MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting: Macomb County – Federal Aid Committee (FAC) Special Winter Meeting

Date & Time: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 – 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: Macomb County Verkuilen Building
Senior Auditorium
21885 Dunham Street, Clinton Township

Invitees: See attached Meeting Attendees list

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1. **Call to Order by the Chair** – Scott Wanagat, MCDR Highway Engineer, interim FAC Chair
    a. Scott Wanagat, interim chair, called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM. He thanked everyone for coming and said everyone should have received an electronic copy of the agenda packet via email and that printed copies are also available if needed.

1. **Introductions –** Scott Wanagat
    a. Introductions were made around the room (See attendance roster).
    b. There was a brief introduction from Brian Santo, MCDR Director.

2. **Old Business –** Scott Wanagat
    a. **Minutes from the FAC meeting on November 13, 2024**
        i. Motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by John Stevenson and seconded by Irvin Wyche.
        ii. Scott Wanagat called for a vote on the motion. Shelby Township opposed; all other FAC members present approved. The motion carried and the meeting minutes were approved.
            1. Shelby Township expressed concern with transparency between the full FAC committee and the TIP Subcommittee. Shelby Township indicated they will continue to vote against meeting minute approval until they deem the process is transparent enough for their community.

2. **New Business** – Scott Wanagat
    a. **Macomb FAC TIP Subcommittee Update**
        i. FY 2026-2029 TIP Update
            1. Attachment B in the agenda packet shows a list of action items for previously held subcommittee meetings.
            2. Attachment C shows all new, alternate, deferred, and pending projects.
                a. New projects are anticipated to be added to the TIP by October 1, 2025.
                b. The current alternate projects have no official TIP status and no current construction funding.
                c. Responsible agencies are encouraged to continue developing their alternate projects to get them 'ready' if additional funding becomes available.
            3. There has been no action on the deferred projects.

4. The subcommittee's preliminary recommendations are to request project #8 (Schoenherr Road Reconstruction, from 25 to 26 Mile Road) be amended into the RTP, and to defer project #18 (Ryan Road Reconstruction, from Auburn Road to 23 Mile Road) - both are pending widening projects.
    a. There is approximately $6.6M set aside for the Schoenherr Road project, and it will remain available for that project pending formal FAC approval to amend it into the RTP. Once it is amended into the RTP, the TIP subcommittee will review and make a recommendation for inclusion into the TIP, which is expected during the winter FAC meeting in January 2026.
    b. Ryan Road is not a candidate because it is not a countywide corridor of significance, there are insufficient funds, and other widening projects scored higher.

ii. FY 2025 Program Status
    1. The goal is to facilitate the coordination and delivery of the core federal aid road improvement program in Macomb County.
    2. The objective is to use all available federal and state funding in any given fiscal year.
    3. The current development schedule data for FY 2025 with FAC funding templates is shown in attachment E.

iii. Process Workflow Feedback Survey
    1. Attachment E shows a printed-out version of the online survey tool.
    2. The subcommittee is seeking feedback on the updated scoring criteria and the new application process.
    3. The survey link will be available on the Macomb County FAC website and via email to FAC members.

iv. MCDR Local Call for Projects (CFP) Program
    1. The Local CFP is due February 14, 2025. MCDR is looking for listings and priorities from local municipalities on possibly road projects.
    2. MCDR sent out an email that describes the Local CFP program.
    3. The goal is to achieve greater overall program effectiveness and efficiency and to release this CFP at the end of each TIP cycle (3-year increments with a carryover year).
    4. The program is changing from an annual process to align with the TIP cycle.
    5. Projects that were not selected during the latest TIP cycle are encouraged to apply through the local CFP program through MCDR.
    6. This program will help integrate the program planning, development, construction, and maintenance cycles for local projects in a more streamlined process. Because this process has no federal funds attached the projects can get done in a timelier manner and with less restrictions than federally funded projects.
    7. The funding split ratio is based on how the roads are classified. For primary roads the funding is split 50/50 (local/MCDR funds); for local roads the split is 60/40. The majority of funding comes from the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF).
    8. To date, MCDR has been able to fund local road projects within a year or two.
    9. Any additional questions can be sent to Scott Wanagat.

v. Macomb County Nonmotorized Program
    1. MCDR's non-motorized CFP application is open year-round. This helps

supplement the MDOT TAP program and the SEMCOG TAP program.

vi. Macomb County will continue to receive its historical funding allocation from Category C and flex funds. The legislation addressing the unintended consequences of the original bill which tied allocation bands to population has been approved and signed into law. This prevents any unintended allocation reduction and restores the original intent of the legislation.

