

**Erie Regional Planning Commission  
MPO BPAC Meeting Minutes  
March 9, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Kippie Loughlin, Sandusky Bay Cycles/Erie Metro Parks; Madeline Davies, Maggie McCutcheon, Erie County Health Department; Mike Spafford, City of Huron; Steve Shoffner, Erie County Commissioners; Greg Voltz, City of Sandusky; Angela Byington, Melanie Murray, Perkins Township; Ann and John Daniel, Citizens; Carrie Whitaker, Nicole Grohe; ERPC staff.

Ms. Grohe called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. via a web-ex online meeting. She then proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation.

**Agenda Item #1 Approval of December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Grohe presented the minutes from the December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting. Mr. Voltz motioned to approve the minutes and Ms. Daniel seconded the motion; all voted aye, motion passed. No further discussion was held on this item.

**Agenda Item #2 Bicycle and Pedestrian Maps:** Ms. Grohe reviewed the revised Bicycle Level of Comfort maps. Ms. Grohe stated that since the last meeting, she has reviewed bicycle and pedestrian crash data and that the maps have been revised; she stated she dropped the comfort level one grade in areas where a bicycle or pedestrian crash occurred. She presented the new maps to the committee and asked if there were any questions. Mr. Loughlin inquired if the lines shown on Kelleys Island indicate a specific comfort level; Ms. Grohe noted that the lines are road lines and they are also on the county portion of the map. Ms. Whitaker asked if roads on Kelleys Island shouldn't also be rated. Mr. Loughlin stated he has bicycled the island comfortably and agreed the island roads should be included in the comfort maps. Mr. Voltz also agreed stating roads on Kelleys Island should be rated, particularly Edgewater and Division Street. Ms. Grohe stated she would review and include Kelleys Island roadways and present a revised map at the next committee meeting. She also noted that the Ohio Department of Transportation would be changing the US Bicycle Route in Ohio from USBR 130 to USBR 230 as AASHTO requires alternate routes to begin with even numbers. She inquired if the committee had any concerns regarding the route number change; the committee agreed and expressed no opposition to the proposed number change. No further discussion was held on this item.

**Agenda Item #3 Crash Safety Summary:** Ms. Whitaker reviewed crash data items from the SFY 2021 Crash Safety Summary Report. The report is available online at ERPC's MPO main webpage if committee members were interested in reading the document. She also noted that ERPC MPO would be joining in on US DOT's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the National Highway Safety Administration's (NHTSA) public at-grade awareness campaign. The campaign runs March 22 – April 12 and ERPC will be posting flyers, statistics, and safety tips to its Facebook and website pages. She also presented public at-grade rail crossing crash statistics for Erie County. Mr. Spafford stated that the City of Huron had previously completed rail and quiet zone studies for the City and inquired if Ms. Whitaker knew of any funding opportunities for rail crossing signals/signage. Ms. Whitaker stated she would reach out to Ohio Rail Development Commission staff to see and follow up with Mr. Spafford. No further discussion was held on this item.

**Agenda Item #4 Updates:**

**MPO Projects:** Ms. Grohe reviewed each of the MPO funded projects through State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025. Mr. Spafford noted that the Main and Center Street Intersection Project in the City of Huron is still on schedule and the plans are being finalized with ODOT to include connecting Jim Campbell Blvd. to Center Street. Mr. Voltz noted that the Meigs Street bicycle and pedestrian path will end at Sycamore Line. He also noted that he was happy to see the sidewalk installation along Strub Road and Perkins Avenue as well as the possible development of the area behind the Sandusky Mall. Additionally, Ms. Grohe also mentioned that the US 6/Cedar Point Drive intersection had received funding from ODOT's Safety Program to advance the design and construction of a roundabout at the location. She noted the City of Sandusky contributed approximately \$260,000 of local funding towards the overall \$5.17 million of project costs; construction is expected to start in the spring of 2024.

**Transportation Alternative Program Solicitation:** Ms. Grohe noted the MPO was currently accepting project applications for its Transportation Alternative Program. She stated once staff reviews the submitted applications and they were scored by the MPO's project selection committee, she would present the projects to the BPAC for their comment prior to final approval by the MPO's Policy Board.

**2022 Coordinated Transportation Plan Update:** Ms. Grohe informed the committee that the transit plan is required to be updated this year. The area's mobility manager, from the Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GCLAP), is spearheading the plan update and she will be participating as a stakeholder; the first stakeholder meeting is scheduled to occur within the next month.

**Walk.Bike.Ohio:** The Ohio Department of Transportation has completed a draft of their first ever bicycle and pedestrian plan called Walk.Bike.Ohio. Ms. Grohe said the ODOT public involvement period just wrapped up on February 26<sup>th</sup> and that more information can be found on the ODOT Walk.Bike.Ohio website.

Ms. Grohe mentioned the next BPAC meeting is currently scheduled for June 8, 2021.

No other business was discussed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively Submitted,



Carrie Whitaker, Sr. Transportation Planning Engineer  
Erie County Offices of Regional Planning  
Metropolitan Planning Organization