



## **TMACOG TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023**

**Members and Alternates Present:** Joe Shaw, Janet Goldner, Angie Ruiz, Mary Ellen Poturalski, Charles Odimbe (VA), Mike Stormer (VA), Jeremy Mikolajczyk (VA), Ben Cordes (VA), Tom Kovacik, Hans Rosebrock, Doug Parrish, Keith Webb, Tim Porter, Shelley Papenfuse, Ken Fallows, Cassidy Turner (VA), Chris Smalley

**Other Interested Parties or Virtual Participants Present:** Kathy Streng

**TMACOG Staff Present:** Marissa Bechstein, Jodi Cole, Lance Dasher, Dave Gedeon, Lisa Householder, Roger Streiffert

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**Call to Order** – Chair Joe Shaw brought the meeting to order with introductions around the room.

**Minutes from November 2, 2022 and February 1, 2023** – There were two sets of minutes to approve at this meeting due to lack of quorum for the February meeting. A motion was made by Mary Ellen Poturalski and seconded by Janet Goldner to approve the November 2 minutes; the motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Mary Ellen Poturalski and seconded by Keith Webb to approve the February 1 minutes; the motion passed unanimously.

**Election of Leadership for CY 2023** – Dave Gedeon nominated Joe Shaw and Mike Pniewski for continued leadership for calendar year 2023. The nominations were then opened for the committee and none were made. A motion was made by Ken Fallows and seconded by Chris Smalley to approve the nominations as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

**TMACOG Draft FY 2024 Annual Work Program** – Dave Gedeon provided an overview of the FY 2023 major work products. Individual work element sections have been reviewed and approved by the respective transportation committees over the past couple months. The draft document is due to ODOT on March 3, 2023, and the final document is due on May 5, 2023. A motion was made by Angie Ruiz and seconded by Tom Kovacik to approve the draft annual work program as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

**TMACOG Self Certification** – Dave Gedeon explained that each year TMACOG must certify that the transportation planning process complies with federal regulations and laws pertaining to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's). The resolution lists the main federal planning regulations that require MPO's to develop a TIP, a long-range transportation plan, an annual work program, community involvement program, and other elements of the MPO process. It also lists the laws and regulations that MPO's must comply with including the Environmental Justice Executive Order, Disadvantage and Minority Business Enterprise Participation regulations, Americans with Disabilities, Clean Air, and Civil Rights laws. To the best of our knowledge and appropriate to the scope and complexity of transportation issues in our area, the TMACOG planning process complies with these laws and regulations. A motion was made by Keith Webb and seconded by Chris Smalley to approve the resolution as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

**Carbon Reduction Program Project Proposal** – Mike Stormer reported that the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) is a new funding source assigned to MPOs. It allows MPO's to select projects for funding similar to the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), and Transportation Alternatives (TA). This program has a purpose of reducing transportation emissions through the development of state carbon reduction strategies and by funding projects designed to reduce transportation emissions. There are several eligibilities for this program ranging from EV charging infrastructure to new pedestrian or bicycle facilities. CMAQ projects are eligible, and TA projects that are new infrastructure are

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eligible. The TIP committee reviewed and approved a staff recommendation to the first two years of funding. That recommendation is now before the Council for approval. A motion was made by Ken Fallows and seconded by Mary Ellen Poturalski to approve the proposal as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

**FY 2021 – 2024 TIP Amendment #20** – Mike Stormer explained that TIP Amendment #20 exclusively contains projects at the request of TARTA. The amendment adds six projects, modifies one project, and deletes two projects at the request of TARTA. These projects do not utilize TMACOG managed funds. A motion was made by Shelley Papenfuse and seconded by Charles Odimgbe to approve the amendment as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment Period** – Nothing to report at this time.

### **Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Reports**

#### **Transportation Council Standing Committee Reports:**

TIP – Lance Dasher reported on the new TIP development. The first draft was submitted, and comments were received. Public involvement will be from March 10 to April 10 with two public meetings being held during that time. Final submittal will be May 1.

Pedestrian & Bikeways – No report at this time.

Freight – No report this month.

Planning – No report at this time.

System Performance and Monitoring – No report at this time.

Public Transit – Shelley Papenfuse reported that at their last meeting the committee elected their leadership. They also discussed forming a steering committee to help define goals for the upcoming year and how to increase committee membership.

Passenger Rail – No report at this time.

Smart Transportation & Innovative Mobility Committee – Dave Gedeon reported that the committee met on February 16. They discussed the EV charging station plan and had a presentation by Hans Rosebrock of First Energy.

#### **Major Project Updates/Other Committees:**

Major Projects – Ben Cordes reported that the I-75 bridge is set to open in late July. The I-475/20A project is on time. TRAC awards were announced. There was \$8 million awarded for the I-475 widening from US 23 to Douglas.

**Vice President's Report** – Dave Gedeon reported on a few additional items.

Dave mentioned that the TMACOG Transportation Summit will be held on Friday, March 31st at The Premier Banquet Hall from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. The event will feature a panel on regional safety efforts, another on regional construction updates, and a lunch speaker will discuss statewide safety initiatives. Registration will be \$50 for TMACOG members and \$80 for non-members.

Dave also discussed that Governor DeWine has directed the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) to submit two applications to the Federal Rail Administration's Corridor Identification and Development Grant Program. The two corridors are the Cleveland-Toledo-Detroit corridor and the Cleveland-Columbus-Dayton-Cincinnati corridor. If awarded, the program would provide 100% funding of up to \$500,000 per corridor to allow Ohio to bring in a consultant to prepare a scope of work for a Service Development Plan. This would be a comprehensive plan that includes information about the track improvements, equipment, stations and other facilities, operating costs, ridership, and required state subsidy that are needed to start service.

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Dave mentioned that TMACOG has recently posted a position for a Transportation Planner with the primary job responsibilities of pedestrian and bikeway planning. The position will be open until filled. The job posting and application can be found on the TMACOG website.

Dave also stated that TMACOG was very pleased to see that Governor DeWine's 2024-2025 budget proposal includes a recommendation for a \$10 million "statewide strategic transportation study." As written in the proposal, it would include a statewide study of the Ohio transportation system in collaboration with the Department of Development and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation. The study is required to examine factors such as statewide and regional demographics, economic development growth opportunities, current transportation systems and capacities, and passenger and freight travel needs over a 10, 20, and 30-year time frame. The bill specifically requires the entities involved in the study to make actionable recommendations for transportation system projects to support statewide economic growth, including improving links between Columbus and Toledo. The emphasis now turns to encouraging state representatives and senators to preserve this portion of the budget proposal.

**Roundtable** – None.

**Next Meeting/Adjournment** – The next meeting will be April 5, 2023. A motion was made by Mary Ellen Poturalski and seconded by Keith Webb to adjourn the meeting; the motion passed unanimously.

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