

**MINUTES FROM THE OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR BI-MONTHLY MEETING
September 18, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Ohio Rail Development Commission was called to order by Chairman Policinski at 11:03 a.m. on Tuesday, September 18, 2018.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Mark Policinski, Commissioners Solomon Jackson, Eric Richter, Meghan Wadsworth, Thomas Maphet, Bill Lozier, Mark Johnson, Dean Hempfling, Thomas Zitter and Johann Klein were in attendance. Commissioner Reams, Representative Dever, Representative Sheehy and Senator LaRose were unable to attend. There were 10 voting members present, therefore a quorum was obtained.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING

Chairman Policinski asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Maphet moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with 10 votes in the affirmative.

Representative Sheehy arrived at 11:05am.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Dietrich presented his report to the Commissioners, which can be found on page 5 of the packet. In addition to what is found in the packet, Mr. Dietrich highlighted the INFRA grant award and progress of the project, explaining the funding was assigned to the FRA and staff is working through their process, which is slightly different from the FHWA process with which staff is more familiar.

Additionally, Executive Director Dietrich discussed the launch of the updated grade crossing database. Staff just received access via the PUCO system to manage data and projects better. Mr. Dietrich touched upon the CRISI program and Resolution 18-11 that will be presented to the Commission today and the support letter for the Monroe BUILD application.

Lastly, Executive Director Dietrich introduced Michael Lynch and Heather Hamilton who are new employees under the grade crossing safety program. Mr. Lynch and Ms. Hamilton spoke briefly about their new roles. Also, Mr. Dietrich presented Resolution 18-13 Honoring the Public Service of Susan Arduini to the ORDC. Ms. McClory read Resolution 18-13.

Susan Arduini spoke colorfully about her time at ORDC, projects and problems she encountered and improved through her time at the Commission, and her love for her job.

(The electronic recorder died and there were no battery backups available.)

Commissioner Jackson spoke of his time at ORDC with Susan Arduini and how she made his time there enjoyable and rewarding thanks to her friendship.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve Resolution 18-13 and Commissioner Zitter seconded it. Roll Call was taken and the resolution was approved as presented with 10 votes in the affirmative.

FINANCE REPORT

Megan McClory, Secretary-Treasurer, presented the Finance Report to the Commissioners, which can be found on page 8 of the packet. Ms. McClory noted staff closed a loan with the Cleveland Commercial Railroad. Reports from the railroad indicate both Norfolk Southern and the customer are extremely pleased with the new interchange location. Additionally, Ms. McClory noted the loan with Bluegrass Farms was closed on last week.

Ms. McClory announced staff is preparing and completing the FY 2020-2021 budget requests and items will be made available to Commissioners as soon as they are finalized. Lastly, Ms. McClory announced the draft 2019 meeting schedule is in the packet and any changes should be noted by the November meeting.

There were no questions.

RESOLUTION 18-10 – Conservation Easement for Bat Gates on Abandoned Tunnels

ORDC staff member Tom Burns presented to the Commissioners the briefing on page 20 of the commission packet. Mr. Burns provided the background information found in the packet and introduced Matt Raymond from ODOT's Office of Environmental Services to further discuss the need for an easement. Mr. Raymond shared a presentation about the ODOT conservation efforts. He explained that the identification of bats in the tunnels on the subject property present an opportunity for the state to earn conservation credits. ODOT has partnered with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to construct the bat gates and by obtaining the easement, can finalize the credits with the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

There were no questions.

Commissioner Richter made a motion to approve Resolution 18-10 and Commissioner Maphet seconded it. Roll Call was taken and the resolution was approved as presented with 10 votes in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 18-11 – I&O US Steel Industry Capacity Expansion CRISI Grant Submission

ORDC staff member Tom Burns presented to the Commissioners the briefing on page 30 of the commission packet. Mr. Burns provided the background information found in the packet and introduced Marty Pohlod from the railroad to further discuss the project. Mr. Burns updated the Commissioners on the slight cost adjustment that has occurred since packet printing.

