

VOLUME TWO

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MINUTES OF TWENTY FOURTH MEETING

AUGUST 24, 1951

Pursuant to call of the Chairman, the Ohio Turnpike Commission met in special open session in Maumee High School auditorium, Maumee, Ohio, at 10:30 o'clock a.m. on August 24, 1951 with representatives of the consulting engineers, of Bond Counsel, of the Department of Highways, and approximately 900 citizens of the Maumee-Toledo area also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman and the roll was called and the attendance was reported to be as follows:

Present: Shocknessy, Teagarden, McKay, Kauer
Absent: Seasongood

Whereupon the Chairman announced that a quorum was present.

The Chairman stated that this special meeting was called for the purpose of hearing from the local community any criticism it would like to make of the recommendation which the engineering firms have made to the Director of Highways and which has been presented to the Ohio Turnpike Commission for adoption. He expressed his gratitude to Mayor Henderson of Maumee and to Mr. Arnold Finch, City Manager of Toledo, for making the arrangements for the meeting, and introduced the several members of the Commission and the representatives of the consulting engineers.

The Chairman stated that the Commission had waited until this meeting to disclose the exact line which the engineers have proposed for the crossing of the Maumee River. He outlined the procedure for the meeting which would include a discussion of the turnpike line by Mr. E. J. Donnelly of the Greiner Company after which the Commission would recess for two hours or more during which time it would fly over the route proposed by the engineers and also the alternate proposed by the Maumee Valley Improvement Association. During the recess the citizens of Maumee would have the opportunity to view the specific location on an aerial mosaic and to present any questions to the representatives of the consulting engineers. After the recess the Commission would hear any statements that the representatives of the community wished to make in support or in criticism of the proposed line.

The Chairman then requested that Mayor Henderson and Mr. Finch advise the Commission as to the number of speakers and as

to the time each would require to present the statements with respect to the location of the turnpike, and he pointed out that this was a historic occasion since it was the first meeting to be held by the Commission outside Columbus.

Mr. Donnelly of the Greiner Company then explained and demonstrated the location proposed for the turnpike including the crossing of the Maumee River and through the Village of Maumee.

A request was made by Mr. Donal Hummer, an attorney of Toledo, who said he spoke for himself only, that the plan of the Commission be changed in order to accommodate the convenience of certain of the audience and that the Commission not recess but continue the meeting until all statements had been presented. The Chairman acquiesced but indicated his reluctance to do so.

Mayor Henderson then reported that the speakers would be Mr. Earl Boxell, member of City Council of Maumee, Mr. William Moore, City Solicitor of Maumee, Mr. Lester Martin, Realtor of Maumee, and Mr. Evan Schlichter, Realtor of Maumee. Mr. Finch announced that Toledo would be represented by Mr. Robert Foeller, Director of the Toledo-Lucas County Plan Commission. Mayor Henderson then presented Mr. Boxell to the Commission.

After several questions addressed to Mr. Donnelly of the Greiner Company and Mr. Waterbury of Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Hall and Macdonald, Mr. Boxell proceeded with a discussion of the proposed route. He said that he recognized the importance of the turnpike to the Toledo-Maumee-Perrysburg area but believed that the proposed route would be injurious to all three communities since an alternate southerly location could be demonstrated to be much cheaper and without loss of revenue. He suggested that the proposed route would create a wall which would separate Maumee from Toledo and injure a rapidly developing residential metropolitan area. He proposed an extension of U. S. Route 20 for about two miles to connect with an interchange point on the proposed alternate. He believed that real estate values would be blighted.

Mr. Boxell stated that the construction of turnpike structures adjacent to the existing terminal railroad bridge would provide a concentrated military target, and that ice jams in the Maumee River at this location would be an additional disadvantage. He said that he could find no parallel on the Pennsylvania Turnpike or elsewhere on the Ohio Turnpike where a community was being divided. He said he thought that this applied also to the New Jersey Turnpike except where that highway is being carried through an old industrial section and where there was no alternative. He presented a revenue and

cost analysis which would indicate that the northern route would have a much higher resultant cost than the southern route. Mr. McKay questioned that analysis.

Mr. Lester Martin then discussed the effect of the proposed route upon residential values and stated his belief that the turnpike would build a barrier between Maumee and Toledo and would have an enormous effect on real estate in the area. The Chairman asked Mr. Martin if he owned property in the vicinity of the turnpike route.

Mr. William Moore stated his understanding of the problem of planning for the expansion of the local school district. He said he feared that the turnpike location would be a detriment to such planning. He said he was concerned about the expansion of the local sewer system and the planning of other improvements. He said he also believed that an alternate location south of Maumee would benefit the community.

Mr. Schlichter then reported difficulties he envisaged in the sale of preferred residential properties in the vicinity of the turnpike route and of the reluctance of prospective buyers to purchase properties in that vicinity. He stated that if the turnpike was built in the proposed location the owners of real estate in that area would realize only a few cents on the dollar of the value of their property. The Chairman asked Mr. Schlichter if he owned property in the vicinity of the turnpike route.

Mr. Finch then presented Mr. Robert Foeller who discussed with the Commission the major traffic arteries which will be affected by the turnpike. He pointed out that only the location of the interchanges was important to the City of Toledo since the turnpike as a whole would not be accessible. He stated that the location of the turnpike, except for the interchanges, was not important to Toledo unless it affected existing and future residential and other developments. The Chairman invited Mr. Foeller to submit to the Commission any additional statement that he wished to make.

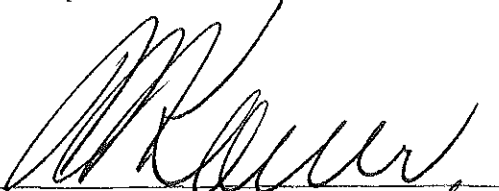
The Chairman took cognizance of a note which Mr. Donal Hummer handed him, and invited Mr. Hummer to make any statement that he wished, saying that Mr. Hummer's note indicated that he himself could not remain longer in the meeting. Mr. Hummer had nothing further to add.

The Chairman concluded the hearing with a statement that the Commission had come to Maumee in all good faith to meet with the representatives of the community and that the minds of

the several members of the Commission had not been made up prior to the meeting, otherwise the Commission would have remained in Columbus and announced a decision. He said that he was not completely satisfied with the results of the hearing and, therefore, had arranged for the representatives of the consulting engineers to meet with representatives of Maumee after adjournment in order that any desired information might be obtained by the Maumee representatives from the consulting engineers. He advised Mayor Henderson and Mr. Finch that the Commission would accept until August 31, 1951 any additional statement which the community wished to present based upon the information to be obtained from the consulting engineers and the conclusions derived from that information. The Chairman hoped to announce a decision in Columbus on September 4, 1951,

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p. m.

Approved as a correct transcript
of the proceedings of the Ohio
Turnpike Commission.



T. J. Kauer
Secretary-Treasurer

Sept. 4, 1951