MEETING MINUTES
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
OHIO-KENTUCKY-INDIANA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
OCTOBER 8, 2015 – 10:30 A.M.
OKI BOARD ROOM

• Call to Order

President Lynch, noting that there was a quorum, called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. with the following members in attendance:

MEMBERS

Mr. Kevin Lynch, Dearborn County Board of Commissioners, President
Mr. T.C. Rogers, Butler County Board of Commissioners, First Vice President
Judge Steve Perdery, Campbell County Fiscal Court
Mr. Ed Humphrey, Clermont County Board of Commissioners
Mr. Todd Portune, Hamilton County Board of Commissioners, Past President
Mr. Tom Adamec, Blue Ash, Ohio
Ms. Sherry Carran, Covington, Kentucky
Mr. Charles Tassel, Deer Park, Ohio
Mr. Thomas Cahill, Erlanger, Kentucky
Mr. Michael Snyder, Fairfield, Ohio
Mr. Robert Brown, Hamilton, Ohio
Mr. Stephen Kaiser, Lebanon, Ohio
Mr. Michael Steur, Madeira, Ohio
Mr. Larry Mulligan, Middletown, Ohio
Ms. Suzi Rubin, Monroe, Ohio
Mr. Chris Dobrozsi, Montgomery, Ohio
Ms. Beth Fenne I, Newport, Kentucky
Ms. Marjorie Herlow, Springdale, Ohio
Mr. Dan Bell, Taylor Mill, Kentucky
Mr. Richard W. Viller, Trenton, Ohio
Mr. James T. O’Reilly, Wyoming, Ohio
Mr. David Linnenberg, Green Township
Mr. Karl B. Schultz, Miami Township
Mr. Gregory W. Carson, Clermont County Township Association
Mr. Jonathan D. Sams, Warren County Association of Township Trustees & Clerks
Mr. Brian Painter, Campbell County Fiscal Court
Mr. Greg Breetz, Boone County Planning Commission

Kevin J. Lynch
President

Mark R. Polteinski
CEO/Executive Director

Serving the Counties of: Boone, Butler, Campbell, Clermont, Dearborn, Hamilton, Kenton, Warren
**Board Members (continued)**

Mr. Mark McCormack, Dearborn County Plan Commission  
Mr. David Okum, Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Marc Hult, Kenton County Planning Commission  
Mr. Dennis Andrew Gordon, PDS of Kenton County  
Mr. Stan Williams, Warren County Regional Planning Commission  
Mr. Timothy Bachman, Fairfield (City) Planning Commission  
Mr. Tim Werdmann, Hamilton (City) Planning Commission  
Mr. Craig Beckley, Dearborn County Township Association, Resident Member  
Mr. David Ginsburg, Resident Member  
Mr. Trey Graysen, Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Resident Member  
Mr. Ralph B. Grieme, Jr., Resident Member  
Mr. Roger Kerlin, Resident Member  
Mr. Larry H. Maxey, Resident Member  
Ms. Pamela Mullins, Resident Member  
Mr. Kenneth F. Reed, Resident Member, Treasurer  
Mr. V. Anthony Simms-Howell, Ohio Comm. on Hispanic/Latino Affairs, Resident Member  
Mr. Thomas Voss, Resident Member  
Mr. Ted Hubbard, Hamilton County Engineer  
Mr. Todd Listerman, Dearborn County Engineer  
Mr. Jim Ude, Indiana Department of Transportation  
Mr. Robert Hans, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet  
Ms. Tammy Campbell, Ohio Department of Transportation  
Mr. Andrew Aiello, Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky

**GUESTS**

Mr. Jeff Earlywine, representing Judge Gary W. Moore, Boone County Fiscal Court  
Ms. Kathy Binns, Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune’s Office  
Mr. Scott Gunning, representing Judge Kris Knochelmann, Kenton County Fiscal Court, Second Vice President  
Mr. Michael Moore, representing David Mann, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Ms. Kelly Will, representing Dennis Carr, Lawrenceburg, Indiana  
Mr. Joe Kempe, representing Kevin Hardman, Sharonville, Ohio  
Mr. Cory Wright, representing Matthew Beamer, Union Township  
Mr. Tom Willsey, representing Christine Mataic, Butler County Association of Township Trustees & Clerks  
Ms. Kellie Wise, representing Greg Hartmann, Hamilton County Board of Commissioners, Resident Member  
Ms. Lavita Handkamp, representing Mr. Monzel, Ham. Co. Bd. of Comm., Resident Member  
Mr. David Spinney, Butler County TID  
Mr. Brian Elliff, Miami Township  
Mr. Andy Johns, FHWA  
Mr. Skip Schulte, Citizen  
Mr. Jay Hamilton, Mead Hunt
Board Members (continued)
Mr. Steve Mary, Stantec
Mr. Thomas Kramer, LJB
Mr. Bill Wells, City of Covington
Ms. Elizabeth Brown
Mr. Shawn Mason, Prime AE
Ms. Carrie Pastor, Cincinnati Regional Chamber
Mr. Jon Brunot, Burgess & Niple
Mr. Joe Vogel, AECOM
Mr. Stefan Spinosa, ODOT-District 8
Ms. Marilyn Hyland, I&O Railroad
Ms. Hollie Hinten, DLZ

LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. Edward Diller, Taft, Stettinius & Hollister

STAFF

Mr. Mark R. Policinski          Mr. Robert W. Koehler          Ms. Marilyn F. Osborne
Ms. Karen Whitaker                  Ms. Purcy Nance                   Ms. Lorrie Platt
Mr. Mark Paine                      Mr. Brad Mason                      Ms. Robyn Bancroft
Ms. Jane Wittke                       Mr. Andy Reser                     Ms. Ashley Patrick
Mr. Andrew Rohne                        Mr. David Shuey                    Ms. Mary Luebbers
Mr. Travis Miller                          Ms. Florence Parker                Ms. Summer Jones
Ms. Alexandria Barnes                     Ms. Jane Wittke

Mr. Mark McCormack led the Board of Directors in the Pledge of Allegiance.

• Announcements

President Lynch reminded everyone to sign in for attendance purposes. He also reminded everyone that this is a Board of Directors meeting and that Executive Committee Alternates are not able to vote.

ITEM #1: ADMINISTRATIVE

A. President’s Report

• New Board Member

President Lynch welcomed Mr. Ashley Chance to the Board. He was recently appointed by the City of Mason City Council.
• Appointment of Alternate

President Lynch stated that Dennis Gordon with the Planning and Development Services of Kenton County has requested that Emi Randall, PDS’ Director of Planning, serve as his Executive Committee Alternate.

Mr. Reed moved to appoint Ms. Randall as Mr. Gordon’s Executive Committee Alternate. Mr. Humphrey seconded the motion; motion carried.

• Freight Conference

President Lynch reported that the freight conference was held last month for the first time in Cincinnati. He congratulated Mr. Policinski and those who worked to make the event a success. He stated that this success was a good reflection on the OKI region.

• Brent Spence Bridge Update

President Lynch reported that last week, he, Mark Policinski and several Board members attended a meeting with ODOT Director Jerry Wray to discuss the status of the Brent Spence Bridge. Also in attendance were several high level ODOT staffers and representatives of federal legislators from Ohio. He stated that there was good, open and frank discussion and a great exchange of ideas. He explained that projects for these types of Projects of National and Regional Significance will continue to be an issue as Congress continues to struggle with meaningful funding of a long-term transportation bill. He commented that no significant project, including the Brent Spence Bridge, will be built without tolls playing a part in the finance structure. President Lynch thanked Matt Davis with the Build Our New Bridge Now Coalition for setting up and hosting this event.

B. Approval of September 10, 2015 Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

President Lynch called for corrections and/or additions to the September 10, 2015 minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting.

There being none, Mr. Snyder moved that the September 10, 2015 minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting be approved as mailed. Ms. Harlow seconded the motion; motion carried.

C. Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Policinski reported that, as mentioned by President Lynch, OKI hosted the freight conference last month. He explained that OKI has always partnered in the conference, but this was the first year as host of the event. He explained that the first year the conference was held was in Toledo and there were about 90 people in attendance; this year, there were 400 attendees from 26 states and Canada. He stated that the agenda was amazing, with discussions centered on the movement of freight. He pointed out that nine years ago, through the leadership of Tom Voss and Christine Matacic, OKI adopted freight as a major emphasis of our work. Mr. Policinski said, “Freight is the Future”. He stated that anyone who attended that conference knows that freight is our future.
Mr. Policinski stated that the amount of support received from the Board for the conference was amazing. A number of Board members volunteered their time to assist with the logistics of the event, including Christine Matacic, Tom Voss, Pam Mullins, Nancy Atkinson, Roger Kerlin, Marjorie Harlow and Reggie Victor. This support by our Board members made a great impression on those who attended the conference. Mr. Policinski thanked Alexandria Barnes and Karen Whitaker of the staff for their help and recognized Lorrie Platt and Robyn Bancroft for all their hard work during the eight months of planning for this conference. Mr. Policinski commented that he was told by many who attended that it was the freight conference of the year in the U.S.

Mr. Policinski reported that the Annual Luncheon was also a huge success. There were almost 400 attendees, a great keynote speaker and, once again, people arrived early and stayed late. He thanked the entire staff for their hours of volunteering and hard work. He also thanked President Lynch for hosting the event in his home county. It was a tremendous success for OKI, Dearborn County and the region.

Mr. Policinski introduced Ms. Ashley Patrick, OKI’s newest member of the Communications Department.

Mr. O’Reilly asked Mr. Policinski whether he has any idea how many more north/south trains will be coming through our region as a result of the Panama Canal expansion. Mr. Policinski replied that, as Chair of the Ohio Rail Development Commission, it is a question he has put to the ORDC staff and they are putting the information together. He said that the answer will depend on the information provided by the rail industry.

D. Legislative Update

Ms. Lorrie Platt, staff, provided an update regarding the transportation bill. She stated that a long-term bill is needed to address our critical transportation network needs. She reported that the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in the House, led by Congressman Shuster, is working on a six-year bill. However, she pointed out that the financing mechanism for the bill is not finalized because the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee does not oversee the funding of it. Ms. Platt explained that the House Ways and Means Committee, led by Congressman Ryan, is responsible for identifying the financing for the bill and has not agreed on a plan. A solution working its way through the committee is Tax Repatriation. This involves taxing foreign profits of American companies at a lower rate, provided those profits are brought back to the U.S. The size of the bill will be determined by the rate at which the profits are taxed and how much of the new tax will be set aside for transportation, but the parties disagree on how to do this.

Ms. Platt reported that Congress provided another three-month extension in July for the Highway Trust Fund. This extension, which transferred $8 billion from the U.S. Treasury, ends October 29. The Federal Government is now projected to run out of money for federal infrastructure projects in June 2016.
E. Finance Officer's Report

Ms. Purcy Nance, staff, reported that the Finance Officer’s Report, dated October 8, 2015, was distributed around the table. She explained that the report contains both July and August financial statements and she would be reporting on the more current August information.

Ms. Nance referred members to page 2 for the current information. As of October 2, OKI had $667,402 in the PNC checking account, $9,753 in the HSA/FSA checking account and $0 in the PNC savings account. She explained that in response to recent inquiries about the rate of return on OKI’s savings account, the PNC savings account has been closed and staff is in the process of establishing a STAR Ohio account which will provide a higher rate of return. Ms. Nance reported that there has been no recent activity on OKI’s line of credit and there is no outstanding balance at report date.