3. SEMCOG Update – Michele Fedorowicz

a. There is a lot of uncertainty at the federal government level at this time, especially programs in the New Green Deal category (carbon reduction and climate programs). SEMCOG is still moving forward on these climate driven grants until directed otherwise (i.e., CMAQ grant funding).
b. More messaging will be given once available, but for now conducting business as usual.
c. There will be some uncertainty going into this new upcoming TIP cycle.
d. The current Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) resolution goes through the end of fiscal year 2026.
e. Congressional law was passed extending the obligation authority for the federal budget until mid-March 2025.
f. SEMCOG is currently going through its TIP approval process. On April 15th, 2025, the executive committee will put forth a decision on approving the TIP.

4. MDOT Update – Bruce Kadzban and Ryan Doyle

a. Continuing with SEMCOG's update, there is a lot of uncertainty at the federal government level at this current time.
b. The CFP for the bridge (FY 2028) and safety (FY 2027) programs go out early in February. The Bridge CFP is due in April and the Safety CFP is due in May.
c. There will be LAP spring workshops scheduled. Currently there is not one scheduled for Macomb County yet.
d. They are working on federal eligibility guideline documents which will be sent to FHWA. These were last updated in 2017. These new guidelines would make more projects eligible.
e. MDOT is using loans to balance its current LAP expenses because of late federal funding resolutions. There is no funding expected from the continuing resolution that was passed for funding until mid-March.
    i. Currently MDOT is using a $50M loan to help fund these LAP projects.
    ii. Only six months of funding has been approved for this year.
f. Projects that have a letting date of April and beyond will need to use the new software program AASHTOWare from the company Infotech. Field Manager was the old software platform that is being retired. MDOT has a training list that is available for assistance as well as a wiki page for AASHTOWare.
g. No additional NEPA guidance has been provided from FHWA yet.
h. MDOT has an email newsletter that offers a lot of good current information from the department.
i. MDOT is monitoring the federal government's continued Executive Order mandates and how it is impacting transportation funding and priorities. This is an ongoing development. It is currently business as usual for the LAP program.
j. At the state level, there is support to increase transportation funding in Michigan, but nothing has specifically materialized.

5. Q&A for FAC Members

a. If a project is on the deferral list it did not score high enough during the rating process. Another avenue to get these projects funded would be through MCDR's local RFP program.

b. The subcommittee makes recommendations that are brought to full FAC meeting discussions to be voted on.
    i. The subcommittee meetings are closed working meetings.
    ii. The scoring methodology was brought to the full FAC committee for review multiple times and then for a final vote.
c. MCDR will upload a map to their website of where TIP projects are located.

6. **Public Comment** – None.

7. **Upcoming Macomb County FAC Meetings**
    - Macomb County FAC RTP Workshop Meeting: Wednesday, May 28th, 2025, 1 PM-4 PM
    - Macomb County FAC Summer Meeting: Wednesday, June 25th,2025, 2 PM-4 PM

8. **Adjourn**
    a. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chesterfield Township and seconded by Irvin Wyche of MCDR.
    b. The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 PM.

Attachments: Meeting Attendees
Reviewed By: Danielle Gerlach, Roger Safford
Submitted By: Brendan Esper
CC: File

Meeting Attendees/Agency or Firm Represented

- Brad Kersten, Chesterfield Township
- Brendan Esper, HNTB
- Brent Bashaw, Sterling Heights
- Bruce Kadzban, MDOT
- Bryan Edwards, Michael Baker International
- Bryan Santo, MCDR
- Crystal Kozak, Macomb Township
- Danielle Gerlach, HNTB
- Dustin Elliott, HNTB
- Eric Dimoff, MCDR
- Gordy Wilson, Shelby Township
- Irvin Wyche, MCDR
- Jacob Fenech, Mount Clemens
- John Abraham, MCDR
- John Stevenson, Benesch
- Joseph Paquette, Washington Township
- Karen Gharbie, Chesterfield Township
- Kathy Vosburg, Chesterfield Township
- Ken Verkest, Harrison Township
- Kristen Myers, Hubbell, Roth, and Clark
- Kip Walby, St. Clair Shores
- Laith Aziz, Michael Baker International
- Lynde Oddo, Shelby Township
- Mary Bednar, Clinton Township
- Melissa Williams, MCDR
- Michael Vigneron, AEW
- Michele Fedorowicz, SEMCOG
- Mike Freckelton, St. Clair Shores
- Mitch O'Connor, Chesterfield Township
- Rick Stathakis, Shelby Township
- Roger Safford, HNTB
- Ron Trombly, New Baltimore
- Ryan Doyle, MDOT
- Ryan Kern, Eastpointe
- Scott Wanagat, MCDR
- Steve Brudzinski, SEMCOG
- Willie Souaid, MDOT