



## **Phase Two: Plan Recommendations Public Comment Summary Report**

*June 23, 2016*

### **Overview**

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#### **Public Involvement Objectives**

The objectives of the 2040 Plan's public involvement and outreach efforts are:

- Provide multiple opportunities for stakeholders and the public to review plan-related information and obtain updates on the progress being made by the Plan to identify projects to address regional goals.
- Provide stakeholders and the public with multiple opportunities through which they can provide feedback to OKI staff on the Plan's development.
- Tie in the Plan to OKI's overall work activities and mission to communicate a clear, coordinated and comprehensive public message.
- Update community members who participated in the previous update, performed in 2012, while identifying and reaching out to new, previously untapped community members and stakeholders.

#### **Purpose of this Document**

OKI views comprehensive, strategic stakeholder outreach and public involvement as essential to the success of the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan, 2016 Update and, ultimately, to the completion of the vital improvements throughout the Tristate. As such, this Public Comment Summary Report has been developed to record public involvement activities undertaken and the input received during the second of two phases of the 2016 Update.

#### **Phase Two: Plan Recommendations**

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Phase Two of the 2016 Update can be summarized as the *Plan Recommendations Phase*. This phase covers January 9, 2016 through June 9, 2016. The January start date of this phase was denoted by the conclusion of the public online survey which gathered the public's input on regional transportation priorities.

The actual public outreach for Phase Two of the 2016 Update commenced in March 2016 with the ICC and Executive Committee monthly meetings. At these meetings, OKI staff presented a DRAFT Project List that resulted from Phase One's planning assumption data collection and analysis, public input and feedback received from OKI members. The DRAFT Project List consisted of only transportation improvements identified for inclusion in the fiscally constrained OKI 2040 Transportation Plan, 2016 Update. With concurrence from OKI members made at the March meetings, OKI staff initiated the Phase Two public participation process by posting the DRAFT Project List on the Plan's website.

Public input and OKI leadership determined the final recommended list of projects. The June 9, 2016 end date of this phase was marked by staff's presentation of the Final Plan Recommendations to the OKI Board of Directors where the Plan was adopted. This event officially marked the end of public comment for and conclusion of the 2040 OKI Regional Transportation Plan's 2016 Update.

The topics that follow document all outreach conducted and input received during the remainder of the OKI 2040 Regional Transportation Plan's 2016 Update.

## **Outreach Conducted**

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OKI staff conducted a great number of outreach efforts during the course of the Plan's development. Appendix A: Public Participation Progress Sheet documents every outreach and planning effort.

### **Social Media**

OKI used OKI's Facebook page and Twitter account for all Social Media networking activities. During Phase Two, Facebook had five posts including adoption of the Plan and three Twitter posts. Outreach to media outlets resulted in four different articles relating to the update of the 2040 plan.

### **Constant Contact Messages and Emails**

In accordance with the FAST Act (23 U.S.C 134 (i)(6)(A)), OKI consulted with officials responsible for other types of planning activities during the development of this plan. Direct Constant Contact messages were sent to representatives of the following type organizations, businesses and agencies:

- Natural Disasters-related agencies (75 contacts)
- Chambers of Commerce and Tourism (18 contacts)
- Public ports (6 port authority representatives)
- Private Transportation Providers (191 contacts)
- Public and not-for-profit transportation providers (31 contacts)
- OKI private freight-related contacts (67 contacts)
- OKI Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (12 community members)
- OKI Unified Planning Work Program Group (33 public agency representatives)
- Bicycle and Pedestrian (1,300 individuals)
- General public/citizens database (1001 contacts)

The following officials, organizations and municipalities received a direct 2040 Plan message and link to the website via email: Central Ohio River Business Association, Cincinnati City Council, Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce, Clermont County Chamber of Commerce, Dearborn County Chamber of Commerce, Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky African American Chamber of Commerce, Greater Cincinnati Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Green Umbrella, Hamilton County Commissioners, Hispanic Chamber Cincinnati USA, Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities, Northern Kentucky Chamber of

Commerce, Planning and Development Services on Kenton County, Springdale City Council, Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority, and the 46 active community councils within the City of Cincinnati.

OKI's Public Involvement Specialist sent 52 emails to community council presidents and members of the OKI Environmental Justice Advisory Committee. The emails highlighted the 2300 survey responses and included a link to the OKI 2040 website's Public Outreach page.

A final Constant Contact message was sent after the Plan's adoption to every contact listed above to conclude the Update and thank them for their participation. This email provided a direct link to website and final project list of recommendations.

### **Public Meetings**

OKI did not hold any separate 2040 Plan public meeting. Instead during this Plan Update, OKI utilized existing, scheduled public events and meetings in order to go out directly to the community versus asking citizens to come to us and attend special 2040 Plan-only meetings. Flyers with website address and other information were distributed at these meetings. Such existing, scheduled public events and meetings included the following:

- OKI Intermodal Coordinating Committee January 9, February 8, March, April, May and June meetings
- OKI Board of Directors January and June meetings
- OKI Executive Committee February, March, April and May meetings
- OKI's Public Involvement Specialist attended 22 different Cincinnati Community Council meetings between January 11 and May 26, 2016
- OKI was an exhibitor at the Cincinnati Neighborhood Summit on March 12, 2016
- OKI was an exhibitor at the Eat Healthy NKY Food Summit on March 28, 2016
- Tristate Trails meeting on April 8, 2016

### **Public Library Displays**

Table top displays were posted from May 16 through June 6 at the main library branch in each of OKI's eight member counties (Boone, Butler, Campbell, Clermont, Dearborn, Hamilton, Kenton and Warren). Each display provided copies of a 2040 Plan information flyer (Appendix B), the website address and a scannable QR code linking them directly to [2040.oki.org](http://2040.oki.org) homepage.

