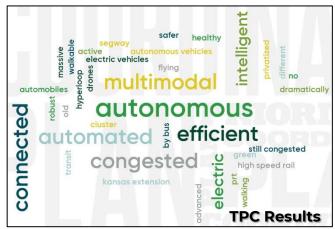
Destination 2045 will outline actions for the next 25 years which make sure the region develops the robust transportation system needed to support growth, while effectively moving people and freight in diverse ways. OTO will build on the public input and significant effort already captured with Springfield's Forward SGF, Republic's SOAR 2045, Ozark's Comprehensive Plan 2019, Willard 2019 Comprehensive Plan, and Imagine Nixa, as well as other planning activities from around the region.

The Plan will identify needed improvements to the transportation system and will prioritize federal and state funds allocated for these projects. Federal law requires metropolitan planning organizations, like the OTO, to update the metropolitan transportation plan every five years in order to continue receiving federal transportation dollars.

Visioning Workshops

Both the Board and TPC workshops followed the same format. Each workshop started by asking members to participate in a word cloud answering the question, "Using one word, what will the transportation system look like in 2045?" The larger the word, the more often it was submitted by members. Words that stand out relate to automated and electric vehicles.





Here are the results when the results from both workshops are combined:

Rank	Category
1	Autonomous
2	Connected/Intelligent
3	Electric
3	Efficient
5	Walkable/Active
5	Multimodal
7	Transit
7	Safe
9	Congested

There was also a variety of alternative/forward looking transportation suggestions, including personal rapid transit, drones, flying, hyperloop, and micro-mobility options such as scooters and Segways.

The word cloud exercise was followed by a presentation on current and future conditions around the region, and then the attendees were asked a series of questions to help inform *Destination 2045's* vision. Each person was given the opportunity to share their answers to the questions and then the group voted to identify a most common or important theme among the answers.

Results

Below are the questions and answers provided by workshop attendees. All topics which received votes are highlighted. These topics also informed the survey which is available through May 4, 2020.

Board of Directors - January 30, 2020

Where are we? What makes moving around the Ozarks great? What are the region's transportation strengths?

Flow of traffic on highways	7
Partnerships/collaboration	6
Airport growth	1
Roads are well maintained	1
Springfield's grid layout	1

Airport

Alternate routes

Collaboration between communities and agencies

Complete streets

Diverging diamonds

Forward thinking

Good, buildable transportation system

Keeping up with growth

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Planning

Regional ease of movement

Scenery

Smooth roads

Trails

Variety of destinations

Well connected with rural areas

Why can't we get there? What are the challenges facing the region today? What is the hardest part about getting around?

Limited funding	11
Civic knowledge/education/driver's ed	4
Infrastructure waning	3
Lack of innovation and inclusiveness	1

Access management – lack of

Automated vehicles

Bridges

Capacity

CAVE people

Center city freeway

Congestion

Corridor preservation

Culture – risk adverse

Density

Drivers

Electric vehicles and supporting infrastructure

Increased traffic

Lack of EV charging stations

Lack of sidewalks and crosswalks

Loud vehicles

Modernize

Narrow ROW in built up areas

No law for hands free driving

Not pedestrian friendly/ADA

Parking

Politics

Speed limits on highways

Speeding/reckless driving and pedestrians/distracted

Where are we going? If there were no obstacles, what would you like us to accomplish by 2045? What will the region be like in 20 years? What will help the region attract new residents, entrepreneurs, businesses, and development?

Regional Transit System	8
Proactive decision making (now)	4
Diverging diamonds and roundabouts	2
Growing population and jobs	1
Innovative and inclusive culture	1
Leverage technology	1

Additional lanes (auxiliary)

Additional North/South/East/West primary/secondary arterials

Enhanced transit (air and rail)

Increase capacity

Increase transit

Increased density

Maintain maintenance levels

Maintain quality of life

Maximize technology

Mixed use neighborhoods

More complete streets

North/south express

Perpetual pavements

Quit playing catch-up

Rail

Seamless multimodal system

Smart/Regionally coordinated landscape planning

Transportation for the aging

How can we get there? What opportunities should we use to our advantage? What actions are needed to ensure the region is strong and viable in the future?

Education/Analysis/Forecasting	7	
Increased funding	5	
Collaboration/cost shares	1	
Plan ahead for projects	1	
Regional planning/branding	1	

Corridor preservation

Focus on access management

Maximize exiting systems

Strategic decision making

Technical Planning Committee - February 24, 2020

Where are we? What makes moving around the Ozarks great? What are the region's transportation strengths?

Connectivity	5
Growing trail system	5
Alternative routes	4
Engaged communities	2
Low travel times	2
Regional cooperation	2
Space to see and explore	2
Regional ITS	1
Suburban connection	1

Accessible

Airport

Auxiliary lanes

Connection to I-44

Continually striving to improve

Good roadway conditions

Grid system

Independent mobility

Innovation

Local trust

Low gas prices

Natural environment

Passionate planning

Rail

Safe travels

Strong growth

Strong MPO

Uncrowded highways

Walkable downtown

Why can't we get there? What are the challenges facing the region today? What is the hardest part about getting around?

Funding	21
Development	1
Gaps in connectivity	1
Land use patterns	1

Access management

Bike/ped connectivity

Distracted driving

Driver education

Environmental constraints

Forcing change Growth of area

Inconsistent local regulations

Increased cost

Insufficient ROW

Lack of alternate routes

Lack of construction competition

Lack of state funding

Lack of TOD (transit-oriented development)

Lack of voice for under-resourced

Legislative regulatory issues

Maintain assets

More involvement

Poor interstate reliability

Public buy-in

Public education

Public support

Public understanding

Railroad

Regional transit

Short public attention span

Transportation for disadvantaged

Where are we going? If there were no obstacles, what would you like us to accomplish by 2045? What will the region be like in 20 years? What will help the region attract new residents, entrepreneurs, businesses, and development?

Capacity improvements equaling growth	3
Increased drone deliveries	3
Multimodal connection to the rest of the nation	3
Additional lanes on freeways and expressways	2
Connected vehicle network/early adoption	2
Increased public-buy-in	2
Lowering drive times	2
Sustainable transportation funding sources	2
Connected modes	1
Connected trail system	1
Enhanced landscaping	1
Fully accessible sidewalk system	1

Access management

Aesthetics in design in infrastructure

Alternative transportation modes for the aging

Better N/S connection between Springfield and Christian County

Decreased motor vehicle use

Ease of access

Hovercrafts
Impact fees in development
Less time behind the wheel
Little to no fossil fuel in use
Lower fatality rates
Maintaining highway speeds
Mixed-use development
No deficient bridges
Non-essential transportation options (e.g. a trolley)
Regional transit
Transit frequency

How can we get there? What opportunities should we use to our advantage? What actions are needed to ensure the region is strong and viable in the future?

Sustainable long-term funding	4
Traffic impact fees and gas tax	4
Future looking laws and regulations	3
Aligned policies	2
Public education strategies	2
Use fees for all modes	2
Better land use planning for density	1
Continued regional collaboration	1
Expansion of trail system	1
Reduce regulatory constraints	1
Strong city identity	1
Utilizing funds efficiently	1

Additional regional transportation funding advocacy in state capital

Aggressively progressive transportation system

Clear priorities

Community engagement

Construction workforce development

Decision-maker buy-in

Incentives for smart development

Increased connectivity

Planning for life cycle costs

Proactive research in innovative transportation opportunities

Public private partnerships

Rails to trails

Relationship between EVs and CU

Stronger regional partnerships

Voter education on transportation issues