

## RTPO Technical and Citizens Committee Meeting

February 19, 2020

10:30 a.m.

MVPO 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

**Members Present:** Todd Roth, Jerry Hayes, Amy Francis, Charles Schreck, Paul Heisey, Megan Hausch, Warren Schlatter, Emma Kirkpatrick

### (1) Introductions/Convene Meeting

- a. The meeting was convened at 10:30 a.m.

### (2) RTPO Program Activities Update

#### a. Safety Initiatives

Safety Study: MVPO is in the process of completing an abbreviated safety study for Williams County at the intersection of Co Rd and Co Rd 13. The study can be used to assess countermeasures for grant opportunities through ODOT Safety funding.

Safety Report: MVPO is currently updating the RTPO's Safety Report completed in 2016. The section analysis will be completed next, and then the top 20-50 high crash locations will be compiled and mapped. The locations will provide insight into priority locations for funding opportunities.

#### b. Active Transportation

Williams County: The Williams County Active Transportation Plan (ATP) was adopted in 2019. The steering committee will continue to meet quarterly to implement the plan, with priorities such as regional trail development and partnerships, connectivity through utility ROW and corridor planning, and developing uniform signage and a centralized webpage.

Defiance County: The ATP was adopted by the Defiance County Commissioners in January 2020. The steering committee will also be meeting quarterly to prioritize projects and implement strategies within the plan.

#### c. Safe Routes to School

Defiance City: Safe Routes to School (SRTS) information was added to the Defiance County ATP for the Defiance City school district, St. John Lutheran, and Holy Cross Catholic. MVPO will be assisting the City to apply for SRTS funds due on March 6, 2020. ODOT can fund SRTS projects at 100% up to \$400,000 for infrastructure projects, and from \$20,000 to \$60,000 in non-infrastructure funding for programs concerning education, encouragement, and enforcement activities for safe walking and biking practices for kids in grades K-8.

Bryan City: MVPO assisted the City of Bryan with completing their School Travel Plan (STP), which was completed in January 2020. The City will be applying for infrastructure funding for sidewalks and non-infrastructure funding through the ODOT SRTS program.

**d. Transportation Improvement Districts (TIDs)**

Organizational board meetings were held in January for the TID boards. Every MVPO County has a TID board, which makes each County eligible for ODOT TID funding. Project applications are due annually in May and capped at \$250,000 for transportation improvements that support economic development, job growth, and retention. The Williams County TID currently has funding for a project in the City of Bryan and will be completing the project this year.

**(3) Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)**

**a. Draft Document due Feb 7.; Final due Apr. 30**

The draft RTIP was due on February 7<sup>th</sup> and the final document is due on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The RTIP is part of the TIP/STIP development by ODOT and Metropolitan Planning Organizations. The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is a short-range planning document that spans a four-year time period and lists the transportation improvement projects that will be financed throughout the State. The Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) is a four-year planning document, which was developed to reflect the investment priorities of the RTPOs. These priorities come from Ohio's own STIP, which covers projects from FY 2021-2024. The rural consultation event held this past fall was part of the development process for the RTIP and incorporated the unfunded project priorities in the MVPO region into the draft plan. These unfunded projects were prioritized from the Moving Together 2040 long-range plan list (updated for 2019).

**b. Public Outreach (Mar. 30 – Apr. 10)**

Public involvement will be conducted as part of the RTIP development. Meetings are to be held between March 30 – April 10. The final RTIP will be adopted by MVPO's Executive Council and then included in Ohio's STIP.

**(4) Long Range Transportation Plan Update: Moving Together 2045**

**a. Development Schedule Update**

The plan document is being finalized with updated data. The final project list last updated in 2019 will be included within the update and funding sources will be added corresponding to the project list.

**b. Next Steps**

Public input may be combined with the RTIP public involvement sessions and held as open houses in regional locations. After the public input, recommendations will be finalized and the draft plan will be presented to the RTPO Committee for approval, followed by the MVPO Executive Council.

**(5) Upcoming Dates/Other Information**

**a. Other Business**

Transportation Alternatives Program: The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is now on a new cycle, with letters of interest due on October 31<sup>st</sup>, formal applications due on January 31<sup>st</sup>, and awards made in April 2021.

Safety Funding: ODOT accepts applications for safety funds throughout the year and twice a year for projects over \$500,000. In 2020, ODOT will be funding projects at 100% with no match requirement. The deadlines for larger projects are April 30<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>. Abbreviated applications are accepted any time of the year for projects totaling \$500,000 or less. Funding is awarded based on a demonstrated problem and long-term crash trends.

Project List Comments: Jerry Hayes, Defiance County Economic Development, had several comments regarding the updated 2019 project list. He noted that project #140 in Defiance County may be impacted by impending economic development projects. This conceptual project is estimated to cost \$3 million and consist of a bypass from SR 66 to SR 281. Mr. Hayes also mentioned that project #8 may be a candidate for safety funding, involving the widening of SR 66 from Elliott Rd. to Defiance Metal Products.

**(6) Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.**