Innovative Strategies in Funding Local Projects
The Art and Science of Project Funding

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The science of project funding is properly estimating project cost / timeline and having knowledge of funding sources.

The art is picking and combining the different available funding sources to come together at appropriate time to construct the project.
Analysis

- How to determine what projects are needed.
- Use available tools
  - ODOT – Accident program GCAT
  - Pavement rating system
  - Bridge rating
  - Personal observation
Fitting Projects to Funding Sources

- Group projects by:
  - Safety – striping, guardrail, RPMs
  - Roadway / Intersections
  - Bridge / Structural

- Look for funding specifically geared to these categories.
Fitting Projects to Funding Sources

Considerations

- Lead time to obtain funding.
- Environmental, right-of-way, utility relocation concerns.
- Project cost.
- Determine match amount.
- Are you able to fund the match with local money?
- If not, what other available sources can be used for local match? State OPWC, TIF, JEDD, RID.
- Design-Build option saves design costs since design is funded through grant.
- Is project going to be an LPA project?
- Partner with other public agencies or private sector.
Funding Sources

- Federal
  - LBR (Local Bridge Program)
  - CSTP (County Secondary Transportation Program)
  - HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Program)
  - CDBG (small community infrastructure)
  - TAP (Transportation Alternative Program)
  - SRTS (Safe Routes To School)

(Source: State of Ohio Roadway Infrastructure Maintenance Responsibility Manual)
Funding Sources

- State
  - OPWC (LTP, SCIP)
  - ODOD (development)
  - TRC (Toll Revenue Credit)
  - Task orders for right-of-way and environmental
  - CBP (Credit Bridge Program)
  - State Infrastructure Bank
Funding Sources

- Local
- TIF
- RID
- JEDD
- Private sector
- Assessment
- Force Account
Is project so large it needs to be broken into phases?

- MPO max = $6 million
- TRAC money
- Local TID
- TID – HB 151 (design funding)
Grants

- How to compete for various grants.
- Success obtaining a grant – How will we score?
- Can multiple funding sources be put together?
- Challenge of combining funding sources so that they come together at same time.
Selling It

- Can project be viewed as:
  - An economic development project?
  - Ohio Development Service Agency (DOD)

- Herding the cats!
  - Convince local officials (township trustees, county commissioners, city council members) and property owners / developers of a project’s value
  - Equity consideration
  - Find common goals
Timing

- Combined funding sources availability at same time taken into consideration
- Right-of-Way acquisition
- Utility relocations
- Environmental
Other Detail Considerations

- Is direct payment available?
- Cash flow / reimbursement.
- Are bonds going to be sold?
Partnering

- Understanding partnering for common causes with local MPO, ODOT, cities, townships
- Value in networking with local district / MPO
- Private / Public partnerships
- Creating win-win scenarios
- Assessments
Local Butler County Examples

- **STATE ROUTE 129**
  - $165 million project
  - Lease back state infrastructure bank
  - Locally-maintained state highway
  - Tolls
  - Use of State Infrastructure Bank
Local Butler County Examples

- UNION CENTRE BOULEVARD
  - Local money
  - Setting up Transportation Improvement District (TID) with 5 communities (townships and cities)
  - $10 million pot combined with private sector funding to build new interchange at I-75
  - $51 million of road construction
Local Butler County Examples

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Local Butler County Examples

- Union Centre Boulevard
  - $3.4 billion of investment today
Local Butler County Examples

UNION CENTRE BOULEVARD

- Union Centre interchange and its resulting transportation projects have brought about sustained and well-planned economic growth resulting in job creation and improved quality of life.

Since 1997 in UCB area:

- $3,417,340,892 of new real and personal property investment.
- 32,171,445 square feet of new corporate office, manufacturing, distribution, research and design, and commercial projects.
- 36,413 new jobs.
Local Butler County Examples

- LIBERTY INTERCHANGE MODIFICATION
  - Use of TIF money
  - Equitable shares (trip generation)
  - Problem of tax exempt status with hospitals
An Art and a Science

- Understand a project in depth.
- Consider all available sources.
- Be aggressive.
- Be creative.
- Communicate project’s value to the public and partners.
- Understand the needs of your clients (public, private developers, commercial, institutional, medical, academic).
Concluding Thoughts

- Think outside the box.
- Create win-win scenarios.
- Understand what funding sources are available.
- Collaborate with MPO, CEAO, and ODOT.