

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 24, 2011

There was a **Transportation Advisory Committee** meeting of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission held on **Monday, January 24, 2011**, at **1:30 p.m.** in the Conference Room of the Commission office located at 130 West North Street, Lima, Ohio.

The agenda was as follows:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of TAC minutes – November 15, 2010
3. RTA Report
4. Draft 2010 Fatal Crash Summary Report
5. FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments
6. Draft FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program
7. Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan Update
8. FTA Specialized Transportation Program Update
9. FY 2011 Semi-Annual Completion Report
10. 2010 Traffic Count Map
11. 2010 Traffic Flow Map
12. Other
13. Adjournment

A quorum being present, Kirk Niemeyer brought the meeting to order and proceeded with the agenda. Due to the presence of new guests, Kirk Niemeyer requested that all persons attending introduce themselves and state what agency they represent.

1. **ROLL CALL**

Ms. Shelley Gould	Allen County Regional Transit Authority
Mr. Steve Kayatin	Allen County Sanitary Engineer
Mr. Jed Metzger	Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Kirk Niemeyer	City of Lima
Mr. Doug Post	Amanda Township
Mr. Charles Schreck	ODOT District One
Mr. Jeff Sprague	Allen Economic Development Group

GUESTS

Ms. Rosann Christian	Allen County Regional Transit Authority
Mr. Tony Lococo	ODOT Central Office
Ms. Sara Walton	ODOT Central Office

STAFF

Mr. Thomas Mazur	Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission
Ms. Marlene Schumaker	Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission
Ms. LeeAnn Sypherd	Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission

2. **APPROVAL OF TAC MINUTES – November 15, 2010**

Motion 01 (01-24-11) TAC

Shelley Gould made the motion that the TAC minutes of November 15, 2010 be approved. Seconded by Doug Post; motion carried.

3. RTA REPORT

Shelley Gould introduced the Allen County Regional Planning Authority's (ACRTA) new director, Ms. Rosann Christian and reported that Ms. Christian began her tenure at the ACRTA the first part of January. Shelley Gould reported that the ACRTA was randomly selected to have an American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) review. The ACRTA received a few findings and is in the process of correcting those findings. Shelley Gould reported that the storage facility that was built using ARRA monies is almost completed; all but one other ARRA project have also been completed. Thomas Mazur asked Shelley Gould to report on the awarding of the Joint Access Reverse Commute (JARC) monies. Shelley Gould reported that ACRTA was awarded JARC monies for approximately \$250,000; the entire project is for approximately \$500,000. Charles Schreck asked what the project was. Shelley Gould replied that the project is to coordinate with Marimor and the Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) to provide trips for persons to go to work. The hope is to also extend the service hours of ACRTA.

Motion 02 (01-24-11) TAC

Charles Schreck made the motion to accept the ACRTA report. Seconded by Jeff Sprague; motion carried.

4. DRAFT 2010 FATAL CRASH SUMMARY REPORT

Thomas Mazur reported that there were only four fatal crashes in 2010. This is an historic low; typically the area experiences some dozen or more fatal crashes. Thomas Mazur presented copies of the draft report to committee members and reported that traffic fatalities in 2010 dropped 71% from the previous year. Approximately 75% of the crashes occurred on unlit, rural roads. Typically, crashes occur in the daytime within the urbanized area. Thomas Mazur reported that this month of January, there has already been a fatal crash. The fatal crash occurred by Faurot Park; there have been five crashes occur within approximately 1,500 feet of the site. Thomas Mazur reported that in 2010 there was only one motorcycle fatality. There were no fatal crashes involving trucks, trains, pedestrians or bicycles in 2010. There were thirteen people involved in the four fatal crashes; of the four, who died, two chose not to use safety devices and the person involved in the motorcycle fatality was wearing a helmet but sustained other injuries that proved fatal. Only one of the fatalities was a female. Thomas Mazur reported that the Allen County Coroner will be holding a press conference pertaining to the report. The report will be finalized next month.

Motion 03 (01-24-11) TAC

Jed Metzger made the motion to accept the Draft 2010 Fatal Crash Summary Report forward the recommendation on to the TCC for approval. Seconded by Shelley Gould; motion carried.