Ms. Nance stated that page 3 contains the balance sheet as of August 31. She reported that Cash and Investments are down approximately 52% from this time last year. Receivables are up 37% from this time last year due to a slow-down in ODOT’s processing of invoice payments. She pointed out that last year at August 31, July and August ODOT invoices were outstanding. This year at August 31, June, July and August invoices were outstanding. This is an additional $456,000 outstanding. If these had been paid in the same time frame as last year, receivables would have been down 11% and cash down only 6%. Ms. Nance reported that as of August 31, there were $1,313,000 in receivables, $795,000 associated with July and August invoices and $518,000 outstanding from June and earlier. She further stated that payables are up 33% or $45,000 from this time last year due to the traffic data collection project.

Ms. Nance stated that Revenue information is located on page 4. She reported that as of August 31, OKI is approximately 17% of the way through the budgeted year. Overall, revenues are at 15%, which is on budget. She noted the following items: Federal revenues are behind budget due to the timing of project award and contract execution of the Forestry project as well as the timing of partner activities in the Solar Ready and Plan4Health projects; Miscellaneous Revenues are behind budget due to the timing of both the Bright 74 Study and the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency data project; and Contributed Services are ahead of budget due to timing of the U.S. Forestry project.

Ms. Nance stated that page 5 contains Expense information. She reported that overall, expenses are at 16%, which is on budget. Ms. Nance noted the following items: Category 3, Travel, Subsistence and Professional Development is behind budget due to the timing of Board travel and renewal of agency memberships; Category 4, Printing, Marketing and Contractual is behind budget due to the timing of the Bright 74 Study and the New Freedom Pass Thru project offset by Clean Air marketing which is ahead of budget due to the seasonal nature of the awareness campaign; Category 5, Other Expenditures is ahead of budget due to the timing of maintenance contract renewals and the OKI annual meeting; Category 6, Contributed Services is behind budget due to the timing of the U.S. Forestry project.
Ms. Nance stated that page 6 contains the General Fund Balance information. She reported that the General Fund Balance has had a net decrease of approximately $41,000 year to date. The two components of this decrease are timing differences and year to date activities. The timing differences include $21,000 decrease in timing of county funding payments and $40,000 decrease due to application of negotiated fringe and indirect rates. The remaining $20,000 increase is associated with year-to-date operations and timing of active projects. Resulting in a year to date fund balance of $1,024,000. Of this amount, $238,000 is committed to active projects.

Mr. Simms-Howell thanked Ms. Nance for her report and the job she and the Finance Department are doing for the organization. He stated that this is evidenced by the fact that as noted on page 2, OKI has an $850,000 line of credit which has not been used over a long period of time. Also on page 3 the, assets versus liability demonstrates how successful an agency is. He stated that our organization is financially sound and well run.

Mr. O’Reilly noted that on page 9 it shows that fringe benefits are approximately 55% of salaries. He questioned whether this is typical since the rate in his city is lower. Ms. Nance explained that this rate is typical. OKI prepares a fringe benefit plan each year which is approved by ODOT. She offered to provide him with the exact rates if he is interested.

There being no discussion, Mr. Reed moved that the Executive Committee accept and file the Finance Officer’s Report dated October 8, 2015. Mr. Humphrey seconded the motion; motion carried.

F. **Budget: Committee Report**

Mr. Reed, Chair, reported that the Budget Committee met prior to the Board meeting. Most of the discussion at the meeting revolved around OKI’s Investment Policy. He explained that a question was raised at a previous Board meeting by Mr. O’Reilly regarding OKI’s investments. He thanked Mr. O’Reilly for asking the question. Mr. Reed explained that while the rate on OKI’s current investments is low, the Investment Policy is extremely conservative. He reported that staff, along with legal counsel, has been investigating options and would like to propose minor changes to the policy to the Executive Committee next month. Mr. Reed pointed out that the amount of cash that OKI has available to invest is relatively small and fluctuates due to the fact that funding is received on a reimbursement basis. Mr. Reed stated that the question that was raised led to some great discussion and commented that it is prudent for the agency to continue to have those periodic discussions. Mr. Reec thanked staff and the Budget Committee for their work on this issue.

