

TMACOG Presents 2007 Ohio Conference on Freight

At a forum September 17 and 18, TMACOG will host transportation and freight interests at Ohio's first ever state-wide conference on freight and logistics. This educational and inspirational day-and-a-half program includes workshop sessions, dinner and lunch keynote presentations, and tours of freight facilities on the Maumee River and at the Toledo Express Airport. The invited keynote speaker for Monday night is The Honorable James Oberstar (D-MN), chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Headquarters for the forum is the Park Inn in downtown Toledo.

Planning for transportation and freight infrastructure is an essential part of civic planning and a growing economic development tool. Transportation planners, engineers, elected officials, people representing economic development agencies, builders and the construction industry, trucking and shipping companies, and import/export firms will all contribute to and benefit from this inaugural conference.

Attendees will choose one of four workshop tracks September 18:

Public/Private Partnerships

- The federal and Ohio view on public/private partnerships; Air freight and public/private partnerships; Central Ohio freight update –the Rickenbacker Project

Planning for Freight Movement

- Uses of multimodal freight forecasting in transportation planning; Integrating freight into the transportation planning process; University transportation perspective – University of Toledo Intermodal Transportation Institute

Freight Movement and Security

- Freight security analysis; Border crossings and freight movement

What's New in Freight?

- Great Lakes seaport update; Financing multimodal freight improvements; Lake Erie West Global Logistics Hub

The State Host Sponsor for the 2007 Ohio Conference on Freight is the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority. Additional sponsors include The Andersons, Bowling Green State University – Canadian Studies, Midwest Terminals, Ohio Council of Port Authorities, Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC), and Thyssen-Krupp. The conference is presented in partnership with the Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC).

For a complete description of the agenda and registration information, go to www.tmacog.org. Click on the conference logo on the home page for much more information. This site will be updated as information is confirmed on keynote speakers.

Construction Site Runoff Controls – the DOs and DON'Ts of Best Management Practices

TMACOG's Stormwater Coalition has organized a practical, hands-on workshop for best management practices at construction sites. The half-day event will include a brief presentation from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources about the importance of water quality management, followed by a tour of a working construction site. On site, construction professionals will describe specific practices that are protecting water during construction processes.

The workshop is aimed to help builders, developers, landscapers, and contractors. Local government inspectors who are responsible for stormwater planning or who monitor local regulations will also benefit. The workshop will be held Tuesday morning, September 25, location to be confirmed closer to the date. For more information or to register, call Travis Andres at 419.241.9155 ext. 103. Professional engineers who attend will qualify for Continuing Professional Development credit.

New Tool Could Speed Transportation Safety Funds

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) makes about \$65 million available each year for safety projects. Jurisdictions can apply for the funds twice a year, with deadlines September 30 and April 30. Now, local jurisdictions will have a tool that will make applying for those funds easier. TMACOG is supervising a clean up of crash data information which will provide the specific location and all attributes of traffic accidents in our region. The details of an accident – head-on or right-angle, at an intersection or near a highway ramp – will help jurisdictions identify the cause of a problem and define solutions. The complete report on crash data is expected to be available and accessible September 1.

The ODOT safety funds are available to address several categories: highway safety; hot spots which can be a highway with more than 200 crashes in three years or more than 150 rear-end crashes; high congestion locations; and long corridors where fatal crashes exceed the state average. The ODOT funds do not require a local match.

TMACOG can help jurisdictions and traffic engineers understand how to use the new data and how to apply for ODOT funds. For information on how to use the crash data, call Sujatha Mohanakrishnan: 419.241.9155 ext. 119. For advice on determining project eligibility, contact Kent Gardam at 419.241.9155 ext. 116.

Member News

Lucas County members of TMACOG are invited to a reception Thursday, September 27, 5-7 p.m. at the Macomber Lodge at Pearson Metropark. Staff from the Metroparks of the Toledo Area will provide a short presentation about the history of Pearson Park, from its start in 1934, to present plans for growth.



Portage Septic System Replacement Project Meets Goals Early and Under Budget

A program to replace failed septic systems in the Portage River basin has met and will actually exceed a goal of replacing 54 systems that were affecting water quality in the river. Several home sites that had been put on a waiting list will now be eligible for funding for installation of new treatment systems. The Portage River basin includes parts of Hancock, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Wood counties.

Brad Espen of the Wood County Health Department praised the Portage River basin program. “We can actually get out and fix things that we know are causing problems,” he said. Septic system replacement can be expensive. Espen noted, “The grant helped people with that expense – people who knew they needed a replacement but might have put it off because of the cost.”

Changes to a Natural River Challenge Portage River Neighbors

The East Branch of the Portage River, from just north of Fostoria, to West Milgrove, is one of the most natural, least altered waterways in our region. In many ways, says TMACOG’s Portage River Watershed Coordinator Elaine Moebius, the East Branch is in the condition that we aspire to when we work to remediate other rivers. Banks of the winding river are well-vegetated and the river is adjacent to natural floodplains which hold water and reduce flooding upstream. However, the East Branch of the Portage is changing in places. In one section, the river is establishing a new channel which is sweeping sediment into its waters and also eroding agricultural acreage. Neighbors in the region are concerned about log jams, which while natural occurrences, can also start a cascade of bank cutting and erosion events.

Responding to concerns in the area, Moebius recently met with stakeholders including a businessman and farmer, and a Watershed Forester from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. As the Portage Coordinator, she will continue to report on events and help develop strategies to enhance and protect the water quality in the region.

“On the Move: 2007-2035 Plan” Approved as Policy

TMACOG’s new long range transportation plan has been accepted by the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. The 2035 Plan is now the official transportation policy for Lucas and Wood counties; and for Erie, Bedford, and Whiteford townships in Monroe County.

Interested people can download the final 2035 Plan from www.tmacog.org. TMACOG can also provide a speaker for clubs or organizations whose members would like to know more about the future for transportation in our region. Request a presentation through the Speakers Bureau on www.tmacog.org, or call Greg Gettum at 419.241.9155 ext. 132.

Gas Cap Testing and Replacement Winds up In August

TMACOG’s summer program to test for leaky gas caps continues until mid-August. Testing only takes a few moments and, if needed, replacement caps are free. Drivers of cars and light trucks are invited to stop by any location noted below.

August 1	BP	26475 Dixie Hwy.	Perrysburg
August 2	BP	3532 Stickney Ave.	Toledo
August 6	BP	1091 N. Main St.	Bowling Green
August 7	Sunoco	541 N. Reynolds Rd.	Toledo
August 8	BP	9566 Clark Dr.	Rossford
August 9	BP	5104 Suder Ave.	Toledo
August 13	BP	28311 Crossroads Pkwy.	Rossford
August 14	BP	6437 W. Central Ave.	Toledo
August 15	BP	3808 Woodville Rd.	Northwood
<i>Live remote with K100 at 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.</i>			
August 16	BP	1456 S. Holland/ Sylvania	Maumee

All testing times are 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. except as otherwise noted. Testing will be cancelled on any day that is declared an Ozone Action Day.