

**Board of Director's Meeting Minutes**  
**Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments**  
**April 11, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.**

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

**Item #1A - Administrative**

OKI First Vice President Josh Gerth called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. He reminded everyone to sign in, silence cell phones and to state one's name clearly when making a motion, second or comment. Commissioner Denise Driehaus led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Item #1B - Approval of the March 14, 2024 Executive Committee meeting minutes**

FVP Gerth requested approval of the March 14<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting minutes as distributed. Mr. Ken Reed, Treasurer moved that the minutes be approved followed by a second from Trustee Shannon Hartkemeyer; motion passed unanimously.

**Item #1C - CEO's Report**

Mr. Mark Policinski began his remarks commenting on the 5310 grants, which are vital to OKI and to the communities and population whose transportation needs sometimes go unmet. He stated 5310 funding makes federal resources available to seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation services and expanding mobility options. Since 2013/2014, OKI has assumed complete administrative control of the program and is the program's funding agent. He noted that the OKI board of directors has approved approximately \$14 million in funding with most of the funds used to purchase paratransit vehicles ranging in cost from \$70,000 to \$120,000 and the costs continue to grow. Additionally, 5310 has paid for mobility management, preventative maintenance and software; all aimed at improving safety and reliability for paratransit vehicles.

He noted that it is not an easy program to administer, and it is fraught with bureaucratic red tape. Over the years, OKI staff Travis Miller and now Summer Jones have helped deliver 5310 benefits to your constituents. He stated he wanted to make certain the board of directors understood what 5310 funding is and how it helps people who need it the most. He then thanked the board for its support over the years.

Mr. Policinski next shared that Mr. Bob Koehler will provide an update to the 2050 Plan; and in reviewing Bob's presentation, he began to wonder what the funding amounts were a few years back. He then shared a slide which breaks down the funding by mode:

## LONG RANGE PLAN Fund Allocation BY MODE (millions + % of total)

Mode	2008	2024*
Roadway (non- BSB)	3,500 (91%)	2,512 (55%)
Freight	69 (1.8%)	1,038 (23%)
Transit (non-rail)	222 (6%)	625 (14%)
Bike and Pedestrian	28 (<1%)	366 (8%)

\*Based on Draft2 2050 Project list

Note: many roadway projects include bike/ped elements



Mr. Policinski noted that roadway expenditures was the highest category in '08 at 91%. He then remarked that in 2024, roadway is way down and bike and pedestrian has grown dramatically. Communities have recognized the need for bike and pedestrian paths. In the past, they were considered a nuisance, then an amenity and now a necessity. He thought it was an interesting overview of how OKI funds have adapted to the needs of the region and wanted to share this with the board of directors.

**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 April 11, 2024, OKI had:

- \$574,520 in the PNC Bank Commercial Checking Account
- \$26,825 in the PNC HSA/FSA Checking Account
- \$871,911 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.

FVP Gerth requested a motion to approve the financial report. Commissioner David Painter provided a motion, Commissioner T.C. Rogers seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

**Item #2 – Selection of Projects to be Funded with Section 5310 Federal Funds Allocated to the Cincinnati Urban Area**

Ms. Summer Jones, OKI staff stated that OKI is the designated recipient of 5310 funds in the Cincinnati Urban Area and apportioned a little over \$2million each year. She said the 5310 Program is very important as it supports the needs of individuals with disabilities and older adults. The program is designed to enhance mobility options and improve transportation services for these populations, helping them maintain their independence and participate fully in their communities.

She stated they received 10 applications totaling almost \$2.5million. She also shared that OKI has an amazing Oversight Team who reviewed, discussed, and scored all the applications. Members of the team include:

### OKI 5310 Program Oversight Team

- BAWAC
- Butler County Regional Transit Authority
- Clermont Senior Services
- Clermont Transportation Connection
- Home52
- Meals on Wheels SW Ohio
- Metro
- Northern Kentucky Area Development District
- TANK
- Warren County Services



The Oversight Team is recommending funding the top two applications that scored in the 90's at the full 100% federal ask and to give the applications scoring in the 70-80's a 10% haircut resulting in 72% federal instead of the typical 80% ask. TANK will be receiving 45% as transit agencies must have a 50% local match. The Oversight Team recommended not funding one application from Point Arc that received 65.88 points due to lack of funding. Award Recommendations follow along with how the funds will be used.

### 2024 Award Recommendations

\$2,063,222

- Clermont Senior Services \*
- Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio \*
- Wesley Community Services
- Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky
- Warren County Community Services
- Community Services of Northern Kentucky/Scheben
- University of Cincinnati Impact Innovation
- Cancer Justice Network



### 2024 Award Summary

- 4 Light Transit Vehicles
- 3 Modified Minivans
- Mobility Management Programs
- Camera Equipment
- Software
- Operating Costs
- Preventative Maintenance
- Travel Training
- Third Party Transportation Contract



FVP Gerth requested a motion to approve Resolution 2024-09. A motion was provided by Commissioner Steve Hayden, with a second from Mayor Elizabeth Slamka; motion passed unanimously.

### **Item #3 – OKI Vanpool Program and RideShare Update**

Ms. Jenny Newcomb, OKI staff stated that Vanpool and RideShare programs are funded through CMAQ. She shared that the vanpool program contracts with Enterprise car rental company, and they work with companies/businesses to provide employees with a van to get to work. The vans are subsidized by OKI at \$500 a month, the company covers the remaining costs (or vanpoolers could split the cost). She explained that one of the riders' volunteers as the driver and receives limited personal use of the van on weekends. There are no long contracts, companies can commit on a month-by-month basis. She asked board members to share this program and [rideshare.oki.org](http://rideshare.oki.org) to their communities as one of the benefits could be less congestion on roadways. She also mentioned a flyer is available in the back of the room and to contact her for more information and coordination ([jnewcomb@oki.org](mailto:jnewcomb@oki.org))

### **Item #4 – 2050 Metropolitan Plan Update**

Mr. Robert Koehler, Deputy Executive Director provided an update of the 2050 Metropolitan Plan with a status report of the survey summary, a summary of the 2nd Draft Project List and the next steps. He said OKI received around a dozen comments on specific projects and refinements were made to the scores of the draft list. Public participation will be ongoing over the course of the Plan development, as is development of Plan content for all the modes.

