



## MVPO Rural Transportation Technical and Citizens Committee

Wednesday, May 18, 2016 – 1:30 p.m.

MVPO Conference Room

**Members Present:** Paul Barnaby, Frank Onweller, Charles Schreck, Rick Edmonds, Will Burns, Amy Metz-Simon, Michael Stormer, Jerry Hayes, Jerry Zielke, Paul Heisey, Mike Saneholtz, David Wright, Robert Seaman, Matt Gilroy, Bruce Yancey, Dennis Miller, Rick Weaver, Ellen Smith, Emma Kirkpatrick

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

### Meeting Notes

1. **Introductions/Convene Meeting**
2. **RTPO Program Activities Update**
  - a. Technical Assistance Activities
    - i. The region is utilizing MVPO's technical assistance activities in several forms. Many applications have been completed for the ODOT Transportation Alternatives Program and the Transportation Improvement District Program. Traffic counts have also been completed at the request of the City of Defiance. Additionally, MVPO is aiding United Way of Defiance along with other organizations in Defiance County with coordinated transportation.
  - b. ODOT Bike Route Designation
    - i. The ODOT Bike Route Designation project was discussed at the previous committee meeting. ODOT is designating a system of State and U.S. bikes routes throughout Ohio and MVPO is helping with this project. Originally, the deadline was April 2016, but ODOT has moved the date to April 2017. More updates will be available as the project moves forward.
  - c. Transportation Improvement Districts (TIDS)
    - i. Rick Weaver discussed updates on the Transportation Improvement Districts (TIDS) in the region. Defiance, Fulton, Paulding, and Williams counties are now designated as TIDS. (Henry County was already registered as a TID.) ODOT funds are now available and applications are due May 31, 2016. Each year in the spring, ODOT will present funding opportunities for 25% of the project cost (cannot exceed \$250,000) and must be spent within the next fiscal year. Funding will primarily go towards projects that are ready to be completed and those projects that

will focus on economic development, i.e. maintaining or creating jobs. Additionally, ODOT funding can be used with other funding sources.

d. Intermodal Facilities Update Project

i. *Handout: National Highway System Map*

- ii. ODOT is completing a full review of Ohio's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Intermodal Facilities. These facilities intermodal facilities that are designated using a criteria set by FHWA, with a different set of criteria depending on the type of facility. Some facility examples are commercial aviation airports, ports, truck and rail facilities, etc. MVPO's task is to determine whether there are any facilities in the region that may be eligible for this FHWA designation. Currently, there are none designated in the five county area. However, those facilities that are eligible for this designation may then receive an intermodal connector route, which connects the facility with the National Highway System (NHS). The NHS is a network of roadways that have been determined to be important to the nation's economy, defense, and mobility. The handout shows the NHS throughout the MVPO region. The intermodal connector, once designated, is eligible for additional funding to help support roadway infrastructure. ODOT's Office of Jobs & Commerce representatives will serve as the central points of contact for this project and they are planning to submit facility suggestions in September 2016.

e. Safety Report

- i. There are no updates on the Safety Report, except that MVPO continues working on it for the region and that it is scheduled to be completed in July 2016. Ellen Smith represents the Ohio RTPOs on the Statewide Strategic Highway Safety Plan steering committee at ODOT, where she recently attended a meeting to review the Ohio crash statistics from 2015 and some from the beginning of 2016. In 2015, crash fatalities in Ohio rose 10% from the previous year – there were a total of 1,110 traffic fatalities, which are 99 more deaths than in 2014. There were multiple crash types, however, crashes involving Commercial Motor Vehicles, work zone crashes, bicycle and pedestrian crashes, railroad, and older driver deaths were all the highest they have been in ten years. There was also a 3% increase in travel last year, which most likely contributed to the spike in traffic fatalities. So far in 2016, there have been 271 fatalities, which is similar to the beginning of 2015 in Ohio. Since traffic fatalities are still on the rise this year, ODOT has decided to continue their statewide freeway and portable message sign campaign, running messages every other week on one weekday and an entire weekend.

