

## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 23, 2010

There was a **Transportation Advisory Committee** meeting of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission held on **Monday, August 23, 2010**, 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 – June 21, 2010
3. RTA Report
4. FY 2010 Completion Report
5. Coordination Program Update
6. Freight Flow Safety Assessment
7. Adverse Weather Crash Analysis Update
8. TIP Project Update
9. FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update
10. Other
11. Adjournment

A quorum being present, Kirk Niemeyer brought the meeting to order and proceeded with the agenda. Kirk Niemeyer requested that introductions be made due to new members of the committee.

### 1. **ROLL CALL**

Ms. Teresa Adams	City of Lima
Mr. Mark Droll	Kohli & Kaliher
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. Brion Rhodes	Allen County Engineer's Office
Mr. Charles Schreck	ODOT District One
Mr. Brad Swick	Allen County

### **GUESTS**

Mr. Gary Kitchin	Allen County Regional Transit Authority
Ms. Erica Petrie	Area Agency on Aging

### **STAFF**

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

### 2. **APPROVAL OF TAC MINUTES – June 21, 2010**

#### **Motion 53 (08-23-10) TAC**

Shelley Gould made the motion that the TAC minutes of June 21, 2010 be approved. Seconded by Jed Metzger; motion carried.

**3. RTA REPORT**

Shelley Gould reported that the Allen County Regional Transit Authority (ACRTA) staff has been working with Stratagen which is the company that is installing the scheduling and dispatching software that ACRTA has purchased. The system includes GPS software as well. Shelley Gould reported that a representative from Stratagen was at ACRTA last week to begin the implementation of the software as well as to begin training some of the ACRTA staff. Shelley Gould reported that ACRTA staff has also been working with the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) coordination committees. The AAA will be leasing the MDT units as well as the GPS software for a \$1.00 per year. Other transportation providers within Allen County and the surrounding counties may also lease the MDT units and software.

**Motion 54 (08-23-10) TAC**

Steve Kayatin made the motion to accept the ACRTA report. Seconded by Doug Post; motion carried.

**4. FY 2010 COMPLETION REPORT**

Thomas Mazur presented to the committee copies of the FY 2010 Completion Report and reported that the Work Program Summary table is located on page 53 for the second half of FY 2010. The table reflects the projects that are on schedule and those that are not. Of the sixteen (16) line items, ten (10) have not yet been completed. Thomas Mazur reported that under the category 601 (Carryover) approximately 75% of the deliverables were completed. The LACRPC was audited by ODOT last year and the auditors were not satisfied with the accounting software used. A software vendor was hired to investigate an accounting system. Staff received sought approval to use the county's MUNIS software system. To date, the LACRPC has not tied into the county system but the cables and lines are all installed. Staff is waiting for the Allen County Auditor's Office to okay the final tie-in. Thomas Mazur reported that under category 601.4 for Public Participation, due to staffing issues, staff was unable to visit many of the neighborhood groups as detailed in the Public Participation Plan. Staff anticipates being able to visit the neighborhood groups in FY 2011. Thomas Mazur reported that category 601.5 pertains to neighborhoods and the traffic problems within the neighborhoods. Staff completed a strategy for the Riverside North Neighborhood Association. The report contained a detailed analysis of the conditions and strategies to address same. The City of Lima's Planning Commission and Department of Community development has been working with the Riverside North Neighborhood Association; therefore, staff forwarded the report on to those two agencies. Thomas Mazur reported that Kibby Corners Neighborhood Association is a Community Development Corporation (CDC) and has been working on establishing a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) which is recognized by the State of Ohio and has more authority to handle real estate transactions. Thomas Mazur reported that staff began to work with the NW Perry Revitalization Group but due to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds discussions as well as the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) demolitions, not much else has been completed with this group. Under Subcategory 602 Thomas Mazur reported ODOT wanted projects programmed out to FY 2017. The programming of the projects was not completed due to the many TIP amendments required due to the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds that were allocated to Allen County. Administrative Modification Policies were adopted and the Public Participation Plan was modified to accommodate the many TIP changes. Thomas Mazur reported that category 605.7 is Operations Management and contains the High Water Assessment of Local Ridges/Roadways. Thomas Mazur reported that category 610 on pages 30 and 31 reveals that this category has not been completed, mainly due to staffing issues. Data was collected but has not yet been entered into a Travel Demand Model. Thomas Mazur reported that expenditures in category 610.4 reveal approximately 75% was spent to

