

Public Invited to Review Draft Transportation Plan – March 2-12

“On the Move: 2007-2035” is the long range transportation plan for Lucas and Wood counties and southern Monroe County. It has been in development since 2005 when the On the Move task force began to ask the population to describe local transportation needs and opportunities. Through research and discussion, modeling and forecasting, and evaluation against cost constraints, the task force has come up with a draft plan. In a series of public meetings and input opportunities in March, all concerned people in the region are invited to review and comment on the draft plan. The schedule calls for the plan to be complete in June 2007.

The draft On the Move plan includes \$5.8 billion to repair and maintain our current system. It also includes some exciting new projects that could have the same level of impact on the community as the new Veterans’ Glass City Skyway (which was part of TMACOG’s long range plan published in 1988). The goals of the plan and some highlights include:

Help people get around

- Twenty new bike/walk paths
- High speed passenger rail system

Move freight better

- Build a Global Logistic Hub, freight monorail, and inland port

Protect communities and the environment

- Build to protect natural and historic treasures like the Oak Openings Region
- Improve ITS system of integrated road signage and other communication tools

Promote safety and efficiency

- Improve I-75/ I-475 interchange
- Build three modern roundabouts

See a map and descriptions of all the proposed projects on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter. To see the complete draft plan, attend a public meeting, visit the display at your public library, or go to www.tmacog.org. Comments are welcomed and encouraged.

Date	time*	location
Fri. March 2	noon	Main Library 325 N. Michigan St., Toledo
Mon. March 5	7 p.m.	Sanger Branch Library 3030 W. Central Ave., Toledo
Tues. March 6	6 p.m.	Bedford Township Hall 8100 Jackman Rd., Temperance, MI
Tues. March 6	7:30 p.m.	Wood County Public Library 251 N. Main St., Bowling Green
Wed. March 7	7 p.m.	Northwood Municipal Building 6000 Wales Rd., Northwood
Mon. March 12	7 p.m.	Maumee Branch Library 501 River Rd., Maumee

*Doors will open 30 minutes before each meeting for time to review display materials.

inside...

Feature	1
On the move Public Meetings	
Focal Points	2-5
Commuter Services	pg. 2
Students Share A Ride	
Environment	pg. 3
Ozone redesignation	
Portage River	
Stormwater Manual	
Maumee RAP Grant from Joyce Foundation	
Transportation	pg. 4-5
On the Move Map and Legend	
Member Highlight	6
Terra Community College	
News Files	6-7
Professional Development Day: Disaster Planning	
Update on Ohio Hub	
General Assembly report	
Perspectives	7
A Letter from the Chair	
Eventline	
March & April Events	

Focal Points ...

COMMUTER SERVICES

Northwest Ohio CommuterLINK Update

As of February 1, 2007

Riders Approved	3,858
Daily Adult Riders	28
Children Transported Daily	23
Number of Daycares Used	20
Employers	31
Employer Locations	31
TARTA routes affected	4

NOTE: CommuterLINK serves people who cannot use public transportation due to their work schedule, child care location(s), or need to access areas outside the public transit area.

Northwest Ohio CommuterLINK

----- Connecting people to jobs -----

A PROGRAM OF TMACOG

Share A Ride to School

Carpools can be a viable way for commuters to save money, gasoline and other car expenses. Traditionally, TMACOG's Share A Ride staff has looked to major employers in our eight-county area as places where carpools will work. But the growth of area community colleges has created another node where large numbers of people are making the same commute.

Owens Community College reports that 2007 spring enrollment will be more than 19,300 students. Most of those students are now commuting to the campus alone, in single-occupancy cars. While TARTA provides a connection to the Oregon campus from downtown Toledo, other transit is limited to an intra-campus circulator bus. The TMACOG program staff hopes to encourage students to register with Share A Ride and find a carpool partner. Share A Ride Program Manager Stephanie Rizor recently presented information about Share A Ride to staff and students of Owens and registered interested drivers.

Linda Stacy, special assistant for community relations at Owens Community College, and member of TMACOG's Commuter Services Council, supports Share A Ride. "Owens is committed to providing access to higher education for our region. Access means making education affordable but it also means helping people actually get to the campus," says Stacy. "While we offer alternative delivery options, many students still prefer the classroom and campus experience."

Students, teachers or other people interested in finding carpool partners can register with Share A Ride by calling 419.241.1919 (outside of the Toledo area, call 800-241-1919), or register online at www.sharearide.org. The matching service is free and fast.

NW Ohio CommuterLINK Car Buy Update

Car Buy Program
As of February 1, 2007

Cars Delivered	432
Cars Paid Off	315

Fiscal Year
(7/1/06 - 2/1/07)

Cars Delivered	29
Cars Paid Off	30

Fiscal Year 2007 goal:
four cars delivered each month

**SHARE
A RIDE**
A TMACOG PROGRAM





Ozone Redesignation Requested

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has officially requested that the U.S. EPA redesignate the Lucas and Wood County region in regard to ozone levels. The region is designated as nonattainment, and the Ohio EPA is requesting redesignation as a maintenance area in compliance with the US EPA's standard for acceptable ozone levels.