- f. Sidewalk Inventory
    - i. Emma Kirkpatrick discussed the sidewalk inventory project that she has been adding to for the region using ArcGIS. All existing sidewalks have been mapped in the MVPO region. The next step will be to create an online map for the public to use, in which they will be able to add sidewalks were needed and leave comments on pavement conditions and other concerns. More updates to come.
  - g. MVPO's New Website
    - i. Emma Kirkpatrick also discussed updates to MVPO's website and its many new resources. Particularly for the transportation page, there are several new features. The main page contains news and an events calendar for upcoming meetings and events throughout the region. Meeting notes will be available for the Executive Council, Citizens Committee, and Technical Committee meetings on this page. Maps and data are also available by request through the website, along with map examples and links to data sources. We are working on creating interactive maps that will be available within the transportation page. The Long Range Transportation Plan (MT 2040) is available for viewing or to download by report section. Lastly, there is a Technical Assistance page, which lists the activities that MVPO now provides, such as traffic counts, grant writing, safety studies, and more. The rest of the MVPO website now has updated forms and program pages.
- 3. Moving Together 2040 Project List Update**
- a. Explanation of Update Process
    - i. The project list is updated annually in order to reflect major changes to projects currently on the list and to give the region a chance to add any additional projects. A form was sent to the region in March to use to add new projects to the list and update those projects already on the list for any major changes. A total of 39 new project submissions and 4 amendments to current projects were received. From the original plan, a 2-step process was determined for scoring projects on the list and this process was followed for the 2016 update. First, MVPO staff awarded points to the projects using preliminary criteria that were data-driven. Then, a subcommittee of the Technical and Citizens Committees awarded points using a regional criteria. For the annual update, it was decided that MVPO staff would complete both steps of the scoring process and only have the subcommittee score projects for the 5-year plan update. The scores were averaged from staff input, in order to decrease any bias. Moving forward, the submitted projects and their draft rankings need to be reviewed and the 2016 amended list needs to be approved.

b. Presentation of Submitted Projects

- i. *Handout: Project List Amendments Map, Regional Criteria, Regional Points Breakdown*
- ii. *Handout: MT 2040 Project List 2016 Amendments DRAFT*
- iii. The first handout is a table, which lists the projects with points received for regional importance categories. There is also a copy of the regional criteria for reference. A map shows the location of the projects that were submitted and the last handout is the amended project list, which shows the full long range transportation plan project list with all of the 2016 changes. Again, there were 39 total project submissions and 4 amendments to the list (4 were removed from the list because they either secured funding, are constructing the project now, or the project has already been completed). Those 4 projects were the City of Napoleon reconstruction of Industrial Drive, the Hicksville extension of Industrial Drive, Main Street reconstruction in Montpelier, and the new traffic signal in Sherwood at the intersection of US Route 127 and State Route 18. A total of 17 projects were received from Defiance County, 6 in Fulton County, 3 in Henry County, 4 in Paulding County, and 9 in Williams County.
- iv. Jerry Zielke asked for the total cost of the entire project list. This total is \$221.27 million.

c. Discussion

- i. The next step for the meeting was to take a motion to approve the added projects and amendments. It was also explained that there will be 30 days for public input and then the changes will be presented to the MVPO Executive Council. After they are approved, they will be added to the Long Range Transportation Plan as an addendum.
- ii. Several comments were recorded during discussion:
  - Warren Schlatter commented that the projects submitted are realistic and will be able to be funded and completed. He stressed that there needs to be even more projects submitted from the other counties (besides Defiance) in order to obtain higher priorities for projects within the other MVPO region.
  - John Waterson commented it is possible to utilize OPWC funds along with TID funds. It is actually required to show that there are funds already committed when applying for TID funds.
  - Jerry Zielke also commented on multiple funding sources and their necessity in TID applications. He shared an example regarding the Paulding County CR 144 widening, in which JobsOhio and ODOT funds were being used together.

- Jerry Hayes brought two projects to attention: 1) The Agnes Street project (DUR-6) and 2) The Latchaw Drive (DUN-2) project. He suggested adding points for safety improvements at both of these locations.

d. Next Steps

- i. The next step is to make changes to the list to account for the 2 projects Jerry Hayes mentioned needed additional safety points. A motion was made to approve the 2016 amendments with changes and was moved by Warren Schlatter and seconded by Frank Onweller. The motion carried.
- ii. The project list will be sent out and will also be on the website transportation page. The list will be formally adopted by the Executive Council in September 2016.

4. **Upcoming Events/Important Dates**

- a. Transportation Improvement District (TID) Project Applications are due on May 31, 2016.
- b. There was no other business discussed.

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