5. FY 2008-2011 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Thomas Mazur presented copies of a table of the modifications to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and reported that the MPO is operating under the FY 2008-2011 TIP. In 2009 and 2010 the area received funds under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA); these funds; these issues, required the approval of many resolutions dealing with amendments to the current TIP in order to comply with federal regulations. The TAC and the TCC have recently passed several resolutions for projects to be included in the TIP for the years FY 2012-2015. Some of the amendments must be amended in order for the projects to be aligned with ODOT's fiscal constraints. Thomas Mazur reported that there will be three drafts of the FY 2012-2015 TIP. One of the new ODOT rules is that the LACRPC must have a signed Memorandum of Understanding

5. FY 2008-2011 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS
(Continued)

(MOU) in place if the MPO is going to borrow funds from another MPO, ODOT District One, ODOT Central Office, or take out a SIB loan. Several projects must have the funds allocated to the local sponsors capped at this time to meet the ODOT regulations. Thomas Mazur reported that in FY 2012 some funds had to be removed from the Elm Street Project. In FY 2013, some funds had to be removed out of the Shawnee Road Project; the proposal for the IORR Interlock Project had to be pushed back to FY 2015. In addition, the LACRPC will be borrowing \$250,000 from ODOT District One in FY 2013 to allow ODOT to program sidewalks in FY 2013. Marlene Schumaker reported that one sidewalk project is for \$200,000 and the other project is for \$50,000. The funds will be paid back in FY 2014. Thomas Mazur reported that in FY 2014 funding was rearranged for the Kibby/Bellefontaine Intersection Project from to reflect \$490,000 STP and \$510,000 in CMAQ. The Village of Bluffton Hike/Bike Project has been pushed back to FY 2017. Staff has had discussions with the Village administration who would like to use Clean Ohio funds for the project. Charles Schreck asked about the Spencerville Streetscape Project being completed under budget and those funds not being a part of this table. Marlene Schumaker replied that staff has not received written confirmation from the Village of Spencerville administrator, stating that the project was actually completed under budget; the funds cannot be added back into the table until staff receives the written confirmation. Thomas Mazur reported that the MPO wants to use some of the FY 2011 carryover funds in FY 2012 but until staff receives concurrence, the funds cannot be moved to the Elm Street Project in FY 2012. Marlene Schumaker reported that a resolution will be written once concurrence has been received. Marlene Schumaker requested a motion to accept the resolution to decrease funds for the FY 2011 University Drive Pedestrian Project by \$10,368.

Motion 04 (01-24-11) TAC

Jeff Sprague made the motion to accept the resolution to decrease the funds for the University Drive Pedestrian Project by \$10,368 and forward the recommendation on to the TCC for approval. Seconded by Doug Post; motion carried.

6. DRAFT FY 2012-2015 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Thomas Mazur presented several handouts to the committee members and reported that TIP is a three part planning process that experiences many changes over the course of its lifetime. The TIP is in its first draft and this draft is due to ODOT by February 4, 2011. This draft must go through the internal committee structure before it is presented to ODOT Central Office for review and comment. Thomas Mazur reported that the TIP's development has three parts: the first part the development of the program of projects over the four years of the TIP's life. The second part of the TIP is the conformity analysis which is predicated on the air quality analysis. Finally, the third part is the public participation process whereby the general public has the opportunity to review and comment on the TIP. Thomas Mazur reported that the TAC has received tables from the TIP and the TCC will receive the entire document at Thursday's meeting. Staff will email the TAC committee member the TIP document after the TCC meeting on Thursday for review and comment. Thomas Mazur reported that the IR-75 Project is the largest project contained in the TIP. There is approximately \$250 million in projects contained within the TIP with the IR-75 Project comprises more than two-thirds of all costs in the TIP. Thomas Mazur reported that Table 2 is a breakdown of projects that are being underwritten at this time. The project for the Wastewater Treatment Plan in FY 2013 is for the construction of a bridge at the plant. Many of the state routes within the county will be receiving maintenance work; there are several bridge projects with the Shawnee Road Project including a bridge as a part of the project. The bridges that are a part of the IR 75 Project will cost approximately \$10 million. Thomas