**ITEM #2: AROUND THE REGION**

President Lynch reminded the Board that, as time permits, he would like to set aside time on the agenda to hear from Board members as to what is going on in their communities. He encouraged members to contact Mark Policinski if they have an update they would like to present. Mr. David Spinney, the Director of the Butler County TID, provided an update on the South Hamilton Crossing project.
Mr. Spinney explained that the project was first proposed in 1911 but was stopped due to the flood of 1913. The project was later re-energized but stopped again due to the world war and depression.

Mr. Spinney stated that the project is much more than a railroad grade separation project. The project is located 12 miles west of I-75 and 6.6 miles north of I-275 and is an extension of Hamilton Mason Road. The project involves replacing an existing at-grade railroad crossing on Central Avenue in the City of Hamilton, with an overpass created by extending Grand Blvd. to the west. This will connect SR 4 on the east side of the four existing CSX tracks with US 127 and University Boulevard on the west. This will provide access from the east to the city-owned University Commerce Park, to Vora Technology Park and to the Hamilton campus of Miami University and with it the potential to create a significant number of new jobs.

The project has been identified as one of the top priorities of the City of Hamilton to enhance economic development and improve the transportation network to reduce congestion in the central business district, improve east-west connectivity for public safety operations and improve mobility within the region. Recognizing its regional importance, the TID partnered with the City to advance the project.

Mr. Spinney reported that the estimate for the project is $29 million. Funding has been a significant collaborative effort. The Preliminary Engineering was funded entirely by the City; detail design by the City and the TID with funds provided by ODOT Jobs and Commerce; right-of-way was funded through the use of CMAQ funds provided by OKI with additional funding through the City. Construction funds are made up from additional City funds, the TID, CSX, OKI and TRAC.

Mr. Simms-Howell questioned whether the final cost for right-of-way and construction will skew the funding percentages. Mr. Spinney explained that they won’t have the exact right-of-way costs until negotiations or the properties are finalized. However, if there is need for additional commitment, it will be up to the City to cover the cost. The construction costs are also best estimates from the engineers doing the design. He pointed out that they have accounted for contingency and inflation, but again, any additional costs will be covered by local funds.

ITEM #3: 2040 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2016 UPDATE PRESENTATION #2

Mr. Reser, staff, provided the second in a series of presentations on the planning assumptions used for the development of OKI’s 2040 Plan. He reported that this week, OKI released its Congestion Management Process (CMP) report. He explained that a CMP is a federal transportation requirement of all large MPOs. The report is updated every four years to coincide with and assist with the development of the Regional Plan. Mr. Reser provided highlights from the report which can be found on the Plan website at http://2040.oki.org/congestion-management/. A link to the full report is also included on the website.

Mr. Reser reported that according to the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, the Cincinnati urban area is ranked as 45th most congested in the U.S. when evaluating annual delay per auto commuter. The Texas A&M report reflects average conditions of roadways in the urban area. OKI's
CMP examines specific facilities and locations. He explained that OKI has several performance measures to help evaluate congestion. Mr. Reser showed maps displayed on the OKI webpage which detail the intensity and duration of congestion in the region. He also discussed the extent of congestion which looks at the volume of traffic affected by congestion. He pointed out that over a 24-hour average weekday in July, I-75 southbound from Ezzard Charles Drive to Freeman Avenue has the most hours of delay per mile at 1,397 hours.

Mr. Reser explained that accessibility and reliability are other factors that are considered. Reliability refers to the predictability of travel times. He displayed a map that shows weekday travel time reliability during 2014 for 11 travel corridors. He explained that a corridor can be consistently congested every day, but reliable. On average, I-71/75 northbound in Kentucky is the least reliable throughout the day. I-75 southbound between the Norwood Lateral and the Ohio River shows the least reliable time period, 5-6 p.m., with a buffer index value of 2.41 (241 percent). He explained that this means if it was a normal 10-minute average travel time, a traveler should budget an additional 24 minutes to ensure on-time arrival most of the time. He pointed out that poor reliability is often caused by traffic incidents.

