Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions – Ottawa County Commissioner Mark Stahl, the facilitator of the County Caucus, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

TMACOG members in attendance included:
- Carlos Baez – County Engineer, Sandusky County
- Gary Byers – Commissioner, Lucas County
- Mark Coppeler – Commissioner, Ottawa County
- Donald Douglas – Commissioner, Ottawa County
- Jayne Ferreira, Western District Toll Supervisor, OTIC
- Jessica Grisier, Administrative Assistant, Lucas SWCD
- Doris Herringshaw – Commissioner, Wood County
- Andrew Kalmar, County Administrator, Wood County
- Craig LaHote – Commissioner, Wood County
- Ronald Lajti, Jr. – County Engineer, Ottawa County
- Mike Libben, Program Administrator, Ottawa SWCD
- Pat McColley, Deputy Director, ODOT
- Scott Miller – Commissioner, Sandusky County
- Matthew Oestreich – Auditor, Wood County
- Tim Porter, Chairman, Northwest Ohio Passenger Rail
- Kay E. Reiter, Commissioner, Sandusky County
- Rick Rosendale, Accountant, Wood County Auditor
- Mark Stahl – Commissioner, Ottawa County
- Carri Stanley, Assistant County Commissioner, Wood County
- Mike Stormer, Chief Deputy Engineer, Lucas County
- Greg Telecky, Principal, Poggemeyer Design Group
- Kacey Young, Capital Programs Administrator, ODOT
- Karen Young – Chief Deputy Auditor, Wood County
- Russ Zimmerman, Commissioner, Sandusky County

Non-caucus members and/or guests in attendance included:
- Theresa Gavarone – State Senator, Ohio
- Paula Hicks-Hudson, Ohio House Representative 44, Ohio

TMACOG staff included:
- Tim Brown – President, TMACOG
- Gilda Mitchell – Director of Membership and Outreach
Topics of Discussion – The following topics were discussed during the caucus.

H2Ohio
- The State of Ohio is releasing funds for initiatives in NW Ohio at the request of the Governor and passed by the legislature. Currently, the money is focused on the Maumee River watershed and Lake Erie.
- There are several organizations identified to track each project funded.
- Bills dealing with future funding streams are being considered by the legislature.
- The caucus group would like to see money spent in a variety of areas.

Gas Tax
- Needs to be reevaluated to assist with projects in our local communities.
- Vehicle miles traveled, user fee for alternative vehicles might be solutions to future funding of infrastructure.
- TMACOG members are encouraged to keep track of roadway improvements made in their respective jurisdictions as a result of additional state funding for infrastructure to justify the investment and support of legislators.
- Safety needs to be addressed when considering autonomous vehicles.

Innovations in Opiate/Heroin Drug Epidemic, best practices to share
- Sen. Gavarone mentioned her SB55 to enhance penalties for drug offenses near an addiction service provider.
- Participating in a fraudulent screening (use of “fake urine” or other devices) can result in a felony.
- Looking to crack down on the sellers selling the drugs and get them charged for a longer term to get them off the streets.
- Lucas County looking at a machine that utilizes a retina scan for meeting workplace and community control programs to ensure drug free compliance. The tests are quick and efficient and reduce costs to administer such programs. The cost of the eye examiner machine is about $30,000. California is doing this and Lucas County is exploring utilizing in a number of locations.

General Issues discussed:
- Confidential economic development projects and bypassing locals and going to the State Department of Taxation directly.
- State Capitol budget projects submitted, approval anticipated sometime in March 2020.
- Rep. Hicks-Hudson encouraged TMACOG members to send letters or testify on legislation pending in Columbus, stressing that northwest Ohioans need to be seen and heard in the statehouse. Sen. Gavarone reiterated their interest in listening to area concerns and working with area officials on issues.
Workforce Development:

- Problems persist in getting skilled employees due to failing drug tests, and other issues.
- Some companies are training their employees within to have the tools needed for the skilled trade.
- The Caucus followed up on its summer 2019 caucus discussion regarding LGBTQ citizens still being able to be discriminated against legally in Ohio. LGBTQ citizens can still be fired or evicted which has an impact on keeping people in Ohio or attracting workers from other states. Businesses are clamoring for workers. Having equal protection for LGBTQ, like other groups would help Ohio to be more competitive in attracting and keeping workers.
- Concerns were expressed about Nexus Pipeline appealing their tax assessments impacting many levels of local governments and their respective budgets.