

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES
AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT REPORTS
Regular Board Meeting
September 27, 2021

Chair Pflum called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees to the Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District (HCTID) Board Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Henry Frondorf, Jack Pflum, Christie Kuhns

Board Members absent: Eric Beck, John Brazina

Also in attendance: Charlene Vollhardt; Lisa Doerger; Rusty Schuermann – Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter; Bill Shefcik-City of Cincinnati; Anne Rahall; John Ravasio; Megan Hube; Pete Metz; Ursula Miller; David Wormald

Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence...

Approval of Minutes...

- Chairman Pflum entertained a motion to approve the minutes from July 26, 2021...
- ***Board Member Frondorf made the motion to approve the HCTID Board Meeting Minutes from July 26, 2021; seconded by Board Member Kuhns and the motion carried with each Board member present separately voting “Yes” thereon.***

Approval of the Resolution by the Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District authorizing amendment and modification of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 to reflect receipt of ODOT TID HB 74 FY22 Grant Funding...

- Rusty Schuermann reported the Resolution is to authorize an amendment to the operating budget to reflect the revenue and expense from the ODOT grant the HCTID obtained in the amount of \$400,000 for the project with the City of Montgomery.
- ***Board Member Frondorf made the motion to approve the Resolution by the Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District authorizing amendment and modification of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 to reflect receipt of ODOT TID HB 74 FY22 Grant Funding; seconded by Board Member Kuhns and the motion carried upon roll call vote: Chairman Pflum – yes, Board Member Frondorf – yes, Board Member Christie Kuhns – yes.***

Transportation issues...

Regional Partner Reports

ODOT update:

- Tom Arnold reported in detail 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.
- Tom Arnold discussed in detail the Eastern Corridor Segments II and III which are

combined into one study. There are 70 improvements in this area and they have applied for funding to advance all the high priority recommendations. He reported the Oasis Trail study was completed then turned over to the local partners and the Red Bank Corridor study is complete. He stated there is an interactive map showing all projects and updates on this link: <https://gis3.dot.state.oh.us/d08/MultiYearWorkPlan/>

Clermont County TID updates:

- No one present to report updates.

Butler, Warren County TID updates:

- Dan Corey reported that Butler County received TRAC funding for North Hamilton Crossing and a new interchange at Milliken and I-75. Both projects are in the public involvement phase.
- Dan Corey reported on the Warren County TID projects. The Fields Ertel project is advancing into the right of way phase. They are studying I-71 and State Route 48 with ODOT and turned over the last phase of I-71 and Fields Ertel to ODOT for construction. The interchange modification study of I-75 at State Route 73 is in the last phase.

TID Corridors of Opportunity...

- Chairman Pflum reported there are no updates for the TID Corridors. He did state that the HCTID Program of Projects and Policy Priorities passed by Resolution in December 2020 will need to be updated to reflect any updates or changes that may be in order depending on the Federal transportation bill and how those funds are going to be allocated.

Western Hills Viaduct update:

- Bill Shefcik reported on the INFRA Grant application. They received 157 applications, 69 were large projects over 25 million in cost. The Western Hills Viaduct is one of those projects. There were 26 projects given to the Secretary of Transportation for consideration, one of which was the WHV. Of those 26 projects, 16 were funded. He also stated the USDOT recently announced that the projects making it into the final round, including the Western Hills Viaduct, have now been designated as INFRA EXTRA projects. This means we are eligible for more Federal loans. The Federal Government has a Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Program where they fund transportation projects through credit enhancements and loans. So, our project can seek a loan up to 49% of the total project cost.
- Chairman Pflum commented that in applications for Federal and/or State funding the important criteria is to be technically superior to compete for funding. Based on the feedback, the City of Cincinnati did an excellent job technically on each of the two projects INFRA Grant applications. He personally thinks these projects did not have the political clout or that necessary intangibles were not yet in place to go with the submitted applications. He suggests the Hamilton County Transportation Improvement

District Board explore opportunities for local collaboration to speak to intangible criteria in conjunction with the next round of Federal Funding.

- Board Member Kuhns suggested we should further collaborate on the applications for the Western Hills Viaduct and focus the efforts on areas where we may gain higher scores.
- Rusty Schuermann reported that since last meeting the TRAC awarded 25 million dollars to the WHV Project, which is local match to be added to the 230 million.

Cincinnati Transportation Update...

- No one present to report.

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber update:

- Pete Metz reported in detail on the group NextGen, which represents businesses large and small across the region. They have had a Transportation Business Coalition for the last 4 years.

Redevelopment Authority Project update...

- No one present to report.

SORTA Update...

- John Ravasio reported they recently announced the project awards for the first round of Infrastructure funding through SORTA. The biggest project award is the 25-year pledge to help fund the Western Hills Viaduct. There are 29 other projects that span into 22 local municipalities that were awarded 100 percent of their eligible funding request. He presented a list of the projects which is attached hereto and made a part of.
- John Ravasio reported with grant funding from ODOT, the entire Metro fleet will be equipped with Wi-Fi for all passengers and include upgrading the fleet to have automated passenger counters (APC). They now have fare validators which allows the passenger to pay for their fare through the Metro Mobile app.
- John Ravasio reported at the Ohio Public Transit Association annual conference, 2 SORTA employees were awarded recognition for years of service without accidents.

OKI Update...

- Chairman Pflum reported on an email update received from Bob Koehler stating that the OKI Staff has submitted a list of recommended projects to the prioritization sub-committee and the Committee concurred with the list which will be presented to the ICC and the OKI Board for approval at the OKI October meeting. The projects that were approved are on the OKI website under transportation/funding opportunities.

Tri State Trails Update...

- No one present to report.

HCTID Supplemental Project updates...

- Chairman Pflum discussed that at the December meeting the Board may consider adopting an updated HCTID Program of Projects and Policy Priorities which projects are primarily those in the Corridor of Opportunity. If any Board Members or attendees have comments or questions, they can give them to him. A copy of the Adopted Resolution in 2020 will be added to our website for review.

Old Business...

- None

New Business...

- Board Member Kuhns asked John Ravasio to give an update on the Cincinnati Public School (CPS) and Metro Bus situation.
- John Ravasio stated the plan built over the summer months with CPS anticipated more employees to be in the workforce. Being understaffed has stretched the limits of who is being served. The CPS ridership continues to increase on a weekly basis, which shows that students and parents are becoming more familiar with the new system.
- *Next Meeting Dates...*
 - Monday, November 22, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m.
 - Monday, December 20, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment of Meeting...

- ***Board Member Frondorf made the motion to adjourn the HCTID meeting at 1:50 p.m.; seconded by Board Member Kuhns and the motion carried upon roll call vote: Chairman Pflum – yes, Board Member Frondorf – yes, Board Member Christie Kuhns – yes.***

Respectfully submitted,

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