

Steering Committee Minutes

8/25/2020

Deborah Hill, OMEGA's Transit Planner, officiated the meeting, beginning the Zoom presentation slightly after 10:00am. She began with virtual housekeeping items, including mentioning the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of minutes only.

Jeannette Wierzbicki, OMEGA's Executive Director, provided a brief welcome and introduction to the newly formed Steering Committee.

Ms. Hill then formally introduced each of the Steering Committee members as she called the roll for attendance.

A brief review of the regional transit process, beginning with the FAST ACT passage in 2015 through the formation of the OMEGA Steering Committee in August 2020, was presented.

Being that the SC (Steering Committee) is highly visible, and being closely watched by state, other state, and federal agencies, a discussion was held about creating an appropriate vision statement. A proposed vision statement was offered. Cookie West suggested incorporating "mobilizing all Ohioans" into the visions. Olivia Hook suggested addressing the feeling of being "stuck with no options" that many persons must still contend with regarding their transportation needs. Howard Stewart mentioned that we are truly helping the entire state of Ohio, giving an example of a trip SEAT had recently made arranging transit all the way to Maumee. Mark Henne suggested we table a vote on the vision statement until the next meeting to give members time to reflect and reminders to members to submit their suggestions for the mission statement were slated to be sent before the September meeting.

The five current regional goals, which are to be refreshed at the next meeting, were briefly discussed and reviewed for current applicability.

A presentation of the roles and responsibilities of ODOT vs. OMEGA vs. the SC was presented and the SC was reminded they are the new gateway to any funding for local and regional 5310 projects (excluding mobility management) beginning with the 2022 funding cycle.

The State of the Region report, which was sent to all SC members prior to the meeting for their review, was briefly discussed. There were no questions or comments on the report.

Having discussed how OMEGA and the regional CTP was established, and then the current standing of affairs, attention was turned to a preview of tasks to be completed by the SC in the rest of the CY 2020. It is an aggressive list of accomplishments and will require participation by all members of the SC.

Kevin Buettner, OMEGA Transportation Director, presented information about two other regional planning initiatives. The Regional Safety Plan and the Tri- County Active Transportation Plan are both regional initiatives within the transportation sector that OMEGA oversees and may impact transit and transportation providers.

Next the task of developing project scoring criteria for 5310 projects, local and regional, but excluding mobility management for the time being, was discussed. ODOT is hoping to see a draft of our regional scoring criteria by the end of December 2020. This criterion will be based on current ODOT scoring systems but be regionally weighted to better reflect the region's specific and most immediate transportation needs and it will be used to score projects beginning with the 2022 funding cycle. The members of the SC will be using the scoring method we establish to do the project scoring themselves.

Gohio Commute is a new platform that provides persons with all transportation options available to them via an app. The platform is new to Ohio and the OMEGA region will be testing the platform as a pilot program later in the year or early in 2021. A demonstration of the platform and its uses will be made at a later SC meeting.

Howard Stewart gave an update on the current call center which will soon be offering 24/7 services. A new name for the call center project as well as the addition of an advisory panel to the call center are some of the changes for the relaunch of the call center with the goal that it be more regionally accepted and utilized. To that end, OMEGA was awarded a national training grant through NCMM which will provide training and expert council on one call/one click system implementation. That specialized training begins in September and lasts six weeks. The training team will be making reports to both the SC and the advisory panel beginning in late September. Three potential new names for the call center will be offered for a vote to the SC at the September meeting. Nominations for advisory panel members remain open.

In September, the SC will also be updating the regional SWOT analysis, last performed in 2017. From the newly revised SWOT analysis, the current regional goals will be refreshed and updated as seen fit.

Lastly, OMEGA was awarded \$100,000 by ODOT specifically for the implementation of regional projects only. All regional projects currently listed in the regional CTP will be considered for funding, as well as any newly suggested projects. Potential projects may be suggested through email to dhill@omegadistrict.org or brought up at the next SC meeting. Projects must be selected by the SC by December's end in 2020 and under contract by March 2021.

The next Steering Committee meeting is **SEPTEMBER 22, 2020** from **8AM TO 10AM** and will be via Zoom.

Because the next meeting includes (in part) the SWOT analysis, voting on the new call center name, refreshing the regional goals, and beginning the discussion (and instruction) on the new scoring system criterion, SC were reminded of the importance of attendance to future meetings.

From this time onward, SC agendas, slide presentations, minutes of prior meetings, and other working/support materials may be found at the following link: <https://omegadistrict.org/programs/transit/rcc/steering/>