

Memo

Date: September 29, 2017
To: Keith Earley, Chair
James Bagdonas, Vice Chair
Members of the Transportation Council
From: David Gedeon, Vice President of Transportation
Subject: **TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 4, 2017 MEETING**

This report is an update of staff activity and background on selected agenda items for our next Transportation Council meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 4, 2017. The agenda and meeting materials are available at www.tmacog.org/Transportation/trancom.htm. If you would like a hard copy or have any problems accessing any of the information, please contact Jodi Cole (ext. 120). If you have any questions or concerns on any agenda items, please contact me (ext. 125).

Financial Reports (Agenda III – for approval) – The financial reports for fiscal year 2018 beginning July 1, 2017 through August 26, 2017 is submitted for approval. With 15.33% of fiscal year 2018 completed, the overall program is under budget with 13% expended. A budget amendment is being presented at this meeting to incorporate the actual FY 2018 planning funds allocated to TMACOG.

TMACOG Budget Amendment #1 (Agenda IV – for approval) – William Best, TMACOG Vice President of Finance and Administration, will present TMACOG Budget Amendment #1 for approval. The original FY 2018 budget approved by TMACOG and ODOT includes estimates of planning funds and the amendment is necessary to include actual funding amounts and FY 2017 carryover dollars. The amendment increases the overall TMACOG budget by \$42,606 and the transportation budget by \$41,075. The budget amendment will go to the TMACOG Board of Trustees on October 18, 2017.

FY 2018 Federal Appropriations Bill (Agenda V) – Congress is in talks on a consolidated omnibus appropriations bill (H.R. 3354) for Interior and Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development, Commerce, Justice, Science, Financial Services, Labor, HUD, Transportation, Homeland Security, Defense, Education and other departments. Ordinarily, the appropriations legislation would be approved by October 1 but legislation was passed that provides continuing appropriation at FY 2017 levels until December 8, 2017. The House passed H.R. 3354 on September 14, 2017 and it moves on to the Senate. The THUD bill contains an \$800 million of unobligated contract authority and the suballocated portion of the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) and several safety programs have historically been exempted from rescissions. An amendment was added to the House version (Woodall Amendment #285) that would remove this exemption.

Annual Listing of Projects with Obligated Federal Funding (Agenda VI) – Each year, MPO's are required to produce an annual listing of projects that utilize federal funds obligated in the previous fiscal year. In FY 2017, roughly \$81.7 million in federal money was obligated for 112 transportation projects in Lucas and Wood Counties.

Active Transportation Plan (Agenda VII) - TMACOG is involved with a Toledo-based Active Transportation Team including YMCA of Greater Toledo, Toledo Public Schools, the City of Toledo, and the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department—Creating Healthy Communities. This effort is coordinated with a statewide initiative led by The Ohio Departments of Health and Transportation and is part of Ohio's Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Key goals are to increase the safety of active transportation

users (pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users); and to increase the number of people participating in active transportation.

Public Comment Period (Agenda VIII) – Comments from the public.

Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Reports (Agenda IX) – From Committee chairs

Vice President's Report (Agenda X – for discussion) – In addition to the above agenda topics and information covered in the Committee Reports, the following are other items members of Transportation Council should be aware of.

- A. A TRAC public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, October 12th beginning at 10:00 a.m. at ODOT Headquarters in Columbus for project presentations. Presentation of the I-475 projects are scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. The TRAC has released preliminary scores for the 13 projects submitted for the 2017 funding round. ODOT D2 submitted two projects on I-475 – one for the widening of I-475 from Central Ave to Airport Hwy including Hill Ave and Dorr St bridge replacements and the Dorr St interchange, and another project for only the Hill Ave and Dorr St bridge replacements. The widening/interchange project scored 83.3 points and the bridge replacements scored 71.3. The two projects ranked number one and two in the state.
- B. TMACOG and TARTA released a solicitation for Section 5310-Specialized Transportation applications on September 11th. The funds can be used to purchase vehicles, computer hardware/software, communications equipment, or fund preventative vehicle maintenance to support transportation services for the elderly and people living with disabilities where existing transportation is unavailable, inappropriate, or insufficient. A workshop was held on September 26, 2017 to answer application related questions. Applications are due on October 17th.
- C. Applications for FY 2017 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant program were released on September 7th. The FY 2017 program was appropriated at \$500 million for projects of between \$5M and \$25M that have significant national, metropolitan, or regional significance that improve the safety of America's passengers and goods. Applications are due on October 16th.
- D. Travel on all U.S. roads continues to set records for volume levels. The Federal Highway Administration reported that motorists nationally drove an estimated 283.6 billion miles in July 2017, a .5% increase over June 2017 (1.3 billion vehicle miles) and a 1.2% increase (3.3 billion vehicle miles) over July 2016. In Ohio, motorists drove an estimated 10.5 billion miles in July 2017 a .1% decrease from July 2016 and Michigan drivers traveled an estimated 9.3 billion vehicle miles, 3.8% more than in July 2016.
- E. Upcoming events:
 - **Passenger Rail Forum** – October 23, 2017, The Toledo Club, Toledo, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
 - **2017 NW Ohio Planning & Zoning Workshop** – November 17, 2017, Simpson Building, Bowling Green, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
 - **2018 TMACOG General Assembly** – January 29, 2018, Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg, 8:00 am