

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES
AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT REPORTS

Regular Board Meeting

January 24, 2022

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, William Seitz

Board Members absent: John Brazina

Also in attendance: Charlene Vollhardt – Hamilton County Engineers; Rusty Schuermann – Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter; Bill Shefcik-City of Cincinnati; Tom Arnold – ODOT; Jay Hamilton – Mead & Hunt, Wade Johnston, Rachel Culley – Tri State Trails; Jen Kunz – Geotechnology; Steve Lane – WSP; Scott Lindgren, Jason Sweet – Metro Consulting; Shawn Mason – Prime Engineering; Pete Metz – USA Regional Chamber; Chris Meyer – Cincinnati Port; Anne Rahall – TEC Engineering; Jen Vatter – JMA Consultants; Nick Selhorst, Alex Kraemer – Choice One Engineering

Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence...

Board Member Beck reported to the Board the passing of William Brayshaw, the former Hamilton County Engineer.

Election of Officers...

- Board Member Beck presented the 2022 Slate of Officers as follows:
 - Chairman – Henry Frondorf
 - Vice Chairman – John Brazina
 - Secretary/Treasurer – Eric Beck
- ***Board Member Kuhns made the motion to approve and elect the HCTID Slate of Officers for 2022; seconded by Board Member Pflum and the motion carried by roll call vote; Jack Pflum – yes, Henry Frondorf – yes, Eric Beck – yes, Christie Kuhns - yes.***

Approval of Minutes...

- Chairman Frondorf entertained a motion to approve the minutes from November 22, 2021...
- Board Member Pflum suggested adding H.B. 74 to the agenda under HCTID Supplemental Projects.
- ***Board Member Beck made the motion to approve the HCTID Board Meeting Minutes from November 22, 2021; seconded by Board Member Pflum and the motion carried unanimously.***

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.

Clermont County TID updates:

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

Butler, Warren County TID updates:

- Board Member Beck reported Butler County has two active projects: North Hamilton Crossing is a new corridor project that will improve safety by creating an east/west route through Butler County; and Millikin Interchange is a new interchange with I-75. Both have received TRAC funding for PE and/or DD phases.
- Board Member Beck reported Warren County Fields Ertel Stage II plan is complete. Stage III plans are due into ODOT the end of March. The Warren County TID has advanced 8 federally funded projects to be let by the Warren County TID in 2023/2024. They have also advanced 7 non-federally funded projects.

TID Corridors of Opportunity...

- Jennifer Vatter with JMA Consultants reported in detail on the I-74/Dry Fork Interchange. A copy of the I-74/Dry Fork Interchange handout was distributed, which is attached hereto and made a part of.
- Adam Goetzman with Green Township reported in detail on the Westwood Northern Blvd. and North Bend Road Intersection Improvement project. This project is a multi-jurisdictional project involving Green Township and the City of Cheviot. A copy of the Westwood Northern Blvd and North Bend Road handout was distributed, which is attached hereto and made a part of.
- Board Member Pflum inquired as to process relative to a new project. Rusty Schuermann stated that the Board can move to designate the Westwood Northern Blvd. and the North Bend Road Intersection project for future study and analysis and authorize the Secretary Treasurer to coordinate with Green Township to consider future actions by the Hamilton County TID.
- ***Board Member Pflum made the motion to designate the Westwood Northern Blvd and North Bend Road Intersection project for future study and analysis and authorize the Secretary Treasurer to coordinate with Green Township to consider future actions by the Hamilton County TID; seconded by Board Member Beck and the motion carried unanimously.***

Western Hills Viaduct update:

- Bill Shefcik reported the right of way acquisitions have advanced and they are down to one property to be purchased. ODOT Consultant for the interchange is working in coordination with the Consultant for the Viaduct.
- Bill Shefcik reported this year they are looking forward to getting more federal money to supplement local funding and advance the design through Phase I by the end of this year, early next year. They are looking to hire a Construction Manager by the end of this year. They have been working closely with the Federal Highway Administration and ODOT on an alternative delivery method.
- Chairman Frondorf suggested scheduling public input meetings on the Western Hills Viaduct. He inquired into the status of the funding strategy involving SORTA, the County, the City of Cincinnati and ODOT to get the project built and the HCTID's potential role.
 - Rusty Schuermann stated that the financial people at the City and the County have reportedly been reviewing options. The HCTID could potentially play a role as a conduit financier for this project if deemed to make the sense from a cost perspective and otherwise.
 - Board Member Beck stated that Bill Shefcik is working on a financial plan that must be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration. They are looking at all these things as they are finalizing the plan.

