

The meeting was called to order shortly after 8:30 am by Deborah Hill, Regional Transit Planner. A roll call was taken and there were 21 persons in attendance. Following the roll call, the agenda was presented.

First on the agenda was an update from ODOT Office of Transportation presented by Chuck Dyer. He began by discussing the current funding bills for transit that are in the state legislature. The budget bill has been introduced by the Governor and is in the House for consideration now. Then it will go to the Senate for consideration and then Conference Committees and finally to the Governor. Currently there is \$ 7 Million slated for public transit.

Chuck informed the committee that interviews for replacing Olivia Hook (former director of the M/M program) will begin shortly.

Chuck spoke briefly of the Mobility Ohio initiative saying they are considering the idea of restructuring their approach and have realized that lines of communication need to be better in every respect. To that end ODOT has hired a communications expert to help add organization and structure to the communication channels. That consultant will be working with both ODOT and OMEGA on communications and delivery methods. The February Mobility Ohio meeting was cancelled, and the next meeting is slated for March. He also stated that they will continue to look for feedback from the Steering Committee adding that Region 9 is “being watched” with great interest throughout the State and beyond. The Eastgate region, just to the north of OMEGA, is considering hiring a mobility manager for Mahoning and Trumbull counties.

Howard asked about the OPTA presentation to the legislature concerning the great need for additional funds for public transit in the general budget. Chuck replied that the OPTA presentation was later in the day on the 17<sup>th</sup>, but that OPTA and ODOT had had a meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> which went “very well” and ODOT is in full support of the OPTA request to increase the general revenue budget to help public transits.

Jeannette asked if the “transportation resource center” portion of the Mobility Ohio initiative had been more fully developed but Chuck said he was not quite ready to discuss that portion of the plan adding that this will be “a crucial but challenging piece of the Mobility Ohio puzzle”.

Attention then turned to the review of the regional goals, strategies and unmet needs listed in the current Regional Coordinated Plan which will be needed for the completion of the 5310 ODOT funding LOI (Letter of Interest) and the 5310 Application for funds which will be released by ODOT in March. Slides with specific references of regional coordinated plan page numbers for the regional goals, strategies and action items were provided. References, with specific page numbers, for unmet needs from both stakeholders and the public were also provided. Additionally, a hypothetical example of a project, and the steps needed to correlate that project with listed goals, strategies and unmet needs was presented.

Following the review of goals and unmet needs, was an open forum discussion of regional performance measures. The Committee is tasked with developing performance measures and targets to better define and measure the effectiveness of the regional pilot program in a wholistic sense. In other words, Is the Region succeeding, or not, and how do we know that?

The floor was open to general comment from the members and several provided suggestions. There were also some suggestions of possible measures provided by OMEGA. The list of input suggestions follows:

- Ridership increase % per year? **Or % increase over a specified time period**
  - (used for vehicles, operations)
  - Based on calls/trips/no-shows or cancellations/on-time performance
  - Education about services already established
- Seniors & differently abled persons – how do we measure how we are doing, surveys of 100 people, 10 from each county, follow over time, other ways?
- Employment transportation
  - Longitudinal survey of specific groups with unmet needs
    - (pg 109) of 100 (10 per county)
- Other sub-groups underrepresented, they need identified & needs addressed
  - Students? Vets? Unemployed?
- % of same day trips?
- # of HHS agencies using portal/regional software?
- ADA-compliance policy required
- Broaden beyond transit providers
  - # of carpool/vanpool/other transportation provider partnerships created in X years
  - Utilize otherwise idled vehicles (Uber/Lyft model) – SEAT pilot project
- Increase of ridership by x% per year (or x% by FY2025)
- Expand service hours
- Decrease no shows by x% per year
- Decrease denials by x% per year
- Decrease overtime hours by x% per year
- Rate of passengers served per hour (efficiency)
  - Use software/call center data?
  - Reduce duplication of services

The transit planner will consolidate these suggestions and develop an email to be sent to all SC members of potential performance measures both for their review, and also for their consideration of further defining the measures by assigning specific time frames and specific measurable targets. These will also be presented before the Regional Coordinated Council (RCC) meeting to RCC membership and at the RCC meeting March 17<sup>th</sup> for further discussion and review. Then, in April the Steering Committee will make final decisions.

Important dates for the 5310 ODOT Funding cycle for funding for the 2022CY were discussed and presented. The 5310 LOI was released by ODOT on February 8, 2021 and is due to ODOT by February 22, 2021. 5310 application review webinars will take place the week of March 15, 2021 and viewing this application instruction webinar is MANDATORY. If the webinar is not completed, the 5310 application will NOT be accepted for funding consideration by ODOT. The MANDATORY presentation for applicants from Region 9 will be presented by ODOT at 1pm on February 19, 2021. All applicants must view this presentation. If there is no way for an applicant to attend on the 19<sup>th</sup>, they will be given access to a recording to view. The recording must be viewed IN ITS ENTIRETY to be credited to the applicant. The 5310 funding applications will be released by

ODOT on March 29, 2021 and they will be due to ODOT on April 30, 2021. Awards are announced in June, but no later than July 1, 2021. These dates were presented twice during the meeting.

Brief updates on the four regional projects and the regional software access project were presented. All projects are in the beginning stages: the Regional Resource Guide project is looking at hosting platforms and developing a strategy to keep information updated. The Employment Transportation Study and the OC/OC Strategic Planning Project both have RFPs out and proposals due back to OMEGA February 26, 2021. The Media Outreach project has sent an initial information gathering form to each county to begin to identify what types of media each county believes will be most effective for them. The Software Access project is still in the development of the RFP phase and an update meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2021 on that project.

The meeting schedule for the rest of 2021 was presented. The next meeting for the Steering Committee will be March 17, 2021 and this meeting will occur in conjunction with the Regional Coordinated Council (RCC) meeting in the interest of respecting everyone's time constraints.

Lastly, for the good of the region there were two announcements: AAA9 is asking for transit or transportation providers who may be able to contract with the PASSPORT program. Interested transportation providers may contact David Evancho at 740-435-4908 or [devancho@aaa9.org](mailto:devancho@aaa9.org). The second announcement was a recap of the 5310 funding cycle dates.

Hearing no further comments or questions by members, the meeting concluded at approximately 10:15.

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