

Erie Regional Planning Commission
MPO Combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committees

Meeting Minutes April 22nd, 2021

PRESENT: Carmen Stamen, Federal Highway Administration, Eric Dodrill, Erie Conservation District; Hank Solowiej, Erie County Administrator; Mike Schafrath, Mark Strohm, Ohio Department of Transportation; Angela Byington, Perkins Township; Erik Engle, Mike Spafford, City of Huron; John Orzech, Aaron Klein, City of Sandusky; Steve Poggiali, Carrie Whitaker, and Nicole Grohe, ERPC staff.

The meeting was held online on WebEx due to social distancing restrictions stemming from COVID-19. Ms. Whitaker called the virtual meeting to order at 2:00 PM. She introduced herself, reviewed the voting procedures, and then reviewed the meeting agenda.

Agenda Item #1 Consideration of the March 25th, 2021 Combined Technical Advisory and Policy

Committee Meeting Minutes: Ms. Whitaker requested the committee consider the approval of the minutes from the combined March 25th, 2021 TAC and Policy Committee meeting. Ms. Byington motioned to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Spafford seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion was passed with no further discussion.

Agenda Item #2: Consideration of Resolution 2021-06 Approval of the SFY 2022 Unified

Planning Work Program: Ms. Whitaker then presented an overview of the MPO's Unified Work Plan for SFY 2022. She reviewed each of the categories within the plan and financial information. Ms. Byington motioned to approve Resolution 2021-06, approving the SFY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Spafford seconded the motion. All voted aye and none opposed, the motion passed. No further discussion was held on this item.

Agenda Item #3: Approval of SFY 2022 Self-Certification Resolution 2021-07: Next Ms. Whitaker discussed what an MPO self-certification assurance was and why it was needed. She requested a motion for approval for SFY 2022. Mr. Spafford motioned to approve Resolution 2021-07, approving the SFY 2022 Self-Certification. Mr. Orzech seconded the motion. All voted aye and none opposed, the motion passed. No further discussion was held on this item.

Agenda Item #4 Updates:

US 6 Corridor Study Earmark Request: Ms. Whitaker stated that Erie County has submitted an earmark request (via Representative Marcy Kaptur's Office Community Improvement Funding Program) in hopes of obtaining funding to implement recommendations from the US 6 Corridor project. She added under the new federal transportation act earmarks have once again become legal.

Ms. Whitaker then reviewed the recommended projects with the committee. The three projects were: the Perkins Avenue segment (totaling \$4,836,402), the Camp Street segment (totaling \$9,967,731), and the Rye Beach Road segment (totaling \$8,951,700). She stated that the last project segment near Cedar Point Drive (totaling \$6,273,658 total, with a \$330,193 match from the City of Sandusky) has been

approved through ODOT's safety program and was not included in the application. However, a multi-use corridor project (totaling \$11,152,450) was added to the request. She stated that the City of Sandusky also submitted a request for the multi-modal project. She continued by stating that the application was submitted to the ODOT District 3 Office. Mr. Schafrath stated that the district was instructed to submit its suggestions to ODOT Central Office. He stated that the US 6 Corridor Projects were one of the district's recommended projects and that at this time the request has been submitted and results are pending. No further discussion was held on this update.

Other Project Updates: Ms. Whitaker then reviewed MPO projects that are underway or that have been recently completed.

Strub Road Project: She stated that this project encompasses sidewalk installation near the Ohio Veteran's Home off Strub Road and that improvements will be done simultaneously with work that ODOT's is doing (modifying the turn lanes at US 250 and Perkins Avenue). Mr. Rogers added that the project is scheduled to be completed this summer. He is currently awaiting a final schedule from the contractor.

Sunnyside Road Project: Ms. Whitaker continued stating that the Sunnyside Road project is underway and that the project came in under bid saving the MPO \$124,800 in STP funding. She stated that the project would also be done this summer.

Strub Road Sidewalk Project: She continued by stating that the Strub Road project is anticipated to be done in SFY 2022. She added that there has been a slight decrease in CO costs and an administrative modification had been done.

SR 113 Project: She then reviewed that the Village of Milan was awarded funding to complete road improvements off SR 113. This project includes installing a bicycle path from SR 113 to a park. Mr. Schafrath added that the work may be disruptive to residents, but the overall product will greatly reduce the roadway. The project is anticipated to occur this summer.

Transportation Alternative Project Selection: Ms. Whitaker continued by stating that the MPO is currently soliciting Transportation Alternative (TA) projects for SFY 2025 totaling \$320,000. She stated that the project applications are due by 4/30 at 4:30 PM and that electronic submittal is acceptable if project sponsors do not want to submit a hard copy to the MPO office staff. She said that the Project Selection Committee would be meeting in May to rank the submitted projects and make a recommendation to the Policy and Technical Advisory Committees.

NOACA Air Quality Conformity Analysis: Ms. Whitaker continued stating that NOACA is updating their Long Range Transportation Plan and had to conduct an air quality analysis as they are in a non-containment area. Since ERPC shares a border with NOACA, a mutual approval of the analysis will need to be made. She stated that the analysis is posted on ERPC's website and will be addressed at the next committee meeting in May.

Active Transportation Month: Ms. Grohe stated that this year's Active Transportation Month activities have been reduced due to COVID-19. She stated that educational booths will be set up

at the Erie County Office Building, Services Center, and at the Sandusky Library. Additionally, the Active Transportation website has also been updated and a virtual Panel Discussion will be held on 5/17 at 2:00 PM to discuss local active transportation. She shared the registration link with the committee. No further discussion was held on this update.

Ms. Grohe closed the meeting stating that this was Mr. Poggiali's last committee meeting as he will be retiring at the end of the month.

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

Respectively Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Grohe", written in a cursive style.

Nicole Grohe, Associate Planner

Erie County Office of Regional Planning

Metropolitan Planning Organization