

**RICHLAND COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**AND**

**TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF August 23, 2023**

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| **REGIONAL PLANNING** | | **COORDINATING COMMITTEE** | |
| Bob Bianchi |  | Jack Butler | Present |
| Teri Brenkus | Present | Aurelio Diaz |  |
| Julie Chaya |  | Chris Kocher |  |
| Donnie Clark | Present | Scott Ockunzzi | Present |
| Tom Craft | Present | Nate Vogt | Present |
| Don Daugherty |  | Greg Vogt |  |
| Dorey Diab | Present | Robert Weaver |  |
| Bob Entemann |  | Jordan Whisler |  |
| Joe Gies | Present | Stephanie Zader |  |
| Adam Gove | Present | Lawrence Hall | Present |
| Todd Hall |  |  |  |
| Randy Hutchinson | Present | **PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL** |  |
| John Jaholnycky | Present | Tim Bowersock |  |
| Kris Knapp |  | Chriss Harris |  |
| Steve Mclauglin | Present | Brian McCartney |  |
| Cliff Mears | Present | Charles Pscholka | Present |
| Cheryl Meier | Present | Marion Zaugg |  |
| Rebecca Owens | Present |  |  |
| Ed Pickens | Present |  |  |
| Dave Remy |  |  |  |
| Steve Schag | Present |  |  |
| Matthew Stanfield | Present |  |  |
| Lee Tasseff | Present |  |  |
| Timothy Theaker |  |  |  |
| Trae Turner | Present |  |  |
| Deanna West-Torrence | Present |  |  |
| Brian White | Present |  |  |
| Jodie Perry | Present |  |  |
| **GUESTS** |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Kathryn Semo | Present |  |  |
| Erica Thomas | Present |  |  |
| Jordan Keller | Present |  |  |
| Daniel Jozity | Present |  |  |
| Shane Cambel |  |  |  |
| Terri Kiser | Present |  |  |

**Staff Members:** Betsy Chapman, Lyndsie Martin, Jean Taddie, Jotika Shetty, Adam Hill-Warren, Pong Wu

**Roll Call**

# Deanna West Torrence welcomed the commission members and roll call was taken and quorum confirmed.

# **Approval of Minutes of the May 24th, 2023 Meeting**

Deanna West Torrence asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 24th, 2023 meeting.

***Lee Tasseff made a motion to approve the minutes, Rebecca Owens seconded the motion, and the motion carried.***

1. **Presentation of Ohio Auditor of State Award for the Fiscal Year 2022**

Kathryn Semo presented the award to Jotika Shetty and Terri Kiser for completion of FY22 Audit. This award is presented to local governments and school districts upon completion of a financial audit that meet the required guidelines. Only about 10% of State Auditor clients receive this award.

1. **TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

(Business of the Metropolitan Planning Organization MPO)

* 1. Public Transportation Report was presented by Jean Taddie with an overview of the transit system. Ridership trends in 2023 are up by 23% compared to 2022 for Fixed Routes and 21% compared to 2022 for Dial-A-Ride calls. She shared that they had received Transportation Development Plan recommendations from the project consultants and are continuing to work through the process. Some of the recommendations from the TDP have been implemented or will soon be implemented. Due to low ridership, the Shelby route was discontinued July 28th. An Ontario circulator that will allow for access to more major employers in Ontario is starting next month along with a shuttle service two times a day to the campus.

1. Technical Advisory Committee Report was presented by Pong Wu with an overview of the Long Range Transportation Plan update process in Fiscal Year 2024. He also shared an upcoming sidewalk inventory and condition project for urbanized areas as well as some smaller areas of the region. A new corridor study will take place on a 4-mile span of State Route 13.Resolution 24-01 – A Resolution authorizing the award of contract for Richland County Pavement Assessment Project

Consultant will evaluate pavement and additional conditions (road signs, pavement markings, center lines, man holes, sidewalk condition). A proposal from Transconomy, LLC for $132,000.00 was proposed for approval

***Tom Craft made a motion to approve resolutions 24-01, Randy Hutchinson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.***

1. Ontario W. 4th Street Corridor Study findings were presented by Daniel Jozity from Gannett Fleming.   
   A study on the 4th street corridor from US 30 to Home Rd was conducted looking at land use and traffic forecasting. Crash data was looked at in this area and hot spots were identified and ranked by priority: State Route 314/Shelby-Ontario Road, Rock Road, Stumbo Road, Lexington-Springmill Road, and Home Road were listed as priority spots due to congestion, lack of sight distance, abundance of access points, and short turn lanes. Two alternatives for these sites were presented to the City of Ontario to help improve these intersections. Cost estimates were presented for each alternative at each site and potential ideas for funding sources were given. Next steps include selection of alternatives, preliminary engineering for each site, developing funding applications, and developing constructions plans.
2. Other Transportation Issues from the floor and public comments – no reports

1. **REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**
   1. **Executive Director’s Report**
      1. Zoning Subdivision and Landuse Committee report provided in meeting packet.

***Adam Gove made a motion to approve the ZSL report, Brian White seconded the motion, and the motion carried.***

* + 1. District 16 and NRAC report – see packet
    2. Housing Report – see packet
  1. **President’s Report**
     1. Authorize the contract to provide staff and organizational capacity building with Greg Timberlake

***Dorey Diab made a motion to approve the contract, Rebecca Owens seconded the motion, and the motion carried.***

Deanna mentioned that NECIC is completing an update to their 5-year strategic plan. Surveys are now available to seek feedback from residents, non-residents, and stakeholders of the North End. She invited everyone to take the survey.

1. **Program Speaker: FHWA Overview and Program Updates**Lawrence Hall – Community Planner with FHWA   
   Spoke on New Formula Programs, New discretionary Programs, and new policy/guidance. The New Formula Programs include the following USDOT/FHWA Apportionment Programs: Carbon Reduction($6.4B 2022-2026), National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI - $5B 2022-2026), and Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT - $7.3B 2022-2026). New Discretionary Programs include the following: Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program ($1B 2022-2026); Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Program ($2.5B 2022-2026); MEGA, INFRA, RURAL ($5.575B 2023-2024); Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT - $1.4B 2022-2026); Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program ($1B 2022-2026); Safe Streets and Roads for All ($5B 2022-2026); Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program ($350M 2022-2026). And finally, the new policies and guidance presented included Increasing Safe and Accessible Transportation Options, a new FHWA Complete Streets website, and an upcoming CS Planning Topic – Resources and Case Studies
2. **Community Update: SWCD – Celebrating 75 years of conservation leadership in Richland County**Soil & Water Conservation District – Erica Thomas & Jordan Keller presented information on the history of their department which was formed in 1948 as a result of the dust bowl earlier in the 20th century. They have had only 4 directors in the history of their department. They offer many services and programs including but not limited to survey work, H2Ohio, stormwater management, and Judging & Envirothon with the FFA, and soil testing. Erica shared their 5 year strategic plan for the department with the commission members and invited everyone to join them for their annual celebration on September 7th.
3. **MEMBER UPDATES – no updates presented**
4. **OTHERS FROM THE FLOOR AND COMMENTS – no updates presented**

# ***Teri Brenkus made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Lee Tasseff seconded, and the motion carried.***

Date of Next Meetings: Executive Committee: September 13, 2023

Full Commission: November 1, 2023

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| By |  | Attest |
|  |  |  |
| Deanna West-Torrence |  | Jotika Shetty |
| President |  | Executive Director |