

FAIRFIELD COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2022**

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

Jeremiah Upp, TID Interim Chair & Secretary/Treasurer, called the meeting to order just after 9:00 a.m. on February 24, 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); Sonja Simpson (TID Board Member), Bill Lozier (TransCon Ohio/TID Consultant); Jennifer Shuey (DLZ); Frank Aransky (American Structurepoint); David Hague (Coyote Run); Paul Denny (Woolpert); Dave Holstein (Woolpert); Dave Levacy (County Commissioner). Attending virtually was Tony Vogel (Fairfield County Utilities)

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Rick Szabrak made a motion to approve the January 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Mitch Noland 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 \$212,235.46. A check was written to Kegler, Brown, Hill & Rutter for legal matters regarding SB277 in the amount of \$142.50. This left an ending balance of \$212,092.96.

Mitch Noland made a motion to approve the financial report. Sonja Simpson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

Jeremiah introduced and welcomed Sonja Simpson as the new TID Board Member.

a. Election of Officers

Greg Butcher made a motion for the slate of officers as follows. Rick Szabrak seconded. Motion carried.

Chairperson – Jeremiah Upp
Vice Chairperson – Mitch Noland
Secretary/Treasurer – Jeremiah Upp

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Resolution 2022-01 and Review of Project List

The Board would like to add the following projects to the Project List: Far East Freeway, US33/I70 Connector, and US33 Corridor. A resolution will be prepared for next month's meeting.

Discussion took place to revise the name of the "Planned Project List" since these are basically conceptual projects to the Board. Further discussion will take place during the next Board meeting.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution 2022-01 to approve the list of planned projects by adding Whiley Road Project Ruby and removing the CR33A/Election House Road Project. The motion was made by Rick Szabrak. Mitch Noland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

b. Consultant Project Update Report

As we move forward with projects, Jeremiah reminded the Board to be mindful of the Sunshine Laws. With the overlapping duties of everyone's roles and responsibilities within the County, everyone needs to be aware of discussions that could relate back to the TID Board.

Far East Freeway: Bill to form a group with Violet Township, Pickerington, and Reynoldsburg to discuss aesthetic treatments for the interchange. Bill spoke with Ty Thompson of ODOT who stated a consultant would probably not be selected until June or July. They will then need to come up with bridge type studies before they can even address aesthetic treatments.

Refugee Road Corridor: If we stage this project correctly, we might be able to get two Safe Routes to School grants. There is the possibility of a private developer in this location that could produce revenue for the project. The plan is to make an application to MORPC in May. We need to find a way to jump start the design on this project.

US33/I70 Connector: Bill discussed Intel and the involvement of Mink Road which becomes Wagram Road in Fairfield County. The Intel project will take place in phases over 12 years and create approximately 7000 construction jobs. It is being stated that the Mink Road corridor is on the radar for improvement in the future. Based on preliminary traffic studies and the anticipated traffic increase from Fairfield County to Licking County, this Board needs to remain involved with this project as future transportation projects arise.

Ewing Street Connector/Commerce Street Extension: This project is also known as the east side industrial connector. With this project, there is an economic development incentive and a goal to keep truck traffic out of Lancaster. Discussions have taken place regarding Coonpath Road since it intersects with many state routes and the bypass. Mitch stated the City of Lancaster has signed a contract with Structurepoint. There are still a lot of stakeholders the City wants to meet with. The City will be reaching out to members in the near future.

US33 Corridor CAP Project: This Board needs to advocate for the extra lane to be constructed prior to the interchanges ODOT proposes as priority, as there is only one way to get into Columbus from Lancaster. Bill spoke to Tom Slack of ODOT District 6, and he is on board with this. We are asking to extract the lane addition as a separate project. We will need local leadership to advocate for this. Financial participation is a big scoring issue for ODOT. If local public agencies would be willing to throw some money into the design of this project, it would show local commitment to the project. Commissioner Levacy agreed to support this project. He stated we do need to work on both lane additions and the interchanges. ODOT wants to prioritize interchanges at Bowen Road and Bixby Road over the additional lane. Bill feels if we can get design started, the project will be built.

Basil-Western Road Realignment: Currently there is no opportunity for development and this project remains on hold.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

The due date for the TID Grant Application to ODOT has been moved to March. Whiley Road is not ready for this year's application. Bill will contact Fred Vogel of ODOT to see if applying for the design of Refugee Road at this time would make a good application.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Greg Butcher made a motion to adjourn. Sonja Simpson seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes approved by:



Jeremiah D. Upp
Chairperson & Secretary/Treasurer