

Moving Together 2040: Annual Project List Update Information

'Moving Together 2040' is the long range transportation plan for Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, and Williams counties which make up the Maumee Valley Planning Organization (MVPO) region. In 2013, MVPO along with 4 other rural planning organizations in Ohio were chosen to participate in a 2-year pilot program to add transportation planning to their already-existing planning processes. One of the tasks during that program was to develop a long range transportation plan that would look at existing transportation conditions in the region and propose improvements. A list of projects was included in the Plan and prioritized based on regional importance. The list is meant to show what potential projects exist in the five-county area and are ranked to show which projects have the most regional significance. The Plan was adopted in the summer of 2015 and will be updated every 5 years. During Plan development, it was decided by the MVPO Transportation Committees (Citizens, Technical, and Executive) that the Plan should be a living document and demonstrate, to the extent practicable, the current regional transportation needs. To do so, the Project List included in the Plan will be updated annually to reflect major changes to projects currently on the list as well as to allow for additional project submissions. For annual updates, update forms will be sent out to all the entities within the MVPO region at the beginning of each year asking for major updates to existing projects on the Plan list and any additional projects that should be added to the list. After project submissions are received, MVPO staff will award points to the newly submitted projects using the prioritization criteria and process developed during development of the long range transportation plan.

A process and criteria were developed to ensure the most efficient and successful identification of priority projects in the five county region. In the interest of being as data driven as possible, a two-step process was created in which points were first awarded to projects based solely on data followed by a second awarding of points using a regional, more subjective criteria. New submissions were divided into four categories depending on their project type: road restoration, new/capacity, transportation enhancement and bridge projects. The road restoration project category includes projects that involve mainly restoration work such as improving a road to meet ODOT standards, resurfacing and other types of maintenance work. New/capacity projects involve projects that include a new alignment or add capacity such as widening a two lane road to four lanes. The transportation enhancement project category includes recreational trail projects, bicycle lanes, or any other type of enhancement and bridge projects included bridge work. A prioritization criteria was developed for each of the three project categories and for each category different elements were considered. The criteria and weighting factors were approved by the Technical Committee and a total of 60 points was available for each project. A Regional Transportation Criteria was then developed to award points on a regional basis for the second step of the prioritization process. The purpose of creating a separate criteria for a regional analysis was so that each project could be assessed regardless of its type and based on elements important to all projects. These elements include accessibility, freight, economic development, safety, environmental impacts, and project readiness/timing. Weighting factors were also applied to these elements and an additional 76 points were available in this step of the process for a total of 136 points a project could receive altogether. After the projects are awarded points by MVPO staff, the MVPO Technical and Citizens Committees will meet to discuss the projects and their new rankings. The public will then be given 30 days to comment on the amended project list and propose any other project additions. After public comments are received, the Technical and Citizens Committees will review all public input, revise the list accordingly, and in September the MVPO Executive Board will approve the new MT2040 Project List with amendments.