6. DRAFT FY 2012-2015 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (Continued)

Mazur reported that Table 3 contains ACRTA's transit projects. In the past the MPO has helped ACRTA with rolling stock and keep it functioning; due to the funds that ACRTA received from the MPO as well as the ARRA funds, most of ACRTA's rolling stock is in fairly good condition. Shelley Gould reported that ACRTA has five buses that have reached their life expectancy and will need to be replaced soon. Thomas Mazur reported that there are currently no funds for transit vehicles in the proposed TIP. The MPO had been helping to fund ACRTA. Project sponsors have signed certifications on file for their projects that state that the project has the required local match. ACRTA has no local match; the transit monies that are contained within Table 3 are approximately 60% of what they were in the previous TIP. Thomas Mazur asked Marlene Schumaker if bridge projects that are part of a highway project are contained in highway project cost figures. Marlene Schumaker replied in the affirmative and stated that bridge projects are highway maintenance projects based on the funding stream used. Table 6 reflects the funds coming into the MPO of approximately \$2 million annually over the four-year time period. Table 7 reflects the projects that the MPO will be funding. The majority of the projects are within annual budgets with very few carryovers. Table 8 reflects more details on each of the projects including labor. The last two projects on the last two pages of Table 8 reflect ODOT District One projects. Charles Schreck reported that District One covers eight counties and if a project has a component in the county then the project must be added to the MPO's TIP. Thomas Mazur reported that ODOT requested that the status of the previous TIP be added to the new TIP document. There were only two projects that were not completed or eliminated and those projects were in the previous FY 2008-2011 TIP. The Village of Bluffton Hike/Bike Project has been moved out to FY 2017, while the City's Signalization Project slipped due to the complexity of the project. The project has been moved into the new TIP. Kirk Niemeyer reported that the first phase of the City Signalization will begin in FY 2012. Thomas Mazur reported that approximately 95% of the projects within the new TIP are for ODOT, 3% for the MPO and 2% for ACRTA. There will be a joint MPO/ODOT District One meeting at the LACRPC office on April 5th to review the TIP for FY 2012-2015. There will be no Spanish or Braille version of the TIP unless requested due to the lack of interest.

Motion 5 (01-24-11) TAC

Jed Metzger made the motion to accept the map and tables of the Draft FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and forward the recommendation on to the TCC for approval. Seconded by Doug Post; motion carried.

7. PUBLIC TRANSIT-HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION PLAN UPDATE

Thomas Mazur presented a handout to the committee and reported that in FY 2008, ODOT required a Coordination Plan be prepared for the public transit provider and the local non-profit agencies to continue to remain eligible for federal funds. There are approximately 30 agencies within Allen County that provide some type of transit or paratransit services. The coordination amongst such agencies was fairly weak therefore, ODOT and the federal government attempted to "force" agencies to work together. This has not worked so well for Allen County and the surrounding area as the agencies who had worked together before the coordination plan stopped. Thomas Mazur reported that it has been almost three years since the coordination plan was written and approved. The document is therefore reviewed periodically to determine what has been accomplished and ensure the Plan remains viable. The recession has hurt not just ACRTA but many of the other paratransit agencies. The Allen County Council on Aging (ACCOA) appears to have adjusted and continues to expand and add services. Thomas Mazur reported that the handout contains a Short-Term Action Plan of the Coordination Plan. The Coordination Plan contains short, medium and long term

7. PUBLIC TRANSIT-HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION PLAN UPDATE (Continued)

action plans. The Short-Term Action Plan takes us up to 2011. The action plan uses a check mark which means the goal was achieved; a ticking clock which means it is an ongoing task and an ☒ which means that the goal was not achieved. One of the goals that staff is still working on is the feasibility of a volunteer service program. This type of program has been effective in other communities but there is liability issues that will need dealt with. Staff has believed that the local churches might have been interested in that particular program but have not stepped into it at this time. Thomas Mazur reported that the implementation of the rideshare program has not been accomplished mainly because neither ACRTA nor the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) have the funds for the local match. There has been an organization created by the non-profit agencies called the Future Accessible Coordinated Transportation Services (FACTS) to begin local services and outreach. Brochures have been created. A call center (211) was to be established in Allen County but has been farmed out. The local political officials are not involved and there is no strong political leadership to “push” it along. Thomas Mazur reported that Table 76 contains the capital improvement of the local agencies. The agencies have recently asked for vehicles that in the past were not included. The table has been modified to include the CV 2-3 which Marimor has requested. Other agencies have requested LVM type vehicles with narrow bodies. Thomas Mazur reported that the CAAC will meet soon to complete another review of the Coordination Plan.

