

FAIRFIELD COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 27, 2022

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE
3026 WEST FAIR AVENUE; LANCASTER, OHIO 43130
and
VIRTUAL**

Jeremiah Upp, TID Board Secretary/Treasurer, called the meeting to order just after 9:00 a.m. on January 27, 2022 at the Fairfield County Engineer's Office. The following persons were present: Jeremiah Upp (TID Board Secretary/Treasurer); Greg Butcher (TID Board Member); Rick Szabrak (TID Board Member); Mitch Noland (TID Board Member); Bill Lozier (TransCon Ohio/TID Consultant); Tony Vogel (Fairfield County Utilities); Robin Duffee (Violet Township); Jennifer Shuey (DLZ); Paul Denny (Woolpert); Tom Hibbard (American Structurepoint); Frank Aransky (American Structurepoint) and Conner Brintlinger (American Structurepoint). Attending virtually was one member from the public.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Rick Szabrak made a motion to approve the December 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Greg Butcher seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was none.

3. REPORT FROM COMMITTEES:

a. Financial Report

Jeremiah reviewed the financial report. There was a beginning balance of \$214,235.46. Checks were written to TransCon Ohio totaling \$2,000.00. This left an ending balance of \$212,235.46.

Greg Butcher made a motion to approve the financial report. Rick Szabrak seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Election of Officers

There is currently an open seat on the TID Board with two individuals interested: Tony Vogel, Fairfield County Utilities Director who has a substantial background with ODOT and transportation, and Sonja Simpson from Violet Township a former Deputy Director for ODOT District 5 and has a transportation background. Both would be an asset to this Board. The Commissioners will interview these two between now and the next TID Board meeting. Jeremiah asked the Board if they would like to wait to vote on officers or proceed with voting at this time. Rick suggested that Jeremiah serve as the Interim Chair until the election of officers. Greg Butcher made a motion to postpone the election of officers until the vacant board seat is filled. Rick Szabrak seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Consultant Project Update Report

Far East Freeway: ODOT has agreed to examine the flow of traffic on the local road system (primarily SR204) and has included it in their scope of services during the design of the interchange project. At this time, construction is slated for 2026. Bill will form a group with Violet Township, Pickerington, and Reynoldsburg to discuss aesthetic treatments for this interchange. If topics within this group expand beyond aesthetics (i.e. pathways), Bill may need to include other members.

Refugee Road Corridor: This is a multijurisdictional project between Violet Township, City of Pickerington, and the County. Since there are five schools in this area, Bill believes we can probably get a grant from Safe Routes to School to add to the anticipated funding. This will still leave a funding gap which would mean a loan and annual payment. There is a possible Developer that may be willing to contribute. The MORPC Attributable Funds application starts in May, but it could be the end of the year before decisions are made on who gets funded. Bill asked if we should initiate design before we know if we can receive the MORPC funding. If so, he would note that in the application. Jeremiah would like to move forward with design based on two factors 1) it is inevitable that something has to happen in this corridor and 2) it stacks the cards in our favor on the application.

Bill stated that the TID funding cycle is approaching with the possibility of seeing \$500K if granted – we could try and go for a TID grant for design. It was discussed and determined it might be best to see if there is a better project with more economic development tied to it that would better serve the TID application. Bill to follow-up on this.

US33/I70 Connector: At this time there have been no new updates on this project.

Jeremiah reminded all of the new computer chip company coming to Licking County. He has had discussions with one of the Commissioners regarding this area and the positive possibilities for Fairfield County as a result of this. We might have an opportunity to move this project to the next phase. This project needs to unfold a little bit before we move forward. Bill to keep an eye on it between Fairfield County and Licking County.

Ewing Street Connector/Commerce Street Extension: The City of Lancaster has selected American Structurepoint as their consultant. A kickoff meeting has taken place with discussion revolving around identifying the stakeholders. Mitch would like to involve the TID, the County Engineer, the County Commissioners, and the stakeholders to evaluate various routes.

US33 Corridor CAP Project: Bill prepared a narrative on this project and presented it to the Board. This is Fairfield County's top priority for CAP. This project is in ODOT District's 6 jurisdiction but affects District 5. ODOT conducted a TSMO Study that proved an additional lane is needed on US33. However, they are prioritizing the interchanges prior to the extra lane even though their study showed an hour bottleneck in this area twice a day. Bill is suggesting this TID push for the extra lane. He thinks the best way is for Fairfield County entities to assist with local funds for the design. The ODOT District 6 Director is open to this conversation. Mitch will speak with the Mayor of Lancaster. Jeremiah and Rick to meet with Aunie Cordle, Fairfield County Administrator.

Basil-Western Road Realignment: The annexation has been approved but it is believed that the Developer might have withdrawn from the project. Bill recommended that when the sales tax exemption is implemented in this area that half the savings be committed to public infrastructure.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

A review of the current planned projects is needed. Mitch would like to add Whiley Road to our project list. This Board plans to review this list at the next meeting. If anyone would like to make suggestions to the list prior to next meeting, please forward them to Cheryl Downour and she can place them on the agenda.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Greg Butcher made a motion to adjourn. Rick Szabrak seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes approved by:



Jeremiah D. Upp, Secretary/Treasurer
Interim Chairperson