

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments
March 14, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.

Attendance record for OKI board members along with guests and staff follows the minutes.

Item #1A - Administrative

OKI Board President Gary Moore called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. He reminded everyone to sign in, silence cell phones and to state your name clearly when making a motion, second or comment. He also noted that since this is an executive committee meeting, only those committee members or their alternates may make a motion, second or vote. Trustee Michael Logue led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #1B - Approval of the February 8, 2024 Executive Committee meeting minutes

President Moore requested approval of the February 8th Executive Committee meeting minutes as distributed. Mr. Ken Reed, Treasurer moved that the minutes be approved as presented with a second from Commissioner T.C. Rogers; motion passed unanimously.

Item #1C - CEO's Report

Mr. Mark Policinski began his remarks by sharing the sudden news of Red Bike's announcement it was shutting down operations. In the announcement, Red Bank executives have mentioned the possibility of selling its assets. OKI has invested \$3.6million for this mode of transportation. He noted that Red Bike cannot sell those assets without negotiation with the federal government's agent, in this case ODOT. ODOT would be paid back for some of OKI's investment. He mentioned that Councilman Mark Jeffreys along with others are trying to find a solution that keeps Red Bike operating. Mr. Policinski said that he wished them well and OKI is glad to provide data and support. He also noted that future funding of Red Bike will be up to the OKI Board of Directors. He wanted to assure the Board that their investments have legal protection and will make that known to the operators of Red Bike.

He next mentioned that the Board will be hearing from the independent auditor, Mr. Kyle Dougherty, on OKI's FY 2023 audit. He noted that OKI remains in sound fiscal stature and are good shepherds of the taxpayer's money. He next complimented OKI's finance staff in meeting every financial and accounting test of OKI's fiscal operations. Having federal, state, and local dollars from three distinct states is a remarkable challenge. He asked the finance staff to stand and be recognized for their hard work in meeting the various layers of government accounting.

Mr. Policinski concluded his remarks focusing on the Martin Luther King interchange in Uptown. He shared that in 2013, the OKI Board made a revolutionary investment on an interchange that has regional impacts. Such as:

- The Uptown area is the region's second largest employment center outside of downtown Cincinnati. Of the 55,000 jobs, twenty thousand were held by persons from outside of Hamilton County
- Tens of thousands of students from the region and beyond attend University of Cincinnati
- A large majority of patients in Uptown's hospitals are from outside the city of Cincinnati

OKI helped craft a radical funding scheme to build the interchange projects on a historically fast schedule. OKI's BOD agreed to take on a payment of \$25million loan to the city from the Ohio State Infrastructure Bank. The solution was innovative for several reasons: the loan size was up to 250 times the size of a normal SIB loan. No other MPO had even been responsible for such a massive SIB loan and lastly, the Board ensured paying the loan over 25 years at a payment of \$1million per year for decades from OKI funds.

He thanked the Board for their visionary solution in 2013 and was proud to share that the loan will be paid off in July of 2024, fifteen years early due to the hard work of our partners at ODOT and the City of Cincinnati, the actual loan amount was less and because the Board year after year voted to honor the \$1million commitment. He said he has been told that the investment in Uptown over the past decade is over \$1billion, all related to investment of the interchange.

Item #1D - Finance Officer's Report

Director of Finance, Ms. Katie Hannum, stated copies of the Finance Officer's Report were distributed to all in advance with a printed copy at their seats. Ms. Hannum reported the Council's financing activities, as of March 14, 2024, OKI had:

- \$487,053 in the PNC Bank Commercial Checking Account
- \$26,626 in the PNC HSA/FSA Checking Account
- \$668,631 in the STAR Ohio Money Market Mutual Fund Account

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.

President Moore requested a motion to approve the financial report. Commissioner David Painter provided a motion, Councilmember Mark Jeffreys seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Item #2 - USA EPA Climate Reduction Grant Program (CPRG) Update

Mr. Travis Miller, OKI staff reminded members that OKI is in Phase 2 of the program with the implementation funding grant due April 1st. The awarded grants can be between \$2million and \$500million. The purpose is to develop and implement locally driven actions that reduce Green House Gas emissions. He reminded members that on March 1st, a Priority Climate Action Plan

was submitted. He highlighted GHG Inventory which showed that 70% of the region's emissions are produced in three counties: Hamilton, Butler, and Boone. The region's top emissions are industrial (35%), followed by transportation emissions (30%). He further elaborated the engagement process, which includes a 70+ member steering committee that generated over 100 project ideas (to reduce GHG emissions).