Motion 06 (01-24-11) TAC

Jeff Sprague made the motion to accept the update of the Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan as a draft and forward the recommendation on to the TCC for approval. Seconded by Doug Post; motion carried.

8. FTA SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATE

Thomas Mazur reported that staff received applications from Marimor Industries and the Allen County Council on Aging (ACCOA) for capital items under the Specialized Transportation Program (STP). The applications were received at the LACRPC office on January 14, 2011. Staff was waiting for the scoring criteria from ODOT Central Office and it was never received. Status reports were supposed to be given to the CDC and the CAC committees last week. Staff received last year’s scoring criteria and used that to score the applications for the new grant cycle. Staff suggests that the MPO support the applications. A minimum of 80 points was required to be eligible for the program; the ACCOA scored a 98 out of 110 points and Marimor Industries scored a 100 out of 110 points. Typically the difference in the points is due to the number of miles each agency drives; Marimor Industries drives many more miles over seven days whereas ACCOA drives less over five days. Kirk Niemeyer asked if the transit agencies have the authority to sell their old buses. Thomas Mazur replied that many agencies have in the past but by the time the agencies are ready to get rid of their old buses they are in bad shape. Shelley Gould reported that ACRTA has had silent auctions in the past as well as placed buses on EBay.

Motion 07 (01-24-11) TAC

Steve Kayatin made the motion to accept the recommendation of support for the FTA Specialized Transportation Program applications for Marimor Industries and the Allen County Council on Aging and forward the recommendation on to the TCC for approval. Seconded by Doug Post; motion carried.

9. FY 2011 SEMI-ANNUAL COMPLETION REPORT

Thomas Mazur reported that due to time constraints the FY 2011 Semi-Annual Completion Report would be forwarded to TAC members for their review and comment after the TCC meeting.

10. 2010 TRAFFIC COUNT MAP

Thomas Mazur directed the committee members to the maps hanging on the conference room walls and reported that staff completed 3,010 traffic counts in 2010. Thomas Mazur presented to committee members an example of the Village of Elida traffic count map as well as a traffic flow map and reported that the LACRPC has traffic count maps for all of the political subdivisions.

Motion 08 (01-24-11) TAC

Jeff Sprague made the motion to accept the traffic count map and forward the recommendation on to the TCC for approval. Seconded by Doug Post; motion carried.

11. 2010 TRAFFIC FLOW MAP

Thomas Mazur presented to committee members an example of a traffic flow map and reported that the golden colored roadways reflect the higher order roadways on the functional classification system. If a roadway is not a golden color then it is considered a local roadway. Kirk Niemeyer asked what software is used to generate the maps. Thomas Mazur reported that some are done using GIS and some using CAD.

Motion 09 (01-25-11) TAC

Jeff Sprague made the motion to accept the traffic flow map and forward the recommendation on to the TCC for approval. Seconded by Doug Post; motion carried.

12. OTHER

Tony Lococo from ODOT District One stated that he attended the TAC meeting in order to introduce himself. Tony Lococo reported that he began at ODOT District One in October of 2010 and works in the Multi-Modal Office as the new Transit Planner. ODOT District One is working in establishing a statewide Transit Plan which is the main duty that he is charged with accomplishing. At this time, ODOT District One is gathering data on the transit agencies within the State of Ohio, their routes and stops, etc.

Sara Walton reported that she began at ODOT District One in December of 2010 and is an MPO Planner. The Lima-Allen County MPO is one of her MPO's.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 10 (01-24-11) TAC

Steve Kayatin made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Doug Post; motion carried.