

Steering Committee Meeting Notes January 19, 2021

 In person at ODOT District 11 and on TEAMS platform

Deborah Hill, regional transit planner, called the Steering Committee meeting to order just after 9:00 am. The meeting was conducted at the ODOT District 11 office main conference room with safety protocols in effect, and live- streamed on the TEAMS platform. Housekeeping rules and the agenda for the meeting were reviewed, and roll taken. There were ten members attending in person, six members attending on the TEAMS platform, three excused absences and three members absent. Guests included: Elizabeth Baxter from Region 2, and Dan Dalton and Sarah Lasky of KFH.

The draft final report by Sixmo Consulting regarding the Employment Transportation Study was sent to all members for final review one week before the meeting. No members from Sixmo were present at the meeting. Ms. Hill gave a summary of the report indicating that Sixmo had developed four potential employment transportation routes, two of which were feasible and reasonable enough to be considered for a pilot program. Any final comments, questions, or concerns should be delivered to either Deborah Hill or Bret Allphin of Sixmo by close of business Friday January 21, 2022. The study, once finalized, will be posted on the OMEGA website as well as presented to ODOT and shared with interested parties.

Next Dan Dalton, lead for KFH Consulting, presented a brief overview of the draft final report for the OC/OC Strategic Planning Study. The draft was sent to all members for review one week before the meeting. Dan explained that Chapter Four of the report was developed both as a conclusion to the report and to act as a stand-alone document for the implementation phase of the project. Access Tuscarawas, LLC is going to be the lead agency for the Mobility Solutions Center (regional call center) for CY 2022 and apply, with regional support, to ODOT for funding for CY 2023. There were no comments or concerns shared at the meeting, however any final comments, concerns, or questions may be sent to either Deborah Hill or Dan Dalton of KFH by close of business Friday January 21, 2022. The study, once finalized, will be posted on the OMEGA website as well as presented to ODOT and shared with interested parties.

The Region 9 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan is a four-year plan and was originally written in 2019 covering the calendar years of 2019-2022. Though written throughout CY 2019, the Coordinated Plan was not adopted until December of 2019. The Regional Coordinated Plan had been due to be rewritten in CY 2022, but ODOT has not completed updated plan guidance needed for a successful revision. Therefore, with ODOT’s permission, Region 2 will instead prepare an Amendment to the original plan. This Amendment will require votes of approval and adoption by the Steering Committee, the RCC, and the OMEGA Executive Board. The Amendment shall cover the period from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, only. The Regional Coordinated Plan will require a rewrite in CY 2023 and the new Plan, once adopted by the OMEGA Executive Board and approved by ODOT, will cover the period from January 1, 2024- December 31, 2027. OMEGA staff and Mobility Managers will collect data for the Plan Amendment. Sections of the Plan Amendment will also be developed and approved through the Steering Committee. Once final, the plan amendment will be presented to the full RCC for review, comment, and approval in November of 2022. The Plan Amendment will then be submitted to the Omega Executive Board for approval and adoption in December of 2022 and subsequently submitted to ODOT for approval.

In CY 2021, the region developed and adopted by vote nine regional performance measures. It was also determined that data collected in CY 2021 would serve as the base line for the performance measures and review moving forward. To this end, OMEGA will develop a spread sheet for the reporting of the required data which will be distributed by Mobility Managers to transportation providers for completion. All regional transits and as many private transportation providers as can be persuaded will participate in the regional data collection and the assessment of regional performance goals. OMEGA will provide the spreadsheet and support as needed, as well as provide the analysis of the data which will be reported to the Steering Committee and other parties. It is requested that all provider data be submitted to OMEGA no later than April 1, 2022.

The meeting schedule for CY 2022 was presented. The calendar was voted on in November of 2021. Every third Steering meeting will be a combined RCC/ Steering meeting to best respect everyone’s time. The quarterly RCC meetings will be held in different sections of the region to highlight each areas assets, transportation and otherwise. The RCC meetings will also feature an invitation for lunch afterward. Steering Committee meetings are all scheduled to be held at ODOT District 11 offices. In person attendance at all meetings is highly encouraged, but TEAMS links will be provided.

For the Good of the Region, it was announced that Belmont County Senior Services has a new Director of Operations. Two other counties, Coshocton and Muskingum have lost their Senior Service/ Senior Center Directors and have no replacements at this time. There were no other announcements from any participants.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 am.