

FAIRFIELD COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

July 11, 2023

FAIRFIELD COUNTY RECORDS CENTER

138 WEST CHESTNUT STREET; LANCASTER, OHIO 43130

Sonja Simpson called the meeting to order just after 1:02 p.m. on July 11, 2023 at the Fairfield County Records Center. The following persons were present: Sonja Simpson (TID Chairperson); Jeremiah Upp (TID Secretary/Treasurer); Curt Shonk (TID Board Member); Greg Butcher (TID Board Member); Dave Levacy (Fairfield County Commissioner); Jeff Fix (Fairfield County Commissioner); Mitch Noland (Fairfield County Engineer's Office); Jason Grubb (Fairfield County Engineer's Office); Anthony Iachini (Fairfield County Economic Development); Tom Pannett (Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter); Conner Brintlinger (American Structurepoint); Lucas Haire (Canal Winchester); Ron Thomas (Resident); Ralph Hedrick (Amanda Twp); Scott Seamen (GPD Group); Jennifer Shuey (DLZ); Holly Mattei (Fairfield County RPC); Randy Kemmerer (Liberty Twp Trustee); Isaac Brandt (Resident)

1. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

- a. Approval of the June 13, 2023; regular meeting minutes.
- b. Motion to approve made by Mr. Upp. Second by Mr. Shonk. All members approved. Motion carried.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. No public comments.

3. REPORT FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE: County TID Financial Report

- a. Report beginning June 7, 2023, to July 6, 2023.
 - 6/7/23 beginning balance of \$281,826.96.
 - 6/12/23 check to Transcon Ltd for \$2,000.00; May invoice.
 - 6/12/23 check to Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter for \$870.00.
 - 7/16/23 ending balance of \$278,956.96.
- b. Motion to approve the report from Mr. Shonk. 2nd by Mr. Butcher. All members approved. Motion carried.

4. NEW BUISNESS:

- a. **TransCon Ohio Agreement** – Mr. Upp put forth a proposal from Transcon and Mr. Lozier is requesting a renewal of his contract from \$2,000 per month to \$3,000 per month. The board discussed the renewal. Mr. Upp spoke in support of the work Mr. Lozier has done to date and encouraged the board to approve the proposed renewal. Mr. Fix also spoke in support of the work Mr. Lozier has done to date and encouraged the board to approve the renewal.

- i) A motion was made to adopt the renewal agreement with TransCon Ohio by Mr. Butcher. Second by Mr. Upp.
- ii) All board members approved motion. Motion carried.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Consultant Project Update Report

i) Basil Western Rd. Realignment –

(1) Mr. Lozier began a discussion on the need for an accounting firm as the Basil Western Road project begins to grow. Mr. Upp continued the discussion and encouraged the board to look for an accounting firm to handle the finances of the TID. Mr. Upp agreed to review accounting firms with the Engineer Office staff and bring possible firms to the board for review. Mrs. Simpson asked if other TID boards have their own accountants. Mr. Pannett noted, generally the TID boards that are represented by KBHR use a third-party accountant. Mr. Noland noted that we are working to setup a meeting with Jason Carr, CPA of Wilson, Shannon & Snow, Inc. Mr. Carr handles the accounting for the Licking County TID.

(2) Mr. Upp presented the board with a spreadsheet outlining the cash flow and revenue for the Basil-Western Road project. The board discussed setting up an agreement with the Fairfield County Commissioners to assist in funding the beginning stages of the project. That funding would be repaid in the end. Commissioner Jeff Fix noted that based on the funding amount, and the time of repayment, the commission would be interested in further discussion to assist with funding.

ii) **Far East Freeway** – Fairfield County TID is still advocating for the overpass to be lengthened and extended at Taylor Road. Mr. Lozier reached out to American Structurepoint the ODOT consultant on the project. He asked about the SR204 study. American Structurepoint noted that ODOT is working on the certified traffic counts which is the basis for the traffic study on SR204. The objective here is to see if the far east freeway project is going to setup/produce needed improvements along SR204. Mr. Lozier also asked about aesthetics on the bridges (“*Pickerington*” on one side and “*Reynoldsburg*” on the other side). ODOT stated they have not selected structures for the project yet.

iii) **Refugee Road Corridor** – The Fairfield County Engineer’s Office continues to move forward with the intersection improvement project. Currently working through some right-of-way issues.

