

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES
AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT REPORTS
Regular Board Meeting
November 22, 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, Eric Beck

Board Members absent: John Brazina, William Seitz

Also in attendance: Lisa Doerger; Rusty Schuermann – Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter; Bill Shefcik-City of Cincinnati; Jay Hamilton – Mead & Hunt, Rachel Culley – Tri State Trails; Shawn Mason – Prime Engineering; Duane Phelps – WSP USA; David Wormald – AECOM; Tom Arnold – ODOT; Jen Kunz – Geotechnology; Jared Love – WSP USA

Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence...

Approval of Minutes...

- Chairman Pflum entertained a motion to approve the minutes from September 27, 2021...
- ***Board Member Kuhns made the motion to approve the HCTID Board Meeting Minutes from September 27, 2021; seconded by Board Member Frondorf and the motion carried. Board Member Beck abstained from voting as he was not present at the September 27, 2021 meeting.***

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 commented on the Infrastructure bill. There are several new discretionary programs created with the bill. One of the programs is specific to the Brent Spence Bridge.
- Board Member Beck asked what the status is for the right of way on the Ohio side of the Brent Spence Bridge.
 - Tom Arnold stated the acquisitions have been active for years and they are nearly complete.

Clermont County TID updates:

- Board Member Beck reported that the Eastern Corridor projects are moving forward under construction.

Butler, Warren County TID updates:

- Board Member Beck reported the Fields Ertel project with Warren County and the Hamilton County Engineer's Office is moving forward. They are currently in right of way negotiations and in process of getting a Consultant to do the utility coordination and peer review for constructability.

TID Corridors of Opportunity...

- Board Member Beck reported on the Dry Fork and I-74 project. Funding has not been set for this project as of current. He commented this would appear to be a good project for funding with infrastructure money that may be coming and will follow up with Harrison Township.

Western Hills Viaduct update:

- Bill Shefcik reported the City recently awarded a contract for demolition of a building on property located at 1400 Harrison Ave. that was acquired for the Western Hills Viaduct.
- Board Member Beck asked is there would be more opportunity to get funding from the Bridge programs within the Infrastructure bill.
- Board Member Frondorf stated that although we have Issue 7 money available, is it possible the Federal government will have money also.
 - Board Member Beck stated the intent is to get as much funding as we can to lower some of the local money the City and County have already committed.

Cincinnati Transportation Update...

- Board Member Brazina was unable to attend the meeting but asked Board Member Beck to remind everyone of the change in daylight savings time, it is getting darker so please drive safely and watch for pedestrians. Vehicular and pedestrian accidents are a problem in the City. Also, to please watch out for leave piles along the road.

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber update:

- No one present to update.

Redevelopment Authority Project update...

- No one present to report.

SORTA Update...

- Darryl Haley reported they are planning an infrastructure signing event in January for all the Municipalities that were awarded 227 million dollars for infrastructure projects within the County.
- Darryl Haley reported on weekends of November 26th thru the 28th and December 17th thru the 19th, they will doing free ride days for people going to get vaccinated or get the booster.
- Darryl Haley reported they are finishing the study of Mobility on Demand. There are five different areas that will be reported to their Board in December and will be move forward into next year.
- Darryl Haley stated it was an honor to be invited to the White House for the signing of the Infrastructure Bill. It was very exciting to be there in person to watch the President sign the bill.
- Darryl Haley reported they are looking for Infrastructure money for BRT, Mobility on Demand, and a new way to transport the paratransit community. Also, for zero emissions for the fleet and internal Metro infrastructure upgrades.
- Chairman Pflum asked for comment on the relationship with the Cincinnati Public Schools and their students.
 - Darryl Haley reported they are attempting to communicate with them through social media. What Cincinnati Public Schools have recently done was put the service out for bid. It is illegal for SORTA to compete with the private sector so they will not be bidding on this service. In meantime, the program they have put together with Cincinnati Public Schools to make sure students get to and from school, the rest of the community can get to and from work and medical appointments is working.

OKI Update...

- No updates.

Tri State Trails Update...

- Rachel Culley reported that Phase IV of Wassen Way is complete. This section starts where the trail ended at Marburg Avenue through Ault Park to the railroad trussell. Phase V is meant from the railroad trestle connecting to Red Bank Road. Another section of Ohio Regional West was constructed and finished this fall. Great Parks of Hamilton County received funding for a trail connecting Glenwood Gardens to Winton Woods with construction starting in 2023.

Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act...

- Chairman Pflum commented on the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) coming from Washington. One thing not particularly reported from the media is that of the 1.2 trillion dollars, approximately half (550 billion) is new money. The Highway Trust and the Appropriation Bills passed by Congress each year has yet to happen.

There will be agencies and organizations making applications for this money. Most of this money will be channeled through additional or existing funding programs such as INFRA and RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability Equity) which means people that have made applications in the past will simply be able to update those applications.

- Rusty Schuermann commented the Infrastructure Bill creates a massive increase in discretionary programs administered by the USDOT. There are several new programs, the National Infrastructure Project, the Assistance Program that is 15 billion over 5 years, the Bridge Investment Program that is 3.2 billion over 5 years, Alternate Refueling Infrastructure that is 2.5 billion over 5 years, Promoting Resilient Operation for Transformative Efficient and Cost saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant program that is 1.4 billion.
- Rusty Schuermann reported Amtrak could possibly connect Cincinnati to Columbus to Dayton with high-speed rail in 10 years or so.
 - Darryl Haley reported they recently had a conversation with the FTA regarding the sale of rail right of way that is owned by them and discussion of passenger rail. He has broken out the bill in reason of transit and will share with the Board.
- Rusty Schuermann stated in having discussions with ODOT and OKI, the focus should be on local projects and local match. With some of the discretionary programs, if you have more local match, you can score better.
- Board Member Beck stated with more money available and the same funding mechanisms, it will be a heavier pull for locals and harder to obtain the local match dollars required.
- Darryl Haley stated the Federal Government will be looking for people that can spend this money right away.
- Board Member Beck reported the priority is getting projects identified, ones that are shovel ready, moving forward, and apply those towards funding.
- Chairman Pflum stated the Board has a responsibility to track projects and inform the Board when new projects are coming available. And suggested that those attending these meetings can bring projects and programs to the Board for consideration.

HCTID Supplemental Project updates...

- Chairman Pflum stated the Projects, Policies and Priorities that was executed on December 21, 2020 needs to be updated. He asked the Board Members to carefully read the Projects, Policies and Priorities memo and if there are projects we need to add or eliminate, this should be submitted by December 31 , 2021 for further consideration by the Board at our January 24th, 2022 meeting.

- Rusty Schuermann stated that Members can email their comments to Charlene or himself and we can do a redline and bring it back to the Board for review. At the January meeting we can discuss and note comments or modifications to the document and approve it as modified. We can get Board Members comments collectively and redistribute them before the Board meeting.

Old Business...

- None to report

New Business...

- None to report
 - *Next Meeting Dates...*
 - *Chairman Pflum stated the meeting scheduled for December 20, 2021 will be canceled.*
 - ***Board Member Beck made the motion to cancel the meeting scheduled for December 20, 2021; seconded by Board Member Kuhns and the motion carried...***
- Monday, December 20, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m. - *canceled*
- Monday, January 24, 2022 @ 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment of Meeting...

- ***Board Member Beck made the motion to adjourn the HCTID meeting at 1:35 p.m.; seconded by Board Member Frondorf and the motion carried...***

Respectfully submitted,

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