

**Erie Regional Planning Commission
MPO Combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2023**

PRESENT: Matt Rogers, Erie County Engineers Office; Scott Ockunzzi, ODOT District 3; Nate Vogt, ODOT Central Office; Tony Valerius, City of Vermilion; Aaron Klein, James Stacey, City of Sandusky; Nick Katsaros, First Energy; Gary Boyle, Perkins Township; Erik Engle, City of Huron; Lee Graeter, GLCAP, Pat Shenigo, Erie County Commissioner; Tim King, Kevin Cannon, Erie County staff.

Mr. Cannon called the meeting to order at 2:02 P.M. The meeting was hybrid where participants were given an option to appear in person or through a web-ex online meeting. Mr. Cannon noted that Mr. Vogt and Ms. Graeter were attending the meeting virtually.

Agenda Item #1 Approval of the November 22, 2022 Combined TAC/Policy Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Cannon presented the minutes of the March 23, 2023 Combined TAC/Policy meeting. Mr. Boyle motioned to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Rogers seconded the motion; all voted aye and the motion was passed. No further discussion was held on this item.

Agenda Item #2 Resolution 2023-01 Self-Certification

Mr. Cannon presented the first resolution was Self-Certification of the MPO. He highlighted its importance as ensuring the planning process was meeting federal requirements, and that the resolution was an annual certification. Mr. Valerius motioned to approve Resolution 2023-01 for self-certification and Mr. Boyle seconded the motion; all voted aye and the motion was passed. No further discussion was held on this item.

Agenda Item #3 Resolution 2023-02 SFY 2024 Work Program

Mr. Cannon presented an overview of the State Fiscal Year 2024 Unified Planning Work Program. The presentation included the categories of work and the funding for the MPO in SFY 2024. Mr. Cannon noted comments were received by both ODOT and FHWA and incorporated into the draft. Mr. Roger motioned to approve the Resolution 2023-02 for the SFY 2024 Work Program and Mr. Klein seconded the motion; all voted aye and the motion was passed. No further discussion was held on this item.

Agenda Item #4 Resolution 2023-03 Air Quality Conformity Determination

Mr. Cannon discussed the Resolution 2023-03 Air Quality Conformity Determination. He noted the analysis is led by NOACA and pertains to ERPC due to Vermilion portion of Lorain County being in nonattainment, and that the concurrence is needed for the TIP. The analysis showed the forecasted emissions will not exceed the area's emissions budgets. Mr. Boyle motioned to approve Resolution 2023-03, and Mr. Valerius seconded. Mr. Klein inquired as to why the MPO does not receive any CMAQ funds for our portion within nonattainment. Mr. Cannon noted he would follow up with contacts at ODOT and NOACA for an answer following the meeting to resolve the line of questioning for clarity for the MPO. All voted aye and the motion was passed. No further discussion was held on this item.

Agenda Item #5 Resolution 2023-04 SFY 2024-2027 TIP Approval

Mr. Cannon presented the final Resolution 2023-04 for the approval of the SFY 2024-2027 TIP. Mr. Cannon highlighted the TIP as being a 4 year prioritized listing of projects using federal dollars, and

presented all of the means of outreach for the public involvement period from March 10th to April 10th. Mr. Cannon noted that he received comments from Perkins Township, ODOT, FHWA and FTA, and all comments were responded to and incorporated into the TIP for approval. Mr. Shenigo motioned to approve Resolution 2023-04 and Mr. Rogers seconded; all voted aye and the motion passed. No further discussion was held on this item.

UPDATES

2020 Census Impacts on the MPO: Mr. Cannon started the updates stating the importance of the changes from the 2020 Census. He said the 2020 Census has changed the Sandusky Urbanized Area Map to now include portions of Ottawa County including Catawba and Port Clinton, and that the MPO is federally obligated to expand to cover the Urbanized Area of the now Sandusky-Port Clinton UZA. Mr. Cannon highlighted that Vermilion remains in the Lorain-Elyria, UZA, and Mr. King noted that Vermilion intends to stay with ERPC MPO. Mr. King continued that the MPO had previously not been in the 50,000 threshold in 2010 Census, but by support from ODOT was able to stay on as an MPO.

