

To: TID Board Members

Date: September 25, 2001

Re: Director's Report

This report is intended to give a brief overview of activities that have been underway since the August Board meeting.

### **Board Appointment**

The Board requested information regarding the vacancy that may exist and whether it would be appropriate to appoint Rick Bailey to fill it. Research indicates that the criteria exists to appoint one additional member. This is the seat previously held by Commissioner Fox. Rick Bailey has been contacted and he is willing to serve on the Board.

### **Current Projects**

#### **1. Hamilton North/New Miami Study Area**

Rick Record, Balke Engineers will make a presentation at the October 1 Board meeting for their analysis of the study area and possible roadway improvements that might connect the Fox Highway to the northwest side of Hamilton and New Miami. The presentation will review the factors which might impact the development of highway projects through this area from the social, economic and environmental points of view. Mr. Record will have exhibits that show possible roadway configurations, the architectural concerns for construction of any roadway project and general project cost estimates which can be used for a comparative basis in building various types of roadways. Specifically, the roadways could be similar to the Symmes Road improvement, which is an urban arterial highway, or could be a higher type facility such as the Fox Highway.

#### **2. Symmes Road Project**

The project in general is moving well and on schedule with one exception. The Cincinnati Bell Company had requested modification to the contract to include the placement of conduits across the bridge and in the roadway approaches to accommodate their underground telephone facilities. Cincinnati Bell had not moved quickly to make this decision and recently affirmed their desire to include this work in the project. Ahern, the subcontractor for the bridge, provided a cost estimate to Cincinnati Bell in the amount of \$60,024. Recently, Bell accepted this estimate and formally requested us to incorporate it into the project at Cincinnati Bell's cost.

The completion of this work does make sense to accommodate the utility infrastructure in the right-of-way and across the bridge. However, because of Bell's lateness in making their final decision, the work will disrupt the completion schedule for the bridge which was October 15. Ahern has requested a two-week extension for the completion date to November 1. The issue has been reviewed with Scott Harris, the construction management company, QCM, and representatives from the contractor. The work might be completed more quickly, but the two-week extension for the bridge work should be approved. The date for opening the road might also shift by a week to ten days. Efforts are underway to coordinate with the prime contractor so that any disruption to the schedule will be at a minimum.

The completion and opening of the roadway between S.R. 747 and Seward must be coordinated with the completion of the Fairfield/Hamilton project to widen Symmes between S.R. 4 Bypass and Seward. The Cities' project is progressing well and is scheduled for completion sometime between mid-November and the first of December.

#### **3. Fox Highway/Cox Road Project**

A considerable effort was made to have this project included in the OKI 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan. After considerable discussion, the OKI Board of Trustees voted not to include this project in the plan. Their decision was based on the fact that the North/South Initiative, which is underway, is intended to guide the planning for additional access points and for major modification of existing access points along I-75 from Northern Kentucky through Montgomery County.

While the local agencies in the County preferred that the Fox Highway/Cox Road extension be incorporated in the Long Range Transportation Plan, the OKI decision was conditioned that the 2030 Plan would be modified as needed and to adjust for new projects. In anticipation of this interchange becoming a viable project, OKI did run the air quality and congestion management analysis with the project included to see whether the plan will still be in conformance. The plan would be in conformance with the Fox Highway/Cox Road project as an approved element. This is a positive note and conversations with Jim Duane indicate OKI is interested in assisting the agencies in Butler County with the completion of the planning for the interchange modification.

#### **4. Princeton Road/S.R. 4 Bypass Project**

The bids for the Princeton Road at S.R. 4 Bypass Project were opened on Tuesday, September 18. Three bids were received and the low bid was submitted by Don S. Cisle Contractors in the amount of \$1,068,796.68. Their bid is approximately 10 percent below the Engineer's estimate.

This information has been supplied to Mr. Ron Randolph, Fairfield Township Administrator, for their consideration in proceeding. Mr. Randolph advises the Fairfield Township Trustees desire to hold the actual award of the contract and start of construction until the Butler County Commissioners take action to approve the issuance of the notes to finance the project. The revenues to be received in the future from the Tax Increment Financing district will repay the debt issuance. The contractor has been advised that the start of construction will be October 8 rather than October 1. The pre-construction meeting has been set for Tuesday, October 2.

A key element to getting the project ready for construction was the rearrangement of utility facilities owned by Cinergy and Cincinnati Bell. Mr. Randolph, Fairfield Township Administrator and Mr. Jack Grove, Fairfield Township Law Director were able to secure agreement from the three principal developers along Princeton Road to pay the costs for the utility relocation. Cinergy has been relocating their utility poles and Bell is in the process of relocating their lines. The roadway right-of-way will be clear of potential utility conflict. ODOT has control of the right-of-way at the intersection and the permit from that agency for the construction was received the end of last week.

## **5. Former Projects**

### **1. S.R. 747 – Phase I**

The Butler County Engineer's Office has directed correspondence from Cinergy regarding a billing for utility relocation in connection with the S.R. 747 project (copy enclosed). The amount is \$151,380.00. This item has a history regarding a second relocation activity caused by a change in the roadway alignment. Additionally, ODOT had been sent a request for payment of this second relocation activity and they rejected making reimbursement as part of the project financing.

Scott Harris will present this matter at the meeting.

### **1. TID Audits**

The State of Ohio has advised us that our future annual audits will be done by an independent public accounting firm. The firm will be under contract with the State and the TID for a five-year period. Sean is coordinating with the State Auditor to make the selection through the request for proposal (RFP) process. A report on this item will be made at the meeting.