

Memo

Date: December 1, 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 DECEMBER 6, 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, December 6, 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. 1120). If you have any questions or concerns on any agenda items, please contact me (ext. 1125).

Financial Reports (Agenda III – for approval) – The financial report for fiscal year 2018 beginning July 1, 2017 through October 20, 2017 is submitted for approval. With 30.65% of fiscal year 2018 completed, the overall program is under budget with 24% expended.

5310 Specialized Transportation Award Recommendations (Agenda IV – for approval) – Applications were released on September 11th for 5310 funding with the application deadline of October 17th. The 2017 funding round has \$260,386 available. Five applications were received requesting a total of \$502,266. The 5310 Scoring Committee met in early November to score and rank the applications and make funding recommendations. The Transit Committee reviewed and approved a recommendation to fund the following agencies: Maumee Senior Center (1 vehicle and preventative maintenance), East Toledo Family Center (2 vehicles), Anne Grady (2 vehicles), Epilepsy Center of NW Ohio (1 vehicle). The recommendation now goes before the Transportation Council for consideration.

Council Chair and Vice Chair for 2018 (Agenda V – for approval) – The Transportation Council leadership positions are appointed annually by the TMACOG Chair. The Council nominates and votes on the Chair and Vice Chair positions at the December meeting. Nominations will be opened for discussion and action at the meeting.

Ozone Standard and Designations/VW Settlement (Agenda VI – for discussion) – On October 1, 2015, the US EPA strengthened the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone to 70 parts per billion (ppb). This action replaces the standard of 75 ppb set in 2008. The USEPA released a partial list of counties that would not be impacted by the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for Ozone. Lucas and Wood Counties are included on the list as attainment. Designations for counties not included on the lists will be considered at a later date. The Council will be updated on the status of the Volkswagen mitigation settlement. Volkswagen (VW) used emission testing defeat devices in over 500,000 vehicles sold and operated in the U.S. beginning in 2009. The settlement requires VW to pay \$2.7 billion in to an Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund, to offset the excess air pollution emitted by some of the VW vehicles that violated the Clean Air Act. Ohio expects to receive \$75.3 million from the Trust between 2017 and 2027, to fund certain eligible projects to reduce NOx emissions from the transportation sector.

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

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

FY 2018-2021 TIP Amendment #4 (for approval) – TIP Amendment #3 is being presented to the Transportation Council for approval. The amendment adds two projects at the request of ODOT (Albon-Salisbury Roundabout, and roundabouts on US 20A and a connector road to the South Airfield Rd Industrial Park) and modifies one project at the request of ODOT (Dorr St interchange RW). These project phases do not utilize TMACOG managed funds.

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. ODOT has begun an update to Ohio's long-range transportation plan, Access Ohio. The purpose of Access Ohio is to guide, inform and support ODOT's policies and investment strategies for the coming years. The update will look towards the horizon year 2045 and is expected to be completed in the winter of 2019.
- B. Rebekka Aparadian resigned her position of TMACOG Transportation Planner as of December 1st. She is pursuing her doctoral degree from the Geography and Planning Department at the University of Toledo. TMACOG has posted two positions in the transportation department, one for a Transportation Planner and one for a Public Administration Specialist, the position previously held by Christine Connell.
- C. Congressional Republicans are pursuing a short-term bill that would avert a shutdown and fund the government through Dec. 22. The current continuing resolution ends on December 8th. The plan would mean lawmakers will likely need to pass a second stopgap spending measure right before the holidays that would keep the government operating into January. The latest strategy to emerge on November 30th would involve passing a two-week continuing resolution (CR) next week. If a deal on an omnibus package for fiscal 2018 can't be reached by then they would have to pass an additional CR that pushes the debate into January.
- D. CSX hired a new CFO in March, 2017 and is conducting a review of their system and infrastructure, including the North Baltimore facility. This review could have an impact on operations in North Baltimore but CSX has released few details. The facility opened in 2011, moving about 15,000 containers that year to approximately 75,000 in 2016. The facility employs roughly 350 including contract workers and CSX employees.
- E. Upcoming events:
 - **2018 TMACOG General Assembly** – January 29, 2018, Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg, 8:00 am
 - **2018 Transportation Summit** – March 16, 2018, The Premier, Toledo, 8:00 am – 2 pm