



**TMACOG TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020**

**Members and Alternates Present:** Joe Shaw, Mike Pniewski, John Crandall, Neocles Leontis, Angie Ruiz (A), Chris Delaney, Mary Ellen Poturalski, John Musteric, Eric Dokurno, Kris Cousino, Ed O'Reilly, Andy Langenderfer, Tim Porter, Shelley Papenfuse, Ken Fallows, Stephen Way (VA), Neil Munger

**Other Interested Parties Present:** Frank Burkett

**TMACOG Staff Present:** Marissa Bechstein, Jodi Cole, Lance Dasher, David Gedeon, Gilda Mitchell, Roger Streiffert

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

**Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from February 5, 2020 were reviewed for approval. A motion was made by Mary Ellen Poturalski and seconded by Ed O'Reilly to approve the minutes; the motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Expense Report** – Dave Gedeon reported on the expense report for July 1, 2019 through January 25, 2020 saying that 57.47% of the budget has been completed with 42.59% expended. A motion was made by Tim Porter and seconded by Ed O'Reilly to approve the expense report as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

**Amendment of the Transportation Council Operating Procedures to Add Wood County Port Authority as a Standing Member** – Dave Gedeon reminded the committee that at the February meeting it was proposed that the Wood County Port Authority be added as a standing member, an action that requires modification of the council operating procedures. The amended operating procedures are now before the Transportation Council to formally approve the change. A motion was made by Ed O'Reilly and seconded by Tim Porter to approve the operating procedures as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

**TMACOG Draft FY 2021 Annual Work Program** – Dave Gedeon presented a one-page document that has a summary of major work products for the coming fiscal year. Individual work program sections have been reviewed and approved by the respective transportation committees. The final work program document is due to ODOT on May 1, 2020. A motion was made by Ken Fallows and seconded by John Crandall to approve the work program as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

**TMACOG Self-Certification** – Dave Gedeon reported that each year, TMACOG must certify that the transportation planning process complies with federal regulations and laws pertaining to Metropolitan Planning Organizations. 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 Mary Ellen Poturalski to approve the resolution as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

**Opposition to HB 476 Amending the Law Regarding Eminent Domain** – Ed O'Reilly explained to the committee that HB 476 is a replacement bill to HB 288 which seeks to amend Ohio law regarding eminent domain. The TMACOG Pedestrian and Bikeways Committee opposes this bill and a letter from the committee

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was drafted stating their opposition. The letter is now before the Transportation Council as a step to make this an official position of TMACOG. A motion was made by John Crandall and seconded by Ken Fallows to approve the letter as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

**TIP Update and Interactive Map** – Lance Dasher gave a brief update on the progress of the draft FY 2021-2024 TIP and discussed the upcoming public involvement activities. He also gave a brief overview of the online interactive map that was created to assist with public comments.

**TARTA TIP Amendment** – Lance Dasher explained that a meeting with TARTA was held directly prior to the Transportation Council meeting creating a last-minute addition to the agenda. Lance presented amendment number 17 that would add three projects to the TIP, all under one PID. There are no TMACOG managed funds and it is being managed by TARTA 5307 funds. It would be for capital, ADA, and paratransit assistance. A motion was made by Joe Cappel and seconded by Ed O'Reilly to approve the amendment as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment Period** – No comments at this time.

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

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

TIP – Ed O'Reilly reported there was no TIP meeting in February and there is nothing to report at this time.

Pedestrian & Bikeways – Ed O'Reilly mentioned the committee met and voted on leadership and is actively working on bike month activities.

Freight – Ray Huber was unable to attend the meeting. Roger Streiffert reported that there was no meeting and nothing new to report at this time.

Planning – Ron Myers was unable to attend. Marissa Bechstein mentioned that the committee reviewed the public comments received on the long range plan from public meetings and the online survey. They discussed the fiscal constraint and the environmental consultation. Marissa mentioned that the public comment period starts today and the plan can be found for review on the TMACOG website.

System Performance and Monitoring – Andy Langenderfer reported that there was no meeting but one would be held this month. There is nothing new to report at this time.

Public Transit – Shelley Papenfuse reported that there was no meeting and nothing new to report at this time.

Passenger Rail – Tim Porter reported that the committee discussed the annual work program, the future of passenger rail in the region, \$300,000 just passed Toledo City Council for Detroit Passenger Rail Connection Study.

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

Major Projects – Kacey Young was unable to attend the meeting. Nothing new to report at this time.

Autonomous Vehicle Steering Committee – The next meeting is March 19.

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

Dave mentioned that on February 13<sup>th</sup>, Governor DeWine announced the Hand's Free Ohio bill that would make driving while handling an electronic wireless device a primary offense. This includes, but is not limited to, writing, sending, or reading text-based communications; watching or recording videos; taking photos or

looking at images; livestreaming; using apps; entering information into GPS navigation programs; dialing phone numbers; or holding a device for a phone call. The bill, SB 285, does have a few exceptions such as using hand-held wireless devices for emergency calls; while in a stationary vehicle outside of the lane of traffic; in hands-free mode to talk on the phone, dictate text-based messages, or listen to received messages; in circumstances where an action can be accomplished with only a single swipe; in public safety or utility professions, as necessary for duties; or if the wireless feature is a permanent part of the vehicle. After an “interim period” of about six months once the law were to take effect, it also mandates fines for distracted driving of \$150 to start and at least \$500 for a third offense.

It is a request of the council that a letter of support be drafted for a TMACOG official position of SB 285. A motion was made by Ed O’Reilly and seconded by Neocles Leontis to approve the request as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

Dave also informed the committee that the TMACOG 2045 Transportation Plan – Update 2020 is nearing completion. In February, staff conducted 7 public meetings for feedback on the draft plan and an online survey was available. A formal 45-day public comment period opens today, March 4<sup>th</sup> and will go through April 17<sup>th</sup>. The Plan will then go through the TMACOG approval process and be before the Board of Trustees in June.

Dave reminded the committee that Joe Comartin, Consul General, Canadian Consulate in Detroit, will be a special guest speaker at TMACOG’s April 15 Board of Trustees meeting to discuss the Gordie Howe International Bridge and its expected impact on the region. Jack Marchbanks, Director, Ohio Department of Transportation, will introduce Mr. Comartin, and also give an update on ODOT policy following the Consul General’s remarks. The meeting will begin at 2:00 pm and is free to attend but registration is requested

**Roundtable** – Nothing to discuss.

Upcoming events:

- **2020 Transportation Summit** – Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, The Premier, Toledo, 8:00 am – 2 pm

**Next Meeting/Adjournment** – The next meeting will be April 1, 2020. A motion for adjournment was made by Mary Ellen Poturalski and seconded by Tim Porter.