He noted OKI received a total of 2,252 survey responses with the biggest factors for determining mode were reliability and travel time. The top concern for those that commute by car was congestion and for those that commute by bus it is the lack of public transportation options; and the least concerns were cost of gas and the environment.

He then provided a summary of the draft list of projects for Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana.

- Ohio - 162 projects totaling \$4.52B with largest share going to roadway projects followed by freight, transit and bike/ped.
- Kentucky - 77 projects totaling \$4.04B with the largest share going to roadway projects followed by bike/ped and transit and for Indiana seven (7) projects totaling \$151M with the largest share going to roadway projects followed by bike/ped.

The next steps will include code networks for the travel model and running the model which will evaluate and summarize model output to include air quality conformity before finishing the document. A public meeting will be held on June 10, 2024 and OKI will ask for adoption at the June Board of Director's meeting.

### **Item #5 – Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Work Program**

Mr. Robert Koehler, Deputy Executive Director, presented the Unified Planning Work Program which outlines the scope of work and associated budget for Fiscal Year 2025 which begins July 1<sup>st</sup>. OKI develops the UPWP to obtain the funding necessary from Federal Highway Administration,

Federal Transit Authority, Ohio Department of Transportation, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, and Indiana Department of Transportation which have reviewed the draft work program and provided comments to OKI. He referred to the Executive Summary included in the meeting packet and briefly described the activities for the agency for the upcoming fiscal year.

FVP Gerth asked for a motion for Resolution 2024-10, which was provided by Mr. Ken Reed and seconded by Councilmember Mark Jeffreys, motion carried.

#### **Item #6 – Certification of the Urban Transportation Planning Process**

Mr. Robert Koehler, Deputy Executive Director presented the annual certification of the urban transportation planning process. The OKI Board is required to affirm the regional transportation planning process is in conformance with all federal regulations. He said every fourth year a formal onsite review is conducted by Federal Transit Authority and Federal Highway Administration. OKI will be having their next review in October, 2024.

FVP Gerth requested a motion to approve Resolution 2024-11. Commissioner T.C. Rogers provided the motion with a second from Commissioner Rick Probst; motion carried.

#### **Item #7 - Intermodal Coordinating Committee Report**

OKI staff, Mr. Andy Reser provided a brief update on the ICC meeting held on April 9, 2024. He shared that Mr. Khaled Shammout, METRO presented on the Regional One Seat Paratransit Ride Project. Additionally, Ms. Jenny Newcomb provided an update on OKI's Vanpool program and Mr. Bob Kohler provided an update to the 2050 Plan. The ICC committee approved an administrative modification to the TIP. Four Resolutions were recommended for the BOD's approval; Selection 5410 Projects, FY25 UPWP, Certification of the Urban Transportation Planning Process and FY24-27 TIP Amendment #7.

#### **Item #8 - Amendment #7 of the OKI Fiscal Years 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Andy Reser, OKI staff stated that Amendment #7 includes two projects. The first is the new Milliken Road interchange on 1-75 in Butler County; the project recently received Ohio TRAC funds for right-of-way services, detailed design and ROW acquisition and the Amendment reflects these added phases. Andy noted that at the time of the mailout, there was a placeholder amount in the ROW services and ODOT has since corrected that with actual numbers (\$163,025 for RWS and \$8.8m for RW, \$9million total). The second project is the addition of a bridge replacement on Bells Branch Road in Dearborn County. The Milliken interchange is subject to air quality conformity, and it has been previously evaluated in OKI's regional emissions analysis. The Amendment, as well as OKI's short conformity report, was sent to the Interagency Consultation Group for review and posted on [www.oki.org](http://www.oki.org) since March 27. No adverse comments were received.

FVP Gerth requested a motion to approve OKI Resolution 2024-12. A motion was provided by Commissioner David Painter with a second from Commissioner Steve Hayden; motion passed unanimously.

**Item #9 - Other Business**

FVP Gerth reminded everyone the next meeting is May 9<sup>th</sup>, an Executive Committee meeting starting at 10:30 a.m.

**Item #10 - Adjournment**

FVP Gerth requested a motion to adjourn, which was provided by Treasurer Ken Reed with a second from Commissioner T.C Rogers; motion passed unanimously.

End of meeting 11:08 a.m.

Submitted by Lorrie Platt















**Guests**

Lauren O'Brien, CT Consultants  
Jennifer Haley, Clermont BCC  
Greg Doherty, City of Mason  
Tracie Braun, Clermont Co. BCC  
Scott Falkowski, Forest Park  
Adam L. Wilkey  
Jennifer Shuey, DLZ  
Bob Hill, Lochner  
Brandon Setzer, KCPW  
Chris Harding, Hamilton Co. Board of County Commissioners  
James Lukus, Sharonville  
Duncan McDonel, Warren Co. Regional Planning

**OKI Staff**

Lorrie Platt  
Andy Meyer  
Katie Hannum  
Travis Miller  
Regina Fields  
Summer Jones  
Gabriela Waesch  
Michael Outrich  
Jenny Newcomb  
Brett Porter  
Florence Parker  
Timothy Stautberg  
Liren Zhou  
Robyn Bancroft  
Jersson Pachar  
Dave Shuey