

To: BCTID Board Members
Date: February 14, 2005
Re: Director's Report

Project Updates

1. Liberty Interchange

- Design – Current design plans of Hamilton Mason Road will be submitted this week to utilities for initial review and coordination. The vertical alignment of Hamilton Mason Road will generally follow existing condition in order to utilize existing pavement as roadway sub-base as much as possible. Existing pavement will be replaced only where necessary and a new surface course will be installed over entire project. The local road projects will be divided into three sections: Hamilton-Mason Road East (I-75 to Butler Warren Road, including the Cox Road intersection), Hamilton Mason Road West (I-75 to Cin-Day Road) and Cox Road Extension.
- Schedule - Plans for Hamilton-Mason Road East and Cox Road will be complete by Q3-2005 and plans for Hamilton-Mason Road West will be complete by Q1-2006. Construction timing is more dependent on right of way acquisition and utility relocations than on completion of plans.
- ROW acquisition – Discussions are underway with several property owners, developers and utilities regarding right of way requirements for Hamilton-Mason Road and Cox Road.
- Project Funding – BCTID staff is meeting with the State Infrastructure Bank in early March to discuss SIB financing strategies for the project

2. SR 747 Widening, Phase III

- Final ROW plans are being submitted to ODOT. Approval to begin ROW appraisals and title work is anticipated by end of February.
- ODOT has identified possible historic structures within the ROW at a 1929 vintage house owned by the Methodist Church on east side of corridor south of Hamilton Mason Road. A Phase II historic evaluation will be required. Discussions are underway with church leaders regarding options for the pillars. This finding does not appear to pose a significant impact to construction timing or budgets.

3. SR 747 Widening, Phase IV

- Demolition of 4 houses owned by BCTID is complete.
- Director has negotiated an agreement to purchase an additional property adjacent to previously purchased properties subject to typical due diligence,

approved amendment of the reimbursement agreement with the Liberty Township Trustees and approval by the BCTID Board. Request Board approval of Resolutions 2005-01 and 2005-02 regarding the agreement with Liberty Township and the purchase contract, respectively.

4. SR 4 Bypass Widening/ Butler County Airport Access

- Project engineer, ME Company has provided a project status report as of January 2005 which is provided as an attachment to this report.
- Director has initiated discussions with ODOT regarding the possibility of splitting the project into two phases. This would allow the first portion of the project to proceed using 100% local funding and using TRAC funding for the later phase of the project. Initial indications from ODOT are that this would be viewed favorably by the TRAC as a clear demonstration of the local funding commitment for the overall project. Staff has requested ME Companies to begin development of a plan for phasing the project. The approval process for this approach will begin with a revised TRAC application in May 2005.
- Construction financing of this project will also be discussed in the upcoming meeting with the State Infrastructure Bank.

5. Fairfield – Hamilton Corridor Study

6. Hamilton North / New Miami River Crossing Study

7. North SR 4 Bypass Extension

- No activity on these three projects.

Other Issues

1. The BCTID has been contacted by ODOT central office regarding the refinancing of bonds issued for SR129 construction. Several investment firms including Fifth Third Securities, Seasongood & Mayer and JP Morgan have expressed interest in coordinating this refinancing. The BCTID expects to cooperate with ODOT regarding the refinance under the assumption that the transaction would be mutually beneficial for the BCTID and the state.
2. Work on the Letter of Map Revision for the post-construction floodway underneath the Symmes Road Bridge continues. As-built drawings for the original project are not available therefore additional field surveys must be completed in order to prepare the LOMR for submittal.
3. Staff has met with several organizations regarding freight-rail system improvements, side track maintenance issues and increased rail service to several industrial customers throughout Butler County. The high volume of through traffic on rail main lines prevents the additional switching operations necessary for expanded local freight service. Developing additional switching capacity and resolving side track maintenance issues will allow local companies to expand

production or to lower their operating expenses improving the available freight-rail service.

Calendar and Communication

1. The office of the Butler County BCTID will be closed on Monday February 21st in observance of Presidents' Day.
2. Upcoming meetings scheduled with the following parties to discuss current projects, potential opportunities and develop relationships for BCTID:
 - February 22nd – Liberty Township Trustees meeting to consider approval of property purchase at SR747 & Princeton and amended agreements regarding Liberty Interchange and SR747 Phase III. West Chester Trustees may also consider the agreement amendment regarding SR747 Phase III on this date.
 - March 1st – Butler County Port Authority Board meeting.
 - March 3rd – Meeting in Columbus with officials of the State Infrastructure Bank regarding project financing for Liberty Interchange and SR4 Bypass.
 - March 14th – BCTID Board Meeting

ME Companies STATUS REPORT OF THE BUT-4 BYPASS WIDENING PROJECT AS OF JANUARY 2005:

Reports Completed

Three reports have been completed to date for this project. The first was the Red Flag Summary, approved by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) on May 18, 2004. The second was the Purpose & Need Statement, approved by ODOT on June 16, 2004, and the third was the Draft Preliminary Engineering Study (PES). This draft submittal of the PES included only the design components on the report as the environmental studies are currently underway. ODOT's review on the Draft PES was completed on January 28, 2005.

Environmental Studies Completed

Some environmental studies have also been completed to date, while some are still underway. Literature searches have been completed for History/Architecture, Archaeology, Ecological Resources, Hazardous Materials, Farmland, and Socioeconomic Characteristics. The Phase I History/Architecture Report has been completed, reviewed by ODOT, and is currently under review by the State Historic Preservation Office. The Level 1 Ecological Survey Report has been completed and is currently under review by ODOT. The Phase I Environmental Site Assessment is currently underway with an anticipated completion date of February 25, 2005. The Noise Analysis is currently underway with an anticipated completion date of February 11, 2005. The results of these studies have been incorporated in the reports listed above.

Public Involvement Completed

- Property Owner Letters – on going as needed
- Meetings with Business Owners & Developers – on going as needed
- Public Information Flyer – distributed to the public in September 2004

Preliminary Cost Estimates

Two alternatives are being studied. Alternative 1 includes widening SR 4 Bypass to four lanes with minor intersection improvements. Alternative 2 includes widening SR 4 Bypass to four lanes with minor intersection improvements, except between Symmes and Tylersville Roads. This segment of SR 4 Bypass would be widened to six lanes. The preliminary cost estimates for both alternatives are as follows:

- Alternative 1: \$25.1 million
- Alternative 2: \$26.7 million

Next Steps

The project is currently in Step 3 of ODOT's 10-Step Project Development Process for Minor Projects. Below is a list a tentative list of upcoming project milestones. Note: this assumes authorization of Stage 1 Design.

- Final PES Completed & Approved – May 2005
- Draft Environmental Document Completed & Approved – June 2005
- Public Meeting - June 2005
- Preferred Selected – June 2005
- Stage I Plans Completed – February 2006
- Final Environmental Document Completed – April 2006
- Final Design Completed – Fall 2007
- Right-of-Way Acquisition Process – Fall 2007 to Fall 2008
- Construction Phase – Spring 2009 to Winter 2010