



Meeting Minutes for August 18, 2011

The TRAC Meeting was called to order by Director Wray at 10:09 a.m. in ODOT Conference Room GA, Columbus, Ohio. Attending: Robert Clarke Brown, William Brennan, Patrick Darrow, William Dingus, Raymond DiRossi, Jack Marchbanks, and Director Wray. Not attending: Antoinette Selvey-Maddox.

Minutes from June 2, 2011 meeting were reviewed prior to today's meeting and no corrections were suggested. Director Wray noted that the minutes were approved as written.

The Director introduced Jim Gates as the new TRAC Program Manager and welcomed him to the team.

Director Wray opened by discussing leveraging the Ohio Turnpike asset, the news about the Federal Bill, and the Public Private Partnerships as it relates to revenue for Ohio. There is still no federal bill. The likelihood is there will be a resolution or bill which will greatly reduce our revenue. We are preparing for that at ODOT. This would mean delaying current construction projects, re-evaluating all the TRAC projects, adjusting our own goals (system conditions, bridge conditions, and roadway conditions) and developing a new maintenance strategy. We set a goal of having an annual contract program of \$1.5B. If the money isn't there, we will have to change that goal as well.

The House Bill, Chairman Micah's Bill, if passed, would result in a \$400M shortfall annually for ODOT. The Boxer/Baucus Bill would continue Federal funding at the current level for FY12 and FY13, but beyond these years, there would be no money. We could have a continued resolution that would be at a lower level so we could continue at the current level or at a lower level. All these things will impact what we can do as a Department and what the TRAC will be able to work with.

We are moving forward on taking action on the Ohio Turnpike. A letter of interest for a consultant team was sent out in early August. The first phase will be to evaluate what is best for the State of Ohio – what is the best way to deal with this asset. The second phase would be to prepare us for the activity.

We will have a report in Spring 2012 from a firm who is evaluating the potential Public Private Partnership projects in Ohio (the pros and cons) and determining what types of partnerships they should be.

Our intention is that the TRAC will move forward with business, we will go out to the public for new applications, evaluate the projects and continue to set priorities to move forward.

The Director then turned the meeting over to Jim Gates to review the 2011 TRAC Applications notebook and DVD which they received, along with an overview of each of the Districts' current applications for this year and the funding requests for each. Opportunities were given to the TRAC members to ask questions or clarify any issues they had on the projects. Tier 2 projects were asked to resubmit their applications this year to remain on the TRAC list. Of the 72 active applications, only two were new to the TRAC list this year. September 15th is the deadline for evaluation of priorities from the MPOs. The upcoming four regional TRAC meetings/locations were reviewed with the TRAC members. The question was posed to the TRAC if there would be any additional information that the sponsors could prepare/share that they would like to hear about (job creation, safety, costs, etc). Mr. Brennan suggested that ODOT staff relay to the districts or sponsor that we only need one primary presenter of the project because it goes over the time limit and we don't need to hear from multiple people about the same project.

There was a discussion on District 11's New River Crossing in Jefferson County. West Virginia wants to move ahead with the project with their earmarked funding. Twenty to twenty-five million dollars has been previously earmarked for the project. Tolling was discussed as an option for a portion of the construction funds. It is too premature to discuss tolling options and construction funds at this time.

The revised TRAC Policy was approved on June 2, 2011 so we are operating under the new policy and procedures as we go through this scoring evaluation.

Being that there wasn't any other old business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Minutes Prepared by:

Debbie Cox 9/23/11

Chair:


