

Memo

Date: March 3, 2018
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 MARCH 7, 2018 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 7, 2018. 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 January 27, 2018 is submitted for approval. With 57.47% of fiscal year 2018 completed, the overall program is under budget with 41.6% expended.

Christopher Van Newhouse, ODOT MPO Liaison to TMACOG (Agenda IV – for introduction) – Chris Van Newhouse was recently assigned as the ODOT Central Office Liaison to TMACOG. He succeeds Ron Reitman and Andrew Shepler in that role. Chris is the primary point of contact between TMACOG and ODOT Central Office.

TARTA Sales Tax/Downtown Transit Hub Update (Agenda V – for information) – Jim Gee will discuss the proposed switch from a property tax to a countywide sales tax and the transit study that TARTA has underway. Also, discussed will be the recently announced location of the downtown transit hub.

Toledo Downtown Transportation Study (Agenda VI – for information) – Doug Stephens will report on the downtown transportation study the City of Toledo is undertaking.

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) Solicitation (Agenda VII – for information) – Lance Dasher will discuss the upcoming STBGP solicitation for funding. TMACOG has roughly \$12M of STBGP available for FY 2023 & FY 2024 and will be requesting the applications be submitted by June 29, 2018. The TIP Committee approved a few changes to the application, including PCR, Safety and V/C that Lance will discuss.

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 #6 (for approval) – TIP Amendment #6 is being presented to the Transportation Council for approval. The amendment modifies eight projects at the request of TARTA for the Downtown Transit Hub. These projects 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. Following the February Transportation Council meeting, the TMACOG Executive Committee approved a resolution of support for local authorities to levy an additional \$5 motor vehicle license tax.
- B. TMACOG has signed a letter of intent with the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) to work collaboratively and identify mutually beneficial opportunities arising out of the Hyperloop Transportation System proposed from Cleveland, through Toledo, to Chicago. The next step is to establish appropriate roles and responsibilities of each agency. NOACA announced their partnership with Hyperloop Transportation Technologies (HTT) to produce a feasibility study that is anticipated to take between six and nine months to complete. Currently, HTT and NOACA have raised \$1.2 million to finance the study. This is one of two Hyperloop routes proposed in Ohio. The other would extend from Pittsburgh, through Columbus, to Chicago.
- C. TMACOG has hired Austin Mack, Transportation Public Administration Associate, to add to staff filling the position previously held by Christine Connell. Austin has a Public Administration degree from Michigan State University. His work responsibilities include the Transportation Legislative Agenda, Transportation Summit and Gohio Commute program.
- D. Recent railroad trade magazines are reporting that the CSX facility North Baltimore will remain open as a block-swapping facility for Chicago interchange traffic and to serve local intermodal traffic. The facility was intended to be discontinued under previous CEO E. Hunter Harrison who passed away in December of 2017. The new CEO Ed Harris also indicated that CSX will take a very aggressive approach to selling surplus real estate and lines.
- E. The first draft of the Transportation Annual Work Program (AWP) was submitted to ODOT Central Office on March 2nd. After receiving comments from ODOT, FHWA, and FTA, final changes will be made and the final AWP will be sent to ODOT by the May 4th deadline.
- F. Upcoming events:
 - **2018 Transportation Summit** – March 16, 2018, The Premier, Toledo, 8:00 am – 2 pm
 - **TMACOG 50th Anniversary Party** – April 26, 2018, Martin Luther King Jr Plaza Grand Lobby, 3:30 pm – 6 pm
 - **Train Day** – May 5, 2018, Martin Luther King Jr Plaza, 9:30 am – 4 pm
 - **Bike Month** – Various events throughout the month of May.