Next, he provided a summary of the grant proposals' six 'pillars' to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the 16-county OK-KY-IN MSA. The pillars, with examples are:

1. Residential Household Energy Reduction Program – such as weatherization, efficient appliances/HVAC
2. Local Govt. Public Building Reduction – solar and LED light conversion
3. Industrial Equipment Replacement Program – stationary equipment, mobile equipment
4. Transit Service Enhancement – targeted zone free fare, fleet replacement expansion
5. Landfill Stream Reduction – curb side recycling, regional organics facilities, food reuse refrigeration
6. Afforestation – Tree for Me distributions, 30,000 trees to 60 communities

Mr. Miller reminded members that OKI is the grant administrator and next steps are to finalize program details and grant components along with program budgets.

Item #3 - Selection of Projects for the Carbon Reduction Program – Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

Mr. Andy Reser, OKI staff reminded members these awards are for the installation of publicly accessible EV charging infrastructure. The focus is on DC Fast Charging equipment in high density residential and/or employment with adequate demonstrated dwell times along with the commitment to operate and maintain electric vehicle service equipment for five years. He shared that Ohio has \$13 million available, received 8 applications, requesting a total of \$375k. He noted that Ohio Toll Revenue Credits can be used as the non-federal share, for this round, this saves \$138k in match. There will be a Round 2 of projects in Ohio due to funds remaining (applications due June 7th). Mr. Reser then shared that Kentucky has \$3 million available, received 6 applications requesting a total of \$2.8 million. A slide presentation included the following information on the awards (see next page).

OHIO

Anderson Township	Anderson Center	2 Level 2 Chargers, \$50,854
City of Cincinnati-Mt. Washington	Neighborhood Business District	1 Dual Port DCFC, \$196,000
City of Fairfield	Lane Library	2 Level 2 Single Port Chargers
	Waterworks Park	2 Level 2 Single Port Chargers
	Harbin Park	2 Level 2 Single Port Chargers
		Total funds for Fairfield \$126,945
City of Forest Park	City Municipal Campus	3 Level 2 Chargers, \$32,413
City of Trenton	City Hall	2 Level 2 Chargers, \$54,545
MetroParks of Butler County	Voice of America MetroPark	1 Level 2 Charger, \$17,794

KENTUCKY

Boone County	Boone County Parks Dept.	3 DC Fast Chargers
	Burlington Commons Washington Street	3 DC Fast Chargers
	287 Richwood Rd. Walton, KY	3 DC Fast Chargers
		Total funds \$320,000
CVG Airport	CVG Centre	10 Level 2 Chargers, 2 DC Fast Chargers
	Rental Car Facility	2 DC Fast Chargers
	Terminal 2 Garage	16 Level 2 Chargers, 1 DC Fast Charger
		Total funds for CVG \$3,214,286

President Moore requested a motion to approve OKI Resolution 2024-06, which was provided by Commissioner Steve Hayden. Judge Knochelmann seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Item #4 - Environmental Consultation for the Update to OKI’s 2050 Plan

Dr. Margaret Minzner, OKI staff provided an update of the environmental consultations for the 2024 update to the 2050 Plan. She explained the consultations are prepared because transportation and related development can adversely affect environmental and historic resources. She noted a survey on environmental concerns was completed along with a workshop discussing survey results with the opportunity of environmental experts to weigh in.

Additionally, they hosted an engineer’s workshop to learn more about the feasibility of mitigation measures from their perspective. All data will be compiled on the Greenspace webpage and incorporated in the Plan update.

Item #5 - Presentation of Fiscal Year 2023 Audit Report via Teams

Mr. Kyle Dougherty, partner-in-charge at Zupka & Associates provided an overview of OKI’s annual audit report for fiscal year 2023. He stated there were no deficiencies, no issues of internal controls and assured members of the solid financial standing of the agency.

President Moore requested a motion to accept and file the auditor’s report. A motion was provided by Mr. Ken Reed with a second from Commissioner Painter; motion passed unanimously.

