



TMACOG TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021

Members and Alternates Present: Joe Shaw, Mike Pniewski, Dana Dunbar, Janet Goldner (A), Angie Ruiz, Kim Dunham, Sean Smith (A), Joe Cappel, Doug Stephens, Kacey Young, Tom Gibbons, Tom Kovacik, Ray Huber, Ed O'Reilly, Keith Webb (VA), Andy Langenderfer, Tim Porter, Shelley Papenfuse, Edgar Avila, Bob Kazmierczak (A), Ken Fallows, Mike Gramza, Neil Munger

Other Interested Parties Present: Anthony Hill

TMACOG Staff Present: Jodi Cole, Dave Gedeon, Marissa Bechstein, Roger Streiffert, Gilda Mitchell

Call to Order – Chair Joe Shaw brought the meeting to order and a roll call attendance was taken.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Ed O'Reilly and seconded by Ken Fallows to approve the minutes from February 3, 2021 as presented; Dana Dunbar abstained; the motion passed.

TMACOG Draft FY 2022 Annual Work Program – Dave presented a summary of the major work products listed in the draft document. The draft is due to ODOT on March 5 with a final document being due on May 7. A motion was made by Ed O'Reilly and seconded by Tom Kovacik to approve the draft document as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

TMACOG Self Certification – Dave 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 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 Ken Fallows and seconded by Keith Webb to approve the resolution as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

Transit Safety Targets (TARTA & Lake Erie Transit) – Marissa Bechstein gave an explanation outlining the transit safety targets for TARTA and Lake Erie Transit. The FTA requires that operators of public transit systems who receive federal funds through the Urbanized Area Formula Grants develop safety plans that contain safety performance targets which then need to be coordinated with the area MPO's. The MPO's are also required then to approve said targets and integrate them into their planning documents. A motion was made by Kim Dunham and seconded by Mike Pniewski to approve the safety targets as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

Support Letter for TARTA Legislative Language in Ohio HB 74 – Shelley Papenfuse with help from Kim Dunham explained that the Public Transit Committee reviewed the language inserted into Ohio HB 74 that would allow additional political subdivisions to join a public transit authority if a majority of the current political subdivision adopt resolution support of the addition. The committee supports legislative language to permit the addition of members to a transit service area by a simple majority of the current members to then appear on the ballot and drafted a letter to formalize that support. A motion was made by Ed O'Reilly and seconded by Mike Pniewski to approve the support letter as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

Opposition to Ohio HB 63 (Eminent Domain) – Ed O'Reilly reported that HB 74 is a replacement bill to HB 476 which seeks to amend Ohio law regarding eminent domain. The TMACOG Pedestrian and Bikeways

Committee opposes this bill and a letter from the committee was drafted stating their opposition. A motion was made by Tim Porter and seconded by Keith Webb to approve the resolution as presented; Ed Nagle opposed; the motion passed.

Public Comment Period – No comments at this time.

Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Transportation Council Standing Committee Reports:

TIP – Ed O'Reilly reported on the TIP amendment #4. This amendment would modify PID 105889 (LUC US 23 11.75 Interchange: Reconstruction SR 51 interchange over US 23 in City of Sylvania) to add funding to the PE Environmental & Detailed Design phases of the project (removing those funds from the construction phase). This project utilizes TMACOG managed funding, but no new funds are being added to the project

A motion was made by Tom Kovacik and seconded by Mike Pniewski to approve the amendment as presented; Joe Shaw abstained; the motion passed.

Pedestrian & Bikeways – Ed O'Reilly reported that the committee met on February 16. They discussed developing a standardized bike parking code that could be used as a template. They also reconfirmed committee leadership. Finally, they discussed the upcoming Bike Month.

Freight – Ray Huber reported that the committee has not met yet this year. There is nothing new to report at this time.

Planning – Ron Myers was unable to attend the meeting. Marissa Bechstein reported that the committee met on February 16. They approved the annual work program section and had an update on the highway safety program. Their next meeting is in April.

System Performance and Monitoring – Andy Langenderfer reported the committee met on March 1. They discussed at grade rail crossing data, reviewed two Bowling Green intersections for safety concerns and ways to improve them, Lisa Householder gave a presentation on INRIX.

Public Transit – Shelley Papenfuse reported that the committee met on February 24. They discussed HB 74, the annual work program section, and the transit safety targets. The next meeting will be in May.

Passenger Rail – Tim Porter reported that under the new federal leadership of President Biden and Transportation Secretary Buttigieg, AMTRAK will see increased funding. He also stated that the committee reviewed the annual work program section, and he is working with ODOT to obtain a grant for a new bridge over the Maumee River.

Major Project Updates/Other Committees:

Major Projects – Kacey Young reported that all lanes are open on the Anthony Wayne bridge and the project should be complete at the end of April.

I-475 widening – currently working on noise walls and there are a few upcoming closures, but the project is still on schedule to open mid-June.

I-75 projects – on schedule. Lots of upcoming ramp closures. Mid-July all traffic will be on new pavement in their permanent configuration on the south portion of the project (from Wales Rd. south).

TRAC – the I-475 widening and US 20A project will be moved and is going to sell next spring. Additionally, TRAC is accepting applications from March 1 to March 26, 2021.

Smart Transportation & Innovative Mobility Committee – Edgar Avila reported that the committee met on February 18. There was a presentation by Share Mobility on the AAA Around town initiative to connect seniors with non-medical related transportation.

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

Dave mentioned that through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), state DOT's and MPO's will be receiving additional roadway funding. MPO's across Ohio will receive a total of \$49,328,700 to be suballocated according to the statewide distribution formula. In total, TMACOG will receive an additional \$3,441,117 in funding available on July 1, 2021 and must be obligated by September 30, 2024.

As Kacey mentioned earlier, TRAC will be moving the I-475 widening and US 20A Interchange project back into FY 2022 from FY 2023. This will put the project back on its original construction schedule.

TARTA and TMACOG are finalizing the Locally Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. The purpose of the plan is to identify community resources for transportation and facilitate coordination amongst providers. The final plan will be going through the TMACOG and TARTA approval processes in the coming months

The 2021 Transportation Summit will be held virtually on March 26th. The event will feature a panel discussion on the transportation impacts of COVID-19 and the annual construction update.

Roundtable – Nothing to discuss.

Next Meeting/Adjournment – The next meeting will be April 7, 2021.