Mr. Pohlod explained the current situation in Delta, current customers served and the addition of MetalX online this year. Mr. Pohlod explained there is an expansion at North Star Blue Scope under consideration that would require significant improvements to upgrade the Delta yard. The

G&W is committed to this project and intend to spend \$3.8-\$4 million as a part of the CRISI grant and will make intermittent improvements to handle their customers while a funding decision is made. The project will also improve the safety of the railroad crews involved in train handling.

Additionally, Mr. Pohlod detailed the map provided in the packet, explaining the changes and updates at the Delta location. He also went over project benefits to the railroad and the public.

Commissioner Jackson asked about jobs and carloading increases corresponding to this project. Mr. Pohlod said there isn't a definite commitment to new jobs at G&W, it is likely the companies will have more jobs in relation to their expansions. There is significant carload growth expected as customers' needs expand. Executive Director Dietrich explained this resolution is to support the application, it does not come with any state funding commitment. If the FRA approves the application, staff might come back with a funding request to the Commission at that time and will include specific commitments to jobs and carloads.

Chairman Policinski asked for clarity on the funding request. Mr. Burns explained that given the uncertainty about what FRA will fund, there is no approval of state funds requested at this time. The Chairman also asked for clarity that this support is needed to apply and any commitment of ORDC funds would come before the Commission. Mr. Burns confirmed and Mr. Pohlod explained that while the funding amount isn't set just yet, this project seems to be in line with the funding size CRISI is looking to support and the railroad is confident it will be given serious consideration for full funding.

There were no further questions.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve Resolution 18-11 and Commissioner Wadsworth seconded it. Roll Call was taken and the resolution was approved as presented with 10 votes in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 18-12 – RJ Corman Cleveland Line Marlite and Deflecto Leads Rehabilitation

ORDC staff member Tim Brown presented to the Commissioners the briefing on page 34 of the commission packet. Mr. Brown provided the background information found in the packet and introduced William Downey and John Gogniat from the railroad to further discuss the project. Mr. Downey briefly discussed the project and asked Mr. Gogniat to discuss Marlite and Deflecto's service in more detail, added information about how these improvements would support those companies.

There were no questions.

Commissioner Richter made a motion to approve Resolution 18-12 and Commissioner Maphet seconded it. Roll Call was taken and the resolution was approved as presented with 10 votes in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Zitter asked Executive Director Dietrich to report on the Policy Committee. He explained the committee heard an update on the State Rail Plan. Staff has reviewed the first three chapters and is currently reviewing the fourth. He anticipates the full draft being available for review at the November meeting. Additionally, Executive Director Dietrich discussed the criteria for adding projects to the Rail Plan. Lastly, Mr. Dietrich noted the committee discussed the incompatibility issues with land use that was brought to staff attention via feedback from metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs).

Commissioner Jackson reported on the Administrative Committee by explaining the Committee discussed the Lean Process Improvement events held by staff this summer. Julianne Finnegan touched on some of the metrics of improvements staff will implement as part of the new processes.

There were no questions.

OLD BUSINESS

There is no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Director Dietrich noted the 2017-2018 ORDC Freight and Safety Project Maps. He elaborated on some of the projects identified in the maps and how ORDC fits into the state goals of economic development, job growth and retention. Additionally, Mr. Dietrich explained some of the categories on the maps.

Chairman Policinski noted for about \$600 we are affecting a job in the state and that is a significant impact. Additionally, he asked why there are not a lot of projects in southwest Ohio. Tom Burns explained that the local development affiliate in Cincinnati is focusing on corporate headquarters facilities and that there are not many rail-ready sites. Ms. Finnegan pointed out that there have been a couple of rail-related Air Quality projects in southwest Ohio in recent years.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

Chairman Policinski adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.