

FAIRFIELD COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JUNE 23, 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 June 23, 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); Sonja Simpson (TID Board Member); Bill Lozier (TransCon Ohio/TID Consultant); Terry Dunlap (Violet Township); Ralph Hedrick (Amanda Township); Tony Vogel (Fairfield County Utilities); David Levacy (Fairfield County Commissioner); Dave Holsten (Woolpert). Attending virtually were Eric McCrady and one other caller.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Mitch Noland made a motion to approve the May 26, 2022 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 \$206,947.96. A check was written to TransCon Ohio for \$2,000.00 leaving an ending balance of \$204,947.96.

Greg Butcher made a motion to approve the financial report. Sonja Simpson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

There was none.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Consultant Project Update Report

Far East Freeway: ODOT is currently evaluating proposals. They should be selecting a consultant for this project soon.

Refugee Road Corridor: Bill has started working on the MORPC application for attributable funds screening which is due in July. He shared details of items still needed for this application. We need to determine how big we want the project to be (do we want to apply for the entire project or a phase of the project). Bill shared the financing plan for this project which totals over \$16M. However, the price could increase 50%-80% based on inflation. With grants, our share would be between \$7M - \$9.5M (an approximate \$500K - \$700K annual bond payment). Jeremiah stated that there is no clear revenue stream to pay for this and suggested they take this in phases. Jeremiah also suggested a meeting with the Commissioner's, Auditor Brown, and the Prosecutors to discuss a revenue stream for this project. The fear is that if we apply for this project and get funded, we may not have the revenue to pay our local share. Bill thinks that if we submit the screening application portion and find out after the meeting with the Auditor that the revenue stream is not there, we could pull the project prior to the September deadline. However, changing the scope of the project after it is submitted during the screening process would not look good. Therefore, we need to determine if we should apply in phases and if we desire a 3-lane or 5-lane road. There is currently a meeting scheduled with Congressman Balderson on June 29th. Commissioner Fix will also be attending this meeting. Commissioner Davis suggested having Auditor Brown at the same meeting in order to discuss the screening application and sources of revenue available. Jeremiah suggested adding County Administrator, Aunie Cordle as well.

Jeremiah asked the Board to entertain a motion to submit a screening application in July based on comments and decisions that come out of the meeting with Congressman Balderson. Sonja Simpson made a motion to support/approve the submission for the preliminary screening application for attributable funds for the Refugee Road project. Greg Butcher seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jeremiah will send a recap of the meeting to all Board members.

Bill stated that a Commissioner's resolution will be needed sometime during this process. Jeremiah will have Cheryl Downour prepare this.

US33/I70 Connector: Bill presented Licking County's four phases of road projects due to Intel. He drew the Boards attention to Phase 3 which is now being called the I-70 to SR161 Connector since it is not a definite that Mink Street will be widened. The importance of this is to watch Mink Street, as it becomes Wagram Road in Fairfield County. Wagram Road and SR204 will need improvements if Mink Street does get widened.

Jeremiah and Bill spoke with Representative LaRe regarding the US33/I70 Connector and funding. We need to keep our legislatures promoting these projects. Representative LaRe liked the idea of the connector being regionalized and not isolated to one part of the county.

East Side Industrial Connector: Mitch stated that the stakeholder meetings have finished and zoom calls with consultants have taken place. There was a set back with the street light data and additional information is needed. Structurepoint is reviewing this information and updating mapping, truck distribution, etc. that was not captured in the initial process.

US33 Corridor CAP Project: Rick was going to talk to Senator Brown's office regarding the earmark request we made for the design of this project. We asked for \$3M which would require approximately a \$1M local match. Representative LaRe was going to speak to Congressman Carey on this topic. Bill and Jeremiah to discuss this topic with Congressman Balderson next week.

Basil-Western Road Realignment: Jeremiah stated that we have made some headway to act as a group in working towards the same goal with the developer. The developer will need to go through Regional Planning. The developer has now started discussions with us about doing some type of public/private partnership for the roads. There is still uncertainty with some of the other parcels.


6. OTHER BUSINESS:

There was none.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Minutes approved by:



Jeremiah D. Upp
Chairperson & Secretary/Treasurer