

RPC ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE

June 16, 2014

MEETING NOTES

Attendees: Ira Weiss (Chair); Peggy Portier (Safe Routes to School); Eric McCrady (FCEO); Eric Sandine (Village of Lithopolis); Kent Huston (RPC); Scott Tourville (City of Pickerington Engineer); James Mako (RPC); Greg Eyeran (VCD); Carrie Woody (LPTS); Greg Bachman (FCEO); Greg Butcher (Violet Township); and Holly Mattei (RPC Executive Director)

Ira Weiss called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

1. Approval of May 19, 2014 meeting notes (see attached).

Peggy Portier made a motion to approve the May 19, 2014 meeting notes. 0:48 seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Chairman's Report

Ira Weiss said there were several things he would like to discuss with the committee. The first item was that Cathy and Mr. Weiss rode a bike trail that went from Mt. Vernon to Centerburg, dubbed the Heart of Ohio Trail.

The second item was an update on the Safe Routes to School meeting. The meeting Mr. Weiss attended compared Ohio to other states. He also wanted to point out that their coordinator Julie Wolcroft was retained when a lot of other coordinators were let go. Mr. Weiss also wanted to point out that Ohio was one of seven states that provides matches in funding. It is usually an 80-20 split in funding and ODOT is willing to match the 20%. The awards process has also gotten better in Ohio.

The last application process had over 640 eligible schools. There were only a select few that got the funding because they had to do a travel plan and a certain level of density is expected. There was a requested \$21 million in funding but only \$7.2 million was suggested. MORPC said that the applications were such high quality that they could have funded all of them if they had the funding to do so.

Pickerington submitted an application but they were denied.

9:26 asked if there was any feedback as to what could be done to improve the application scores.

Mr. Weiss said that they should have a meeting with Julie or Randy to discuss that.

Ms. Mattei said that since that wasn't funded the thought process was that they would try to do that project first and then worry about the Refugee Road.

10:10 said that they can apply to up to half a million and that the school district was on board. 10:10 also said that he talked to Jeremiah about the culvert there and wasn't sure if it would be done in time to continue with the plans. He suggested that they talk about it in the fall and he asked when the next application was due.

Ms. Mattei replied that next chance to apply was in February.

3. Funding Applications to MORPC

Ms. Mattei notified everyone that applications were due today and she thought it would be a good idea for the communities to come together and share their projects. The County Engineer's Office did get their application for the Refugee intersection in to her.

11:40 said that when the Pickerington North High School went in in 2003 they didn't set aside any funding for to do impact studies or infrastructure improvements. That intersection at Pickerington North Road and Refugee has a high accident rate so a temp light went in that was to last 5-6 years but now its 2014 and the light is still in. This year they did a feasibility study to see if a roundabout would work in that intersection. The study found it would slow down traffic and it would be safer for pedestrians. The funding source for this project would come from 992.

Ms. Mattei said that the 992 helps provide funding for major and minor road repairs.

14:15 said they may turn to the safety fund for the funding and that they are hoping to start the project in 2017.

14:49 asked how many crashes there were a year at that intersection.

14:55 said there were 15 but ODOT identified 20. Some of those accidents weren't intersection related though.

15:30 asked when they will know if they got the funding.

15:35 said that he didn't know and Ms. Mattei said that there is another deadline in August and they have to do a public comment period.

Mr. Weiss said that being on the funding committee will help.

17:50 said that they put in an application for a widening project that will put in 5 lanes from Pizza Hut/ Giant Eagle on Refugee Road west to the 256 intersection and down to Fuller's Way. It would then become a roundabout and have a 3 lane section to the western corp limit. The center lane would be used as a left turn lane into residential areas or it can act as a median. They will be getting \$3.5 million for the 256 and Refugee intersection from ODOT safety fund. It will be going East to West and there would be 2

thru lanes either way, 1 right turn lane and 2 left turn lanes. In all it would be 7 lanes wide.

19:31 said there was enough justification to put in the lanes but if they start to take more property then the need to go through the intersection would go down.

20:00 asked what the cost would be?

20:04 said \$11.7 million. He also said there was a preliminary discussion about how much they should scale back if they did not get the funding they were asking for.

20:22 asked how much did they ask for.

20:25 said they asked for roughly \$5.2 or \$5.6 million. The money would cover the right of way and some of the construction costs. The ODOT money would be for fiscal year 2017.

21:10 said that the right of way is a huge part of the funding and they are hoping to complete the corridor with MORPC money. Everything west of Refugee, the sidewalk on the south side and east of the intersection will have some sidewalk connections. They will complete the whole pedestrian network up and down 256 to Refugee and the bike path will connect through the subdivision.

Mr. Weiss said that Cathy and he rode the bike trail trying to find out how far it was to the Ohio Health Property. He also asked that, on Sunday when the Grace Church lets out, will the third lane accommodate the traffic.

22:50 said yes because a lot of them turn left into the church.

22:55 said originally the church was going to put a lane in but there was no way for them to construct one and us to salvage one. There was an agreement that they put one in or pay \$100,000. The Church was going to cover the cost and they came back saying that they were going to expand and put in a second drive. One is to act as an entrance and the other an exit.

Mr. Weiss said that's good because once church lets out traffic backs up on Refugee all the way to the 256 light.

23:50 said that right now they have an officer out there to direct traffic but the officer can only do so much.

Ms. Mattei asked how the 256 project going.

24:35 said they are currently on schedule for construction to start next year.

Ms. Mattei asked if there was anything else.

Mr. Weiss said that it might be a good idea at the funding meeting to talk about Refugee as a corridor.

Ms. Mattei provided an update on Baltimore. She said that she sent an email on May 27th asking Scott to think about an alternative but she hasn't heard anything back.

27:03 asked that since the other Grace Church is going in on the other side of Refugee, are the sidewalks going to go in.

Ms. Mattei replied that the sidewalks should go in this summer and the Commissioners are pushing to get them done.

27:35 asked if they asked enough right of way so that they could add on.

27:40 said that yes they did.

Mr. Weiss thanked everyone for coming. Motion to adjourn. 30:07 motioned. 30:08 seconded motion. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be July 21th at 2:30 p.m.