

Memo

Date: February 29, 2016
To: Keith Earley, Chair
James Bagdonas, Vice Chair
Members of the Transportation Council
From: David Gedeon, Acting Vice President of Transportation
Subject: **TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL REPORT FOR MARCH 2, 2016 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, March 2, 2016. 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 2016 beginning July 1, 2015 through January 30, 2016 is submitted for approval. With 58.6% of the fiscal year completed, most work elements are in line with the budget. Both the federally funded and locally funded program categories are on target.

FY2016-2019 TIP Amendments #7 & #8 (Agenda IV – for approval) – TIP Amendments #7 and #8 are being presented to the Transportation Council for approval. Amendment #7 adds one project at the request of ODOT to construct a new roadway connecting Woodmore St to Miami St. ahead of the larger I-75 project. Amendment #8 is a request from TARTA for a variety of changes including the addition of two projects, the modification of eight projects and the deletion of three projects. Amendment #8 was received following the TIP Committee meeting and is being advanced directly to the Transportation Council.

Public Transit Committee Operating Procedures (Agenda V – for approval) – Following the February 2016 approval of changes to the Transportation Council Operating Procedures, a formational meeting of the Public Transit Committee was held and new operating procedures were discussed. The group voted on and approved the operating procedures which are now brought before the Transportation Council for approval.

Passenger Rail Committee Operating Procedures (Agenda VI – for approval) – Similarly to the Public Transit Committee, the Passenger Rail Committee reviewed their Operating Procedures and made appropriate modifications. The Committee voted on and approved the operating procedures which are now brought before the Transportation Council for approval.

FY2017 Transportation Annual Work Program (Agenda VII – for information) - The draft of the annual work program will be submitted to ODOT on March 4th and being submitted to Transportation Council for review. The FY2017 major work products are listed on a one page summary provided at the meeting and on the Council webpage. The final Annual Work Program document is due to ODOT on May 2, 2016. The Work Program will be updated based on comments received and will be submitted to the Transportation Council in April for approval.

TMACOG Transportation Summit (Agenda VIII – for information) – The 2016 Transportation Summit will be held on Friday, March 18th at Parkway Place in Maumee. The event will include a keynote presentation from James Corless, Director, Transportation for America discussing the FAST Act and implications for state and metro areas. The Summit also offers two informative panel sessions (the Case for Active Transportation & Update on Projects of Regional Significance) and a networking lunch.

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. On February 23rd, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Fox announced the FY 2016 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant program. As in the previous seven rounds, \$500 million is available nationwide. Applications are due on April 29, 2016. Additional information can be found at the following address: www.transportation.gov/TIGER
- B. On February 25th, the U.S. EPA announced the availability of \$26 million in grant funding to establish clean diesel projects to reduce emissions from existing diesel fleets. For EPA Region V (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin), EPA is requesting proposals ranging between \$500,000 and \$2,500,000 and priority will be given to fleets in areas with poor air quality. Applications are due on April 26, 2016. More information can be found here: www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/clean-diesel-national-grants
- C. On February 26th, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced \$800 million in grants for the new Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grant program. The FAST Act authorizes \$800 million in funding for the FASTLANE program for fiscal year 2016, with 25 percent reserved for rural projects, and 10 percent for smaller projects. FASTLANE grants, authorized by the FAST Act’s Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (NSFHP) program, will fund small and large projects, based on project size, that meet statutory requirements. Large projects (equal to the lesser of \$100 million or a certain specified statutory percentage of the project state’s FY 2015 apportionment) are eligible for a minimum award of \$25 million. Small projects, which consist of projects below the minimum large project size threshold, are eligible for a minimum award of \$5 million. Applications are due on April 14, 2016. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) can be found here: www.transportation.gov/fastlanegrants/fastlane-nofo
- D. TMACOG will be issuing a solicitation for STP projects in the coming week or so. The solicitation will fill projects into the TIP for FY2021 and FY2022 and include approximately \$11 in funds. Applications will be due on June 3, 2016.
- E. Upcoming events:
 - TMACOG Transportation Summit**, Friday, March 18, 2016 Parkway Place, Maumee.
 - National Train Day Toledo**, Saturday, May 7, 2016, Toledo Amtrak Station
 - Bike Month**, various events will take place during the month of May
 - 2016 Ohio Conference on Freight**, August 22-24, 2016, Hilton Cleveland Downtown