Ohio’s Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) Pilot Program

MAY 12, 2015

Who is Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC)?

OVRDC is a Regional Planning Commission for 12 counties in southern Ohio.

OVRDC is a regional planning and economic development agency which coordinates federal, state and local resources to encourage development in 12 southern Ohio counties.

Adams, Brown, Clermont, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton in Ohio.

177 member Commission with 28 member Executive Committee
Who is Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC)?

Services and Programs
- Economic Development Administration (EDA) and Appalachian Regional Development Commission (ARC) project development
- Ohio Public Works Program (OPWC) project development
- HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project administration
- Data and mapping services
- Revolving Loan Fund
- NEW: Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO)

T-Planning / Project Selection Prior to the RTPO Program

- ODOT contracts with COGs, RPCs, and other entities to perform MPO duties
- 17 MPOs
- STP and TA allocations
- CMAQ allocations in air quality areas
What About Non-Metropolitan Regions?

• Several non-metropolitan COGs and RPCs, but these entities focused on economic development, housing, land use... not transportation

• ODOT has project selection authority in non-metropolitan areas

So the RTPO Program was Implemented

• State contracts with 5 entities to merge transportation planning with existing planning efforts in multi-county regions
RTPO Goals

- Expand regional transportation planning
- Give regions a voice in transportation planning/project selection
- Advance regional priorities

RTPO Responsibilities

- Prepare regional multi-modal transportation plan
- Develop transportation network databases
- Provide technical/grant writing assistance
- Engage in public involvement and rural consultation activities
ODOT’s Role

- Finance program with SPR
- Hands off.. Allow each agency to define scope that best meets local needs
- Match RTPOs with mentor MPO agencies

Ohio RTPO Scope of Work (2013-2015)

- July 1, 2013: Scope of Work Start date
- July-September 2013: Policy Committee and Transportation Committee are seated, established and organized
- December 2013: Public Participation Plan Adopted
- March 31, 2014: Goals/Objectives Section Finalized
- July 31, 2014: Existing Conditions Section Finalized
- November 30, 2014: Future Conditions Section Finalized
- February 28, 2015: Needs Analysis Section Finalized
- February 28, 2015: Plan Recommendations Section Due
- April 30, 2015: Fiscal Analysis Section Finalized
- April 30, 2015: Public Participation Section Due
- May 31, 2015: Transportation Plan Finalized
- June 30, 2015: Transportation Plan Adopted
Pros and Cons of Ohio RTPO

PROS

Rural areas of Ohio are served by RTPO giving them more of a voice and greater level of participation in long-range transportation planning in Ohio

Regional cooperation regarding transportation system priorities

Having a mentor has been a very positive and rewarding experience

ODOT Division of Planning has also been very helpful

ODOT has issued a new RFP for the 5 RTPOs to continue our transportation planning efforts in the non-metropolitan areas of Ohio

OVRDC and some of the other RTPOs have sought the designation as an RTPO for many years; this “Pilot” program has gotten us there

CONS

No sub-allocated funds to RTPOs makes planning a hard sale to local officials

Local buy-in especially with some county engineers

Management and existing staff new to transportation planning (although we have been given resources to hire new staff)

Ohio MPOs vs. Ohio RTPOs

MPOs in Ohio

RTPOs in Ohio
Next Steps

- Formally designate RTPOs
- Define scope for an ongoing program
- RTPO adoption of plans