This resolution supports the findings and recommendations of the Ohio Statewide Transit Needs Study that has been recently concluded.

The study, under the leadership of the ODOT Office of Transit, examined existing transit services, analyzed trends, engaged stakeholders and the public, conducted an exhaustive financial analysis, and developed implementation strategies for meeting existing and future needs.

One key recommendation of the study is creating a dedicated transit fund, because Ohio’s use of state general revenue funds “has steadily and significantly eroded transit funding over time.” One of the study reports, “Initiative: Dedicated Transit Funding,” calls for engaging the state legislature and creating a cabinet-level committee to consider funding options.

In a related finding, the study report states, “Our analysis suggests that current level of investment in transit operations in Ohio – roughly $659 million – under invests in transit operations by roughly $172 million or by over 20 percent.”

Other recommendations, with accompanying strategies, include:

- encouraging regionalization of transit to better connect across jurisdictions,
- use of creative strategies for raising more local transit funds,
- coordinating human services transportation efforts and integrating these services with public transportation,
- improving transit information systems
- creating a performance measurement strategy
- making investments in transit technology that can create immediate benefits for riders and transit operations.

The TMACOG Public Transit & Passenger Rail Committee (November 25, 2014) and the Transportation Council (December 3, 2014) recommend that TMACOG support the transit needs study findings and recommendations. Approval of this resolution is requested to put TMACOG’s support on record.
WHEREAS, the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) is a voluntary association of local governments and non-governmental partners in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, organized on May 31, 1968, and established under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Michigan Public Act No. 7 (EX-SESS), and has carried out comprehensive metropolitan and regional planning since that date; and,

WHEREAS, the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) by the Governor through the Ohio Department of Transportation in cooperation with local elected officials and is authorized to carry out the continuing, comprehensive, and coordinated transportation planning process (Process) for the Toledo area; and

WHEREAS, the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) recognizes the importance of providing public transportation in the region to support personal mobility, quality of life, and economic vitality, as reflected in the projects and policies in TMACOG’s adopted Regional Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Transportation has concluded the Ohio Statewide Transit Needs Study, during which it examined existing transit services, analyzed trends, engaged stakeholders and the public including Northwest Ohio, conducted an exhaustive financial analysis, and developed implementation strategies for meeting existing and future needs; and

WHEREAS, a key recommendation of the study is creating a dedicated transit fund to reverse Ohio’s current dearth of transit funding support, with implementation steps to include engaging the state legislature and creating a cabinet-level committee to consider funding options; and

WHEREAS, additional recommendations address an array of important investments and improvements needed to strengthen public transportation in Ohio, including encouraging regionalization of transit to better connect across jurisdictions, use of creative strategies for raising more local transit funds, coordinating human services transportation efforts and integrating these services with public transportation, improving transit information systems, creating a performance measurement strategy, and making investments in transit technology that can create immediate benefits for riders and transit operations; and

WHEREAS, this resolution was recommended for approval by the Public Transit & Passenger Rail Committee on November 25, 2014, and by the Transportation Council on December 3, 2014;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOLEDO METROPOLITAN AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS:

Section A

THAT TMACOG supports the findings and recommendations of the Ohio Statewide Transit Needs Study (2014); and
Section B
THAT TMACOG urges the State of Ohio to pursue the study recommendations, especially the creation of a dedicated fund for public transit; and

THAT the President of TMACOG is hereby authorized to provide a copy of this resolution to the governor of Ohio, state legislators, and the director of the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees on December 17, 2014.

Yea______, Nay______, Abstain______

_____________________________________ ____________________________________
James M. Sass, Chair   Anthony L. Reams, President
Toledo Metropolitan Area  Toledo Metropolitan Area
Council of Governments (TMACOG)  Council of Governments (TMACOG)