



MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
Officers and Board Members  
Policy Committee  
Citizen Advisory Committee  
Transportation Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Daniel Haake, Associate Planner, Transportation

**DATE:** October 28, 2009

**RE:** Proposed Resolution T-20-09: "AMENDING THE CAPITALWAYS TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2008-2030 TO INCLUDE THE 3C PASSENGER RAIL PROJECT"

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This resolution is to amend the CapitalWays Transportation Plan to include intercity passenger rail, specifically the 3C "Quick Start" project. Projects like the 3C "Quick Start" project are critical to meeting the vision and of our plan and MORPC's overall mission and vision for the region. This "3C Quick Start" is a rapidly implementable rail project that will lay the ground work for the Ohio Hub Plan. The Ohio Hub Plan is a strategy to connect Ohio's metropolitan areas via high-speed rail; whereas, the 3C "Quick Start" will remain within normal railroad speeds (up to 79 mph).

In September 2009, MORPC adopted Resolution T-15-09 to support the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Ohio Rail Development Commission's (ORDC) application for American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) for funding in regards to the 3C "Quick Start" project. On October 2<sup>nd</sup> ODOT and ORDC submitted their application for the project, requesting \$564 million.

The service will initially require five complete train sets. One train set will begin each day in Cleveland and depart for Cincinnati via Columbus; another train set will begin each day in Cincinnati and depart for Cleveland via Columbus; and two train sets will begin each day in Columbus, with one departing to Cleveland and the other departing to Cincinnati.

Currently, there are six stations planned for the "3C Quick Start," including the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Additional areas along the corridor where future stations may be sited have been identified to include north Columbus (either near Crosswoods Shopping Center or the City of Delaware) to accommodate an anticipated growth in the demand for service as the corridor matures.

Ohio believes tremendous economic development opportunities will be created near stations along the 3C corridor. The estimated 478,000 passengers that will ride on the 3C "Quick Start" line will create a catalyst for economic development both directly and indirectly related to the rail line. For example, the State of North Carolina saw a return on investment from rehabilitation of passenger stations of \$1.45 for every state dollar invested.

The attachment to Resolution T-20-09 is an addendum to the CapitalWays Transportation Plan. It provides additional details on the project, the relationship of this project to the plan goals, a summary of the financial plan, and a project listing entry and project map.

RESOLUTION T-20-09

**"AMENDING THE CAPITALWAYS TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2008-2030 TO INCLUDE THE 3C PASSENGER RAIL PROJECT"**

WHEREAS, by Resolution T-5-08 the Policy Committee of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) adopted the CapitalWays Transportation Plan for the Columbus Area Transportation Study; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution T-15-09 the Policy Committee of MORPC expressed "Support for the Ohio Department of Transportation's and the Ohio Rail Development Commission's Application for American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) Funding for the 3-C Passenger "Quick Start" Project;" and

WHEREAS, the 3-C Passenger "Quick Start" Project is consistent with the goals of the CapitalWays Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the ORDC and ODOT have conducted extensive public involvement during the development of this project throughout central Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) jointly filed an application for federal ARRA stimulus funding (\$563.8 million) on October 2, 2009 for the 3C Passenger Rail project; and

WHEREAS, the 3C proposal is intended as a conservative, yet critical first step in familiarizing Ohioans with the benefits of passenger rail travel and will lead to better and higher speed connections for Ohioans to the Chicago Hub and other Midwestern cities; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus area has been redesignated to attainment of the 1997 8-hour ozone standard effective September 15, 2009 with new on-road mobile source budgets; and

WHEREAS, MORPC is required to update the conformity analysis within 18 months of the establishment of the new on-road mobile source budgets which MORPC has completed; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of the 3C Passenger "Quick Start" project was included in the update of the transportation conformity analysis; and

WHEREAS, the Citizen Advisory Committee at its meeting on November 2, 2009 and the Transportation Advisory Committee, at its meeting on November 4, 2009 recommended approval of this resolution by the Policy Committee; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

Section 1. That MORPC amends the CapitalWays Transportation Plan to include passenger rail and more specifically the 3C Passenger Rail Project as described in the attachment to this resolution.

Section 2. That it affirms the conformity of the Transportation Plan with the State Implementation Plan.