



TMACOG Passenger Rail Committee
Wednesday, May 18, 2015 – 2:30 p.m.
TMACOG Boardroom

Minutes

1. **Convene meeting/introductions** - Patrick Miller called the meeting to order with introductions.
2. **Administrative Items**
 - a. **Minutes**- Tom Galloway motioned to approve last meeting's minutes; Roger Shope seconded the motion, and the committee approved.
 - b. **Review Operating Procedures** – Rebekka presented the revised Operating Procedures as were approved by the Transportation Council for information.
3. **NORA Study/Earmark Update**
 - a. Dave Gedeon told the committee that the earmarked funds that were originally intended to be used for a study with NORA have been repurposed and have been given to Toledo for station improvements. The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority will be the ultimate recipient of these funds, which will require a TIP amendment to be approved by the Transportation Council. The money is approximately \$938,000 and will be used to for platform improvements, canopies, lighting, etc. Tim Porter expressed concerns that this may not address all of the accessibility issues. The exact details of the construction plans are in the hands of the TLCPA.
4. **FAST Act**
 - a. The committee discussed the new provisions as a result of the FAST Act. Rebekka provided the group with a section-by-section breakdown compiled by NARP for the committee's reference. The actual guidance by FHWA is pending, but this is what we know so far.
5. **Amtrak Statistics discussion**
 - a. Rebekka passed around some ridership statistics to the group, including Ohio statistics and Toledo statistics. She showed the committee NARP's website for statistics, as well as Amtrak's website on On-Time Performance. The committee discussed on-time performance, what it meant, and the causes as shown on Amtrak's website. Rebekka told them that these links will be posted to TMACOG's website as a part of fulfillment of the Annual Work Program.
6. **Passenger Rail Forum discussion**
 - a. The committee discussed the potential speaker for the Passenger Rail Forum. Tim passed around a list of speakers he is considering asking. He said that Gene Skoropowski is the first choice, followed by Jim Mathews, president of NARP, and Joe Szabo of the FRA. The forum will be held on either October 17 or October 24.
7. **Advocacy Efforts**
 - a. **Train Day Recap** – Bill Gill gave an update on Train Day, saying that we had a record attendance of 8-10,000 people. There were approximately 80 volunteers and over 50 vendors/displays. He said that with TMACOG not being involved next year, the form may be different but there will be something.
 - b. **NOPRA** – Tim talked about NOPRA's efforts, including train surveys they have been collecting. They have 559 surveys and 97% of people want to see better



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passenger rail. 69% of people surveyed wanted to see service to Columbus and 61% of people surveyed want to see service to Detroit.

- 8. Updates, upcoming events, roundtable**
 - a. AAO has a meeting in Columbus this upcoming Saturday at the Spaghetti Warehouse
- 9. Adjourn**

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 17 at 2:30 pm