Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions – The Special Districts & Authorities Caucus met on Monday, January 27, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn (Caledonia Room), 6165 Levis Commons Boulevard in Perrysburg, Ohio.

Rhonda Sewell, External and Government Affairs Manager for the Toledo Lucas County Public Library and caucus facilitator, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Introductions were made by everyone present.

Caucus members in attendance included:

- Darla Brown – Western Division Service Plaza Manager, Ohio Turnpike & Infrastructure Commission
- Scott Carpenter – Director of Public Relations, Metroparks Toledo
- Kim Dunham – General Manager, TARTA
- Meghan Gallagher – Regional Business Development Coordinator & Account Manager, Ohio Turnpike & Infrastructure Commission
- Tom Galloway – Political Advisor, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, Ohio State Legislative Board
- Rex Huffman – Legal Counsel/Executive Member, Wood County Port Authority
- Cheryl Johnson – Chair, Wood County Port Authority
- Ed Nagle – Board Member, Wood County Port Authority
- Theresa Pollick – Public Information Director, Northwestern Water and Sewer District
- Jamie Rossler – CFO/Board Member, Wood County Port Authority
- Rhonda Sewell – External and Government Affairs Manager, Toledo Lucas County Public Library
- Joey Sink-Oiler – District Manager, Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District
- Thomas Uhler – Vice Chair, Wood County Port Authority

TMACOG support staff in attendance included:

- Lance Dasher – Transportation Planner
- Lisa Householder – Transportation Planner/Database Analyst

Introduction of Discussion Topics – Caucus members discussed the following topics.

- **Transportation Needs/Impacts of the New Amazon Fulfillment Center**
  - Wood County Port Authority and ODOT will fund a study to look at safety and congestion along and near the SR 795 corridor.
    - Study boundaries include SR 795, US 20, I 75, and I 280.
    - There has been great support and collaboration from local stakeholders.
  - Expected to bring 2,000 + jobs to the region.
Amazon stated that bus service to this location is a priority and one of the reasons they chose this location. Likewise, service continuity to this location is a priority for TARTA.

The Ohio Turnpike has a toll plaza is nearby. They will need to know how much daily truck traffic is expected.

There is a big opportunity to fill in gaps to the network of bike facilities in this area of Wood County for employees to bike to work.

**Connectivity of Parks and Major Multiuse Trails**

- Toledo Metroparks will open its newest park, Manhattan Marsh, this fall. Once completed, this will ensure that there is a Metropark within five miles of every Lucas County resident.
  - Next goal is to connect all the Metroparks with a system of trails.
- Wabash-Cannonball Trail has extended into Fulton County.
- Chessie Circle Trail development continues.
  - The bridge over the Maumee River has been raised. Memorabilia from the bridge is located at the trailhead on the Lucas County side.
  - Paving will take place in the City of Toledo from Bowman Park to the University of Toledo in FY 21.
  - Norfolk-Southern railroad still maintains trackage rights in the portion south of the University of Toledo, so this is more difficult to complete.
- City of Toledo’s bike plan is 50% complete.
  - Riverside Trail will be continued along the Anthony Wayne Trail corridor in FY 22 and connect to the Chessie Circle Trail.

**Toledo Lucas County Public Library’s Role in the 2020 Census**

- First mailing from the Census will begin March 12 and is shortened to 7 questions (10 questions if the household has more than 1 person). It is the first Census to include online/mobile response.
  - Fake Census forms are already appearing in some mailboxes, so be aware.
- The TLCPL will work closely with the Census to spread word about the count, to provide an access point for computers, and to help answer questions. Their main goal is to educate people and downplay fears that the Census questions may pose to some people.
- A Complete Count Committee was formed (along with 8 subcommittees) and a Census Coordinator position will be housed at the Main library.
- The 2010 Census was undercounted by 20% in our region. This directly impacts the number of congressional seats in the State, as well as how much money will be apportioned to districts for many different programs and needs.

**Roundtable** – There was some time at the end of the Caucus for a roundtable discussion.

- TMACOG is hiring a Water Quality Planner.
- Regional water collaboration was commended.
- Toledo to Detroit Passenger Rail Study – first phase of the report is complete. Additional funding is necessary to continue the second phase of the report.
- TARTA is open to forming public private partnerships. Enterprise Rental Car is a current partner.

*2020 Special Districts & Authorities Caucus Meeting Notes– January 27, 2020*
• Northwestern Water and Sewer District recently helped Henry County with some issues. They are also teaming up with the United Way to form the “Pay It Forward” campaign to collect donations to provide aid towards user’s bills.
• Collaboration was recognized by this Caucus as being successfully implemented throughout the TMACOG region.

Next Steps – There were no requested actions from the caucus.

Adjourn – Ms. Sewell thanked the attendees for their participation and adjourned the meeting.