



On the Move Plan on Track for Approval

After two years of development by more than 50 task force members, with much public discussion and involvement, TMACOG's new long range plan for transportation in north-west Ohio and southeast Michigan is in the final stages of review.

The TMACOG Transportation Council voted to approve the "On the Move: 2007-2035 Transportation Plan" at its April meeting. The Executive Committee and Board of Trustees are expected to approve it at their regularly scheduled meetings June 20. The entire draft plan must also be approved by the Ohio Department of Transportation, and the Federal Highway Administration has to approve the air quality component of the plan. If the approval process moves as expected, the plan will be effective July 1, 2007.

The On the Move plan is posted on www.tmacog.org. All TMACOG meetings are open to the public.

Swan Creek Watershed Pilot Project

The Swan Creek Watershed Pilot Project is at the halfway point in its 3-year timeline. At a meeting Wednesday, June 20, 6-9 p.m., at Springfield Township Hall, elected officials and interested citizens in the 22-jurisdiction area are invited to view the results of the work to date and review public information materials.

The pilot project has identified areas in the Swan Creek watershed as Priority Areas for Agriculture, Priority Areas for Conservation, or Priority Areas for Development. Maps created by the committee will show these designated areas. Before the project can be submitted to the state for approval, and before jurisdictions can apply for to implement any parts of the project, 75 percent of the jurisdictions in the region must approve the plan. People planning to attend should call to RSVP. Those representing jurisdictions should also bring their current zoning/land use plan and map to compare with the results of modeling. For reservations or more information, call Matt Horvat, 419.241.9155 ext. 123.

May We Check Your Gas Cap?

For the last several years, TMACOG has worked to increase awareness of air quality through the Gas Cap Testing and Replacement Program. This summer, TMACOG staff and interns will again work at local gas stations and community events, looking for leaky gas caps and providing free replacements. Not only will a leaky gas cap cause money to evaporate from your wallet (the cost of up to two tanks of gas per year), but gasoline emissions contribute to ground level ozone, a dangerous pollutant.

To find out where the gas cap team will be, check the schedule on www.tmacog.org. The schedule will be updated as new dates and locations are determined.

Member News

Congratulations to Rudolph/Libbe Inc. of Walbridge which received a 2007 Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics from the Toledo Better Business Bureau.

Public Involvement Policy Updated

The TMACOG Transportation Department has made changes to the department's public involvement policy to make sure it is consistent with the policies of current federal transportation law (SAFETEA-LU). The updated policy is available for review at the TMACOG offices and is posted on www.tmacog.org.

The comment period extends until June 29, 2007. The TMACOG Executive Committee will vote on approval at their regularly scheduled meeting August 15, 2007.

Mark Your Calendar

TMACOG Summer General Assembly

Thursday, July 26, 2007, 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. in Put-in-Bay.
Please note the new time for this summer event.

2007 Ohio Conference on Freight

September 17-18, Park Inn, Hosted by TMACOG, sponsored by Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC), Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC), Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

**TMACOG and SEMCOG to Hold Annual Joint Meeting**

TMACOG will join with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) for a joint discussion of transportation issues in the region Wednesday, June 27 at 1 p.m. at Cabela's in Dundee, Michigan.

One item on the agenda is the possibility of a passenger rail link between Detroit and Ann Arbor. SEMCOG has completed a study, and is now pursuing a demonstration project to run commuter rail trains several times a day on existing east-west tracks. The planned route would include stops at several cities and a link to Detroit Metro Airport. The Detroit-Ann Arbor route is a potential link with the proposed Ohio Hub high speed passenger rail system, which will have a Toledo-Detroit link.

Ottawa River Habitat Restoration Inventory

Tens of millions of dollars have been spent to stop industrial pollution and clean up contaminants in the Ottawa River. Beyond removal of pollutants however, full restoration of the Ottawa River depends on restoration of environmental habitat and riparian wetlands. With funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, TMACOG has commissioned a study to identify areas along the river that have good habitat restoration potential.

Mannik & Smith Group has been contracted to inventory potential habitat restoration areas. They will be looking for areas that could provide important habit for birds and other wildlife, especially areas that can be linked to establish corridors. Property owners and stakeholders who can suggest areas for habitat restoration are encouraged to contact TMACOG. For more information call Kurt Erichsen, 419.241.9155 ext. 126.

Clyde and Green Springs Cooperate for Cleaner Water

Aging wastewater treatment systems and stricter regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mean that many communities in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan are looking for solutions for wastewater treatment. In Green Springs, the lagoon system maintained by the village is no longer viable. Mayor Ted Rutherford and other civic leaders looked at alternatives and the best solution they found was to join with the City of Clyde. Green Springs will abandon its current system and build a sewer and pumping facilities to connect to Clyde's wastewater treatment plant.

A permit from the EPA is required before construction can begin. The EPA cannot approve a permit for Green Springs that is in conflict with our region's Areawide Water Quality Management Plan (the 208 Plan). To meet the needs of these communities, TMACOG is updating our 208 Plan to include the cooperative solution designed by Clyde and Green Springs.

Wood County Member Reception

Wood County members of TMACOG are invited to a reception Thursday, June 28, 2007 5-7 p.m. in room 207 of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union at Bowling Green State University. Governmental and non-governmental members are invited. Tom Blaha, executive director of economic development for Wood County will give a brief presentation on economic development in the county.

New Members

Welcome to the newest members of TMACOG: the Port of Monroe and the Northern Wood County Port Authority.

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