**4. FY 2010 COMPLETION REPORT (Continued)**

produce Comprehensive Plans for Spencer Township and the Village of Spencerville as well as the Comprehensive Plan for Jackson Township and the Village of Lafayette. The Spencer Township/Village of Spencerville Comprehensive Plan is completed but the Plan is being reviewed by attorneys before its adoption. Staff collected the data for the Perry Township Sketch Plan but the township has not convened a committee to review the data. Thomas Mazur reported that category 674 is designed to assist paratransit operations. Contained within this category is the Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan. The coordination of transportation activities within Allen County is behind schedule as per the Coordination Plan. Thomas Mazur reported that category 674.1 contains the STP Program. ACRTA's funding from the county was discontinued by the Allen County Commissioners therefore; the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) revised its budget in order to be able to assist ACRTA in completing several required tasks. The marketing and communications plan that staff compiled is somewhat simplistic due to the lack of funds for marketing. Thomas Mazur reported that category 675 is the ACRTA portion of the work program and is reviewed on pages 45-47. There will be a correction made to the document before it is submitted to ODOT. The ACRTA route to the Village of Spencerville is being funded by New Freedom funds not Joint Access Reverse Commute (JARC) monies as noted in the text. Thomas Mazur reported that category 675 on page 49 reviews the MPO's work for ACRTA. ACRTA purged their Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) database this year. The MPO completed the ridership surveys for ACRTA. Thomas Mazur reported that category 697 reviews the Annual Report. Staff completed the Annual Report at 65% of budget; fewer copies were printed this year, a different type of paper was used and many of the recipients received the Annual Report via electronic media. Thomas Mazur requested a motion to accept the document and forward it on to the TCC for review and approval.

**Motion 55 (08-23-10) TAC**

Shelley Gould made the motion to accept the FY 2010 Completion Report and forward the recommendation on to the TCC for approval. Seconded by Doug Post; motion carried.

**5. COORDINATION PROGRAM UPDATE**

Erica Petrie from the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) presented to the committee members a handout and proceeded to review the information contained therein. Erica Petrie reported that Thomas Mazur requested she attend the August internal committee meetings to report on how the mobility management activities have been tying into the Coordination Plan. Erica Petrie reported that the 2009 Coordination Plan update was used as a basis for this update and that there has been progress but coordination is still behind as pertains to technological advances. Erica Petrie reported that the LACRPC staff wrote the New Freedom Grant application covers the FY 2010-2011 period. The grant is for approximately \$900,000; the grant supports the replacement of five (5) vehicles, mobility management activities and operating expenses which will help to cover the provision of trips for clients. Erica Petrie reported that there have been several accomplishments towards the goals of the 2009 Coordination Plan update. A coalition of seventeen (17) agencies has been established. The name of the coalition is the Future of Accessible Coordinated Transportation Services (FACTS). The coalition is based for the most part within Allen County but is open to membership from other agencies in the surrounding counties. The coalition meets quarterly and is working on a logo that will be used in marketing and other types of literature that will help to inform the public of the different types of transportation providers that are available to serve the different types of stakeholders transportation needs. Erica Petrie reported that the biggest accomplishment to date has been that the AAA has installed a transportation call center at their agency. The call center is for clients to call in that need transportation and