Mr. Cannon presented a map of the change in the census area and spoke to working with ODOT in the formative steps. Mr. King said that at the least the MPO would be expanding west to add Port Clinton, or could possibly expand to have the entire county and that boundaries are still being determined. Mr. King spoke to the fact that there are no formal funding amounts yet, but Mr. Cannon noted changes to the transit funding sources from 5311 to 5307 urbanized funding for Mr. Stacey. Mr. Rogers commented on the Project Selection Committee and its impacts on scoring as to what it would mean for substantial projects that may require large funding sources, similar to the RAISE Grant. Mr. King noted that funding can be population based, but is yet to be determined based on what the formulation of the expanded MPO. Mr. Ockunzzi asked about any contact with TMACOG. Mr. King said he spoke with their Director Tim Brown and that they are not in Ottawa County and have no desire to expand into the county. Mr. Shenigo asked about the possibility of adding Norwalk as had been discussed in the Erie County Commissioner's meeting. Mr. Cannon said that ODOT noted an MPO's growth can be determined by the MSA maps that are waiting to be finalized, and that Norwalk may be too far from the Sandusky UZA to be able to admit per federal regulations. Mr. Cannon discussed the timeline, including that the first major deliverable would be the update Long Range Transportation Plan due in June of 2025. Mr. Boyle asked about revisions to the TIP for its projects in SFY 2026 and 2027, and Mr. Cannon said ODOT had relayed nothing before the LRTP submittal would need changed to reflect the new MPA yet, but that the work program should mention work for the expansion. Mr. Ockunzzi noted that projects after the LRTP would need amendments and a lot of paper work, but that it is all doable. Additionally, the MPO is across two ODOT districts, and that other MPO's have good examples of how other MPO's have handled this in the past. Mr. King said the MPO would be looking to set goals over the next two years on how to manage the expansion. Mr. Cannon concluded with noting the changes over the next two years would be formulating the new bylaws and that the May meeting will include additional information that the MPO is waiting to receive from ODOT here in the next month, and emphasized an effort to consistently update the MPO about these changes. No further discussion was held.

Administrative Modifications: Mr. Cannon noted one administrative modifications since the last meeting in March. The existing project is PID #116570, ERI US 0006 Connectivity Corridor, with a Right-of-way increase from \$3,260,107.00 to \$3,338,327.00 in SFY 2024. Mr. Ockunzzi noted the route 6 project may have consistent administrative modifications as he keeps working the funding for the large project.

Biennial Agreement:

Mr. Cannon mentioned that the Erie County Commissioners have been presented with the Biennial Agreement for ODOT and the MPO and that the agreement which was approved lasts through 2025. No further discussion was held on this item.

Active Transportation Month:

Mr. Cannon concluded with notes on the MPO's Active Transportation Month. Mr. Cannon noted there is still limited staffing with the MPO for the full slate of activities that had been done in the past, and that this year's would be focused on sharing information, and offered the ERPC's help on any ongoing plans for the month. Mr. Ockunzzi highlighted that Lorain County has a proactive Active Transportation Month programming and are able to receive good grant funding to support activities in case the MPO would like to reach out to their county for guidance. Mr. Boyle noted that Perkins Township would host a bike rodeo. No further discussion was held on this item.

Comments:

Mr. Ockunzzi added a monthly update for the Route 6 Connectivity Corridor, and that the project had officially received the \$7.5M in TRAC funding that was discussed at the previous meeting. Mr. Ockunzzi discussed conceptual plans that were developed working with TRANS systems who conducted the Route 6 study.

No other business was discussed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively Submitted,

Kevin Cannon, Transportation Planner
Erie County Offices of Regional Planning
Metropolitan Planning Organization