

**Erie Regional Planning Commission
MPO Combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2023**

PRESENT: Dave Foster, Erie Regional Planning Commission Chair; Kathy Streng, DLZ; Scott Ockunzzi, ODOT District 3; Nate Vogt, ODOT Central Office; Lawrence Hall, FHWA; Tony Valerius, City of Vermilion; Aaron Klein, Arin Blair, Josh Snyder, John Orzech City of Sandusky; Nick Katsaros, First Energy; Angela Byington, Perkins Township; Robert England, Erie County Health Department; Lee Graeter, GLCAP; Pat Shenigo, Erie County Commissioner; Michelle Brummer, Keith Chase, Gannet Fleming; Tim King, Kevin Cannon, Erie County staff.

Mr. Cannon called the meeting to order at 2:00 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. England, Mr. Orzech, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Chase, Mr. Hall, Ms. Graeter, Ms. Brummer, Mr. Vogt, Mr. Ockunzzi, and Ms. Byington were attending virtually.

Agenda Item #1 Approval of the April 27, 2023 Combined TAC/Policy Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Cannon presented the minutes of the April 27, 2023 Combined TAC/Policy meeting. Mr. Valerius motioned to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Shenigo seconded the motion; all voted aye and the motion was passed. No further discussion was held on this item.

Agenda Item #2 2023 Freight Plan Presentation:

Mr. Cannon introduced Ms. Brummer and Mr. Chase for a presentation of the ongoing 2023 Freight Plan that is nearing completion. Mr. Chase began by emphasizing the importance of a freight plan regionally before moving into some of the goals of the plan. The six goals is to integrate land use and freight planning, investing in multimodal and intermodal capabilities, improve freight mobility, safety and operations, expand regional freight planning capabilities, program for increasing freight awareness, and fostering strategic partnerships. Ms. Brummer continued with the Core Freight Network and its development, presenting a map of core facilities for freight movement that can be used as a living tool as conditions change. Mr. Chase reviewed the freight programming process and implementation approach, as well as the formation of a Freight Advisory Committee to serve as advisory to the MPO. Mr. Chase added measurements for plan progress and system performance. Final steps were presented as a draft plan being available for public comment, with planned adoption by the MPO to be targeted in the July meeting. Mr. Katsaros questioned whether the truck parking spots had included the proposed Love's development, and Mr. King elaborated it had not. Mr. King emphasize the importance though the Love's project and freight plan will have on the 250 corridor for expanding septic access to freight handlers. Ms. Blair requested the Core Freight Network map represent the regional maritime routes. Mr. Hall introduced himself to the MPO as the new liaison from FHWA, and noted a background in freight planning. Mr. Hall noted the plan addressed safety and equity, but could be strengthened by including a better mention of resiliency. Mr. Hall and Mr. Chase agreed a freight plan for the region can help with competitive grant funding. Ms. Brummer concluded that the plan has additional data that will be useful to the MPO municipalities that had been added to the plan appendices and not presented here today. No further discussion was held on this item.

UPDATES

Administrative Modifications: Mr. Cannon noted there were no modifications for the month of May. No further discussion was held on this item.

Submitted SFY 26 Applications: Mr. Cannon briefly presented the six applications submitted for SFY 26 TA funds, and that the Project Selection Committee would be meeting on June 1st to score and review the projects. No further discussion was held on this item.

MPO Expansion Update: Mr. Cannon relayed notes from an ODOT Central Office call regarding the expansion. The final budgets and MSA maps were to be expected in June at that time. Mr. Cannon also noted the formation of a Working Committee to serve as an advisory role to the ERPC MPO Policy Committee in helping facilitate the expansion. Mr. Cannon emphasized that decision making would still be done through the Policy Committee via resolution for the process of the expansion. No further discussion was held on this item.

US 6 Connectivity Corridor Update: Mr. Ockunzzi added a monthly update for the Route 6 Connectivity Corridor and that the project was currently working to address Perkins Avenue intersection as the Maples Motel leach field will impact the final project design. Mr. Ockunzzi added that ODOT is working with Erie County Metroparks on designing the park's driveways to repair/replace them with the project. Mr. King asked if TRAC funds being uncapped meant the project had near unlimited access to funds, and Mr. Ockunzzi responded that within reason the project could access more. Mr. Foster asked whether the speed limit for the road had been considered to be reduced. Mr. Ockunzzi answered that the speed limit is largely determined by regulation and there is not much he can do currently, but that it could be considered with the project in the future.

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