

Memo

Date: February 27, 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 MARCH 4, 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, March 4, 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).

Financial Report (Agenda III – for approval) – The financial report for fiscal year 2020 beginning July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 is submitted for approval. Through January 25th, with approximately 57% of fiscal year 2020 completed, the overall program was under budget with 42.5% expended.

Amendment of the Transportation Council Operating Procedures to Add Wood County Port Authority as a Standing Member (Agenda IV – for approval) – At the February meeting, the Council discussed the addition of Ed Nagle as a voting member. It was proposed that the Wood County Port Authority be a standing member, an action that requires modification of the Council Operating Procedures. An amendment is now before the Transportation Council to formally approve the additional of the Wood County Port Authority as a voting member.

TMACOG Draft FY 2021 Annual Work Program (Agenda V – for approval) – The draft of the annual work program is being presented to Transportation Council for approval. The FY 2021 major work products are listed on a one-page summary provided at the meeting and on the Council webpage. Individual work element sections have been reviewed and approved by the Transportation Committees that have met in the past couple months. The final Annual Work Program document is due to ODOT on May 1, 2020.

TMACOG Self-Certification (Agenda VI – for approval) – 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.

Opposition to HB 476 Amending the Law Regarding Eminent Domain (Agenda VII - for approval) – 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 was drafted stating their opposition. The issue is now before the Transportation Council as a step to make this an official position of TMACOG.

TIP Update and Interactive Map (Agenda VIII - for information) – Lance Dasher will provide an update on the draft of the FY 2021-2024 TIP and discuss upcoming public involvement activities and the interactive map created to assist with public comments.

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

Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Reports (Agenda X) – From Committee chairs

Vice President's Report (Agenda XI – 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.

- On February 13th, Governor DeWine announced the Hand's Free Ohio bill that would make driving while handling and 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.
- The TMACOG 2045 Transportation Place – Update 2020 is nearing completion. In February, staff conducted 7 public meeting for feedback on the draft plan and an online survey was available. A formal 45-day public comment period opens today, March 4th and will go through April 17th. The Plan will then go through the TMACOG approval process and be before the Board of Trustees in June.
- 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.

TMACOG Upcoming events:

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