

Focus Macomb: A Partnership for Economic Development
Transportation Committee Meeting
July 10, 2007
Road Commission of Macomb County – Conference Room
Summary

Members Present:

Lillian Adams – Sterling/Utica/Shelby Twp. Chamber of Commerce
Doug Brown – ASTI Environmental
Richard Doherty – Beztak Companies
Fran Gillett – Road Commission of Macomb County
Ed Hoover – Rizzo Services
Angelo S. Lanni – Florence Cement Company
Anthony Lombardo – Lombardo Companies
Keith McCormack – Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc.
Ralph Maccarone – Shelby Township
Keith Rengert – Macomb County Board of Commissioners
Roy Rose – Anderson, Ekstein & Westrick
Melissa Trustman – Detroit Regional Chamber
Anthony Viviano – Sterling Heights Dodge
Greg Windingland – Lombardo Companies

Members Missed:

Ben Aloia – Aloia & Associates
Thomas Christ – Centra, Inc.
Dan Dirks – SMART
Chuck Gemayel – Soil and Materials Engineers
Richard Ives – John Carlo
Dave Lakin – Spaulding DeDecker Associates
Marilyn Lane – Roncelli
Pat Lehman – Consultant
Jay Shah – Somat Engineering

Guests:

Paula Mack-Crouchman – Administrator, Road Commission of Macomb County
Robert Hoepfner, P.E. – County Highway Engineer, Road Commission of Macomb County

Staff: John Crumm, Program Manager and Kate Doyle

Opening: The meeting was opened at 3:00 p.m. by Transportation Co-chairs Anthony Viviano and Anthony Lombardo with a review of the transportation challenges facing the region. Mr. Viviano announced the four sub-committees, developed by Roy Rose, to address the issues adopted for study by the Transportation Committee in 2007.

Legislation:

Issue: An organization known as Regional Better Businesses for Roads (at least eight counties) is in the process of preparing "white papers", to be presented to State legislators for introduction, which would allow counties to vote on as many as six (6) self help funding options.

Goal: A subcommittee of the Focus Macomb Transportation Committee will review these "white paper" bills and prepare draft comments to be discussed with the committee, and then submit the comments to the Regional Better Businesses for Roads organization.

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

Monies and Alternative Funding for Road Construction:

Issue: The Focus Macomb Transportation Committee recommended that the County Board of Commissioners increase the county taxes to the cap. The additional tax dollars would then be used for road rehabilitation or improvements. Due to the state of the economic climate in Macomb County this will be very difficult to implement.

Goal: A subcommittee of the Focus Macomb Transportation Committee will look into alternative funding options for road construction, along with possible additional Federal funding. A report will be submitted to the committee of this subcommittee's findings.

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

Public Transit:

Issue: It is difficult today for the average senior citizen to understand or find an easy way to travel from community to community using public transit.

Goal: To determine how seniors can travel from one community to any other community using public transit. Prepare or obtain literature on this process and determine how this can be distributed.

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

Romeo Airport Study:

Issue: The Michigan Department of Aeronautics would like to give the Romeo Airport to Macomb County. The Macomb County Planning and Economic Development Department hired a consultant to investigate the advantages vs. disadvantages for a County Airport and is making a recommendation to the County Board of Commissioners.

Goals: The report is about to become public (public presentations are scheduled for Tuesday, July 17, 2007). A subcommittee from Focus Macomb Transportation Committee needs to thoroughly review this study and report to the committee for any comments. These comments can then be submitted to MCPED on the committee's behalf.

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

Tour of the Road Commission and Traffic Operations Center:

The committee learned the Road Commission of Macomb County (RCMC) supervises the operation, maintenance and construction of the over 1700 miles of county roads and the maintenance of 166 miles of state highways within Macomb County for MDOT. They are also responsible for the maintenance of over 750 bridges, 900 traffic signals and 60,000 signs.

The construction of the Traffic Operations Center (TOC) and equipment contained therein were provided by grants funds obtained by the RCMC. The purpose of the TOC is to assist the RCMC with the efficient flow of traffic throughout the County by monitoring traffic patterns and levels of activity by utilizing computer stations and manual observation by traffic engineers. This dual monitoring allows the RCMC staff to clear congested areas, adjust signals and spot potential areas of concern from the TOC. As a long-term project (8 to 10 years) the TOC will provide the Road Commission with the technical expertise to manage traffic as Macomb County grows and develops.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.