(1) **Shared Use Path**-The TID received word that they will receive \$1.2 million for the shared use path portion of the project along the north side of Refugee Road. Wolpert’s estimate for the project is \$1.15 million for the shared use path, \$875,000 for the sidewalk, \$50,000 for the mid-block crossing, and \$207,500 for construction engineering. The \$1.2 million dollar grant would cover everything except the \$875,000 needed to build the 5’ sidewalk along the south side of Refugee Road. This portion of the project begins at the east Pickerington Corp Limit and extends to Pickerington Road. The project does not extend to Tollgate

Road yet. For the section of roadway from Pickerington Rd to Tollgate Rd we are waiting to do a TID project in conjunction with private development in that area. Mr. Fix noted that if the shared use path was on the north of the road, what would it cost for a pedestrian walk bridge to be constructed from the south sidewalk of Refugee Rd to the shared use path on the north side of Refugee Rd. The board discussed the possibility of safe routes to school to assist with funding sources. Mr. Lozier stated that the board has enough money with the grant to design and build the shared use path. It is a good start to phase 1 of the project.

(2) Circle Drive Intersection – The board discussed a no left turn condition at the intersection of Circle Drive and Refugee Road. Mr. Upp noted that Burgess & Niple (B&N) reviewed the area. B&N noted some concern with the no left turn condition and the fact that it may cause additional traffic impacts to Melody Lane. The board discussed the impacts to Fire and EMS services if the entrance was changed. The board also discussed a modified roundabout for Circle Drive and Harmon Road. Mr. Upp and Mr. Butcher discussed the need to do a study at the intersection to consider Fire and EMS impacts, accidents, and traffic impacts.

iv) US33/I-70 Connector – Mr. Lozier noted ODOT District 5 has advertised for consulting services for the I70 to SR161 connector. Mr. Lozier stated it may be time for the board to go back to MORPC and ask them to update the travel demand model. This could provide some sight for ODOT District 5 as they begin to design the I70/SR161 connector and the 33/I70 connector.

v) East Side Industrial Connector – Mr. Shonk stated that the planning study from Structurepoint is complete. The study has identified a preferred corridor which will require additional studies and more design. Currently the City of Lancaster has a meeting scheduled on August 1st for city officials, police, fire, and street department heads to review the study and get feedback. After the internal meeting with city officials, Curt plans to circle back and meet with stakeholders that were part of the original study and get their feedback. Curt also plans to meet with ODOT, Fairfield County and others to get feedback on the study.

vi) US33 Corridor Lane Widening CAP Project – Mr. Lozier stated that ODOT has selected LJB as the consultant for the project. LJB did the original TSMO study for the project. LJB made recommendations to ODOT that the lane widening be a separate project. The board discussed continuation of the project into portions of Fairfield County.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Resolutions

i) Resolution #2023-02: A resolution approving and authorizing ODOT HB23 state grant funding agreement with ODOT for fiscal year 2024 for advancement of Basil-Western Road realignment project.

(1) Motion to adopt by Mr. Butcher. Second by Mr. Upp. Roll call vote was taken. All members voted "yes".

ii) **Resolution #2023-03:** A resolution approving and authorizing memorandum of understanding in relation to the Basil-Western Road realignment project. MOU is attached to the resolution.

(1) *Motion to adopt by Mr. Upp. Second by Mr. Shonk. Roll call vote was taken. All members voted "yes".*

iii) **Resolution #2023-04:** A resolution approving and authorizing acceptance and receipt of certain funds from Exel, Inc. (dba DHL, Supply Chain USA) pursuant to a development and compensation agreement for advancement of the Basil-Western Road realignment project.

(1) *Motion to adopt by Mr. Butcher. Second by Mr. Upp. Roll call vote was taken. All members voted "yes".*

iv) **Resolution #2023-05:** A resolution approving and authorizing retention of consultant services for the Basil-Western Road realignment project.

(1) *Motion to adopt by Mr. Butcher. Second by Mr. Shonk. Roll call vote was taken. All members voted "yes".*

7. ADJOURNMENT:

- a. Motion to adjourn by Mr. Butcher. Second by Mr. Upp. All members approved by saying aye. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes approved by:



Jeremiah Upp
Secretary/Treasurer