

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

OMEGA has developed a list of recommendations for addressing the regional transportation needs of the RTPO. These recommendations are based upon an analysis of the existing and future conditions of the transportation systems in the region, consultation with stakeholders, and an assessment of the needs of the region. Areas requiring further study or action items, corridors of regional significance, and specific projects have been identified.

Action items that will be completed within the next two years include:

1. Develop 2018 to 2021 Transportation Improvement Plan
2. Prioritize Safety Projects
3. Prioritize Road and Bridge Improvement Projects
4. Conduct and/or manage Safety and Transportation Studies
5. Conduct Training Workshops
6. Establish Work Group for Transit Agencies and Coordinated Transportation Agencies
7. Provide Technical Assistance
8. Develop and maintain transportation databases (asset management)
9. Prepare/assist with funding applications for transportation projects
10. Develop Regional Bicycle Trail Map
11. Participate in Statewide Planning Activities
12. Continue to develop transportation expertise
13. Continue public/stakeholder involvement activities

In addition to these action items, OMEGA will participate in the planning activities for three corridor projects of regional significance:

- US 30 Ohio's Energy Corridor
- Columbus to Pittsburgh Corridor
- Alternative Routes for Maple Avenue/SR 60 in Muskingum County

A list of specific projects, prioritized by county, to meet the transportation needs of the OMEGA RTPO region is provided in Appendix A. This list includes those projects which can be reasonably be constructed during the period between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2020 should funding become available as well as long term projects for which planning needs to be initiated. As the RTPO program continues, OMEGA will work with the TAC, Executive Board, CAB, and other stakeholders to develop a prioritized system for ranking projects in the region. The fiscal analysis of these projects and other recommendations will be discussed in Section 7.0 of the Regional Transportation Plan.

OMEGA also concurs with the recommended projects listed on ODOT's 2016 to 2019 STIP. A copy of the 2016 to 2019 STIP for the OMEGA RTPO region is provided in Appendix B.

Most importantly, an additional revenue stream is needed to assist with the local share for funding transportation projects and for assisting transit agencies. This additional revenue stream is needed **to supplement** the funds that are currently available through the Small Cities, Municipal Bridge, Transportation Alternatives Program, various CEAO programs, Ohio Public Works Commission, and other programs. The needs of the OMEGA RTPO region are great and current levels of federal, state, and local funding are inadequate to meet those needs.