

Memo

Date: April 3, 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 APRIL 5, 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, April 5, 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 February 25, 2017 is submitted for approval. With nearly 62.5% of the fiscal year completed, the overall program is under budget at 57.43% expended. It should be noted that this fiscal report does not include the budget revisions approved at the March Transportation Council meeting. Transportation Budget Amendment (#2) is on the April 12th Board of Trustees agenda and it is anticipated that the May fiscal report will include the revised budget figures.

TMACOG Self-Certification (Agenda IV – for approval) – Each year, TMACOG must certify that the transportation planning process complies with federal regulations and laws pertaining to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's). The resolution lists the main federal planning regulations that require a TIP, a Long Range Transportation Plan, an Annual Work Program, Community Involvement program, and other elements of the MPO process. It also lists the laws and regulations that MPO's must comply with including the Environmental Justice Executive Order, Disadvantage and Minority Business Enterprise Participation regulations, Americans with Disabilities, Clean Air, and Civil Rights laws. To the best of our knowledge and appropriate to the scope and complexity of transportation issues in our area, the TMACOG planning process complies with these laws and regulations.

FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (Agenda V – for approval) – Lance Dasher is presenting a summary of the FY 2018-2021 TIP. The TIP identifies the projects in the TMACOG planning area utilizing federal funding programmed during those fiscal years. The TIP also demonstrates fiscal constraint for projects receiving TMACOG and transit funding. The TIP is being presented for Transportation Council approval at this time. The TIP will then go to the TMACOG Board of Trustees on April 12th for their review and approval.

FY 2018-2019 Ohio Transportation Budget (Agenda VI – for information) – David Gedeon will highlight the Ohio Transportation Budget. Gov. Kasich signed the two-year budget bill on Friday, March 31st after vetoing four provisions added by the legislature. This budget, separate from Ohio's main operating budget and provides money for the Department of Transportation, Department of Public Safety, Public Works Commission and Development Services Agency.

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

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

Vice President's Report (Agenda IX – 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. In a budget "blueprint" for the 2018 fiscal year that starts Oct. 1, President Trump proposed cutting an array of programs that support transportation programs both within and outside of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The proposals in the summary budget document – also called the "skinny budget" that will be followed by more detail later – if approved by Congress would cut 13 percent from overall USDOT discretionary spending.

Department of Transportation FY2018 proposed funding level: \$16.2B (-\$2.6 billion, 13% decrease)

- Corporatizes the Air Traffic Control (ATC) system
- Eliminates New Starts transit funding for capital projects if a full funding grant agreement is not already in place
- Reduces federal support for Amtrak; eliminates funding for long-distance routes, redirects savings to State-support routes and the Northeast Corridor
- Eliminates Essential Air Service (-\$175 million)
- Eliminates TIGER grant program (-\$499 million)

TMACOG drafted a letter, presented for approval under the Passenger Rail Committee Report, urges lawmakers to maintain funding for Amtrak as well as the TIGER and New Starts Programs.

- B. Last week, the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee passed the MPO Rule Repeal legislation ([H.R. 1346](#)) by voice vote. There were no amendments and the vote was unanimous in support. The next step will be to request that the House pass the Senate version of the bill, ideally on the suspension calendar (which means it won't even need a vote). Taking up the Senate bill at this point means that once it passes, the bill will be ready for the president's signature. If the House passes the House version, it would require additional action by the Senate to finalize. This legislation would repeal the "Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform" Act that would require MPO's with overlapping planning area to either jointly develop Long Range Plans and TIP's, to modify planning area boundaries, or to consolidate.
- C. Ohio Sen. Bill Coley (R-West Chester) is sponsoring SB 113 to modify Ohio vehicle registration fees and provide relief from the state gas tax. Under the proposed bill, vehicles registered in Ohio would pay a \$140 fee (higher for trucks) but motorists would receive a card that can be swiped at the pump, exempting them from paying the \$.28 per gallon gas tax for the year. The bill was introduced on March 21st and will be assigned to a committee for further consideration.
- D. The Transportation Summit was held on Friday, March 31st at The Premier in Toledo. The presentations included connected and autonomous vehicles, transportation innovation, and construction updates. The final attendance was 180. Comment sheets were collected at the event and a survey was sent out to attendees for input on the event and for suggestions for next year's Summit.
- E. During TMACOG's 2016 Federal Certification Review, FHWA had requested MPO assistance to determine if area jurisdictions have ADA Transition Plans and if there are training needs to either establish plans or update existing plans. TMACOG has developed a survey that will soon go out to all area jurisdictions seeking this information.

- F. April 3-7 is National Work Zone Awareness Week. Since 1999, FHWA has worked with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) to coordinate and sponsor the event. TMACOG supports this event through our Facebook and Twitter feeds. If you aren't already connected to us, check us out at @TMACOG on Facebook and Twitter.
- G. TMACOG will have two traffic counting interns this summer starting as early as next week. Both interns are BGSU students. Typically, interns will start in May but we've expanded the counting season to count locations while schools are in session.
- H. Upcoming events:
- **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