

**Erie Regional Planning Commission**  
**MPO Combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committees**  
**Meeting Minutes July 26th, 2021**

PRESENT: Dave Foster, Erie County Regional Planning Commission; Nick Katsaros, First Energy; Carmen Stamen, Federal Highway Administration; Andrew Shepler, Mike Schafrath, Mark Strohm, Ohio Department of Transportation; Gary Boyle, Angie Byington, Perkins Township; Josh Snyder, John Orzech, Tom Horsman, City of Sandusky; Carrie Whitaker, Tim King, ERPC staff.

A hybrid meeting was held where attendees were allowed to participate in-person or through WebEx online as some agencies are still working remotely due to COVID 19 precautions. Ms. Whitaker called the hybrid meeting to order at 2:00 PM. She introduced herself and requested those attending the meeting in person to introduce themselves. She then announced those attendees that were participating via WebEx. She next proceeded with the presentation that began with an overview of the meeting agenda.

**Agenda Item #1 Consideration of the June 24, 2021 Combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committee Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Whitaker presented the minutes from the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Foster motioned to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion was passed with no further discussion.

**Agenda Item #2: Consideration of Resolution 2021-11 SFY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment for PID 113957 W. Monroe Street Project:** Ms. Whitaker explained that the City of Sandusky's W. Monroe Street Project is currently under design. The project involves road resurfacing and repair as well as installation of a new storm sewer line. The sewer line is 100% City funded. Ms. Whitaker stated that the TIP amendment was needed to increase the detail design phase of the project to \$119,250. Mr. Snyder noted that the cost increase was due to the utility relocations being added to the design and that MPO funding previously awarded to the project would not change. Mr. Boyle motioned to approve Resolution 2021-11, Mr. Foster seconded the motion and all voted aye. The motion passed with no further discussion.

**Agenda Item #3: Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA):** Ms. Whitaker noted that the CRRSAA appropriated \$9.48 billion in Highway Infrastructure Program funds nationally. \$300 million of that funding was allocated to Ohio to address economic loss associated with the impacts of COVID-19. ODOT will be sub allocating \$4.11 million of that to the small MPO's and large cities. ERPC will receive a one-time disbursement of \$280,241 that can be used for projects and activities such as construction, operational, safety, bike/pedestrian, and planning projects. The funding is immediately available to the MPO and will not expire until it is depleted. Funds are being made available to address urgent project/fiscal needs so agencies should work together to expedite the identification and delivery of projects that will utilize the funding. No local match is required with this funding and it can be used on any road regardless of its functional classification. Ms. Whitaker noted that as long as the MPO's Policy Board approves how the funding should be used, the board may use

whatever project selection process they prefer. She asked for suggestions from the TAC/Policy members as to how to proceed with selecting projects. Mr. Boyle suggested waiting until OPWC Round 36 scoring had completed. Mr. Snyder asked if the projects using this funding would have to be designed to ODOT standards; Mr. Shepler indicated he believed so. Mr. Snyder suggested adding the funding to the next pot of funding for the upcoming STP solicitation cycle. Ms. Whitaker stated that would be for SFY 2026 and wasn't sure if ODOT would encourage the MPO to hold onto the funds that long. Mr. Shepler stated the intent of the funding was to be a response to virus and funds should be spend sooner than later but with that being said the funds don't expire either. Ms. Whitaker asked the committee if they would like to have the MPO's project selection committee further discuss and make a recommendation to the TAC/Policy Committees. Mr. Boyle motioned to send the item to the MPO's project selection committee for further discussion and recommendation; Mr. Foster seconded the motion; all voted aye and none opposed; motion passed. Ms. Whitaker noted that she would reach out to the project selection committee members to schedule a meeting within the next couple of weeks and no further discussion was held on this item.

**Updates:**

**ODOT District 3 Project Updates:** Mr. Schafrath of ODOT D3 reviewed projects currently occurring in Erie County that included SR 113, SR 4, and SR 601. No further discussion was held on this item.

**OPWC Round 36 LTIP & SCIP Application Cycle:** Ms. Whitaker noted that Round 36 of the OPWC Local Transportation Improvement Program and State Capital Improvement Program was underway. She stated she emailed application materials and information to potential project sponsors and also requested the information be forwarded to the members of the Erie County Regional Planning Commission. She stated project applications are due September 10<sup>th</sup> by 4 p.m. to the ERPC office. Although OPWC will be rolling out their new online portal in August, District Five has requested all applicants submit their applications on paper or on an electronic storage device (CD, DVD, USB storage device). Once the projects are scored, project sponsors will be requested to enter their information into the OPWC 'WorksWise' Portal. If a jurisdiction needed to request login credentials for the new portal or view portal training videos. No further discussion was held on this item.

No other business or further discussion was held and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively Submitted,



Carrie Whitaker, Sr. Transportation Planning Engineer

Erie County Office of Regional Planning

Metropolitan Planning Organization