Mr. Reser stated that the National Freight Network is a subset of the National Highway Network and on that network, trucks experience about 4,600 daily hours of delay. He also pointed out that buses take most of the same routes that are part of the Congestion Management Network so they are experiencing the same delay; however, the bus rider may have the opportunity to be productive during the ride. He reported that according to the OKI travel model, transit eliminates 30,000 daily trips by auto. Another element of the Plan that is not included in the CMP is the ability to avoid congestion by walking and biking.

Mr. Reser reported that MAP-21 has an increased focus on performance measures and a subcommittee of the ICC has met several times to discuss performance measures for congestion, safety, infrastructure condition and environment. He informed the Board that at the January meeting, he will discuss all the performance measures in the Plan System Performance Report, along with the 2040 forecasts.

Mr. Reser thanked Alex Barnes of the staff for the preparation of the maps shown and Brad Mason for his work to present this information on the website.

ITEM #4: INTERMODAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Paine, staff, reported that the ICC met on Tuesday, October 6. He reported that the committee also heard the 2040 Update presentation on traffic congestion. In addition, the group approved Administration Modification #2 of the OKI TIP which included minor changes to 11 SNK funded highway projects in Kentucky. The ICC reviewed and recommended approval of Resolution 2015-29 which is Amendment #3 of the FY 2016-2019 TIP.
A. Amendment #3 of the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Paine reported that the amendment reflected in the proposed resolution lists two highway projects in Ohio, one highway project in Indiana and two transit projects for the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky. Mr. Paine explained that in Ohio, the amendment includes a project on I-75, Phase 6 of the Thru the Valley project, which will increase the Preliminary Engineering phase from $1.19 million to $3.6 million. A project on I-71 is also included in the amendment. In Indiana, the project is to reconstruct the weigh station on I-74 just west of the Ohio line. He pointed out that there was an error on the table included in the mailout which shows the funds as federal funds but it should be listed as state funds. He stated that this error will be corrected before the resolution is signed by the President and forwarded to FHWA. In addition, TANK recently received $976 million in CMAQ funds from KYTC and $1.6 million in SNK funds from OKI for bus replacement. The amendment will accept the CMAQ funds and move the SNK funds from FY 17 to FY 16 so the buses can be acquired all in one grant.

Ms. Harlow asked Mr. Paine to elaborate on the location of the project on I-71. Mr. Paine explained that the project is located between SR 562 and SR 126 and involves the planing and repaving of I-71.

Mr. Hubbard moved that the Board of Directors approve Resolution 2015-29 regarding the approval of Amendment #3 of the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. Carran seconded the motion: motion carried.

ITEM #5: CONSENT AGENDA

President Lynch stated that each month a written report of committee activities is mailed to the Board of Directors. This mailing included the September Consent Agenda Items.

Mr. Humphrey moved that the Board of Directors approve the consent agenda as mailed. Mr. Reed seconded the motion: motion carried.

There were no committee announcements and/or updates.

ITEM #6: OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Andy Johns, representing the Federal Highway Administration Ohio Division, acknowledged the OKI President, Director and Board for their steadfast commitment to ensuring the continuing cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the OKI region. He pointed out that this is affirmed seeing projects like the I-71/MLK interchange coming to fruition, progress on the Thru the Valley project, the Brent Spence Bridge, the progress taking place in Hamilton, and the creativity that staff is putting into developing the 2040 Long Range Plan. From a Federal Highway perspective. Mr. Johns expressed their appreciation for the work that OKI does considering all the uncertain terms that exist and ensuring that their federal highway program funds are spent wisely and have an impact on the Cincinnati area.
ITEM #7: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Reed moved that the Board of Directors meeting be adjourned. Mr. Snyder seconded the motion; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

KEVIN J. LYNCH, PRESIDENT

MARK R. POLICINSKI, SECRETARY

KLW
Transcribed: 10/22/2015