

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments
March 9, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.
OKI Boardroom

OKI Board President Gary Moore called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. Mr. Randy Bessler, of the Boone County Planning Commission led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Moore noted that this is an executive committee meeting and only committee members or their alternates are permitted to make a motion and vote.

See attendance chart for OKI board members, guests, and staff.

Item #1A - Administrative

President Moore stated there was one update to the 2023 Board of Directors. Ms. Candace McGraw, due to increased work travel, has asked to step off the OKI BOD. In her place, Ms. Melissa Wideman, vice president of CVG's environmental social and governance initiatives has been recommended. President Moore requested a motion to have Ms. Wideman join the OKI Board of Directors. A motion was provided by Commissioner T.C. Rogers, with a second from Mr. Ken Reed; motion carried.

Item #1B - Approval of the February 9, 2023 meeting minutes

President Moore requested approval of the February 9 executive committee meeting minutes as distributed. Commissioner Rick Probst moved that the minutes be approved, and Councilmember Mark Jeffreys seconded the motion; motion carried.

Item #1C - CEO's Report

Mr. Mark Policinski shared that there will be an Ohio River Listening session at OKI on March 15th from 4pm to 6pm. All board members were invited to attend. He noted this is one of many sessions taking place on behalf of the Ohio River Basin Alliance and National Wildlife Federation, who are beginning to work on a plan to protect and restore the river. Areas also included in the plan are the river's tributaries, wetlands and surrounding habitats in the 14-state scope of the river.

Mr. Policinski moved on to discuss the recent summary of investments in the Uptown area recently released by the Uptown Consortium. Uptown is the region's research and innovation center with the city's second-largest employment center. The MLK interchange was a major catalyst for this development, and he reminded the board about their courageous vote ten years ago in finding a unique funding solution for the MLK project. There was a \$25 million gap and the board voted to take on the SIB (State Infrastructure Bank) loan. He noted that without the OKI board, Uptown and the MLK interchange would not be the projected over \$2.4 billion in investment for the region.

Next, Mr. Policinski shared that the push for intercity passenger rail service has picked up steam, this is solely the result of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, which is investing millions of dollars into projects like this. He said this region is most affected by the proposed Cincinnati-Columbus-Cleveland-Dayton service, known as the 3C + D corridor.

He noted that Governor DeWine is requesting a very thorough study before investing in a project that will cost billions of dollars. The Governor is requiring that this passenger rail must be car competitive (meaning it must not take hours longer to go via rail versus car) and that it cannot disrupt the multi-billion-dollar freight traffic currently on the rail lines. Mr. Policinski pointed out there will be a lot in the press and as public officials/the board, you might get questions on it and wanted to provide some information.

Item #1D - Finance Officer's Report

Director of Finance, Ms. Katie Hannum, stated copies of the Finance Officer's Report were distributed via Constant Contact email to all in advance with a printed copy at their seats.

Ms. Hannum reported the Council's financing activities, as of March 3, 2023, OKI had:

\$808,374 in PNC Bank Commercial Checking
\$22,168 in PNC Bank - HSA/FSA Checking
\$725,941 in the STAR Ohio Money Market Mutual Fund

Ms. Hannum reported there has been no recent activity on OKI's line of credit, and that there is no outstanding balance at report date. She further reported on Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expense information.

The report concluded with the general fund balance information and the total funds committed to active projects.

Commissioner David Painter provided a motion to approve the financial report; Mr. Ken Reed seconded the motion; motion carried.

Item #2 – Presentation of FY 2022 Audit Report (via Zoom)

Mr. Kyle Dougherty, Zupka & Associates provided an overview of OKI's annual audit report for fiscal year 2022. Mr. Dougherty shared that OKI's audit report was very clean with no findings or other issues noted (one of the reasons he felt this presentation could take place via Zoom). Since it was a clean audit with no deficiencies, he noted his presentation would focus on the general scope of their audit procedures. He also noted there were no issues with any internal controls. President Moore requested a motion to approve and accept the auditor's report. A motion was provided by Mr. Ken Reed with a second from Mr. Tony Simms Howell; motion carried.

Item #3 – Presentation from Council on Aging

Mr. Bryan Black, Transportation Manager, shared information about a new program called *home52 Transportation*. He stated this program was developed to meet the unique needs of senior citizens and individuals with a disability who require specialized transportation services. The Council on Aging's home52 program was awarded 5310 funding in 2022.

Mr. Black shared that home52 Transportation is a central coordination center that manages transportation services for clients enrolled in programs with COA as well as other seniors and individuals in need of NEMT and general transportation services. Along with transportation coordination, they also have a technology solution for seniors and health care partners to schedule trips through an app. He noted that in Hamilton County, they served over 1200 individuals in 2022 along with over 49,000 completed phone calls. In spring of 2023, they plan to expand call center hours, add call center representatives to meet their planned growth along, some who will be fluent in Spanish.

