

TMACOG TRANSPORTATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 18, 2009 – 1:30 p.m.
TMACOG Boardroom

NOTES

1. Convene meeting / introductions / approve June notes:

Jeff Ballmer convened the meeting. Notes were approved on a motion from Bill Kelly, seconded by Ken Fallows

2. Report Card: is our region meeting 2035 Plan goals?

Before we start the Plan update, a look at our progress. Diane Reamer-Evans presented a summary chart and a series of handouts. After discussion, the committee “graded” progress on each goal.

- a. Environment – Graded B. Bill Kelly – only a small TARTA ridership increase because cut back on service and increase in fare. Changing to regional transit: at stalemate (Rossford and Perrysburg oppose).
- b. Freight – Graded B. Ray Huber: grade separation pending in Wood County, Liberty Hi Road near SR 18 – add to map? CSX has set aside \$5 million for it; but no Ohio Rail Development Commission or other public dollars are committed. Ray is concerned that public dollars would slow down the project because of federal requirements.
Ray noted addition of SR 18 to the designated NHS freight connector list — kudos to planning committee and staff. He also noted truck crashes are down significantly, but do we deserve an A? Did we make safety happen? Warren – yes, through TMACOG prioritization of projects, improvements like Airport Highway and I-280 get funded.
- c. Passenger – Graded C. Suggested changing F to C– for passenger measure #4 (shift to regional transit) because of all the effort to work on this issue. Regarding measure #3 (transit ridership), a bad economy decreases ridership because people lose jobs; higher gas prices increase riders; aging population increases. Carol – commended TARTA’s ad campaign.
- d. Safety & Efficiency – Graded B. Brian – City of Bowling Green has found it is good to have an access management (AM) plan in place. When a property owner triggers access controls by requesting a site plan change, it is easier to get their cooperation than when the city initiates changes. Wood County is updating regulations – may look at access management. Lucas County round-about to be opened soon at King & Nebraska.
- e. Research – Graded A. Ray – under “Research,” include BG and other universities?
- f. System Preservation – Graded C–.
- g. Funding – Graded C+.

Warren – in our evaluation of 2035 Plan progress, are we too hard on ourselves? It is a 28-year plan, so accomplishing 5% of it per year is very good. Ken F – given funds available in a certain time period, how well did we do? Need consistency in goal measurement.

3. SEMCOG Direction 2035 Plan — A catchy video (view at www.youtube.com/semcog) captures the essential data and issues being considered as Southeast Michigan does a new regional transportation plan.

PLANNING COMMITTEE NOTES, AUG 2009, cont.

4. Updates

- a. Passenger Rail — In FY 2010 federal transportation appropriations bill, there is a \$500,000 earmark proposed for Cleveland–Toledo–Detroit rail corridor environmental analysis. Expect it will be approved.
- b. Federal Stimulus Funding – Ohio met the first deadline for obligating stimulus funds (\$327.5 M from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act/ARRA). Another \$608 M must be obligated by March 2010. Ohio compared to other states: 350 projects vs other states' fewer, larger projects. Ohio has been selected for special monitoring (one of 16). Construction of ARRA projects is beginning – there will be an even bigger impact in the next nine months when second chunk is due. Big emphasis in ODOT is getting projects to bid.

Under ARRA there is a separate \$1.5 B for projects of national/state/regional significance – large projects. Bipartisan group is pressing for I-75 widening, Perrysburg – North Baltimore. There is bipartisan/bi-county support. Also proposed is purchase of dredging equipment for Toledo Lucas County Port Authority.

Brian: Noted BG is good example of communities that are receiving stimulus dollars – are making improvements that other wise wouldn't have been done.

- c. Ohio State Funding Process (TRAC): application deadline was August 1st. Eight TRAC applications were submitted from our area (applicant was *ODOT District 2* except as noted):
 - I-75/475 systems interchange Phase 2;
 - Widen I-75 from I-280 to I-75/475;
 - Widen I-75, Washington St./AWT area;
 - Widen I-75, Perrysburg–Findlay (*joint application with ODOT District 1*);
 - I-475/US 23 / Sylvania systems interchange;
 - I-475/Central Avenue interchange;
 - SR 18 relocation in the North Baltimore/ CSX intermodal yard area;
 - SR 25/I-475 interchange upgrade (*City of Perrysburg application*).Ranking should be done by December. More info at www.dot.state.oh.us/trac.
- d. Major highway projects: nothing significant to report.

5. Announcements / Other Business

Staff asked the committee about whether they would rather meet at 2:00 or 1:30 p.m. There was limited response.

Don't forget the Ohio Conference on Freight in September. ODOT is co-sponsoring.

6. Adjourn

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

-Planning Committee meetings— 3rd Tuesdays: February 17, April 21, June 16, August 18, **October 20**
-Ohio Conference on Freight— September 22-23, 2009, Dana Center / Hilton, Toledo. For info and registration, www.tmacog.org/OCF_09/OCF_home_09.htm