



April 2, 2015 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. MVRPC Spring Dinner Reminder: April 22, 2015

The Annual Spring Dinner will be held in 3 weeks on April 22, 2015, at the Dayton Marriott Hotel 1414 S. Patterson Rd., with cocktails at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. It will feature the unveiling of some new, agency- wide brand and identity elements that we've been developing over the past few months that will certainly make an impact. The event date also marks the 45th anniversary of Earth Day and all door prizes will relate to treating "Mother Earth" or yourself well. All attendees will receive "Thank You" gifts upon departure. Be sure to register/submit payment to MVRPC by next Friday, April 10, 2015. Since the event includes a plated dinner, we're unable to accept walk-ins. Please see Ann Burns for an invitation.

2. Obama Administration Strengthens GROW America Funding Proposal

On March 27, 2015, U.S. DOT Secretary Foxx introduced the **G**enerating **R**enewal, **O**pportunity, and **W**ork with **A**ccelerated **M**obility, **E**fficiency, and **R**ebuilding of **I**nfrastructure and **C**ommunities throughout **A**merica Act (GROW AMERICA Act) reflects President Obama's vision for a six-year, \$478 billion transportation reauthorization bill that invests in modernizing America's infrastructure. As lawmakers try to fund transportation beyond May 31, GROW AMERICA provides members of the House and Senate with the option of increasing investment in surface transportation by 45 percent, and supporting millions of jobs through increased and stable funding for our nation's highways, bridges, transit, and rail systems.

The Administration's proposal is welcomed because it is now a six year proposal, increases funding, and is funded by supplementing current revenues from the Highway Trust Fund in combination with a 14 percent transition tax on up to \$2 trillion of untaxed foreign earnings that U.S. companies have accumulated overseas. This will prevent Trust Fund insolvency for six years, fixes the HTF funding gap and will provide increase investments in transportation to meet national economic goals.

The proposal ensures that taxpayer dollars are used more effectively and efficiently, and brings federal transportation policy into the 21st century. It will:

- Increase safety across all modes of transportation, including by almost tripling the budget of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's automobile defects office;
- Establish an \$18 billion freight program so American businesses can compete effectively in a global economy and grow;
- Increase connections so that more Americans have access to jobs and education, including by raising transit investment by 76 percent;
- Put in place a transparent and clear permitting process to speed up project delivery;
- Increase innovative financing by strengthening Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) and Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) loan programs, by making more Private Activity Bonds (PABS) available, and by nearly doubling funding for our TIGER grant program; and
- Empower local government by providing more funding to high-performing Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). The GROW America Act defines High-Performing MPOS as those that coordinate well with other MPOs, consider performance goals as part of their planning process, have equitable approaches to decision making, and demonstrate high technical capacity.

The Administration anticipates that in FY 2016, Ohio would see a 21% increase in road and bridge funding and a 54% in transit funding if Congress passes the Grow America Act this year.

3. Governor Kasich Signs Ohio's \$7 Billion Biennial Transportation Bill

This week, HB 53 was signed by Governor Kasich with modifications. Among several line item vetoes, he struck language that codified eligible projects for the Ohio Bridge partnership program and instructed the ODOT Director to appropriate an additional \$10M to the program for a total of \$130M in funding.

Upcoming MVRPC meetings:

- 04/16/15 9:30 a.m. Technical Advisory Committee - 10 N. Ludlow St.
- 04/16/15 4:00 p.m. Public Participation Meeting. for Draft TIP – 10 N. Ludlow St.
- 04/22/15 6:00 p.m. MVRPC Annual Spring Dinner – Dayton Marriott, 1414 S. Patterson
- 05/07/15 8:30 a.m. Executive Committee 9:00 a.m. Board of Directors – 1515 S. Main St.