**5. COORDINATION PROGRAM UPDATE** (Continued)

have no idea who to call. The AAA staff will review the caller's characteristics such as age, a Medicaid recipient, a Veteran, etc. and utilizing the information gathered, the staff person will match the client up with a transportation service provider that can help them. If a match cannot be made then the AAA will pay for the trip for the client. Erica Petrie reported that the AAA's client base is those aged 65 and older. Erica Petrie reported that the AAA's website ([www.aaa3.org](http://www.aaa3.org)) has a web directory of transportation services. A client can go to the website and type transportation in the search bar and a directory of the transportation providers. The directory also includes more detailed information about each provider. Staff is also available to walk a client through the website and how to use it. Erica Petrie reported that eventually the call center will be tied in with the scheduling and dispatching software that ACRTA is installing. Erica Petrie reported that since the call center opened on July 1, the agency has received six (6) transportation calls and provided three (3) trips without any advertising. Erica Petrie anticipates marketing of the call center to begin September 1, 2010. Erica Petrie reported that the FACTS coalition has several committees working on different aspects of the coordination effort. The coalition has a technology committee which is working with ACRTA as well as the call center. Gary Kitchin reported that ACRTA and Marimor will be the pilot organizations for the scheduling and dispatching software. Once the system "bugs" have been worked through, the system hardware and software will be available for agencies to lease at a low cost. Erica Petrie reported that the ability to lease the system at practically no cost to an agency is a great marketing tool as an agency will be able to use the system to see how it works and what benefits that it can bring to the agency and its clientele. Thomas Mazur reported that the software will encode each individual agencies clientele, identify the client's different characteristics, and will also handle the billing, the number of miles per trip, looks at the service characteristics, who provided the trip, the number of miles, etc. The software also allows the scheduling and dispatcher to view in real time where each vehicle is located within the system. If a client calls and requires a ride, the dispatcher can provide a ride "on demand". Thomas Mazur reported that there are seven (7) different agencies located outside of the county that are looking at making trips into the county and may be willing to become a part of the system and provide trips into the City of Lima from the rural areas of Allen County. Erica Petrie reported that the FACTS committees continue to work on coordination efforts. Kirk Niemeyer asked where the AAA will be advertising their phone number and the website. Erica Petrie responded anywhere that is possible and asked for suggestions. Kirk Niemeyer replied that if the agency would like to advertise itself on G-TV2 to contact Ms. Katherine Garlock. Erica Petrie reported that Dancie Moore is the head of FACTS marketing work group. Ms. Moore has worked in the media field in the past and has several connections to the media within the county. Thomas Mazur reported that no action is required.

**6. FREIGHT FLOW SAFETY ASSESSMENT**

Thomas Mazur presented to the committee members a handout of maps and proceeded to review the maps contained therein. Thomas Mazur reported that map 1 reflects the Allen County Roads by Functional Classification System. There are approximately 1,400 miles of higher order roadways on the Federal Functional Classification system account for approximately 12.6% of the total system miles within the county. Map 2 reflects the higher order roadways by Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Thomas Mazur reported that map 3 reflects the crash rates on the functional class. The crash rates vary; ODOT retains detailed information on crash rates and staff has taken three (3) years worth of crash data and plotted the data onto the maps to reveal the crash rates in the rural areas. Map 4 reflects the crash rates within the City of Lima as well as the Central Business District (CBD) of the City of Lima. The crash rates vary by the characteristics of the roadway such as the number of lanes and the functional class. Each roadway has a different crash rate assigned based on

**6. FREIGHT FLOW SAFETY ASSESSMENT (Continued)**

divided or undivided, major or minor, rural or urban, etc. The roadways identified in yellow, orange or red are at or over the state average crash rate per million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). A detailed list of the roadways that exceed the state averages will be compiled in the near future. Thomas Mazur reported that maps 5 and 6 reflect the truck flow on the federal functional class system. Staff will be meeting with the freight providers during the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process to discuss projects that interest them. Thomas Mazur reported that areas of concern are Bluelick Road at the underpass, Piquad Road, State Road, Reservoir Road, Grubb Road, sections of Lincoln Highway, Ft. Amanda Road and Thayer Road. ODOT does not provide crash rates for trucks on the functional class system.

