

FAIRFIELD COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

May 9, 2023

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY RECORDS CENTER
138 WEST CHESTNUT STREET; LANCASTER, OHIO 43130**

Rick Szabrak called the meeting to order just after 1:00 p.m. on May 9, 2023 at the Fairfield County Records Center. The following persons were present: Sonja Simpson (TID Chairperson); Jeremiah Upp (TID Secretary/Treasurer); Rick Szabrak (TID Vice Chairperson); Curt Shonk (TID Board Member); Greg Butcher (TID Board Member); Dave Levacy (Fairfield County Commissioner); Aunie Cordell (Fairfield County Commissioners Office); Bill Lozier (TID); Mitch Noland (Fairfield County Engineer's Office); Jason Grubb (Fairfield County Engineer's Office); Anthony Iachini (Fairfield County Economic Development); Holly Mattei (Regional Planning Commission); Darryll Wohlk (Regional Planning Commission); Tom Pannett (Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter); Jennifer Shuey (DLZ); Conner Brintlinger (American Structurepoint)

- 1. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:**
 - a. Approval of the April 11, 2023; regular meeting minutes.
 - b. Motion to approve made by Mr. Butcher. Second by Mr. Upp. All members approved. Motion carried.
- 2. APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**
 - a. Approval of the April 25, 2023; special meeting minutes.
 - b. Motion to approve made by Mr. Upp. Second by Mrs. Simpson. All members approved. Motion carried.
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT:**
 - a. No public comments.
- 4. REPORT FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE:** County TID Financial Report
 - a. Report beginning April 7, 2023 to May 1, 2023.
 - 4/7/23 beginning balance of \$335, 780.96.
 - 4/10/23 check to Transcon Ltd for \$2,000.00; monthly invoice.
 - 4/23/23 check to Woolpert for \$49,954.00; Refugee Road Traffic Study.
 - 5/1/23 ending balance of \$283, 826.96.
 - b. Motion to approve the report from Mr. Butcher. 2nd by Mr. Shonk. All members approved. Motion carried.
- 5. NEW BUISNESS:**
 - a. No new business.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Consultant Project Update Report

- i) **Far East Freeway** – Mr. Butcher stated, CM Trans noted the survey work has been completed and they are working on the preliminary plans now. CM Trans is coordinating with ODOT to hold a stakeholder meeting in May. An update by ODOT District 5 is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24th at 2:00PM at the Violet Township Administration Office (10190 Blacklick Eastern Rd NW, Pickerington, OH 43147). ODOT will share information about the project, discuss alternatives being considered, review the project development process, and project schedule. Mr. Lozier plans to attend the meeting.
- ii) **Refugee Road Corridor** - As reported at the last meeting we applied through Congressman Balderson's office for the FFY 2024 Community Projects Funding (CPF) program in the amount of \$2.5M. Mr. Lozier also reached out to Senator Vance's office and discussed the project and submitted an application through their process. However, Peter Marbrach called after he learned Senator Vance doesn't take earmark applications. By that time, it was too late to submit through Senator Brown's office. Next Steps: The announcements for the selection of the systemic safety program are scheduled any day. The board applied for construction funding in the amount of \$2.1M which requires a 10% match. Mr. Lozier reached out to ODOT Central Office for an update and received encouraging info, but ODOT is waiting to make formal announcements. It is unknown when we will find out about the selections for the CPF program. The selected projects for FFY 2023 were announced just a couple months after the application, but the funds were just released a couple weeks ago.
- iii) **US33/I-70 Connector** – The board discussed the possibility of re-designing the route but landed on the fact that the board needs to keep the idea of the project alive until the opportunity arrives to take the next step. Mr. Lozier noted, ODOT District 5 has placed an announcement on their website stating they will take proposals on the September programmatic consultant solicitations for studies of the I70-SR161 Connector and for SR161 to I-71 connector. The board will continue to monitor this project.
- iv) **East Side Industrial Connector** – Mr. Shonk is reviewing the planning study from Structurepoint. The board agreed it would be beneficial to see a presentation on the project. Nothing new to report.
- v) **US33 Corridor Lane Widening CAP Project** - Mr. Lozier stated, the project was awarded \$19 M from TRAC through Stage 1 design for interchanges at IR270, Hamilton Rd and Bixby/ Rager Roads. This is funding, along with the \$3 million awarded to the Fairfield County Engineer through the FFY 2023 CPF. ODOT District Deputy Director Toni Turoswski scheduled a meeting with Jeremiah Upp, Bill Lozier, District 5 and Toni's team. The agenda items included the following, with brief findings below:

