

**Erie Regional Planning Commission**  
**MPO Combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committees**  
**Meeting Minutes March 25th, 2021**

PRESENT: Eric Dodrill, Erie Conservation District; Hank Solowiej, Erie County Administrator; Andrew Shepler, Mike Schafrath, and Mark Strohm, Ohio Department of Transportation; Gary Boyle, Angela Byington, Perkins Township; Sam Artino, Mike Spafford, City of Huron; Tony Valerius, City of Vermilion; Aaron Klein, Tom Horsman, City of Sandusky; Dave Foster, ERPC Chair; Nick Katsaros, First Energy; Steve Poggiali, Carrie Whitaker, Tim King 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 January 28th, 2021 Combined Technical Advisory and Policy Committee Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Whitaker requested the committee consider the approval of the minutes from the combined January 28th, 2021 TAC and Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Boyle motioned to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Foster seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion was passed with no further discussion.

**Agenda Item #2: Consideration of Resolution 2021-04 Approval of the ERPC MPO Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan:** Ms. Grohe then presented an overview of the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan. She explained that ODOT had requested that ERPC create a plan to strengthen their Title VI Program. She stated that the plan defines who is considered an LEP person, where they are located within the community, and what procedures staff should use to interact with them including how to handle any interpretation requests. Ms. Byington motioned to approve Resolution 2021-04, the Limited English Proficiency Plan. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. All voted aye and none opposed, the motion passed. No further discussion was held on this item.

**Agenda Item #3: Consideration of Resolution 2021-05 TIP Amendment Request for PID 114640 ERI Sawmill Parkway:** Ms. Whitaker then discussed PID 114640 ERI Sawmill Parkway, be added to the SFY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She noted that there are no costs associated with the MPO for this project. She discussed that the project includes extensive full-depth road repairs with construction occurring in SFY 2022. Mr. Spafford added that the project's total cost was approximately \$3.5 million and that the proposed TIP amendment is for the \$2,951,046.27 construction phase of the project that consists of multiple funding sources. He added that the project is anticipated to create approximately 200 jobs through Ardagh Metal Beverage USA, Inc. and that the current building will be reused and expanded with an addition. Mr. Boyle motioned to approve Resolution 2021-05, amending the 2021-2024 TIP adding to add PID 114640 ERI Sawmill Parkway project for \$2,951,046.27 for the Construction Phase stemming from multiple funding sources including: \$412,500 from the Ohio Public Works Commission; \$1,000,000 from the Ohio Development Services Agency 629 Fund; \$250,000 from the Ohio Department of Transportation's Job and Commerce Division; and

\$1,288,546.27 from the City of Huron. Mr. Valerius seconded the motion. All voted aye and none opposed, the motion passed. No further discussion was held on this item.

**Agenda Item #4 Updates:**

**ODOT District 3, SFY 2022-2027 Work Plan:** Mr. Schafrath then presented a map of the project occurring in the MPO area showing ODOT D3's proposed projects for 2022-2027. He went over the map briefly discussing the categories listed and stated that copies of the map are available upon request. Mr. Poggiali inquired why there were changes in bridge and pavement funding categories. Mr. Schafrath stated that the bridge category of the work plan experienced a \$5 million reduction, which was transferred to the pavement category. He stated that ODOT made this decision because the bridge condition ratings were good while the roadway pavement condition ratings were low.

**Perkins Township Strub Road Project Administrative Modification:** Ms. Whitaker stated that an administrative modification was conducted on the Perkins Township Strub Road sidewalk project. She stated that the Detailed Design Phase decreased from \$110,214 to \$77,964 and the Right of Way Phase increased from \$67,858.45 to \$70,189.25. Mr. Boyle added that the project is in the design phase and as a result, project estimates are further refined.

**Railroad Safety Campaign:** Ms. Whitaker then discussed that the Federal Railroad Association and the National Highways Traffic Safety Administration jointly were holding a Railroad Safety campaign from March 22<sup>nd</sup> through April 12<sup>th</sup> this year. She stated that ERPC is joining the campaign through outreach efforts posted on their website and social media postings. She stated that additional information can be found online and provided a link. She also discussed that she is looking into ways to fund railroad safety projects locally and would like to work with the City of Huron in the future to review the Berlin Road at-road crossing where a fatality occurred in 2015. Mr. Foster added that he belongs to the Erie Metro Live Steamers, which provides train safety materials to children and is part of Operation Lifesaver, a non-profit railroad safety program.

The next MPO TAC/Policy Meeting is scheduled for April 22nd 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