### **Environmental Consultations**

OKI utilized an environmental consultation process to identify the environmental impacts of this 2040 Plan. OKI designed consultations on the draft projects list to include multiple opportunities for state and local agency participation and input. The 72 consultation participants represented every state and county in the region and a broad and diverse range of environmental and planning expertise. The Environmental Consultation activities spanned between Phase 1 and 2 taking place from December 2015 to March 2016. A detailed overview of OKI's Environmental Consultations can be found on [www.2040.oki.org](http://www.2040.oki.org) under the Impacts: Environmental page.

However, the Environmental Consultations came to a culmination on March 16, 2016 at a special four-hour session held in the OKI Board Room. Participants at the session were from 33 local agencies and 17 state agency divisions.

## Public Hearing

In compliance with the OKI Public Participation Plan, OKI held a public hearing on June 6, 2016 at 5PM in the OKI Board Room (720 East Pete Rose Way, Suite 420, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202). The public hearing's legal ad notice announcing the June 6, 2106 date was placed in the Cincinnati Enquirer, La Jornada (Spanish Journal) and The Cincinnati Herald. Appendix C contains a copy of the Public Hearing Notice.

## Media Coverage

During Phase 2, the Plan received the following media coverage:

- Articles in the Urban Cincy Newsletter on April 20, 2016 and April 27, 2016 -- mentioned survey results for the Region wanting more transportation choices
- Article in the Middletown Journal on May 2, 2016 -- mentioned the projects listed in the draft project list for Butler County, request for public comment/input including and date of the Public Hearing
- June 6, 2016 Public Hearing announced on WVXU-91.7 FM and in the Cincinnati Business Courier

A media advisory (Appendix D) announcing the Plan's adoption was sent to local media after the June 9th adoption.

## Website

The [2040.oki.org](http://2040.oki.org) website includes a massive amount of data, analysis and information shared through text content and interactive maps and tables located on the site's multiple webpages: Overview, Community Outreach, Planning Assumptions, Modal Trends & Conditions, Financial Plan, Prioritization Process, Project List, Socio-Economic Impacts, System Performance Impacts, Environmental Impacts, Air Quality Impacts and Performance Measures.

In addition to information, the website also provided Project Manager Robyn Bancroft's contact information, as well as an online comment box through which individuals could submit questions or comments on anything related to the Plan.

## Comments Received

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### Website

Between January 6, 2016 and June 9, 2016, the [2040.oki.org](http://2040.oki.org) website received 2,929 overall visits with 2,089 unique users and 5,055 page views.

### Website Open Comment Box

Twenty-five individual comments were received via the [2040.oki.org](http://2040.oki.org) comment box during Phase 2. The majority of these comments gave support for bike/pedestrian projects, multi-use trails or transit connection improvements.

### Email Messages

The OKI Project Manager for the 2040 Plan received three emails during Phase 2. The content included in each of these emails was as follows:

- MLK West Transportation Improvement Project (TIP)
- Support for the promotion of proactive land use and development strategies along western Ohio River and hillsides

- Expression of pleasure from the inclusion of many bicycle/pedestrian projects

OKI's Deputy Director received 18 emails from local constituents in response to the draft project list. The comments received and actions taken by OKI staff in response are included as Appendix E.

### **Environmental Consultations**

OKI's Environmental Consultation activities came to a culmination on March 16, 2016 at a special four-hour session held in the OKI Board Room. Participants at the session were from 33 local agencies and 17 state agency divisions. Participants provided information on environmental impacts from transportation and related development survey responses, presentations and discussion. These included concerns about impacts from transportation-related sources, impacts to Regionally Significant Resources, potential impacts from proposed transportation projects, impacts that are "major environmental concerns" and strategies for reducing project-level environmental impacts. A detailed overview of OKI's Environmental Consultations can be found on [www.2040.oki.org](http://www.2040.oki.org) under the Impacts: Environmental page.

### **Public Hearing**

Nine members of the public attended the June 6, 2016 Public Hearing. At the public hearing, comments from the public included the following:

- Support for "Rails-to-Trails" with the hope of keeping the future of trails preserved along with light rail transit and Amtrak to provide additional daily trips to our region.
- Support of active trail projects on the west side of Cincinnati
- Praise to OKI for the type of solutions included in the Plan.

A letter addressed to OKI CEO/Executive Director was submitted to the Deputy Director at the Public Hearing. The letter's content included support of transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects and much-needed repair maintenance of roadways rather than expansion. The letter further urged the support for funding the following projects Brent Spence Bridge replacement, Ohio River Trail East multi-use trail along Oasis Line/riverfront, three Ohio River Trail West multi-use trail segments, Wasson Way trail multi-use path that preserves transit options, Western Hills Viaduct replacement and Winton Woods Great Miami Trail multi-use path.