- (a) ODOT shares our gameplan for project development on the newly programmed 33 corridor projects. The project will be advertised on the May programmatic; the contract will be authorized in July. It will be initiated under a single PID (Project ID) so that a feasibility study can be completed. The deliverables of the feasibility study will include an IMS for the 270 interchange and an IJS for the Bixby Rd interchange. The other major consideration for the feasibility study is difficulties caused by the at grade intersection. They anticipate this will be remedied by making Bixby Road, right in, right out and closing US33 access to Rager Road entirely. After the feasibility study is completed, it is anticipated that 3 PID's will be used, 1 for each interchange and another for the widening. Each of these 3 projects will have separate NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) documents.
- (b) ODOT shared a brief update on 33/Pickerington Rd interchange – District 5 Stage 1 plans for the Pickerington Rd interchange are nearly complete. Right of way acquisition will start at the first of next year, with the plan for construction to begin summer 2025.
- (c) Discussed earmark status and gameplan the best way to utilize it in project development. Mr. Upp agreed that the funds could be transferred to the project but prefers that it go toward the PID committed to the lane widening project. This may be required anyway since the earmark language said it is to be used for that project. ODOT District 6 said they can create the PID for the widening project now and assign the funds to it. This is the most prudent approach so that the money doesn't get mixed into the other projects, and this step decreases the probability that the widening project will get lost in the future. ODOT has moved earmark money to their projects in the past so this shouldn't be a problem.
- (d) Discussed future funding pursuits-
 - (i) General project development timeline (env. clear target, detailed design selection as key milestones) - No discussion about this.
 - (ii) Timeline for future TRAC requests, competitive grants, earmarks - District 6 intends to make applications and agrees that the FCTID (Fairfield County TID) should continue to support their requests. When asked about widening 33 into Fairfield County, Toni Turowski said there is nothing that precludes ODOT from doing this; District 5 representatives didn't have much to say about this. The current plan would be to end the widening somewhere east of the Hill Diley Rd interchange. We will wait to see which firm gets selected and keep monitoring the project. It is noteworthy that ODOT is making the US33 corridor a higher priority. We should monitor the traffic studies and be sure that the modified studies don't indicate a need for lane widening farther into Fairfield County. The original consultant told us that no lane additions were shown necessary for the design year 2045 traffic beyond the Franklin County line.

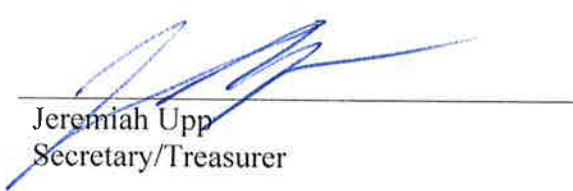
vi) **Basil Western Rd. Realignment** – Mr. Lozier noted a TID grant application was made in the amount of \$350K. We should receive notification in early June if we are awarded the grant since the funds are for SFY (State Fiscal Year) 2024, that fiscal year begins in June. Mr. Lozier presented the board with version 8 of the finance plan. Once the board knows how much funding they will receive, and when they will receive it, a cash flow plan will be created, that plan will also show sources and uses. Some of the grants are reimbursement, but because the Commissioners have discussed advancing any funding needed, this should be simple. An IGA (Inter Governmental Agreement) between the TID, Commissioners Office, Violet Township, and Canal Winchester, will be created after everything is in place. The IGA can serve as the agreement for the TID to work in the right-of-way. The County Engineers Office will advertise for the consulting work soon with the goal to begin design after July 1.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS:** No other business

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Minutes approved by:



Jeremiah Upp
Secretary/Treasurer