

**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

9:00 am

Scioto Meeting Room at MORPC

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100

Columbus, OH 43215

**Members Present:**

Randy Bowman

Michael Meeks

Ted Beidler

Bill Lewis

Robert Lawler

Doug Moore

Pat Blayney

Dave Mengerink

**Guests Present:**

Robert Heady

Bill Sims

J.P. Blackwood

James Clarkson

Steve Farst

**MORPC Staff Present:**

Nick Gill

Mary Ann Franz

Jhuojun Jiang

Nate Vogt

Debra Crosby

Vince Mantero

Abishek Mishra

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Randy Bowman called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and welcomed everyone present. The weather was bad, preventing some committee members from attending. It was decided to discuss only the non-voting items on the agenda as a quorum was not in attendance.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Skipped due to lack of a quorum.

**3. Monthly Progress Report**

Robert Lawler presented current ongoing projects at MORPC including the bus-on-shoulder concept and presented the ODOT business plan that was issued. It was also announced that the Federal Funding Committee will meet after the TAC meeting.

Mr. Lawler also reported on the proposed Transportation Summit that will showcase different transportation financing options to be held in March 2008. The summit will include

nationally known speakers from the alternative financing transportation arena and possibly presentations by Senator Brown and Senator Voinovich. MORPC will be hosting the event with ODOT and others assisting in planning the various sessions. One purpose is to engage local policy makers and elected officials while inviting attendees from across the state and the adjoining states to learn more about innovative finance.

**4. Update on Nominating Committee & Election**

Skipped due to lack of a quorum.

**5. Proposed Resolutions**

T-25-07: Chris Gawronski updated the "Adoption of the 2007 Regional Pedestrian Plan and Inclusion in the MORPC Regional Transportation Plan". This plan was brought back to Committee for re-consideration; the vote was tabled until January 2008's meeting as there was no quorum present.

T-26-07: Nick Gill updated the "Amending the MORPC Fiscal Year 2007 Planning Work Program to Add the FTA Westerville Road (SR3) Study". Mr. Gill reported that the study will get underway in 2008; the vote was tabled until January 2008's meeting as there was no quorum present.

T-27-07: Vince Mantero presented the resolution "Amending the MORPC Fiscal year 2008 Planning Work Program to Add the FTA Mobility Needs Plan". In addition, Vince announced that MORPC was awarded a grant to aid in the implementation of the proposal. Due to this resolution dealing with emergency evacuation plans it was decided that it be voted on in spite of the lack of a full quorum. Follow up via phone calls will complete the voting process. Phone calls were made and the two additional approval votes submitted. Mr. Lawler motioned that the proposal be accepted, Mr. Meeks seconded. The proposal was passed without discussion. Mr. Bowman thanked Mr. Mantero for his hard work and congratulated MORPC on the receipt of the grant.

T-28-07: Nathaniel Vogt explained the attachments regarding the resolution "Amending the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Add Four Projects and One Statewide Line Item and to Modify Seven Projects". It was noted that this proposal had been tabled at the Citizen Advisory Committee meeting two days earlier due to routine accommodation information being unavailable. It was recommended that the resolution be tabled by the TAC until January 2008 when more information will be available to both committees.

**6. Informational Items**

T-Plan Funding Projections: Nick Gill presented information regarding the financial plan requirement for the Transportation Plan. He explained that the Plan is to include the amount of funding needed to maintain, operate and preserve the transportation. Also, all projects and strategies in the Plan must have a cost associated with them. One new item is that inflation must explicitly be accounted for in the projected cost of projects and strategies.

Inflation in transportation has been very high in recent years. For the Plan we will be using projected inflation rates consistent with ODOT business plan.

With regard to transit, Mr. Gill said that the Plan will assume COTA's current funding levels continue which would mean two renewals of the 0.25% sales tax through 2030. Likewise, DATA funding levels will remain the same as well as some coordinated transportation services funding. Mr. Gill also explained that the financial plan can associate certain project(s) with a potential new specific funding source(s). The streetcar will be treated that way.

Mr. Gill then discussed highway expansion funding. He first presented freeway and interchange needs and funding with are primarily funded with TRAC funds. The ODOT business plan shows a \$3.5 billion dollar deficit through 2015 for the existing TRAC commitments (Tier I projects). In the MORPC area alone more than \$4 billion of needs have been identified. These include \$800 million in Tier I and over \$750 million in Tier II projects. Even assuming that ODOT can address their deficit and resume funding similar to previous levels, only \$1.4 billion is estimated to be available for the MORPC area. This is much less than the identified needs.

Mr. Gill then showed the funding estimated to be available for arterial improvements and bike/pedestrian improvements. In total approximately \$3.3 billion is estimated to be available for system expansion. Mr. Gill then outlined several non-traditional funding sources that will need to be discussed and potentially included in the plan to provide additional resources. These include increased fuel tax, increased vehicle registration, VMT fees, tolls, congestion fees and public-private partnerships. Mr. Gill concluded by saying that the high inflation and relatively flat resources will lead to the largest Transportation Plan deficit ever further emphasizing the discussion of alternative funding sources.

The floor was opened for questions; no questions were presented.

Coordinated Plan: Chris Gawronski updated the committee on the Coordinated Plan. This plan targets those with lower incomes, disabled and the elderly. At the moment, the plan is in the information gathering stage and drafts of the information gathered and the plan itself will be presented in March 2008.

The floor was opened for questions; discussion ensued as to exactly who the plan will benefit.

Protocols for Regional Traffic Studies: Abhishek Mishra presented the Traffic Study including the areas found to have the highest traffic patterns.

The floor was opened for questions; Mr. Bowman noted that the City of Columbus requested that MORPC present the report to compare policy and growth for cooperation between other departments. Mr. Bowman then asked Bill Lewis to clarify the pie charts included in the

report. The charts included those from outside the area that add to the traffic in the city. A discussion regarding trips to the city ensued.

**7. Project Status Report**

Nathaniel Vogt highlighted a couple items from the report included in the packet. He then introduced two representatives, Bill Sims and James Clarkson from Canal Winchester to present the changes that they are proposing for the bikepath through Canal Winchester and to inform the committee of the community involvement regarding the project. Diagrams were presented and copies handed out to the committee.

**8. Other Business**

No other business was presented. The attendees were again reminded that the Federal Funding Committee would be meeting after the conclusion of the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.