



Mid-Ohio Regional
Planning Commission

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215

T 614.228.2663
TTY 1.800.750.0750

www.morpc.org

Memorandum

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

FROM: Thea Walsh, AICP
Transportation Systems and Funding

DATE: October 6, 2017

SUBJECT: **Resolution T-13-17:** “Establishing Priorities for Central Ohio Candidate Projects Submitted in 2017 for TRAC Funding”

As reported to you previously, three projects were submitted to the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC). One of the applications, the I-71/Big Walnut Road new interchange, is requesting that this project be recognized as a TRAC project only, and does not request any funds at this time. Because no funds are being requested, the I-71/Big Walnut Road interchange application was excluded from the project prioritization, with the understanding that MORPC fully supports this project and requests that the TRAC add this proposed new interchange to the TRAC list of projects. The other two applications include funding requests for improvements to the I-270/US 23 (south side) interchange and the I-71/US 36/SR 37 interchange.

TRAC is responsible for committing development and construction funding toward projects that meet the criteria of the Major New Capacity Program (generally projects over \$12 million that increase roadway capacity and/or reduce congestion). Information sheets (attached) were prepared and posted to our website over the summer with details on the projects.

Resolution T-13-17 establishes MORPC’s priorities for the 2017 TRAC requests. MORPC accepted comments on the projects from the public, and staff completed an evaluation of the projects. This memo provides a summary of how the projects were evaluated and concludes with a recommendation on project prioritization. Upon adoption of Resolution T-13-17, the priorities will be presented at ODOT at the October 12 public hearing, and submitted in writing on October 13.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Matt Greeson
Chair

Rory McGuiness
Vice Chair

Karen J. Angelou
Secretary

Project Evaluation Summary

MORPC staff evaluated the two TRAC projects requesting funding based on the 2016-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) goals and objectives. Key elements of the MTP evaluation criteria were used for the evaluation.

It is important to note that although it is not part of the prioritization process, the I-71/Big Walnut Road interchange would have ranked as first priority had it been evaluated against the other two applications submitted.

For the projects being ranked, the analysis results by goal are:

Adopted Goal: Position Central Ohio to attract and retain economic opportunity to prosper as a region and compete globally. The criteria for this goal considered the number of jobs within one mile of the facility, reduction of regional congestion, key developments being served by the facility, and reduction of peak travel delay. The I-71/US 36/SR 37 interchange ranked first under this goal with the highest reduction to average peak travel delays and with the most number of jobs within one mile of the proposed project.

Adopted Goal: Protect natural resources and mitigate infrastructure vulnerabilities to maintain a healthy ecosystem and community. The criteria for this goal considered reductions in emissions (PM2.5, VOC, and NOx). While both projects showed negligible difference in emissions reduction, the I-270/US 23 interchange scored slightly better than the I-71/US 36/SR 37 interchange.

Adopted Goal: Reduce per capita energy consumption and promote alternative fuel resources to increase affordability and resilience of regional energy supplies. The criteria for this goal considered reduction in regional vehicle-miles traveled. The project that performed best is the I-270/US 23 interchange.

Adopted Goal: Increase regional collaboration and employ innovative transportation solutions to maximize the return on public expenditures. The criteria for this goal considered the number of communities being served by the project, the size of the request, the variety of funding as part of the project and whether any phase of the project was already constructed or under construction. The I-71/US 36/SR 37 interchange performed best because it serves more jurisdictions and has significant non-TRAC funding in the funding plan.

Adopted Goal: Use public investments to benefit the health, safety, and welfare of people. The criteria for this goal considered the Environmental Justice (EJ) population served and safety/crash ranking analysis. The I-270/US 23 interchange performs significantly better when it comes to EJ population served, as well as having more safety benefits.

Adopted Goal: Create sustainable neighborhoods to improve residents' quality of life. The criteria for this goal considered which projects serve users going to or coming from higher density areas and multimodal elements of the project, such as facilities for transit, bicyclists and pedestrians. The best performing project under this goal is the I-270/US 23 interchange, which demonstrated the highest density areas being served.

Comments Received from the Public

On August 31, MORPC issued a press release requesting comments from the public on this year's TRAC applications. Comments were due by September 27. The I-71/Big Walnut Road interchange received over 6 letters of support and 1 letter of opposition.

MORPC Staff Ranking Recommendation

During the October 12 public hearing, MORPC will express its full support of the TRAC adding the I-71/Big Walnut interchange to the TRAC list of projects.

Based on the goal-by-goal evaluation summarized above, the public comments and the phase for which money is being requested, MORPC staff recommends the following priority ranking for the other two projects:

1. I-71/US 36/SR 37 interchange
2. I-270/US 23 interchange

Resolution T-13-17 recommends these rankings.

TW:NG:DL:bsn

Attachment: Resolution T-13-17

RESOLUTION T-13-17

“ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR CENTRAL OHIO CANDIDATE PROJECTS SUBMITTED IN 2017 FOR TRAC FUNDING”

WHEREAS, the Transportation Policy Committee of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is designated as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Columbus metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) selects major new projects to receive funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT's) major new capacity program; and

WHEREAS, the TRAC has requested that each MPO submit its priorities for projects in that MPO's planning area; and

WHEREAS, two projects requesting funding and one project requesting TRAC recognition had been submitted to MORPC for acknowledgement prior to their submittal to the TRAC (see Attachment A); and

WHEREAS, MORPC members and the public were asked to submit comments on the projects; and

WHEREAS, staff provided the Community Advisory, Transportation Advisory and Transportation Policy committees information regarding the applications, including public comments received for staff recommendation; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) at its meeting on October 2, 2017 and the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) at its meeting on October 4, 2017 each created and forwarded a ranked list to advise the Transportation Policy Committee; now therefore

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

- Section 1. That the attached listing of projects (Attachment A) be established as the order of priorities for the candidate projects submitted to TRAC from the MORPC transportation planning area for major new capacity program funding.
- Section 2. That the TRAC is strongly discouraged from funding lower priority projects on this list at the expense of higher priority projects.
- Section 3. That it directs MORPC staff to forward these priorities to the TRAC and to present the priorities if the TRAC wishes to receive such a presentation.

Section 4. That the Transportation Policy Committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

Matt Greeson, Chair
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Date

Prepared by: Dina López

Attachments:

A. Priorities for the 2017 TRAC Major/New Program Candidate Projects

Attachment A
Resolution T-13-17

Priorities for the 2017 TRAC Major/New Program Candidate Projects

Although not ranked because the project is not requesting TRAC funding at this time, MORPC supports TRAC recognizing the I-71 and Big Walnut interchange project for inclusion in Tier II.

Rank	Sponsor - Project	Current Tier	2017 TRAC Funding Request	Total Project Cost
1	I-71/US 36/SR 37 interchange	Tier II	\$10.5 million	\$162.5 million
2	I-270/US 23 interchange	Tier II	\$12.1 million	\$18.9 million