

# MVPO Transportation Technical and Citizens Committees Meeting



Wednesday, August 9, 2017 – 10:30 a.m.  
Second Floor Conference  
1300 E. Second Street, Suite 200  
Defiance, OH 43512

**Members Present:** Brian Wieland, Frank Onweller, Tim Schumm, Todd Roth, Denise Dahl, Rick Edmonds, Jerry Hayes, Mike Saneholtz, Amy Metz-Simon, Warren Schlatter, Dennis Miller, Ellen Smith, Emma Kirkpatrick

**Others Present:** Michael Springer (Northwest Consultants)

## Meeting Notes

### 1. Introductions/Convene Meeting

### 2. RTPO Program Activities Update

#### a. Technical Assistance Activities

##### i. Transportation Improvements Districts (TIDs)

- Three TID Projects were funded in the region, including Latchaw Drive in Defiance, Traxler Drive in Williams, and County Road H in Fulton. Two of these projects are listed on the long range transportation plan.

##### ii. Safety Initiatives/Data

- *Handout:* Fatal Crash Locations/Year to Date Comparison
  - a. The State of Ohio has made some progress with fatal crashes as compared to last year. There have been 604 fatalities compared to 667 fatalities last year at this time. Defiance and Henry Counties have had more fatal crashes at this time than last year, with Henry having 4 more than last year and Defiance having 2 more.
- Safe Communities Program: Defiance County Health Department recently requested crash data for their program to report on drug and alcohol related crashes in 2016.
- Transportation Safety Working Committee
  - a. The purpose of this ODOT led Committee is to provide greater opportunities to regional planning organizations in order to help secure grant funding to implement safety improvements, particularly within rural areas. The first meeting was based on how to conduct Road Safety Audits.
    - i. Road Safety Audits are involve a multi-disciplinary team review of road conditions in order to make

determine what needs to be done to make the road safer. These reports can be used as “abbreviated safety studies” and can be used to apply for funding through ODOT Safety programs of less than \$500,000. Full Safety Studies will be the next topic at the next committee meeting.

iii. Coordination of Human Services Transportation

- MVPO has been involved in coordination of human services agencies that are already providing transportation, such as the senior center, Board of DD, Jobs & Family Services, and others. The Henry County Transportation Network is a great example of a complex coordinated transportation system in our region. Coordination saves resources and allows for expanded services, and as such, ODOT is encouraging rural counties to coordinate. MVPO recently assisted Defiance County in writing their Coordinated Transportation Plan, which was just approved by ODOT. NOCAC applied for funds for a mobility manager in Defiance County who will help to educate the public and continue working on coordination efforts. MVPO is also in the process of assisting Fulton County with updating their coordinated plan.

b. Ongoing Projects Update

- i. The TID projects that were funded last year in Paulding and Fulton Counties are underway. The US 127/Gasser Road intersection project in Paulding is beginning construction and the E. Industrial Parkway Reconstruction Project in Fayette already finished construction.
- ii. The Maumee River Water Trail designation project is also moving forward. The Toledo Metroparks finished an educational brochure and map for the Trail, which was required to apply for designation. The Metroparks are working with ODNR to get the trail officially designated.
- iii. MVPO also applied for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds this year to pave the Wabash Cannonball Trail in Fulton County from the Lucas County line to SR 109 near Delta. It was announced on August 16<sup>th</sup> that the project has been funded! Additionally, the City of Wauseon would like to apply for the TAP funds next year in order to install a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon at the crossing of the Wabash Cannonball Trail and SR 108.
- iv. MVPO has been assisting the Northwest Ohio Rails to Trails Association (NORTA) with an updated Wabash Cannonball map for their kiosks located along the trail. This map has been completed and the organization is currently printing the maps to install in their kiosks. MVPO plans to create an interactive map for the trail in the future.

### **3. Long Range Transportation Plan Project List Update 2017**

#### **a. Overview**

- i. Handouts: Preliminary Ranking Criteria, New Project Submission*
- ii. MVPO conducts an annual project list update in order to keep the long range plan relevant as a living document. The original process for awarding points to projects in 2015 began with the Preliminary Ranking Criteria, which is a two-step process that awards points for data-driven issues, followed by the Regional Ranking Criteria, which is completed by a subcommittee. For the updates, new additions are scored and then added to the list. This year, there were a few requests from counties to re-score the existing projects for data that may have changed- such as crash data, traffic data, etc. The projects have now all been re-scored based on available data, and the Regional Scores were left unchanged if unaffected by the available data. 22 new projects were submitted and one project was updated. There were submissions from every County and with many diverse projects, such as sidewalks and trails. The study section was removed and those projects were integrated into the full list based on their total number of points.

#### **b. Draft Rankings Presented/Discussion**

- i. Handouts: Ranked Project List Draft, Map, Regional Points Awarded/Criteria*
- ii. There are currently 123 total projects and most stayed within the same ranking, except for the top 20, which changed slightly due to increased safety points allocated for crash rates, etc. The projects were ranked to show regional priority and to prepare for funding if the RTPOs were to receive funds for projects. The ranking is important on the list, as it adds merit to applications for funding. It was suggested that Traxler Drive be removed and County Road O be moved up in its place. It was also discussed to add more points to the freight category. The formal update of the full transportation plan will begin next year.

### **4. Public Participation Plan Update 2017**

#### **a. Overview**

- i. Handout: Participation Plan Goals*
- ii. The public participation plan is required to document how the RTPO will engage the public during planning processes. The plan is updated every four years, and since the last one was completed in 2014, it will need to be updated by 2018. The plan explains the committee structure, the legal framework behind the plan, outlines goals and strategies for engaging the public, and examines where populations exist in the region such as

low income and minority populations. This process will also require a public participation period.

- b. Next Steps/Update Process
    - i. The draft of the public participation plan will be presented to the Committee during the fall meeting. There will be a public comment period for a month and then the plan will be presented to the Executive Council this December for approval.
- 5. Upcoming Dates/Other Information**
- a. Ohio Public Works (OPWC) Applications are due locally on Friday, September 8, 2017 by 4 p.m.
  - b. The Long Range Transportation Plan 2020 Update Begins in 2018!
- 6. Adjourn**
- The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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

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

**2017: November 15**