

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**February 14, 2023**

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY RECORDS CENTER**

**138 WEST CHESTNUT STREET; LANCASTER, OHIO 43130**

Jeremiah Upp, called the meeting to order just after 1:00 p.m. on February 14, 2023 at the Fairfield County Records Center. The following persons were present: Jeremiah Upp (TID Secretary/Treasurer); Rick Szabrak (TID Vice Chairperson); Curt Shonk (TID Board Member); Greg Butcher (TID Board Member); Jeff Fix (Fairfield County Commissioner); Dave Levacy (Fairfield County Commissioner); Aunie Cordle (Fairfield County Administrator); Mitch Noland (Fairfield County Engineer's Office); Jason Grubb (Fairfield County Engineer's Office); Tony Vogel (Fairfield County Utilities); Anthony Iachini (Fairfield County Economic Development); Terry Dunlap (Violet Twp); Jennifer Shuey (DLZ); Ron Thomas (Thomas Property); Conner Brintlinger (American Structurepoint)

**1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

- a. Approval of the January 10th, 2023, regular meeting minutes.
- b. We have a motion by Mr. Butcher. Second by Mr. Shonk. All members approved. Motion carried.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- a. Mr. Terry Dunlop noted that Violet Township no longer has a local paper. No other public comments.

**3. REPORT FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE: County TID Financial Report**

- a. January 6th of 2023 to February 7th of 2023.
  - Beginning balance on January 6th of \$342,204.76.
  - Monthly expense to Transcon Ltd in the amount of \$2,000.00.
  - Audit fee in the amount of \$225.50.
  - Additional audit fee in the amount of \$53.30.
  - Ending Balance of \$339,925.96.
- b. Motion to approve the report from Mr. Szabrak. 2nd by Mr. Butcher. All approved. Motion carried.

**4. NEW BUISNESS: No new business**

**5. OLD BUISNESS:**

- a. **Far East Freeway** –Taylor Rd. is still being designed by ODOT. Nothing further to report.

- b. **Refugee Road Corridor** - Woolpert is continuing to perform preliminary studies of this area. At this time, from a financial standpoint, we are looking at options to build the three-lane section.

Ricketts Development – The property continues to move forward, so we are still hopeful for a public-private partnership with the Ricketts that could help pay for some of these upgrades. With that said, we are still on track to construct the Pickerington Road intersection project through the Fairfield County Engineer this year. This will realign Pickerington and Refugee Road. It will add turn lanes in each direction, new signals, and new mast arm. We are also doing the same thing with Harmon Road, Milnor Road, and Education Way.

- c. **US33/I-70 Connector** – We had a huge spike in public interest on this, it most likely stems from Liberty Township reaching out to the residents about the public meeting February 27, 2023, at the Baltimore VFW. This meeting was called to discuss development in Liberty Township. Some of the discussions/questions were around the news story done by 10TV outlining the US33/I70 Connector Road. In 2013, we provided an alignment to MORPC to get the idea solidified. There was no engineering of any kind behind it. Jeremiah has been reassuring people that in no way shape or form is or could this be the actual alignment if the project got built. What we're trying to do is be proactive and make sure we are ready when things come to the county, and when it does, we are ready to handle it the right way. Jeremiah believes that message has been received very well. Liberty Township Trustee Don Keller was here just before the meeting started and was concerned because he had another obligation. Jeremiah gave him an agenda and told him he would update him with any additional information.
- d. **East Side Industrial Connector** – Nothing to report.
- e. **US33 Corridor Lane Widening CAP Project** - Discussions continue with ODOT District 6 and Congressman Carey's office to make the lane addition to US33 a standalone project rather than incorporate it with the interchanges being constructed. This is a great opportunity to help travelers coming from Southeast Ohio as they commute to Columbus. We will continue to monitor this project.
- f. **Basil Western Rd. Realignment** – Rick is still working diligently negotiating with the developer since the last meeting. Rick is working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Fairfield County, Violet Township and Canal Winchester to connect all the parcels to the same economic development incentive package so all the development contributes to the Basil Western Road improvements. Jeremiah approached 2LMN to give a cost estimate on the portion of the improvements for the DHL project alone. The estimate came back at approximately \$3.5 million. We submitted an application for 629 funds through Jobs Ohio. We are also pursuing funding through Ohio Jobs & Commerce. Greg Butcher questioned if there were any other funding resources or grants available before the board moves forward with approving TID funds to be used. The committee agreed to move forward with utilizing TID funds to begin engineering and design on the Basil Western Road Realignment Project.

- i) Mr. Szabrak. made a motion to set aside TID funds for the engineering on the project. Second made by Mr. Shonk. All members approved. Motion carries.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS:**

- a. **MORPC Meeting** – Jeremiah and Commissioner Jeff Fix met with representatives of Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) to discuss the projects above. The meeting was to generate support from MORPC as it relates to funding for projects outside of Columbus and Franklin County. There was also discussion about the 33 corridor and what is best for the projects in Fairfield County. MORPC requested a land use plan. Jeremiah would like to discuss a more specific land use plan to focus on the areas covered under MORPC. Commissioner Fix and Commissioner Levacy believe the new land use plan will be suitable.

**7. ADJOURNMENT:**

- a. Mr. Butcher moved to adjourn. Second by Mr. Shonk. All approved. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes approved by:



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Jeremiah Upp  
Secretary/Treasurer