

# COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

December 1, 2014

## **REVISED** Meeting Summary

MORPC

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100

Columbus, Ohio

5:30 p.m.

### **Members**

Bill Allman  
Len Fisher  
J.M. Rayburn  
Ira Weiss

William Curlis  
Catherine Girves  
Larry Robertson

Pauline Edwards  
David Paul  
John Vandersall

### **Guests**

Brenda Caldwell, Citizen  
Dana Davis, Turn-It-Around Transportation  
Belkis Schoenhals, Citizen  
David Shipps, TranSystems

### **MORPC Staff**

Bernice Cage  
Laura Koprowski  
David Rutter  
Thea Walsh

Evelyn Ebert  
Brenda Noé  
Maria Schaper

Mary Ann Frantz  
Christina O'Keeffe  
Nathaniel Vogt

1. **Welcome.** Chair David Paul called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Carolyn Piper. Paul then recognized some prospective members - Belkis Schoenhals and Brenda Caldwell.
2. **Approval of November 3, 2014 Minutes.** Bill Curlis moved and Ira Weiss seconded the approval of the November 3, 2014 Minutes. The motion carried.
3. **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report.** Thea Walsh reported that MORPC is going to meet with the Ohio Agency on Aging to explore iTN America's support to provide transportation services in the Columbus area. It is a new model being used in the Cincinnati and Cleveland areas. This is a service where one can donate one's services of transporting people into the system for one's future use or for one's loved ones' future use of the system.

RideSolutions is working with Mt. Carmel Hospitals. Mr. Carmel Hospitals have invited MORPC to its employee health fairs to encourage ridesharing. RideSolutions has also assisted iforce staffing agencies with vanpooling solutions for their employees. On November 18th, RideSolutions attended the Dublin Employer Roundtable to provide solutions during the I-270/US 33 construction slated for later next year.

We are in the scoring session of the 29th round of the Ohio Public Works Commission process. This process should be completed by the end of December.

Walsh appeared before the TRAC last month to present Central Ohio's projects, two of which have made it to the final round:

- I-70/I-71/SR 315 Phase 4A - Originally requested \$53.27 million for funding and construction. Some funding was pulled from another phase to make this work.
- I-270/US 23/SR 315 Phase D - This project was accelerated from 2024 to 2015.

Bill Allman asked how the freight corridor came about for Lima and Fort Wayne. He wanted to know if this was the only freight corridor recognized in the study. Walsh replied that this is actually the Chicago-Columbus passenger rail project. She has a presentation regarding this project at the end of the agenda.

Allman also asked what iTN is. Mary Ann Frantz said that it is a private, non-profit, ridesharing opportunity to serve older adults. iTN stands for Independent Transportation Network.

Allman then asked if insight2050 is addressing any element of Columbus's becoming too large. Laura Koprowski said she was speaking on behalf of Kerstin Carr. See next item.

