

**MINUTES OF THE LCATS TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE AND
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2008 AT 9:30 A.M. IN THE
DON HILL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING-ROOM A**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Alison Terry, Village of Granville
Julie Gwinn, ODOT District 5
Brian Morehead, City of Newark
Randy Comisford, ODOT District 5
John Groff, City of Heath
Tim Lollo, Licking County Engineer
Lorretta Frenton, LCTB
Helen Hall, City of Newark
John Vermaaten, Licking County Port Authority
Mike McFarland, Village of Hebron
Tim Bubb, Licking County Commissioners

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Sandra Mapel Matt Hill Marty Dowell Corinne Johnson, LCPC

OTHERS PRESENT

Ethan Ortman Noel Mehlo Don Barber

Chair Mike McFarland called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

1. Approval of Sept. 11, 2007 TAC meeting minutes

Mike McFarland asked if there were any comments or corrections to the Sept. 11, 2007 meeting minutes.

Brian Morehead moved to approve the Sept. 11, 2007 meeting minutes.

Helen Hall seconded the motion.

All were in favor and the motion carried.

2. LCATS and ODOT D5 Project Status Report

Randy Comisford said that the SR 37/SR 79 intersection project will be sold in March and will likely begin in the spring. Mr. Comisford said that construction on SR 62/Duncan Plains Road and the SR 310/SR 40 improvements would also begin this spring. The CMS manual is being updated, and though there are minimal revisions there are some ongoing projects that might be affected.

Matt Hill said that LCATS is still waiting on environmental clearance for the SR 79 project. Thornwood Drive construction is underway, and the SR 13/Waterworks Road project has been moved to 2009. The Country Club Drive project has been moved to 2010, and Buena Vista/Cedar Street funding was approved.

3. Transit Update

Marty Dowell said that Cathy Sheets is now the interim director for the Licking County Transit Board. There is also one new staff member, Tamara Rickett, who is helping with administration and coordination.

Helen Hall said that there is now a new mayor at the City of Newark and a interim Community Development Director, both of whom she believes are committed to transit. Ms. Hall said ridership increased by 9% for the year for a total of 213,635 rides. Of that, 143,487 (67%) were elderly or disabled, and 24,546 were wheelchair-dependent riders.

Chair McFarland introduced Commissioner Tim Bubb, who will be the new commissioner's representative on the LCATS board.

4. GIS Subcommittee

Sandie Mapel said that the GIS Subcommittee is working on trying to get LBRS approved. At this point there is tentative funding lined up from a multitude of sources. At the last meeting members began working on how the data would be maintained so that it doesn't have a shelf life and there would be a master database.

5. Information Items

New Appointees

Sandie Mapel said that there are three new people on the board: Commissioner Tim Bubb, who is replacing former Commissioner Phelps; Mayor Bob Diebold, who is the official representative from the City of Newark; and Cathy Sheets, the interim director for the LCTB. Ms. Mapel said that Noel Mehlo is LCATS new representative at Federal Highway.

LCPC Development Regulations

Ms. Mapel said that as LCATS is housed under the LCPC, she thought she would alert the LCATS board that the new Licking County Subdivision Regulations have officially been approved as of Jan. 1, 2008. This document is available on the county web site.

ODOT Business Plan Overview

Ms. Mapel said that she distributed a copy of this to the board members. The ODOT director had the various MPO directors meet, and key items discussed were the fact that ODOT is very interested in ethics, accountability and moving technology forward. The flat revenues from the gas tax were discussed, and the increase in inflation has impacted purchasing power. ODOT is moving into a "fix it first" preservation mode, and the TRAC is way over-budgeted. ODOT is looking at redoing TRAC and one of the key areas they wanted to increase is economic development points. Ms. Mapel said the ODOT director was also very interested in pursuing new and better technologies, including warm-mix asphalt, which works better, has a lower cost and is easier on the environment.

Ms. Mapel said the Highway Trust Fund is expected to be at a 16 billion deficit in 2009. From a federal perspective there are problems on the short-term horizon that will affect everyone. Matthew Hill said projects delivered sooner rather than later would be given more consideration.

Tim Lollo said that from the numbers the Engineers Office has seen the gas tax revenues have actually gone down 3%.

Transportation Vision 2030 Update

Ms. Mapel said that LCATS has nearly everyone's project list. Data will be compiled in January and February so that the draft can be completed in March, with public involvement in April and adoption in May.

LCATS sent a survey to random registered voters asking how they would prefer to pay for transportation, and received a very good response. The survey is available to everyone online.

Transportation Enhancement (TE) applications are due Feb. 1 for the 2011-12 year. Municipal bridge funds are also due by March 1, and a list of bridges that were functionally obsolete or structurally deficient was sent by Mr. Comisford. Safe Routes to School notification letters went out at the end of December.

Ms. Mapel said Feb. 9 LCATS would be part of an elected officials meeting, which will include the LCPC and EMA/9-11. A copy of the invitation and agenda has been given to board members; staff will be going over what they have to offer the municipalities and local officials.

LCATS Radio Spot

Matthew Hill said LCATS anti-drunk driving radio spot was broadcast 244 times through most of December and the beginning of January. All feedback was positive, and LCATS will try to do a seatbelt commercial to run throughout the year. Ms. Mapel said all Licking County people were used in the ad, and it was recorded at the new studio in downtown Newark.

6. Other Business/Public Comment

Noel Mehlo said that he is happy to be with Federal Highway and would like to be available to and assist LCATS in any way possible.

Helen Hall moved to adjourn.

Brian Morehead seconded the motion.

All were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 11, 2008, 9:30 a.m., LCATS Policy and TAC meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Corinne C. Johnson