

**EASTGATE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**City Centre One Building – 100 East Federal Street, Suite 1000**  
**Youngstown, Ohio 44503**  
**(234) 254-1508**

**MINUTES**

BUILD Partners Meeting with DriveOhio,  
December 28, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in Eastgate's  
office, City Centre One Building, 100 East  
Federal Street, Suite 1000, Youngstown.

**Present:**

Jim Barna, DriveOhio  
Kedar Bhide, City of Youngstown  
James Dignan, Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber  
Dean Harris, WRTA  
Mike Hripko, YSU  
Jordan Karim, City of Youngstown  
Jim Kinnick, Eastgate  
Justin Mondok, Eastgate  
Charlie Nelson, Nelson Development  
Greg Noiro, ODOT D4  
John Picuri, ODOT D4  
Chad Root, ODOT D4  
Charles Shasho, City of Youngstown  
Patrick Smith, DriveOhio  
Ken Sympson, Eastgate  
Peter Voderberg, DriveOhio  
Sara Daugherty, Eastgate  
Stephen Zubyk, Eastgate

**Overview of SMART<sup>2</sup> Network**

BUILD is currently awarded through FTA, working to switch to FHWA for easier ODOT partnership. Fifth Avenue design underway, looking to design/build contracts for other sections. Intention is for construction to occur in 2020, so shuttle would realistically be in 2021 (later discussion on having demonstration to show forward momentum). Shuttle to focus on connecting Mercy, YSU, and Downtown/MVICC. East leg on hold for now. Proposal doesn't require dedicated lane for shuttle. Intent of shuttle is to go for vendor turnkey solution and eventually transfer ownership to WRTA.

**Overview of DriveOhio**

DriveOhio is working with 14 cities. Closely assisting City of Columbus with their launch this December. Project required installing cameras, signs, and restriping. Columbus went for a turnkey solution for the first year, the vendor provides staff, vehicle, office space, and takes on any liability. There are 6 shuttles (3 on the ground for 10-minute headway and 3 in maintenance). After first year Columbus will review sustainability either through fares or sponsorships and management under COTA or other party. Vendor was chosen on rubric with various criteria including technology, previous deployment, and price. Vendor chosen stood out for price and limited infrastructure requirements (camera and not DSRC-based). Oversight and monitoring occur through data-sharing (also allows for

better understanding of ways to improve the route and user profile). Lessons learned include involving city departments early (utilities/law) and transit union (shuttle enhances public transit by providing a first/last mile solution).

DriveOhio can institute public/private partnership procurement and commit other resources towards project development. With ODOT, can help advance a project by providing technical expertise, data, and procurement. DriveOhio assisted Columbus with restriping and signs as well as ADA compliance. DriveOhio requests that the shuttle deployed be 8-12 passenger (although may need RFP to be more open to attract companies shifting into this space). In addition to deploying the shuttle, DriveOhio would like to work with YSU on workforce needs for disrupted technology. Recommendation to meet monthly.

### **Autonomous Technology Considerations**

- Left turns are challenging, Columbus went with right turn circular
- Local legislation may inhibit application ex. of NY and hand on steering wheel
- Only Columbus and Las Vegas are operational and have drivers, but DriveOhio is looking at a remote operator soon
- Need at least 2 months to ground test/map
- Vendors are new to procurement with government, takes time and extra effort to communicate effectively

### **Actions**

- DriveOhio/City of Youngstown MOU (and any other documents between parties)
- Ordinances for any language that would inhibit demonstration and rollout
- Review cost-share for demonstration
- Review and communicate user case for shuttle (Columbus = parking, mobility), discussion on Youngstown being for special visitors to anchor institutions
- prepare outline for RFP, including requirements for demonstrations (test runs/physical presence)
- provide YSU video of autonomous shuttle in action
- vendor open house to showcase tech and answer questions around April (Columbus was 2-days and helped launch procurement)
- Designate route(s) for demonstration
- Consider CMAQ '24-'25 for additional shuttles
- Consider branding project/communication

### **Timeline**

- March/April: Issue RFP
- April: Vendor Open House
- May: display, potentially with YSU commencement
- May: score RFP
- June: award contract
- July/August: vendor testing
- September: demonstration operating
- October: Demonstration with MMX Conference

**Next Meeting:** Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> following General Policy Board