



# MVPO Rural Transportation Technical and Citizens Committee

Wednesday, February 17, 2016 – 1:30 p.m.

MVPO Conference Room

**Members Present:** Paul Barnaby, Frank Onweller, Tim Schumm, Charles Schreck, Matt Davis, Rick Edmonds, Will Burns, Todd Roth, Amy Metz-Simon, Michael Stormer, Jerry Hayes, Paul Heisey, David Wright, Matt Gilroy, Bruce Yancey, Dennis Miller, Rick Weaver, Ellen Smith, Emma Kirkpatrick, Andy Johns (FHWA – Ohio Division)

**Others Present:** Jessica Schuette (Fulton County Economic Development), John Waterston (Williams County), Marty Crossland (City of Napoleon)

## Meeting Notes

### 1. Introductions/Convene Meeting

#### a. Introduction of Andy Johns

- i. Andy Johns of the Federal Highway Administration, Ohio Division, introduced himself and congratulated MVPO on their Long Range Transportation Plan “Moving Together 2040,” as well as their recent designation as an RTPPO by the Governor of Ohio.

### 2. RTPPO Program Activities Update

#### a. Long Range Transportation Plan

- i. *Handout: Long Range Transportation Plan Executive Summary*
- ii. Copies of the Long Range Transportation Plan Executive Summary were handed out to the committee members. The Long Range Transportation Plan and Executive Summary are both available on MVPO’s website. The Executive Summary gives a brief overview of the full Plan and is the main deliverable to the public. The Executive Summary was previously distributed to townships in each county at meetings held last November, along with explanation of the technical services now available from MVPO, such as traffic counting.

#### b. ODOT Bike Route Designation

- i. *Handout: Bike Route Maps*
- ii. Two maps were handed out, detailing the ODOT proposed bike route designation project. ODOT is currently designating State and US Bike routes throughout the state and MVPO is helping in that process. The map showing the proposed routes through Fulton and Williams Counties displayed the changes that were made to the proposed route, as suggested by members of the Technical and Citizens Committees. Along with these recommendations were those from the Northwest Ohio

Pedalers Club, who rode the route in order to make suggestions and gave instructive advice on how best to improve the route originally proposed by ODOT.

- iii. The next step for the bike route designation will be obtaining resolutions from jurisdictions along the bike route, but this won't occur until further instruction from the ODOT Central Office is received.

c. Transportation Improvement Districts (TIDS)

- i. Rick Weaver discussed Transportation Improvement Districts and how each county in the MVPO region has now passed a resolution to form a TID. TIDs could potentially help to bring more money in for projects and positively affect economic development in the area. Henry County is already registered with ODOT as a TID, and the other counties in the region will be registering in the spring. (Registering is a one-time event and will enable the counties to apply for funding through the TID program.) The due date for project applications is June 30, 2016.

d. Technical Assistance Activities

- i. Rick Weaver gave an update on what Technical Assistance activities MVPO has done to date. Traffic counts for multiple communities have been completed as well as grant applications for several ODOT and ODNR programs. In addition, MVPO has provided transportation-related data to organizations such as the Defiance County CIC in the form of tables and maps.

e. Safety Report

- i. Emma Kirkpatrick talked about the crash data she has been analyzing using ArcGIS for use in the Safety Report (to be completed later this year). In order to identify transportation needs and high crash areas, both rural and urban intersections were identified, as well as segments of roads throughout the MVPO region. The crash data is from 2012-2014 and where crashes totaled 10 or higher at a certain intersection or segment, traffic counts were recorded. The existing traffic counts are from ODOT and high crash areas without recorded traffic counts will be prioritized and MVPO will perform traffic counts this summer. This information will be compiled into a Safety Report for the RTPPO, due later this year.

f. Sidewalk Inventory

- i. Emma Kirkpatrick also discussed the sidewalk inventory that she has been adding to for the region using ArcGIS. She has added to an existing inventory, using higher quality aerial maps to draw sidewalks onto street centerlines according to whether sidewalks are visible in an area. MVPO believes this inventory can be strengthened through involvement with communities adding to the inventory where sidewalks are known.

Another possibility is for MVPO to create an online map and allow residents to draw on sidewalks within their communities. This inventory will help to create a better understanding of connectivity in the region and the availability of sidewalks.

g. RTPO Designation

i. *Handout: "Ohio Designates Transportation Planning Organizations" Article*

ii. MVPO was recently designated (on February 10) by Governor Kasich as an official Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO), along with the four other RTPOs in Ohio. This is an exciting development, as it was the preferred outcome of the pilot program that began in 2013. An article was published by the National Association of Development Organizations about the designation of RTPOs in Ohio.

**3. ODOT Solicited Projects**

a. Review/Explain Issue and Discuss Projects

i. *Handout: ODOT 'Poster Child' Projects Information*

ii. To demonstrate how much need there is for an additional funding source in the rural regions, ODOT asked each RTPO to send them all of the projects that were identified for the long range plan. They also asked that 3-5 'poster child' projects be highlighted from the list to further demonstrate that there are important projects in the MVPO region that would greatly benefit from an additional funding source. The criteria for picking those 3-5 projects were:

- Roadway or bridge projects
- Directly connect to the federal aid system
- Already have some funding committed
- Larger scale projects that involve a US or State Route in some way
- Demonstrates economic development, safety, or freight improvements

iii. The five projects selected as MVPO's poster child projects were the CR 24 Improvement and SR 66 relocation project in Archbold, the New Maumee River Bridge in Napoleon, the Extension of Commerce Drive in Defiance, the intersection improvement at USR 127 and Gasser road in Paulding, and interchange improvements at SR 108 and USR 24 in Napoleon.

iv. ODOT has not yet presented these 'Poster Child' projects to request funding for RTPOs, because only 2 out of the 5 RTPOs in Ohio showed a capital need. (MVPO was one of the 2 that showed a need.) A conference call has been scheduled for next week in order to discuss the issue with the other RTPOs and hopefully come up with some additional projects for the other organizations.

b. Updating Long Range Transportation Plan Project List

i. In order to keep the Long Range Transportation Plan a living document, the Plan Project List will be updated annually (at the beginning of each

year). This process will also help MVPO demonstrate to ODOT even more need for a capital program.

- c. Next Steps
    - i. A form will be available for jurisdictions to use to either add or update projects on the list. MVPO will be sending these forms throughout the region and is asking for forms to be returned as soon as possible, no later than April 1<sup>st</sup> , in order to review the projects at the May Committee meeting.
    - ii. A question was asked about taking the project update forms through the newly established TID boards. It is important that the counties get registered as TIDs with ODOT and it is unclear at this time whether the forms going through the TID boards would be beneficial.
- 4. Upcoming Events**
- a. Municipal Bridge Applications Due March 1, 2016
    - i. MVPO is helping the Village of Delta apply for this program.
  - b. Clean Ohio Trails Fund/Recreational Trail Program Applications Due April 1, 2016
  - c. **Safe Routes to School National Conference**, April 5-7, 2016, Hilton Columbus Downtown, see [www.saferoutesconference.org](http://www.saferoutesconference.org)
  - d. Other Business
- 5. Adjourn**

**SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:** Please mark your calendars.

**Technical Committee: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m.**

**Citizens Committee: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.**

**2015:** ~~November 18~~, **2016:** February 17, May 18, August 17, November 16