

Memo

Date: January 31, 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 FEBRUARY 1, 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, February 1, 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 Report (Agenda III – for approval) – The financial report for fiscal year 2017 beginning July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 is submitted for approval. With 50% of the fiscal year completed, the overall program is below budget. However, there are a few program elements that are over budget and additional expenditure is still anticipated this fiscal year. A amendment will be presented at an upcoming Transportation Council meeting to revise the budget.

2017 TMACOG Prospectus (Agenda IV – for information) – TMACOG recently completed an agency prospectus to satisfy an ODOT Central Office request. TMACOG’s last prospectus was dated 1993. The document describes the agency’s planning functions, identifies the organizational and committee structure, membership, and funding. While not a required document, it is a good desk reference to understand how TMACOG functions. This document will be reviewed and updated as needed.

2017-2018 Transportation Legislative agenda (Agenda V – for approval) – Christine Connell will present the updated Transportation Legislative Agenda for approval. The approach for this update was to create a series of ten whitepapers expressing the consensus of the Transportation Coalition members that provided input. Topics covered include funding, logistics, and modal transportation.

Update on Federal Infrastructure Proposals (Agenda VI – for information) – Senate Democrats released a *Blueprint to Rebuild America’s Infrastructure*, pledging a trillion dollars over the next ten years to repair, modernize, and build infrastructure from ports to schools. The Democrats proposal highlights areas where infrastructure spending is most needed. The blueprint targets sixteen discreet areas of investment and outlines potential options for spending. These investments include \$100 billion towards reconstructing roads and bridges, a \$10 billion TIGER Grant expansion, \$25 billion for community resilience projects, \$110 billion for water and sewer rehabilitation, and \$130 billion to repair and expand transit systems. The Democrats expect this federal investment to generate 15 million new jobs in industries like construction and manufacturing. To pay for these investments, Democrats suggest closing tax loopholes or relying on the generation of revenue through job creation, but ultimately left the question of how to fund their proposal to the administration. Additionally, the Trump Administration transition team solicited a list of high priority infrastructure projects from the National Governors Association. The list includes 50 projects totaling \$137.5 billion as public-private partnerships.

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

FY2016-2019 TIP Amendment #18 (for approval) – TIP Amendment #18 is being presented to the Transportation Council for approval. The amendment adds two projects at the request of TARTA (MM Specialized Transportation Purchase<30' LTV Buses & PM for Awardees). These projects to not utilize TMACOG Managed funds.

Approval of TIP Members (for approval) – Following the recent amendment to the TIP Committee Operating Procedures, the approval of TIP members will now be done by the Transportation Council. Voting will no longer take place at the Transportation Summit. The 2017 roster has been approved by the TIP Committee and has been advanced to the Council for final approval.

Vice President's Report (Agenda VIII – 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. On January 31st, Elaine Chao was confirmed by the US Senate as Transportation Secretary. Chao had previously been the Deputy Secretary of Transportation from 1989-1991 under George H. W. Bush and served as the Secretary of Labor from 2001-2009 under George W. Bush.
- B. The Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) released the Final 2017-2020 Major New Construction List and ODOT District 2 did not receive funding for the I-475 bridge projects (US 20A and Dorr St) or the I-475 widening project.
- C. TMACOG provided Tom Kovacik with a letter of support for the I-73/I-74/I-75 corridor. Tom is attending a meeting in Washington DC and requested a letter to take with him.
- D. TMACOG provided two letters of support to the Metroparks of the Toledo Area for Recreational Trail program applications through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. One application is the Chessie Circle Trail Parking Lot and Restroom Facility project and the other is the University Parks Trail Extension project.
- E. The Ohio Department of Transportation is conducting the Ohio Maritime Study to provide it with key information as it assesses its role with respect to the maritime transportation system in Ohio, including bolstering regional competitiveness and economic development, addressing the requirements of the regions shippers and receivers, and securing freight dollars available through the FAST Act, private investors, and other sources. As part of this Study, ODOT has retained the services of CPCS Transcom Inc. and W.R. Coles & Associates to conduct a review of Ohio's maritime transportation system. The study is expected to be completed in late 2018.
- F. TMACOG will be adding a security system to the office entry doors requiring that meeting attendees and visitors be buzzed in for access. It is anticipated that these improvements will be installed within the next 2-3 months, possibly sooner.
- G. Upcoming events:
 - **Transportation Summit** – March 31, 2017, The Premier Banquet Complex, 8 am-2 pm
 - **Ohio Sunshine Law Certification Training** – April 7, 2017, Owens Community College Audio Visual Classroom, 8:45 am-12:15 pm
 - **Summer Caucuses & Forum withy State Lawmakers** – August 2, 2017, Penta Career Center, 8 am-1 pm