



**Department of  
Transportation**

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## Sunset Review Committee

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Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chairman Hillyer, and members of the Sunset Review Committee:

I am Greg Vergamini, Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs, Ohio Department of Transportation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on the Transportation Review Advisory Council and the Prequalification Review Board. The Ohio Department of Transportation respectfully requests reauthorization for these two entities.

### Transportation Review Advisory Council

The Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) mission is to provide a transportation system that is safe, accessible, well maintained and positioned for the future. To achieve our mission, ODOT supports the state and interstate highway system through various transportation initiatives statewide. The Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) is an important entity at ODOT that helps the Director of ODOT achieve the department goals and objectives.

The purpose of the TRAC is to assist in the decision-making process on major statewide and regional transportation investments along routes with state or federal designations. The goal is to envision the transportation system of the future and select transportation investments that best benefit and serve the people of Ohio.

TRAC was established by the Ohio General Assembly in 1997 under Ohio Revised Code 5512. The council is comprised of nine members with five-year terms. The Director of ODOT serves

as the Chair, six members are appointed by the Governor, one is appointed by the Ohio Senate President, and one is appointed by the Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives.

TRAC awards funding to transportation projects that are part of the Major New Capacity Program. These projects have a total budget greater than \$12 million and will increase system capacity or reduce congestion. The Major New Capacity Program has a target project budget of \$150 Million each year and the project list approved by TRAC outlines the funding commitments over a four-year time horizon.

Since its inception, TRAC has proven to be effective and has successfully contributed billions of dollars toward projects in every region of the state.

### **Prequalification Review Board**

ODOT is required by Ohio Revised Code 5525.02 to ensure that all construction contractors desiring to submit bids to perform work on ODOT's construction projects are suitably qualified to perform the specific types of work required for the project. The prequalification review process outlined in Ohio Administrative Code 5501:2-3 ensures that a contractor has the necessary financial backing, equipment, personnel, and experience to perform the specific items of work that the contractor desires to be prequalified to complete.

In situations where ODOT determines that the contractor does not meet the minimum necessary standards, the contractor's request for prequalification will be denied. Any contractor that is denied prequalification may appeal for reconsideration to the Prequalification Review Board, created under Ohio Revised Code 5525.07 and managed by ODOT's Division of Construction Management.

The Prequalification Review Board, per Ohio Administrative Code 5501:2-3-09, is comprised of three senior department employees who are familiar with the department's application and qualification process and hears appeals either in written form or via an informal hearing, from applicants for denials of work types, disagreements over dollar bidding capacity amounts and disputed performance evaluations. Members are assigned to the Board on a case-by-case basis and are selected based on their area of expertise and knowledge of the subject matter at hand.

The Prequalification Review Board meets when appeals of prequalification decisions are received. The Board has fifteen days to decide on the disputed matter, whereupon a dissatisfied contractor may then appeal to the Court of Common Pleas in Franklin County.

Given the nature of the Board, it does not have its own budget and members do not receive additional compensation for their work.

Thank you again for the opportunity to discuss the Transportation Review Advisory Council and the Prequalification Review Board. I would be happy to answer any questions.