

**-Focus Macomb: A Partnership for Economic Development**

Transportation Committee Meeting

August 22, 2007

Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick – Conference Room

**Summary**

**Members Present:**

Lillian Adams – Sterling/Utica/Shelby Twp. Chamber of Commerce

Fran Gillett – Road Commission of Macomb County

Ed Hoover – Rizzo Services

Dave Lakin – Spaulding DeDecker Associates

Marilyn Lane -- Roncelli

Angelo Lanni – Florence Cement Company

Keith McCormack – Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc.

Keith Rengert – Macomb County Board of Commissioners

Roy Rose – Anderson, Ekstein & Westrick

Jay Shah – Somat Engineering

Anthony Viviano – Sterling Heights Dodge

**Members Missed:**

Ben Aloia – Aloia & Associates

Doug Brown – ASTI Environmental

Dan Dirks – Consultant

Richard Doherty – Beztak Companies

Chuck Gemayel – Soil and Materials Engineers

Richard Ives – John Carlo

Pat Lehman – Consultant

Anthony Lombardo – Lombardo Companies

Ralph Maccarone – Shelby Township

Melissa Trustman – Detroit Regional Chamber

Greg Windingland – Lombardo Companies

**Staff:** John Crumm, Kate Doyle

**Opening:** Transportation Committee Co-chair, Anthony Viviano, opened the meeting at 3:10 p.m., telling the members our mission is going to be more difficult than anticipated due to stalled economy and the way money is appropriated for roads (e.g. Motor Carrier fees are distributed to the library system – not to maintaining and building roads). If we want to improve and change conditions within the County it will have to be a grass-roots effort to choose realistic projects wisely, educate the public, and organize communities to action.

**Sub-committee Reports:**

**Legislation:**

Members: Benjamin Aloia, Doug Brown, Keith McCormack and Roy Rose

Roy Rose presented the sub-committees report on the BBR's White Papers and the following questions the sub-committee proposed to the BBR.

- 1) Will a new state-wide gas tax eliminate the need for local governmental units to raise their own gas tax money?
- 2) Won't businesses in counties with the local gas tax or sales tax be placed at an economic disadvantage with businesses in surrounding areas?
- 3) Will these monies help for new bridge inspections to prevent what happened in Minneapolis?

- 4) What percentage of the monies will go to new roads/bridges and how much will go towards repairs of our existing roads and bridges? How much will go to establishing transit systems in Michigan?
- 5) How do we know that all the money won't end up with the major metropolitan areas?
- 6) A half-percent local sales tax doesn't sound like too much to pay. What does it take to change the Michigan Constitution to allow this to happen?
- 7) What's in it for me?
- 8) Would counties be required to impose this tax? Would county commissioners be able to impose this tax automatically if neighboring counties implement some form of the tax?
- 9) Who would administer the disbursement of the funds collected by this tax?
- 10) Haven't local transportation funding options been proposed before? If so, what was the outcome?
- 11) "Sunsets" (middle of page 3) have a poor track record in MI. What assurances do we have that revenue will not be collected indefinitely?
- 12) Document states (top of page 6) that businesses/employers have left Michigan or have not located in Michigan because of an inferior transportation system!

**Monies and Alternative Funding for Road Construction:**

Members: Richard Doherty, Ed Hoover, Marilyn Lane, Ralph Maccarone, Angelo Lanni, Keith Rengert and Jay Shah

Commissioner Rengert reported on the sub-committee's meeting earlier in the afternoon with Dave Diegel, Macomb County Director of Finance and Craig Breyson of the Oakland County Roundtable and BBR.

**Public Transit:**

Melissa Trustmann, Chair

Members: John Crumm, Dan Dirks, Richard Doherty, Chuck A. Gemayal and Dave Lakin

The sub-committee is continuing to meet agencies and formulate recommendations to promote public transit.

**Romeo Airport Study:**

Anthony Viviano, Chair

Members: Lillian Adams, Fran Gillett, Richard Ives, Pat Lehman and Greg Windingland

The sub-committee is preparing its recommendation.

**The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.**

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 26 beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Macomb County Administration Building (One South Main Street in downtown Mount Clemens).

