

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES
AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT REPORTS

Regular Board Meeting
By Electronic Participation (Teleconference)
In Accordance with HB 404
February 22, 2021

Chair Pflum called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees to the Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District (HCTID) Board Meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Board Members Present: Henry Frondorf, Jack Pflum, Eric Beck, John Brazina, Christie Kuhns, William Seitz

Board Member absent:

Also in attendance: Charlene Vollhardt, Todd Gadbury, Todd Long – Hamilton County; Chris Meyer – Redevelopment Authority; Tommy Arnold – ODOT; Rusty Schuermann – Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter; Martha Kelley; Megan Hube; Bill Shefcik; Brian Williams; Dan Corey; Dan Springer; Dan Pozniak; Jen Koetter; Jon Carroll; Rob Hans; Jon Wiley; Jake Stremmel; Jeff Wallace; John Ravasio; Kendall Bales; Cheri Rekow; Anne Rahall; Nathan Alley; Brian Riblet; Robert Koehler; Shawn Mason; Ursula Miller; Vanessa Ngheim; David Wormald; Caroline Duffy; Frank Aransky; Marilyn Highland; Stefan Spinosa; Diane Phelps; Darryl Haley; Jerry Evans; Rachel Culley; Summer Jones; Duane Phelps; Jeff Heimann

Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence...

Approval of Minutes...

- Chairman Pflum entertained a motion to approve the minutes from January 25, 2021...
- ***Board Member Kuhns made the motion to approve the HCTID Board Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2021; seconded by Board Member Frondorf and the motion carried upon roll call vote: Chairman Pflum – yes, Board Member Brazina – yes, Board Member Frondorf – yes, Board Member Beck – yes, Christie Kuhns – yes.***

Proclamation honoring Mr. Eric Kearney and his service to the HCTID...

- Chairman Pflum read the Proclamation honoring Eric Kearney and entertained a motion to approve the Proclamation honoring Mr. Eric Kearney...
- ***Board Member Kuhns made the motion to adopt the Proclamation honoring Mr. Eric Kearney and his service to the HCTID; seconded by Board Member Frondorf and the motion carried upon roll call vote: Chairman Pflum – yes, Board Member Brazina – yes, Board Member Frondorf – yes, Board Member Beck – yes, Christie Kuhns – yes.***

*Transportation issues...
Regional Partner Reports*

ODOT update:

- Tommy Arnold with ODOT discussed the “Update of ODOT Major Projects in the Downtown Cincinnati Area” report. A copy of the “Update of ODOT Major Projects in the Downtown Cincinnati Area” handout was distributed, which is attached hereto and made a part of. He commented that another phase of Millcreek Expressway that has been funded which will widen I-75 from the Norwood Lateral to Ronald Reagan expected in 2022. He commented on the Eastern Corridor website at www.easterncorridor.org where there are two links for the public involvement efforts that are now currently underway.
- Tommy Arnold commented that TRAC is meeting on February 24, 2021 and there may be an expedited application cycle with applications due in March.

Clermont County TID updates...

- Jeremy Evans, Clermont County Engineer, reported no news; all their projects are moving forward.

Butler, Warren County TID updates:

- Dan Corey reported on the Fields Ertel project with a detailed presentation showing the project limits.

TID Corridors of Opportunity...

- Board Member Beck reported that the Dry Fork intersection was not approved for funding by ODOT.

Western Hills Viaduct update:

- Bill Shefcik reported the U.S. Department of Transportation rolled out the INFRA program and are looking for applications to be submitted by March 19, 2021. They will be submitting another application for the Western Hills Viaduct this year since they did not get funding last year.
- Board Member Beck commented that the City and the County have been working diligently together on the Western Hills Viaduct application.
- Board Member Frondorf suggested the HCTID Board write a letter of support for the INFRA grant to support the Western Hills Viaduct.
- ***Board Member Frondorf made the motion for the HCTID Secretary-Treasurer to write a letter of support by the HCTID for the Western Hills Viaduct INFRA grant; seconded by Board Member Beck and the motion carried upon roll call vote:***

Chairman Pflum – yes, Board Member Brazina – yes, Board Member Frondorf – yes, Board Member Beck – yes, Board Member Kuhns – yes.

- Chairman Pflum commented he anticipated some of the criteria used to measure the worth of transportation projects to a community will change under the Biden Administration.
- Board Member Beck commented the newly issued Notice Of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) did not include a new rating or scoring criteria.
- Bill Shefcik reported there are two new evaluation criteria. 1) Climate Change and environmental justice impacts 2) racial equity and opportunity.

Cincinnati Transportation Update...

- John Brazina reported no updates.

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber update:

- No one present to update.

Redevelopment Authority Project update...

- Chris Meyer reported no updates.

SORTA Update...

- Darryl Haley reported 10 new buses were added to the fleet. Reinventing Metro is running again with 12 partners and will be running through ERM. They are now reimbursing 50% of fare purchased for fares to and from work, employment training, health care and social services. The SORTA Board voted and approved fare simplification effective April 4, 2021.
- Darryl Haley reported all documentation is complete and will be sent to all Municipalities and Hamilton County. Everything will be listed on their website for comments. The SORTA Board will be voting in March to approve the documents and will be calling for projects the first of April.

HCTID letter of support to vaccinate Public Transportation Workers...

- Board Member Frondorf discussed in detail that SORTA was working with the Department of Health to get their bus drivers vaccinated. The HCTID Board wrote a letter of support to the SORTA Board to go the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority Board of Trustees.

- ***Board Member Beck made a motion to adopt the letter as written regarding the vaccination distribution of Public Transportation Workers; seconded by Board Member Kuhns and the motion carried upon roll call vote: Chairman Pflum – yes, Board Member Brazina – yes, Board Member Frondorf – yes, Board Member Beck – yes, Christie Kuhns – yes.***

OKI Update...

- Bob Koehler stated the OKI will begin accepting applications on March 9th. On that same day, there will be a virtual workshop on acquiring federal transportation funds through OKI.

Tri State Trails Update...

- Rachel Culley with Tri State/Green Umbrella discussed the “Update of Tri State Trails” report. A copy of the handout was distributed to the Board, which is attached hereto and made a part of.

HCTID Supplemental Project updates...

- Chairman Pflum commented on the Cincinnati to Chicago High Speed Rail. There was a newspaper article recently that stated Amtrak was planning to expand services from Cincinnati to Dayton, Columbus, Cleveland, Indianapolis, and Chicago.
- Chairman Pflum discussed H.B. 62 TID Grant funding and how it effects our Committee.
- Rusty Schuermann reported on the H.B. 74 Transportation Budget Bill. TID Grant funding is included for the fiscal years of 2022/2023. It appears that the grant amount will be increased, and applications can be for greater amounts this upcoming round.
- Representative Bill Seitz gave an overview of the amendments and stated that he does not anticipate any dramatic impact on the HCTID.

Old Business...

- None

New Business...

- None
- *Next Meeting Dates...*
 - Monday, March 29, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m. – Electronic
 - Monday, April 26, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m. – Electronic

Adjournment of Meeting...

- *Board Member Kuhns made the motion to adjourn the HCTID meeting at 1:29 p.m.; seconded by Board Member Beck and the motion carried upon roll call vote: Chairman Pflum – yes, Board Member Brazina – yes, Board Member Frondorf – yes, Board Member Beck – yes, Christie Kuhns – yes.*

Respectfully submitted,

Eric J. Beck, P.E.-P.S.
Secretary/Treasurer for HCTID