**7. ADVERSE WEATHER CRASH ANALYSIS UPDATE**

Thomas Mazur reported that map 7 which is included in the aforementioned handouts, reflects the adverse weather crash rates on the functional class system; the data is not broken down by the type of roadway such as arterial or collector, urban or rural. Staff realized during that analyzing of the data that there were an inordinate number of run off the road crashes. Napoleon Road has a high number of these types of crashes. Rural crashes appear to have higher fatality rates than urban crashes. Thomas Mazur reported that adverse weather is precipitation in any form such as rain, snow, sleet, ice, mud and other debris on the roadway surface. The severity of the crashes and injuries decreases in with the worsening weather. It appears that maybe people are driving more defensively in poor weather and other persons may not drive at all. Thomas Mazur reported that map 8 reflects the adverse weather crashes within the City of Lima. Most of these crashes were rear-end collisions and sliding through intersections. Most urban crash rates no matter the type of roadway tend to be in excess of 2%. The red corridors are of concern but the orange corridors will also be reviewed. There may be issues with the friction factors on some of the roadways and these will be reviewed as well. Teresa Adams asked if school zones are reviewed. Thomas Mazur responded that in the past staff has reviewed school zones and asked if there was a particular school zone of interest. Teresa Adams responded in the negative. Steve Kayatin asked what happened to the speed cameras that were placed within the school zones. Kirk Niemeyer replied that the cameras did not work out. The cameras did promote compliance but there was a huge public outcry. The process was that the company that the City of Lima contracted with sent out a warning ticket and so many drivers received warning tickets that it created a public outcry. Steve Kayatin asked if financial factors were an issue with all of the warning tickets mailed. Kirk Niemeyer replied that there was a 30-day warning period before actual tickets would be mailed to persons that were photographed speeding in a school zone but that once that period was over, the company would receive a certain percentage of the fines collected and the rest was to be forwarded on to the City of Lima. Gary Kitchin asked if the company is still in business. Kirk Niemeyer replied that the company has since gone out of business. Teresa Adams reported that these types of cameras are being contested in courts around the country. Kirk Niemeyer reported that the next step that the schools will be involved in is the Safe Routes to Schools Program.

**8. TIP PROJECT UPDATE**

Thomas Mazur presented to committee members a handout and proceeded to review the information contained therein. Thomas Mazur reported on the TIP projects for FY 2011. University Boulevard is completed and the Village of Spencerville Streetscape project is also completed. The City of Lima Signalization project is ongoing. The Cole Street Pedestrian and the Cable Road Pedestrian projects should be completed within FY 2011. Thomas

