

**Erie Regional Planning Commission**  
**MPO Combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committees**

**Meeting Minutes January 28th, 2021**

PRESENT: Eric Dodrill, Erie Conservation District; Steve Shoffner, Erie County Commissioners; Andrew Shepler, Mike Schafrath, Ohio Department of Transportation; Gary Boyle, Angela Byington, Perkins Township; Matt Rogers, Erie County Engineers Office; Doug Green, City of Huron; Tony Valerius, City of Vermilion; Greg Voltz, John Orzech, Aaron Klein, and Tom Horsman, City of Sandusky; Dave Foster, ERPC Chair; Nick Katsaros, First Energy; 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 November 19th, 2020 Combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committee Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Whitaker requested the committee consider the approval of the minutes from the combined November 19th, 2020 TAC and Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Boyle motioned to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Green seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion was passed with no further discussion.

**Agenda Item #2: Election of SFY 2021 Officers:** Ms. Whitaker stated that the annual vote for the MPO's Chairman and Vice-Chairman needed to be considered. She stated that Mr. Shenigo and Mr. Boyle have volunteered to continue their respective roles as Chairman and Vice-Chairman if no one else was interested in the positions. Mr. Foster motioned to approve Mr. Shenigo as the MPO's Chairman and Mr. Boyle as the Vice-Chairman for CY 2021. Mr. Orzech seconded the motion. All voted aye and none opposed, the motion passed. No further discussion was held on this item.

**Agenda Item #3 Review of MPO Sponsored Projects for SFY 2020/2021:** Ms. Whitaker then reviewed the MPO projects that were recently completed and scheduled for SFY 2020/2021. No further discussion was held on this item.

**Agenda Item #4 Consideration of Adoption of SFY 2021 Safety Performance Measure:** Ms. Whitaker then reviewed what performance measures were and why the MPO was required to either establish their own targets or support the State's targets for each measure. She noted that targets for the Safety Performance Measure (PM1) is required to be set on an annual basis. She reviewed the MPO's and ODOT's current measures that were adopted in SFY 2020. She added that the MPO reached all but one of five target goals and ODOT missed two. She noted that the MPO was not penalized for the missing target, but ODOT was asked by FHWA to commit additional funding towards meeting their targets (which they already do) and do some additional reporting.

Ms. Whitaker stated that for the CY 2021, ODOT had decided to keep their targets at a 2% reduction across all safety areas for PM 1. The MPO, per federal regulations, needs to either choose to support the state's 2% reduction target or they may choose to establish their own target. She presented a chart for both the State and ERPC MPO that would show what values would need to be achieved for a 2% reduction across each of the safety performance measure areas (graph below). Mr. Foster noted that as the MPO has less overall traffic, the decrease in values is marginal compared to statewide values when looking at applying the 2% reduction. Ms. Whitaker presented what the MPO's SFY 2021 goals would be if they continued to follow the goals established by ODOT (see the graph below). Mr. Boyle motioned to approve supporting ODOT's established CY 2021 targets across all safety areas for Performance Measure 1 (PM 1); Mr. Foster seconded the motion. No further discussion was held on this item.

Safety Performance Measure	State Baseline Data (2015-2019)	CY 2021 State Target	ERPC Baseline Data (2015-2019)	CY 2021 ERPC Target
Number of Fatalities	1,129	1,084	10	9
Number of Serious Injuries	8,434	8,101	65	64
Rate of Fatalities	0.97	0.93	0.74	0.72
Rate of Serious Injuries	7.25	6.97	4.74	4.65
Frequency of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries	845	811	4.4	4.3

#### **Agenda Item #5 Consideration of Resolution 2021-02 Approval of the Updated MPO**

##### **Transportation Alternative (TA) Scoring Sheets and Approving Project Solicitation for SFY**

**2024/2025:** Ms. Whitaker then discussed that the MPO Project Selection Committee has completed their update to the MPO Transportation Alternative (TA) funding program-scoring sheets. Ms. Whitaker reviewed revisions to the MPO's Transportation Alternative Program (TA) selection process as recommended by the MPO's Project Selection Committee. The updates included revisions to the TA project scoring sheets and approval to solicit for TA projects in the opposite year as the Surface Transportation Program (STP). Mr. Boyle motioned to approve Resolution 2021-02 to approve the revised TA scoring sheets and Mr. Foster seconded the motion. All voted aye and none opposed, the motion passed.

Ms. Whitaker next requested for the committee to considering approval for staff to open a TA project solicitation cycle for SFY 2025. She said staff would accept applications from February 1st through April 30<sup>th</sup> totaling approximately \$320,000. Mr. Green motioned to approve staff to accept SFY 2025 TA applications this year and Mr. Foster seconded the motion. All voted aye and none opposed, the motion passed.

**Agenda Item #6 Consideration of Resolution 2021-03 TIP Amendment for PID 110322 – Phase Funding Change:**

The City of Sandusky has requested the following phase changes be made to the E. Monroe Street project, PID 110322. Mr. Klein noted that the City would be completing an in-house design for the project. Ms. Whitaker discussed the changes with the committee as outlined in Resolution 2021-03. Mr. Boyle motioned to approve Resolution 2021-03; which states that leftover funding from the PE and DD Phases of PID 110322 be moved to the CO Phase (totaling \$65,119.50) and Mr. Foster seconded the motion. All voted aye and none opposed, the motion passed. No further discussion was held on this item.

**Agenda Item #7 Updates:**

**Administrative Modification Regarding Vermilion Road Phase 4A:** Ms. Whitaker discussed that an administrative modification was executed for the Vermilion Road Phase 4A which increased the CO/CE Phase from \$1,101,806.25 to \$1,405,193.25 (or 28%). She stated that the MPO staff was able to carry out this modification since the request was less than 50% of the total project cost. Mr. Schafrath noted that projects can be administratively modified based on total funding amounts which differ by the original total project cost.

**ODOT SFY 2022 Lockdown:** Ms. Whitaker stated that ODOT is currently seeking feedback for its first Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, Walk.Bike.Ohio. through 2/26/21. Mr. Shepler shared the website link with the committee through the chat box option.

**Grants Opportunities:** Ms. Whitaker reviewed several grant opportunities available including the Safe Route to School Program (due 3/5/21), the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) program Notification of Available Funding, and the EPA Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Grant (DERG) which is due 3/16/21. Mr. Poggiali had asked if the County Engineers had a project previously funded through the EPA grant. Mr. Rogers stated a replacement vehicle was awarded to ECEO through the grant and noted that he was pleased with the process.

**Other Business:** Ms. Whitaker stated that Mr. Poggiali will be retiring at the end of April of this year. Mr. Poggiali stated that he has enjoyed working with everyone.

The next MPO TAC/Policy Meeting is scheduled for February 25<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM and will be online.

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

Respectively Submitted,



Nicole Grohe, Associate Planner

Erie County Office of Regional Planning

Metropolitan Planning Organization