

FAIRFIELD COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MAY 26, 2022**

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

Jeremiah Upp, TID Chair & Secretary/Treasurer, called the meeting to order just after 9:00 a.m. on May 26, 2022 at the Fairfield County Engineer's Office. The following persons were present: Jeremiah Upp (TID Board Chair & Secretary/Treasurer); Mitch Noland (TID Board Vice Chair); Greg Butcher (TID Board Member); Rick Szabrak (TID Board Member); Sonja Simpson (TID Board Member); Bill Lozier (TransCon Ohio/TID Consultant); Dave Levacy (Fairfield County Commissioner); Tony Vogel (Fairfield County Utilities); Paul Denny (Woolpert); Jennifer Shuey (DLZ); Ralph Hedrick (Amanda Township); and Conner Brintlinger (American Structurepoint). Attending virtually were David Hague, Shawn Haughn, and Eric McCrady.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Greg Butcher made a motion to approve the April 28, 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 \$208,947.96. A check was written to TransCon Ohio for \$2,000.00 leaving an ending balance of \$206,947.96.

Rick Szabrak made a motion to approve the financial report. Sonja Simpson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

Rick stated that he was with the Violet Township Trustees a couple weeks ago. They asked that as the Pickerington Road interchange gets improved, the TID Board continue to monitor and discuss the surrounding roads in that area.

Jeremiah shared with the Board that his office started construction on the bridge on Horns Mill Road where the bypass ties back in at Tarkiln. When ODOT created the bypass, they rerouted the road to that bridge which created a 90° turn. The County Engineer's Office received funding to replace the bridge and alleviate some of the curve.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Consultant Project Update Report

Far East Freeway: The consultant request for proposal is being submitted Tuesday, May 31st. We need to verify that they put the local road study as part of the scope as promised. We will see how this goes with the consultant selection. Both Bill and Jeremiah have received numerous calls from consultants on this project.

Refugee Road Corridor: During the April meeting, discussion took place to reevaluate the traffic study in this area in order to determine the need between a three-lane and a five-lane road. Unfortunately, the traffic study was not able to take place before school was out for the summer. In order to get a true picture for this study, we will wait until the fall when school begins and we can have an accurate traffic count. Since the screening applications for attributable funds are in July, we will submit the cost estimates based on the five-lane road. Jeremiah stated that Violet Township has contacted him with concerns about opposing left turns from Refugee Road causing traffic problems. Burgess & Niple will evaluate this area for a proposed solution. Jeremiah, Bill, and Eric McCrady will meet to review cost estimates and discuss options for this application. Jeremiah stated that we should continue to have discussions about moving forward with a consultant selection process so that designing of this project can begin. Jeremiah and Eric spoke with Nick Gill of MORPC and assured him that the current project is designed to work with the widening project.

US33/I70 Connector: Bill reviewed additional plans for Licking County due to Intel. Commissioner Fix met with Congressman Balderson regarding the impact Intel will have on the local roads. He received a positive response. Approximately \$181M has been committed to take care of the Intel roads in the new Technology Manufacturing District.

Ewing Street Connector/Commerce Street Extension: Mitch stated that the study through the EDA Grant is now being called the East Side Industrial Connector and asked if we could change the name of this project. The goal of this project is to grow the east side industrial park and reduce congestion on Main Street. All stakeholder meetings are complete. They are currently in the midst of putting together a schedule to meet with the advisory groups. Structurepoint is working on alternatives to get growth on the east side of town. There are three objectives to this project: 1) Grow the east side industrial park, 2) Reduce truck traffic off Main Street, and 3) Get emergency vehicles to Fairfield Medical Center quicker.

Mitch Noland made a motion to change the Ewing Street Connector/Commerce Street Extension Project name to the "*East Side Industrial Connector*." Greg Butcher seconded the motion. Motion carried.

US33 Corridor CAP Project: Commissioner Fix discussed the lane addition on US33 with Congressman Balderson. Congressman Balderson sent his recommendations to Washington for consideration. Federal fiscal year 2023 is the soonest funds would be available. We are asking for \$3M in design and would have to come up with a 20% match. Rick stated that he spoke with Lucas Haire. Lucas stated that ODOT District 6 plans to tie all their improvements into one project. These include the Bixby Road Interchange, the I-270 flyover, and the additional lane between Gender Road and I-270.

Basil-Western Road Realignment: Rick spoke with Canal Winchester's Development Director, Lucas Haire. Lucas is looking into what happened with the Weiser property and that development. Right-of-way and realignment will be included for the developer. At this time, Canal Winchester and their plans for the area are the holdup. Rick spoke with three different developers to build the same structure (sales tax savings for improving Basil-Western and TIF's). We need to determine the cost for the road realignment and costs to the developers. Jeremiah stated that there has been some confusion relayed to the developers. Rick to speak with the developer and Violet Township to resolve any conflicts. The developer plans to move dirt even though there is no road relocation plan. Rick would like to have a meeting with Canal Winchester, Violet Township, County Engineer, Regional Planning, and Soil & Water to set the guidelines. Greg stated that this Board should designate Jeremiah to speak on our behalf as it relates to the TID component, and that until a Development Agreement is achieved, we will have no official expenditure or involvement in the road widening until those factors are resolved. Rick and Jeremiah to meet with the Board of Violet Township Trustees regarding this corridor.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

None at this time.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Mitch Noland made a motion to adjourn. Greg Butcher seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes approved by:



Jeremiah D. Upp
Chairperson & Secretary/Treasurer