

Memo

Date: March 26, 2020
To: Joe Shaw, Chair
Mike Pniewski, Vice Chair
Members of the Transportation Council
From: David Gedeon, Vice President of Transportation
Subject: **TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL REPORT FOR APRIL 1, 2020 MEETING**

This report is an update of staff activity and background on selected agenda items for our next Transportation Council meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2020. The agenda and meeting materials are available at www.tmacog.org/Transportation/trancom.htm. If you would like a hard copy or have any problems accessing any of the information, please contact Jodi Cole (ext. 1120). If you have any questions or concerns on any agenda items, please contact me (ext. 1125).

FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (Agenda III – for approval) – Lance Dasher will present the FY 2021-2024 TIP and discuss the public involvement schedule. The TIP requires approval by the Transportation Council in order to go to the TMACOG Board of Trustees in April. The final approved TIP must be submitted to ODOT by April 30, 2020.

TMACOG Certification Review Final Report (Agenda IV – for information) – TMACOG must undergo a federal review of its policies, procedures and practices every four years as federally mandated. The review was held on January 14, 2020 with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). On March 25th we received the final report from the certification review. The report contained one commendation on the quality of our work products and three recommendations to improve in the future. The recommendations are as follows:

- TMACOG should present the Federally approved Annual Work Program in the same area on its website that it presents the consolidated version. Also, a brief explanation as to the difference between the two versions should be provided. The MPO misses an opportunity to present to the public, the costs associated with performing its planning function and the time it takes to complete its work.
- TARTA and TMACOG should meet regularly to discuss areas where the MPO could increase its transit planning role in support of TARTA. This could be in the areas of capital needs assessment, ridership surveys, mobility needs of specialized populations, to name a few. In accordance with 23 CFR 450.306(h) and FTA Circular 9070.1G, Cycle and Duration of the Coordinated Plan, TARTA, with the support of the MPO and ODOT should update the coordinated plan by re-evaluating transit gaps, needs, priorities, and the project selection process. Projects chosen for applicable funding should be added to the coordinated plan consistent with the timing of their selection. The MPO in conjunction with TARTA should work with ODOT to review its Section 5310 application process to ensure that participation requirements are not discouraging potential applicants.
- The MPO, TARTA and ODOT are strongly encouraged to revisit and/or develop, and adhere to a formal procedure in its Cooperative Agreement to submit the fund-obligation information necessary for the MPO's annual report of obligated projects (or, conversely, unobligated projects). It is imperative that the MPO and ODOT also be aware of TARTA's projects that are obligated and not completed as TARTA has had an ongoing problem of not completing previously awarded projects due to limited local funding.

Public Comment Period (Agenda V) – Comments from the public.

Major Project Updates (Agenda VI) – Updates from ODOT on major projects

Vice President's Report (Agenda VII – for discussion) – In addition to the above agenda topics and information covered in the Committee Reports, the following are other items members of Transportation Council should be aware of.

- TMACOG made the decision to close the office on March 11th and staff began telecommuting on March 16th. All non-essential meetings and events were cancelled, including the Transportation Summit and the Ohio Sunshine Law Training. We are following the lead of Governor DeWine and will remain closed and telecommuting as long as mandated. While telecommuting, all staff are still available via email or telephone. Essential meetings to conduct business are being held by video conferences.
- The TMACOG 2045 Transportation Plan – Update 2020 is now in the formal 45-day public comment period, which extends until April 17th. The Plan will then go through the TMACOG approval process, starting with the Transportation Council in May and be before the Board of Trustees in June.
- TMACOG is partnering with the Metroparks on the Toledo Area, the City of Toledo, the University of Toledo, the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, ConnecToledo, TARTA and other stakeholders on a USDOT Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant. TMACOG will be the grant sponsor and the Metroparks is doing the grant writing. The project aims to construct portions of the Glass City Riverwalk in downtown Toledo. On the western side of the Maumee, repairs to the existing seawall, transient docks, bike/pedestrian access and an innovative kayak share program to facilitate access to a water recreational trail are all proposed. On the eastern side of the river, the same type of improvements are also proposed for the existing International Park and the under-construction Glass City Metropark. The grant is due on May 18, 2020.