- insight2050. Koprowski said that there is still an opportunity to provide comments on insight2050 through Friday. She displayed the new website. She said that the workforce is really going to change, and if we are not focused on increasing and growing community members and attracting population, we will not have the workforce we need into the future. The report shows that we have a growing, aging population, and we have a very low unemployment rate. We need to continue to attract and retain those workers who are already here. However, we have heard from the suburban communities that they want to attract jobs to their areas, but they are concerned about the growth that will occur. Paul added that many of the neighborhoods in the Northland area want more single-family housing because they perceive that multi-family housing generates social ills. At the same time, it is clear that we need more multi-family housing, or at least fewer large-lot, single-family housing in order to accommodate growth and changing lifestyles. He felt that we need to educate the communities on these topics. Koprowski said that a resolution will be presented for approval at the December Commission meeting for MORPC to utilize the data and key trends resulting from the insight2050 project for its regional and local planning activities.
  - MORPC Attributable Funds Update. Nathaniel Vogt distributed a handout that shows the likely draft recommendations of the Attributable Funds Committee as of December 1st. Vogt explained that attributable funds are those that MORPC directs toward projects sponsored by local agencies in our region. The Attributable Funds Committee has been overseeing the attributable funding process to select new projects to receive those funds. The committee has also been reviewing commitments that we have made in the past in order to make any adjustments needed. We have 34 existing commitments totaling about \$200 million. In August we received 33 applications for new projects, requesting about \$130 million, not including inflation. Since then staff has been scoring and reviewing applications for ranking and prioritizing of the projects by the committee. The committee is prepared to release a draft of recommendations to MORPC about which projects to select (handout). The committee meets again on Wednesday, December 3rd. The comment period is from December 5th to January 5th. Comments may be made at [tip@morpc.org](mailto:tip@morpc.org) or to Vogt or Thea Walsh.
4. **Transit System Review.** Since Elliott Doza was called out of town, this topic will be moved to the January 2015 meeting agenda.
  5. **City of Columbus' Large School District Travel Plan.** David Shipps of TranSystems, Julie Walcoff of ODOT, and Alex Smith from the Columbus Public Health Department. Their PowerPoint presentation is available at [http://www.morpc.org/Assets/MORPC/files/2014-12-01\\_CAC\\_ColumbusSTP\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.morpc.org/Assets/MORPC/files/2014-12-01_CAC_ColumbusSTP_Presentation.pdf).

Len Fisher asked what sized schools are included in the travel plan. Shipps said that a large school district contains 15 or more K-8 schools. J.M. Rayburn asked when the sidewalk inventory will be launched to the public. Shipps said that was a question for MORPC. Cage said that the sidewalk inventory will be presented to this group before it goes out for public comment. Allman asked to what extent have reductions in school budgets affected school busing. Walcoff said that when school levies fail many communities do apply for school travel plans. Weiss explained that there are two kinds of multi-use paths (MUPs) - those on

Greenway trails that go through areas, and those that are side paths that go along arterials. The MUP along Diley Road in Pickerington-Violet Township could be used by children walking to school, and it is very visible.

6. **Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update.** Maria Schaper presented information on the goals that are to be adopted for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Her presentation is available at [http://www.morpc.org/Assets/MORPC/files/2014-12-01\\_CAC\\_MetropolitanTransportationPlan\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.morpc.org/Assets/MORPC/files/2014-12-01_CAC_MetropolitanTransportationPlan_Presentation.pdf).

- Proposed Resolution T-16-14: "Adopting Goals for the 2016-2040 Columbus Area Metropolitan Transportation Plan." Catherine Girves moved to approve Resolution T-16-14, and Weiss seconded. The motion carried.

7. **Proposed Resolutions:**

- T-17-14: "Amending the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program." Vogt explained that this is the quarterly TIP amendment. Three projects have MORPC-attributable funding:
  - Fifth Avenue Multi-use Path and Bridge Rehabilitation - The construction cost estimate has gone up, and Columbus has indicated that it intends to use MORPC-attributable funds up to the limit it can without requesting additional funds (cap limit). This is an additional \$200,000 toward construction of the project, with the rest being funded by other resources.
  - COTA Sidewalks, Phase 2 - This project has segments on Kenny, Dierker and Campus View. This increases funds for right-of-way for this project by \$300,000.
  - Center Street at Milnor Road and Meadows Boulevard intersection modification in Pickerington. The amendment increases funding for right-of-way in FY 2015.

Vogt said that ODOT announced it had found funds to advance a project on the north outerbelt (I-270 between SR 315 and US 23). This amendment adds that project to the TIP.

Weiss noted that there has been a lot of discussion about the closing of the Olentangy Trail under I-270 (I-270 between SR 315 and US 23 project). He wants to make sure that a solution is found so that people who bike and walk can actually get to the north side because it is a very popular route. Vogt said he would look into what will be available during construction.

