

**Erie Regional Planning Commission
MPO Combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2023**

PRESENT: Dave Foster, Erie Regional Planning Commission Chair; Scott Ockunzzi, ODOT District 3; Tony Valerius, City of Vermilion; John Orzech, Aaron Klein, City of Sandusky; Gary Boyle, Angela Byington, Perkins Township; Robert England, Erie County Health Department; Matt Rogers, Erie County Engineer; Jim Oliver, Great Lakes Community Action Partnership; Eric Dodrill, Erie County Soil and Water; Patrick Shenigo, Erie County Commissioners; Tim King, Kevin Cannon, Ellen Schirg, 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. Ockunzzi, Ms. Byington and Mr. Orzech were attending virtually.

Agenda Item #1 Approval of the May 25, 2023 Combined TAC/Policy Meeting Minutes:

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

Agenda Item #2 Resolution 2023-06 Annual Progress Report:

Mr. Cannon presented the Annual Progress Report for the Policy Board's approval. He stated this was an annual requirement by ODOT and FHWA reviewing our SFY 2023 Work Program and how much progress was made on the MPO tasks. Mr. Cannon highlighted that delays in the State Route 60 Flood Plain Study and Freight Plan update occurred due to overturn and low staffing, but both of the projects were listed as back on track. Mr. Cannon estimates between a 95 to 98% completion rate on projects which is consistent with years prior. Mr. Foster motioned to approve Resolution 2023-06. SFY 2023 Progress Report, and Mr Rogers seconded the motion; all voted aye and the motion was passed. No further discussion was held on the item.

UPDATES

Administrative Modifications: Mr. Cannon presented one administrative modifications that had been processed to the MPO. The project was PID 113957, ERI CR 0500 01.37 W. Monroe, in the City of Sandusky, and was an increase in construction funds from \$1,676,113.64 to \$1,684,483.07 in SFY 2025. No further discussion was held on the item.

Annual Listing: Mr. Cannon presented the Annual Listing of Federally Obligated Projects as required by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Listing included all projects in SFY 2023 receiving federal funding in the MPO. The Annual Listing was made open to public comment from August 23rd until September 25th, and no comments were received. Mr. Cannon asked the MPO for any comments on the listing, and no discussion was held on the item. Mr. Cannon stated he would turn the Annual Listing in along with Annual Progress Report for ODOT's approval. No further discussion was held on the item.

Grade Crossing Elimination Program: Mr. Cannon informed the MPO about the Grade Crossing Elimination Program the State of Ohio had recently announced. The program is \$100 Million State funded program to help competitive projects apply for the Federal Grade Crossing Elimination Program. The Federal Program application was noted as difficult, and the goal for the State program is for the

Rail Commission and ODOT to help select projects with highest chance of winning federal funding. Mr. Cannon presented a map of the eligible crossings within the MPO, as well as the FRA Web Based Accident Prediction Systems (WBAPS) rankings of Ohio's predicted most dangerous crossings, of which there were 5 in Erie County. Mr. Cannon noted the worst ranked project is Perkins Avenue in Perkins Township, and will be addressed in the Route 6 Connectivity Corridor. Mr. Foster inquired if the proposed fix at the crossing will actual make the grade crossing safer. Mr. Cannon noted with the intersection being moved from the Grade Crossing that area accidents should presumably be reduced in part due to the road realignment. Mr. Ockunzzi added that preliminary project plans show an increased capacity for car storage before the tracks and a reduce grade that will help eliminate accidents. No further discussion was held on the item.

MPO Expansion Update: Mr. Cannon spoke briefly on MPO expansion, highlighting the 2023 goals as looking to have the MPA established by the end of the year. He included that the second working committee was looking to be established shortly, followed by a presentation with Ottawa County to get them ready to be involved with the MPO in CY 2024. No further discussion was held on the item.

US 6 Connectivity Corridor Update: Mr. Ockunzzi provided a monthly update for the Route 6 Connectivity Corridor, noting design was moving along well along the corridor. Mr. Ockunzzi state Stage 1 was 70% complete and on track, and the Sandusky Bay Pathway remains on schedule. Mr. King inquired if construction is still expected for the Spring of 2026, which Mr. Ockunzzi confirmed. No further discussion was held on the item.

Mr. Cannon closed with the schedule for the rest of the year, noting that it is getting lighter. Additionally, he noted the Carrover Waiver Request for SFY 2023 was approved, and the 9 OPWC Projects had been scored and submitted to District 5. Lastly, Mr. Cannon concluded with the BPAC committee would have its first meeting October 10th.

Respectively Submitted,

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