Cincinnati Transportation Update...

- No updates.

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber update:

- Pete Metz reported they have engaged HDR to do an analysis of all the IJJA formula funds to understand how much money by formula is coming to our region. HDR will also be working on identifying projects that may line up with our Connective Region division and develop a service strategy.

Redevelopment Authority Project update...

- Chris Meyer reported they have acquired acreage near Formica at the intersection of Reading Road and Cooper. They are trying to build a bridge across Millcreek to access this site for future industrial development.

SORTA Update...

- Darryl Haley reported they have come to agreement with a union contract. They are placing an order for the first electric vehicle for the Paratransit Division. They are looking at zero emission vehicles.

- Darryl Haley reported on the Northside Transit Center receiving two National American Institute of Architectural awards. One for community impact and the other for architectural design. It also received the Cincinnati Design award.
- Darryl Haley reported the infrastructure signing event scheduled in January was canceled due to the Omicron variant and will be rescheduled in February.

OKI Update...

- Board Member Beck reported on behalf of Bob Koehler that a new Board was seated and David Painter, Clermont County Commissioner was reelected as President. OKI is awaiting more information on the new programs included in the bill many will be discretionary. They expect about 20% more capitol funds for fiscal year 2022 for existing formula programs. The OKI freight plan update is underway.

Tri State Trails Update...

- Rachel Culley reported the CROWN Capitol private fund-raising effort surpassed their 8-million-dollar pool reaching 10 million dollars.

Status Review of the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act...

- Board Member Beck reported in detail on a fact sheet given to the Board Members summarizing the programs in the Building a Better America which is attached hereto and made a part of. There are 10 transportation related funding opportunities for local governments. Applications for these programs will open in the fiscal year of 2022.

HCTID Supplemental Project updates...

- Board Member Pflum discussed in detail the Federal Highway Administration Policy handout distributed by Rusty Schuermann which is attached hereto and made a part of. This policy has been adopted by the Federal Highway Administration as a means of measuring and grading these various grant applications described in the Building a Better America handout presented by Board Member Beck. The grants and programs approved will have to alignment with one of 7 different criteria.
 - Improve conditions in safety in Roads and Bridges.
 - Safety for all road users, particularly vulnerable users.
 - Make streets and other transportation facilities accessible to all users and compliant with the American Disabilities Act.
 - Address environmental impacts ranging for storm water run off to Green House gas emissions.
 - Prioritize infrastructure that is less vulnerable and more resilient to changing climate.
 - Future proof over transportation infrastructure by accommodating new and emerging technologies, like electric vehicle charging stations, renewal energy generation and broadband deployment within transportation rights of way.
 - Reconnect communities and reflect inclusion of the disadvantaged and underrepresented groups in the planning project selection and design process and in addition make sure the federal funds are directed in their most efficient and effective way, consistent with the above objectives.

- Board Member Pflum also discussed in detail the following criteria of the NEPA review relative to categorical exclusions for certain projects in the NEPA process .
 - Project must induce significant impacts to planned growth or land use for the area.
 - Project must have significant impact on any natural, cultural, recreational, historic, or other resources.
 - Project must have significant impacts to travel patterns.

Old Business...

- None to report

New Business...

- None to report
- *Next Meeting Dates...*
 - Monday, February 28, 2022 @ 1:00 p.m.
 - Monday, March 28, 2022 @ 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment of Meeting...

- ***Board Member Pflum made the motion to adjourn the HCTID meeting at 2:05 p.m.; seconded by Board Member Beck and the motion carried unanimously...***

Respectfully submitted,

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