Weiss moved to approve Resolution T-17-14, and Pauline Edwards seconded. The motion carried.

- T-18-14: "Adopting the Metropolitan Planning Organization Boundary of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)". Walsh said she had presented the proposed boundary changes coming to the MPO. She added that prior to that she presented information on proposed boundary changes for MORPC's service areas outside the MPO. The map indicating both proposed changes is available at: [http://www.morpc.org/Assets/MORPC/files/2014-12-01\\_CAC\\_MPOBoundary\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.morpc.org/Assets/MORPC/files/2014-12-01_CAC_MPOBoundary_Presentation.pdf). This also includes a pathway to membership that extends basically along US 33 down into Lancaster - Hocking, Pleasant and Greenfield townships in Fairfield County - and Millcreek, Dover and Union townships in Union County, and New Albany in Licking County. Pathway to membership areas are potential growth areas by 2020 or 2030. The proposed changes are a result of the 2010 U.S. Census. We are entering into new agreements with all of these areas.

Walsh said that all of these areas received invitations from the MPO to join the MPO. We have confirmation from all entities - except those in Pickaway County - that they are going

to join. It is a possibility that Pickaway County and its entities may not join the MPO. If Pickaway County does decline, the resolution will be changed to reflect that before it goes to the Commission for approval.

Girves moved to approve and Weiss seconded Resolution T-18-14. The motion carried.

**8. Informational Items:**

- Sustaining Scioto. David Rutter gave a PowerPoint presentation on this subject. It is available at [http://www.morpc.org/Assets/MORPC/files/2014-12-01\\_CAC\\_%20SustainingScioto\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.morpc.org/Assets/MORPC/files/2014-12-01_CAC_%20SustainingScioto_Presentation.pdf). Discussion ensued following the presentation.
- 2014 Ozone Season Report. Evelyn Ebert gave a PowerPoint presentation on this subject. It is available at [http://www.morpc.org/Assets/MORPC/files/2014-12-01\\_CAC\\_AirQualityUpdate\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.morpc.org/Assets/MORPC/files/2014-12-01_CAC_AirQualityUpdate_Presentation.pdf).
- Columbus-Chicago Rail. Walsh said that MORPC is involved with a Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) application submitted in September 2014 by Indiana Department of Transportation. MORPC is also part of an FRA application for an FRA-led investigation of a multi-state regional corridor that features a series of connected corridors including the Chicago to Columbus rail corridor. This application was submitted by the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail group. MORPC wrote a letter of support for it.

Walsh said that a meeting was held last month in Lima with all of the major cities along the proposed route ([http://www.morpc.org/Assets/MORPC/files/2014-12-01\\_CAC\\_C2CRail\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.morpc.org/Assets/MORPC/files/2014-12-01_CAC_C2CRail_Presentation.pdf)) between Chicago and Columbus (Gary, Valparaiso, Plymouth, Warsaw, Fort Wayne, Lima, Kenton, Marysville and Columbus). We discussed the future of the line. It was decided that there is a need for a management entity (MORPC will lead the task force). The proposal should be completed by July 2015. The task force is made up of Gary, Fort Wayne, the City of Columbus, and all of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) on the route. All of the cities along the route will sign a memorandum of agreement. An invitation is being sent to all of the counties with proposed rail stops and all of the MPOs to join. Walsh will keep the group advised of the progress.

Larry Robertson asked if there are freight railroad representatives at the meetings. Walsh said that they were not represented, as this was a meeting of government entities; however, the State of Indiana is reaching out to the railroads, especially CSX. Robertson also asked if there is a Tier I Environmental Impact Study (EIS) underway. Walsh responded that the application that was submitted to the FRA was for that. Paul asked if it will involve all rail lines or only CSX. Walsh replied that there is a part above Kenton that is operated by Genesee-Wyoming.

- 9. Other Business.** Girves moved to adjourn and Ken Scott seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Bernice Cage  
Secretary