

**MINUTES OF THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012

At a meeting of the **Economic Development Committee**, held Wednesday, February 22, 2012, in the Board Room, on the 9th Floor of the Administration Building, Mount Clemens, the following members were present:

Carabelli-Co-Chair, Flynn-Co-Chair, Gralewski, Miller, Mocerri, Sabatini,
Smith, Tocco and Vosburg (ex-officio).

Other Commissioners Also Present:

Brown, DiMaria, Fraschetti and Sauger.

There being a quorum of the committee present, Co-Chair Carabelli called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA

Co-Chair Carabelli moved up agenda item #9a to #5A. There were no objections.

MOTION

A motion was made by Miller, supported by Gralewski, to adopt the agenda, as amended. **The Motion Carried.**

MINUTES

MOTION

A motion was made by Miller, supported by Smith, to approve the January 25, 2012 minutes of this committee, as written. **The Motion Carried.**

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- a) **Quarterly Report by John Bierbusse from Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board**

Two additional handouts were distributed.

John Bierbusse overviewed the following documents:

- Macomb County Labor Force Statistics (Annual Figures)
- Macomb County Labor Force
- Macomb County Residents Employed
- Macomb County Residents Unemployed & Rate of Unemployment
- Employment Services Registrations
- Agreement on Weeks of Unemployment Benefits
- Extended Benefit Exhaustions by County

The following commissioners spoke: Carabelli, Flynn, Gralewski, Mocerri and Frascchetti.

MOTION

A motion was made by Mocerri, supported by Gralewski, to receive and file the quarterly report by John Bierbusse from Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board. **The Motion Carried.**

TRANSPORTATION

a) **Presentation by Dennis Schornack, Senior Strategy Advisor to Governor Rick Snyder on Regional Mass Transit and Proposed Legislation**

Co-Chair Flynn spoke about the Regional Partners Advocating Transit Here (R-PATH) group that was formed as an outcome of the 2011 Southeast Michigan Regional Summit. He then introduced Dennis Schornack from Governor Rick Snyder's Office.

Dennis Schornack spoke about two workshops on bus rapid transit which will be held this Thursday and Friday. Also, next Tuesday, the Senate Transportation Committee will hold its second meeting on Regional Transit Authority (RTA) legislation at the offices of SMART in Detroit.

Dennis Schornack gave a verbal presentation. Key areas discussed included the following:

- His involvement on regional mass transit, RTA legislation since last July
- Legislation to establish a RTA empowered to provide regional transit in Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties
- House Bill 5309 and Senate Bill 909-912
- The state's role in setting up the framework for the RTA
- How the appointments would be made to the RTA Board
- In terms of finance, the Bill outlines two options: 1) The RTA Board could create a special assessment district or 2) to have a motor vehicle registration fee of up to \$1.20 per thousand dollar of vehicle value. Collected by the state and remitted to the Authority. (In both cases, those would be subject to a vote of the electors in the entire transit region.)

- The Authority would serve as the designated recipient of all state and federal monies, both for capital and for operating assistance
- The RTA could withhold up to 5% of state operating assistance to enforce coordination directives concerning fares, schedules, routes and so forth
- There have been 23 documented attempts to establish a RTA for this region
- The goal is to move people around this region as rapidly as possible, which is good for economic development, labor mobility, and giving people access to the means to get to jobs
- 148,000 individuals each day move out of the city and into the suburbs to work
- The prospect of transit-oriented development at stations that are created along the routes
- The Bill does provide for the Authority to supersede any local zoning or land use regulation
- The last section in the Bills would repeal the existing Regional Transit Coordinating Council (RTCC)
- There is a small appropriation of \$250,000 to get the Authority started
- Bus rapid transit provisions in the Bill
- Proposed 110-mile bus rapid transit system
- Legislation is very clear, the RTA will be the final determiner of routes, stations and stops in cooperation with the federal government
- There is a lengthy process to go through to secure federal funding which will amount to approximately half of the resources put up for the RTA

The following commissioners spoke: Carabelli and Flynn.

Co-Chair Flynn introduced John Swatosh, Deputy Director of SMART and Fred Barbret, Regional Director from SMART for Macomb County.

The following commissioners spoke: Brown and Smith.

John Swatosh addressed the committee. He spoke about recent discussions that have taken place to improve public transportation in and out of Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

The following commissioners spoke: Flynn, Smith, Vosburg, Miller, Fraschetti, Mocerri and Brown.

MOTION

A motion was made by Mocerri, supported by Gralowski, to receive and file the presentation by Dennis Schornack, Senior Strategy Advisor to Governor Rick Snyder on regional mass transit and proposed legislation. **The Motion Carried.**

- b) **Adopt Resolution of Support for Michigan House Bill 5309 and Senate Bill 909-912**

A copy of the proposed resolution was distributed.

Co-Chair Flynn gave a brief overview of the proposed resolution.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TOCCO, SUPPORTED BY MOCERI, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADOPT A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDMENT OF REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM CITIZEN REPRESENTATION (**OFFERED BY BOARD CHAIR ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD**). FURTHER, A COPY OF THIS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' ACTION IS DIRECTED TO BE DELIVERED FORTHWITH TO THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE.

The following commissioner spoke: Mocerri.

Co-Chair Flynn called for a vote on the motion and **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

c) R-PATH Monthly Report

Co-Chair Flynn invited commissioners to attend the National Bus Rapid Transit Workshop at the Detroit Zoo this Friday.

MOTION

A motion was made by Gralewski, supported by Miller, to receive and file the R-PATH representatives monthly report. **The Motion Carried.**

APPROVE REQUEST FROM DTE FOR AN EASEMENT ACROSS THE MACOMB COUNTY ORCHARD TRAIL (postponed from 01-25-12 meeting)

Co-Chair Carabelli informed commissioners that a letter was sent to Michael Lee, President, Village of Romeo on February 9, 2012 to advise him of this request.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GRALEWSKI, SUPPORTED BY SMITH, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM DTE FOR AN EASEMENT ACROSS THE MACOMB COUNTY ORCHARD TRAIL. FURTHER, A COPY OF THIS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' ACTION IS DIRECTED TO BE DELIVERED FORTHWITH TO THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

SOLID WASTE

a) Update from Jill Smith on Solid Waste Plan Amendment

Jill Smith did not have any update to report.

MOTION

A motion was made by Smith, supported by Gralowski, to receive and file the update from Jill Smith on Solid Waste Plan Amendment. **The Motion Carried.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

MOTION

A motion was made by Miller, supported by Smith, to receive and file the update on upcoming events. **The Motion Carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

A motion was made by Miller, supported by Smith, to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 a.m. **The Motion Carried.**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Denise M. Jacks", written over a horizontal line.

Denise M. Jacks
Committee Reporter