



**TMACOG TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2017**

**Call to Order** – Vice Chair Jim Bagdonas brought the meeting to order with introductions around the room.

**Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Mary Ellen Poturalski and seconded by Ken Fallows to approve the March 1, 2017 meeting minutes; the motion passed unanimously.

**Financial (Expense) Report** – Dave Gedeon presented and briefly reviewed the expense report for the period July 1, 2016 through February 25, 2017. This report still reflects the old numbers prior to the amendment #2 that was passed at February's council meeting. The financial report showed 65.52% of the budget has been completed with 57.43% expended. A motion was made by Ken Fallows and seconded by Ed O'Reilly to approve the expense report as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

**TMACOG Self Certification** – Dave Gedeon explained that yearly TMACOG must certify that to the best of our knowledge the planning process complies with federal laws and regulations pertaining to MPO's. A motion was made by Mary Ellen Poturalski and seconded Ed O'Reilly by to approve the certification as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

**FY 2018 - 2021 Transportation Improvement Program** – Lance Dasher gave a presentation of the TIP document and explained how the TIP works. A motion was made by Ed O'Reilly and seconded by Tom Kovacik to approve the TIP document as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

**FY 2018 – Ohio Transportation Budget** – Dave Gedeon highlighted some of the details in the two-year budget bill Governor Kasich signed on 3/31 after vetoing four provisions added by the legislature. This bill is separate from Ohio's main operating budget and provides money to the Department of Transportation, Department of Public Safety, Public Works Commission, and the Development Services Agency.

**Public Comment Period** – There were no public comments presented at this time.

**Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Reports**

**Transportation Council Standing Committee Reports:**

TIP – Ed O'Reilly thanked the council for the approval of the TIP. He also mentioned that there is a CMAQ round out now and the applications could be found on the TMACOG website.

Pedestrian & Bikeways – Ed O'Reilly reminded everyone about upcoming Bike Month in May.

Freight – Ray Huber reported that the committee met at the end of March. They discussed the regional highway projects, the transportation statewide freight plan, 2045 freight plan, and the regional freight network.

Planning – Ron Myers was unable to attend the meeting. Kris Cousino reported that the committee will meet on 4/18 and there will be a public speaker who will discuss how to incorporate and plan for autonomous vehicles in long range plans.

System Performance and Monitoring – Andy Langenderfer was unable to attend the meeting. There was nothing new to report.

Public Transit – Shelley Papenfuse was unable to attend the meeting. There was nothing new to report.

Passenger Rail – Patrick Miller was unable to attend the meeting. Rebekka Aparadian presented a letter supporting Amtrak funding for approval. It will be sent to federal legislators.

### **Major Project Updates/Other Committees:**

**Major Projects** – Mike Gramza was unable to attend the meeting. Aaron Behrman reported that DDI at SR 25 and 475 in Perrysburg will begin bridge lane restrictions will start in June. Also, District Two has a new Deputy Director, Patrick McColley.

**Vice President's Report** – Dave reported on several items.

There was a budget "blueprint" for the 2018 FY 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% from overall USDOT discretionary spending. Department of Transportation FY2018 proposed funding level: \$16.2B (-\$2.6 billion, 13% decrease).

- 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 and presented for approval under the Passenger Rail Committee Report, urging lawmakers to maintain funding for Amtrak as well as the TIGER and New Starts Programs.

Last week, the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee passed the MPO Rule Repeal legislation 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. 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.

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.

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 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.

Upcoming events:

- **Ohio Sunshine Law Certification Training** – April 7, 2017, Owens CC, 8:45 am-12:15 pm
- **Summer Caucus & Forum with State Lawmakers** – August 2, 2017, Penta Career Center, 8 am-1 pm

**Roundtable** – There were no roundtable comments.

**Next Meeting/Adjournment** – A motion was made by John Crandall seconded by Mary Ellen Poturalski to adjourn the meeting; the motion was passed unanimously.

## **Transportation Council Meeting Minutes – April 5, 2017**