Item #6 - Intermodal Coordinating Committee Report

OKI staff, Mr. Andy Reser provided a brief update on the ICC meeting held on March 12, 2024. He noted the Committee heard about the following topics, Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program Update and a 2050 Plan Environmental Consultations. The Committee recommended three Resolution for executive committee approval, the Carbon Reduction Program EV Vehicle Charging Projects as well as TIP Amendments #6A and #6B. He last shared there was a workshop held after ICC meeting to discuss the upcoming round of transportation funding opportunities.

Item #7 - Amendment #6A of the OKI Fiscal Years 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program

OKI staff, Mr. Andy Reser stated that TIP Amendment 6 has been split into 6A and 6B. He shared this is done sometimes to separate the exempt and non-exempt projects because an Amendment with a non-exempt project is subject to air quality conformity and gets bumped to FHWA and FTA to review and that review can take an additional 4-6 weeks before the Amendment can be added to the STP.

He stated that Amendment 6A includes the addition of 17 highway projects that are all exempt from air quality conformity; 14 of these projects come from last year’s Prioritization Process that were awarded OKI STBG/CMAQ or TA Funds in October 2023. The new projects are Butler County MetroParks for the new portion of the Great Miami River Trail, Butler County TID North Hamilton Crossing Phase 1, City of Fairfield’s extension of the Miami River Trail and the Pleasant Avenue Multi-Use Path.

In Hamilton County, City of Springfield Northland Blvd and Kemper Road realignment, City of Loveland’s Loveland-Madeira Road, Cincinnati Lick Run Connector multi-use paths and Reading and Azmann sidewalk and Colerain Springdale Road sidewalks. In Warren County, City of Mason signals and Warren County TID SR63 improvements. In Campbell County, City of Alexandria East Main Street sidewalk. In Kenton County, Crestview Hills Horsebranch Road, and Park Hills Amsterdam Road. OKI funded projects for transit include new battery electric buses for SORTA, BRT and TANK hybrid-electric buses.

Non-OKI projects in this amendment are a new structure demolition project for the Wester Hills Viaduct and a 2023 Federal RAISE grant to Bellevue and Southbank Partners for use on planning and designing of Riverfront Commons. Other transit projects are also added for BCRTA, Clermont County, SORTA and TANK. He noted that the Amendment was sent to the Interagency Consultation Group for review and posted on oki.org since February 28th. No adverse comments were received.

President Moore requested a motion to approve OKI Resolution 2024-07. A motion was provided by Judge Executive Knochelmann with a second from Trustee Michael Logue; motion passed unanimously.

Item #8 - Amendment #6B of the OKI Fiscal Years 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Andy Reser, OKI staff stated that Amendment 6B includes one non-exempt highway project, PID 114606, the Fields Ertel Road widening project between Snider and Wilkens. Hamilton and Warren County requested 10% additional OKI STBG funds, and the local funding amount is also increasing. He stated it is about a \$5million increase over the previous estimate and they hope to go to bid soon. The Amendment, as well as OKI's short conformity report based on a previous regional emissions analysis were sent to the Interagency Consultation Group for review. The Amendment was posted to oki.org with no adverse comments received.

President Moore requested a motion to approve OKI Resolution 2024-08. A motion was provided by Commissioner T.C. Rogers with a second from Mr. Roger Kerlin; motion passed unanimously.

Item #9 - Other Business

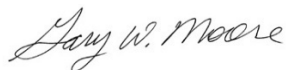
President Moore reminded everyone the next meeting is April 11, a Board of Director's meeting starting at 10:30 a.m.

Item #10 - Adjournment

President Moore requested a motion to adjourn, which was provided by Treasurer Ken Reed with a second from Commissioner David Painter; motion passed unanimously.

End of meeting 11:46 a.m.

Submitted by Lorrie Platt



Gary W. Moore, President



Mark R. Policinski, Secretary

Guests

Jennifer Haley, Clermont BCC
Veronica Hazelwood, Mason
Steve McDevitt, Burgess & Niple
Dan Bell, Taylor Mill
Scott Falkowski, Forest Park
Jeff Wallace, Woolpert
Chris Harding, Hamilton County
Bob Hill, Lochner
Brandon Setzer, KCPW
Matthew ??
James Lukas, Sharonville

OKI Staff

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