Item #4 – ICC Report

Mr. Andy Reser, OKI staff stated the ICC met on Tuesday, March 7th. He shared the meeting summary which included:

- Mr. Craig Litmer, of American Structurepoint presented on an OKI funded project (roundabout in Blue Ash located at Hunt and Plainfield Road) which helped fix congestion and safety issues
- ICC approved a TIP modification
- ICC heard about the upcoming draft Fiscal Year 2024 to 2027 TIP
- One resolution was recommended for board approval, which was TIP Amendment #19

Item #5 - Amendment #19 of the OKI Fiscal Years 2021-2024 TIP

Mr. Andy Reser stated TIP Amendment #19 includes one new transit project. ODOT awarded a Diesel Emission Reduction grant project using \$1.9 million of CMAQ funds for the replacement of four SORTA 40 feet buses. This project was exempt from air quality conformity requirements. The amendment was posted at www.oki.org since February 22, 2023 with no comments received. President Moore requested a motion to approve OKI Resolution 2023-06. A motion was made by Mr. Tom Peck with a second from Commissioner T.C. Rogers; motion carried.

Item #6 – Draft FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Reser provided a brief summary of the OKI draft TIP and noted that no action is required today but today begins the one-month public comment period. The TIP is the short-range component of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The TIP includes transportation funding commitments for the next four years and any project with federal funds must be included. Each project is identified with a location, project description, project sponsor and

funding details on phase, fiscal year and source of funds. Once the TIP is formally adopted by OKI, it becomes part of the statewide transportation improvement program (STIP). He stated that the FY24-27 TIP includes \$5.3 billion in federal, state and local funds. Of the \$4.2 billion in federal funds, nearly \$181 million are OKI sub-allocated federal funds. These are the funds that the OKI board has direct authority over how those funds are spent. He further stated that the FY24-27 TIP includes 46 new OKI projects, these are projects which have been previously awarded by OKI but have phases in the new TIP timeframe. He shared the breakdown of projects:

- 25 projects utilizing Surface Transportation Block Grant funding, also called SNK in Northern Kentucky
- 5 projects with CMAQ funds
- 19 Transportation Alternatives Funds
- 195 new State DOT projects are included in the 'grouped projects' list – these are typically maintenance projects like resurfacing, small bridge repair and safety upgrades that are not of appropriate scale to be identified individually
- 51 new transit projects – such as bus maintenance, equipment purchases and operating assistance

Continuing, Mr. Reser noted the \$4.2 billion in federal funds is used for a variety of project types, such as roadway maintenance, transit and improving traffic operations. The largest amount of the funds, 74%, are programmed for roadway or bridge projects that increase system capacity. This includes nearly \$3 billion programmed for the new Brent Spence Companion Bridge project.

He then noted the breakdown in the \$181 million in OKI funds, these fund are suballocated to OKI and the OKI Policy Board makes decisions on awarding those funds. He shared most of these funds go to local governments for their transportation capital projects, such as bike trails, new sidewalks, road improvements and safety upgrades. He stated the top three project categories are 27% for bicycle and pedestrian projects, 23% for transit such as bus replacements and 21% for traffic operations and safety projects such as roundabouts and new turn lanes. He noted that later this year, OKI will award nearly \$53 million for FY27 and that is not included in the stated totals.

Mr. Reser shared that beginning on March 10th, the full draft TIP document is at www.tip.oki.org and is available for public comments until April 12th. A public meeting is scheduled for April 10th at OKI. The OKI board of directors will vote on the final TIP at the April 13, 2023 meeting.

Item #7 – Authorizing the filing of an application with the Department of Transportation, United States of America, for a grant under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Deputy Executive Director Bob Koehler noted that FTA allocates Section 5303 funds to OKI for transit planning activities. The KYTC Office of Transportation Delivery requires the MPO (OKI) Policy Board to authorize the application of funds and commit to providing non-federal match. These FTA funds are commonly received by OKI and blended with FHWA PL funds for the purpose of conducting the metropolitan planning process. A motion was provided by Mr. Karl Schultz with a second from Commissioner David Painter; motion carried to approve OKI Resolution 2023-07.

Item #8 - Other Business

There was no other business noted.

Item #9 - Adjournment

President Moore noted the next meeting is April 13, 2023, it will be a Board of Directors meeting starting at 10:30am.

The meeting adjournment was motioned by Mr. Ken Reed and seconded by Commissioner David Painter; motion carried.



Gary W. Moore, President



Mark R. Policinski, Secretary