**8. TIP PROJECT UPDATE (Continued)**

Mazur reported that there were some cost savings that have occurred. The University Boulevard and the Spencerville Streetscape projects both were completed under budget. At this time it appears that there will be approximately \$673,468 to reprogram for FY 2011. Two projects have been requested for funding as part of the FY 2008-2011 TIP. The projects reflect the Spring and Elm Street One-Way Conversion for approximately \$880,000 and the Lincoln Highway (Part 1) project for approximately \$500,000. These projects will utilize the funds that need to be reprogrammed; an additional \$627,000 is needed. There may be more funds that can be taken from the City Signalization project and be programmed to the projects that have requested funding. Thomas Mazur reported that over the next few weeks more projects will be identified for possible inclusion in the new FY 2012-2015 TIP. Staff anticipates approximately \$1.1 million in STP dollars and approximately \$736,000 in CMAQ monies in FY 2012. Over time the amount of funding increases based on allocation processes which will allocate approximately \$8 million to be spent in Allen County over the 4-year period. Thomas Mazur reported that in the first week of September, formal solicitations for the FY 2012-2015 TIP will be sent to the political subdivisions. The projects must be back as soon as possible as the air quality conformity evaluation must be completed. Thomas Mazur reported that staff has already received several projects for possible inclusion into the FY 2012-2015 TIP. The projects reflect the Spencerville Miami-Erie Canal Enhancement, the City of Delphos has an Elida Road sidewalk project at approximately \$35,000, the City of Lima has the Elm Street reconstruction for approximately \$1.35 million, the City of Delphos would like a hike/bike trail along the canal for approximately \$1.45 million, and the Allen County Engineer's Office (ACEO) requested funding for Lincoln Highway (Part 2) to replace joints and repave the roadway from the Village of Beaverdam to the Village of Cairo. Also included on the proposed projects listing is the SR 117 Pedestrian Project in partnership with ODOT. The MPO has pledged approximately \$200,000 for this project. Also on the list is the SR 81 Pedestrian Project, also in partnership with ODOT, at \$250,000, and an ODOT partnership project for sidewalks under IR 75 for approximately \$50,000. The Ft. Amanda and Shawnee Road Project for approximately \$2.3 million, Hike/Bike Connector project in Shawnee, the Kibby Street Reconstruction project for approximately \$1.4 million, a Bluffton Hike/Bike Project, and conversations pertaining to widening at the Breese Road and IR 75 exit through the railroad grade crossing are also to be addressed. Also included on the list is a request for approximately \$1.6 million in rolling stock for ACRTA and approximately \$480,000 for MPO planning. The total comes to approximately \$10.9 million and there is only approximately \$8 million to be allocated. Thomas Mazur reported that the list will be reviewed and projects may have to be capped. Thomas Mazur reported that the first draft of the FY 2012-2015 TIP must be submitted to ODOT in November.

**Motion 56 (08-23-10) TAC**

Steve Kayatin made the motion to accept the resolution for Authorization to Amend the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Reduce PID 84141 University Boulevard Pedestrian Project and forward on to the TCC for approval. Seconded by Jed Metzger; motion carried.

Charles Schreck reported that any time that funding within a PID changes by a certain percentage then an amendment is required to change the funding and/or move the monies. There has been a change to add \$1.2 million for the IR 75 Preliminary Engineering Phase.

8. **TIP PROJECT UPDATE** (Continued)

**Motion 57 (08-23-10) TAC**

Charles Schreck made the motion to accept the resolution for Authorization to Amend the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Increase PID 76691 North ALL IR 75 Preliminary Engineering Phase and forward on to the TCC for approval. Seconded by Brion Rhodes; motion carried.

9. **FY 2011 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) UPDATE**

Thomas Mazur reported that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a formal document required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and requires formal action from the internal committee structure. Thomas Mazur reported that the UPWP is a 12 month planning commitment with ODOT that establishes the rationale and justification for funds. The document is compiled in March of each year and is approved in April based on best guess estimates. Since the document was originally approved some changes have occurred. Thomas Mazur reported that the yellow highlighted areas within the text are the categories that have had adjustments. Some of the changes are carryover funds. Initially staff anticipated approximately \$64,000 in carryover funds but more was spent than originally anticipated. There was actually approximately \$47,000 in carryover funds requiring a reduction of approximately \$16,000. Thomas Mazur reported that staff received notification from ODOT that the MPO was going to receive an additional approximately \$4,700. Thomas Mazur reported that the summary table reflects approximately a \$32,000 increase in FHWA, a drop of \$8,000 in STP funds and increase of \$1,800 in local funds. The budget reflects \$849,270 or an increase of 8.6%. Thomas Mazur requested two motions; one to accept the UPWP tables and forward them on to the TCC for approve and the second motion is to accept a change in the text of the work program under category 601.4 to state "Staff will use surveys and incentives to gather public input."

**Motion 58 (08-28-10) TAC**

Jed Metzger made the motion to accept the budget revision tables for the FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and forward on to the TCC for approval. Seconded by Mark Droll; motion carried.

**Motion 59 (08-23-10) TAC**

Mark Droll made the motion to add the text "Staff will use surveys and incentives to gather public input" to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) on page 32 under category 601.4 and forward on to the TCC for approval. Seconded by Doug Post; motion carried.

10. **OTHER**

None.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion 60 (08-23-10) TAC**

Brion Rhodes made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Steve Kayatin; motion carried.