



**Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting  
June 23, 2022  
ODOT District 11 Office – New Philadelphia, OH**

Meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. Acting Chairman Mr. Tom Konst asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Mr. Joe Bachman, P.E., P.S. motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Fred Wachtel, P.E., P.S. seconded the motion.

Mr. Josey Rabare introduced Mr. Andrew Shepler, ODOT Federal Grants Coordinator, who served as guest speaker. Mr. Shepler thanked the group for hosting him and began his presentation regarding discretionary grants. Following the passage of the bipartisan infrastructure bill, several new discretionary grants were implemented as a result of increased funding. There are currently over 50 different grant programs available that encompass all types of transportation projects and modes with over \$29 billion in funding available in fiscal year 2022. In addition to the creation of new programs, Shepler stated that there will also be significant increases made to existing programs.

ODOT has prepared resources to help communities prepare for the application process and Shepler referred the group to [www.transportation.ohio.gov/bil](http://www.transportation.ohio.gov/bil). Shepler stated that the first step in accessing the funding is to be familiar with the programs that are available. A discretionary grant resource website has been created and includes grant booklets, which will be updated periodically. The second step in accessing the funding is to complete a portion of work before the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is released. Upon the release of the NOFO, communities will typically have two months to prepare applications. Attendees were strongly encouraged to register with SAM.gov ahead of time, as registration is required to submit an application. Projects should be given prior consideration and support selection criteria. Conversation with project constituents is also encouraged in order to build regional support. Project applications should also provide significant supporting data. The program requires a benefit cost analysis, which should be completed with care and accuracy. It may take several months to hear an update as to if an application has been successful. If an application is not successful, communities should not grow discouraged as few are accepted upon their initial submission.

Mr. Josey Rabare provided an update regarding the ODOT Township Sign Program, stating that eight townships were eligible for the program; to include West Township (Columbiana County), Cambridge and Wheeling Townships (Guernsey County), Green Township (Harrison County),

Ripley Township (Holmes County), Washington and Licking Townships (Muskingum County), and Mill Township (Tuscarawas County). Of the eligible townships, only Ripley and West Townships applied for the program. The OMEGA Transportation Department conducted a sign inventory for both townships. In Ripley Township, OMEGA identified that 381 new or replacement signs were needed with an estimated total cost of \$48,490 which is the highest amount requested by OMEGA for this program. Rabare stated that in Ripley Township, 180 new or replacement signs were needed with an estimated total cost of \$28,793. On behalf of the townships, OMEGA submitted the applications and provided township officials with an inventory list and map along with additional pertinent details.

Mr. Sliker provided an update on the Safe Streets and Roads for All program and stated that the NOFO has been released. The purpose of the program is to improve roadway safety by significantly reducing or eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries through the Safe Action Plan development and implementation focused on all users. The program will follow the Safe Systems approach and is an all-encompassing safety plan. The program will run for five years with a total of \$1 billion per year to be expended. The program is for MPOs, political subdivisions, and federally recognized tribes for a multi-jurisdictional joint application. There are two types of grants included in the program: the action plan and implementation grants. Sliker also reviewed funding sources for the programs and shared information regarding NOFO webinars.

Mr. Sliker and Mr. Rabare also reviewed the request for projects for inclusion in the OMEGA Long-Range Transportation Plan and shared additional resources and forms.

Under announcements, attendees were informed about the OMEGA Legislative Mixer being held on August 16<sup>th</sup> at Tappan Lake Marina. Safe Streets and Roads for All applications are due on September 15<sup>th</sup>, and attendees were reminded of all upcoming deadlines pertaining to the Bridge Investment Program Grants.

Mr. Konst adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Next meeting is on September 15, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.