TMACOG's Air Quality Committee has worked hard to qualify the region for redesignation: encouraging use of transit and carpools, supporting alternative fuels, and planting trees on highways. People in the region still need to be diligent and continue to improve our air. The ozone standards are based on maintaining a healthful environment for our region. There are also economic development concerns. As a maintenance area, additional controls and measures would be required if our emissions climb back above the standard. Businesses are reluctant to invest in a nonattainment area where extraordinary air quality control measures may be required.

Portage River Basin Council Seeks Volunteers

Each year, the Portage River Basin Council (PRBC) Nomination Committee votes on its leadership. In 2007, the council is seeking recommendations for new members and leadership. Current Chair Robert Eickel is stepping down after two years of service. The PRBC is also seeking member volunteers to fill positions on the stormwater and public outreach committees. Both committees have committed to work on projects that have been identified as priorities in the region. Volunteers will also work to secure grant funds to support the council's activities. For more information, call Elaine Moebius, Portage River Coordinator at 419.241.9155 ext. 139.

Stormwater Manual Update Available

An update to the Stormwater Management Standards Manual has been posted on the TMACOG website. Changes made in January 2007 clarify the riparian setback recommendations and update the model ordinance language.

The manual, which was comprehensively updated in the summer of 2006, is a living document which will be revised to meet the needs of Stormwater Coalition members. See the download on the Stormwater Coalition page of www.tmacog.org.

Maumee RAP Part of Multi-state Grant Award

TMACOG's Maumee RAP committee is one of four groups sharing \$5 million in grants from the Chicago-based Joyce Foundation. The RAP and its partners will receive \$588,188 to support important restoration projects underway in the Maumee River basin. RAP partners are testing strategies for reversing ecological damage from obsolete dams, and will also carry out two assessment projects that are necessary to leverage federal and private funds for restoration.

The dam project is an innovative plan to lessen the effects of a low head dam in Highland Park on Swan Creek. The mitigation of the dam will likely involve constructing an in-stream riffle structure to ease the elevation change downstream of the dam. Stream banks will also be restored to a more natural state.

The assessment projects are on the Ottawa River and Swan Creek waterways, and on Duck and Otter creeks. The Ottawa/Swan Creek project will build on a current wetland habitat

and inventory study underway in TMACOG's Environmental Department. In the Duck and Otter region, partners will prepare an Ecological and Human Health Risk Assessment. This study will help to determine whether sediment contaminants there pose a significant risk to human health and/or the environment, and if so, define the extent of the risks, and prepare a remediation plan.

The other recipients of the Joyce Foundation grant are American Rivers, which will work in Toledo to capture and filter stormwater; Environmental Defense, which will encourage farmers to restore wetlands; and the Nature Conservancy, which will enlist Indiana farmers to test an improved design for drainage ditches, and work to restore wetlands in the Oak Openings area. All programs will take place over three years.

Focal Points continued...

TRANSPORTATION



On the Move: 2007-2035 Transportation Plan

Draft, February 2007

TRANSPORTATION



Committed Projects

- C-1 Provide for passenger connection via water from Toledo to Lake Erie Islands (marine terminal)
- C-2 Craig (former I-280) Bridge—convert to street with bike path & build path on I-280 trench land
- C-3 Improve I-475 interchange at Salisbury/Dussel
- C-4 Build Wales Rd. rail grade separation (overpass)
- C-5 Build New US 24 expressway, Waterville to Napoleon
- C-6 Build ITS freeway management / travel info system (improve traffic flow)
- C-7 Build McCord Road rail grade separation (underpass)
- C-8 Build new TARPS paratransit facility adjoining Toledo train station
- C-9 "Westside" Trail—buy rail corridor and construct path, Laskey Rd. to Knight Preserve (excludes bridge reconstruction, project 14)
- C-10 Construct I-75/I-475 systems interchange improvement, Phase 1
- C-11 Upgrade Buck Rd./Lime City Rd. intersection, add turn lanes, signalization
- C-12 City of Toledo ITS—install new traffic signal computer & interconnects
- C-13 Complete Wabash Cannonball Trail North-South Connector
- C-14 Sylvania Ave., widen from McCord Rd. to Holland-Sylvania Rd.
- C-15 Riverside Trail-Phase 1, build bike/walk path from downtown Toledo to Craig Bridge
- C-16 Wheeling St., widen from Pickle to Navarre
- C-17 Widen SR 25 (Main St., Bowling Green) to 5 lanes and add turn lanes, Poe to Newton
- C-18 Construct I-75/I-475 systems interchange Phase 2 and related improvements to local arterials including Cherry St.
- C-19 I-475/US 23 improvements—build top priority phases (*Being considered: Widen to 6 lanes from Perrysburg to state line and to Monroe St.; add Dorr St. interchange; build braided Salisbury/20A interchange; incorporate SR-25 (Perrysburg) interchange recommendations; and Corey Rd. and Sylvania Ave improvements*)
- C-20 I-75, widen to 6 lanes from Phillips Ave. to I-280
- C-21 I-75, widen to 6 lanes from Washington St. to SR 25/Anthony Wayne Trail (*Southbound SR 25 entrance ramp to southbound I-75 will enter on right side using a collector-distributor road along with southbound Collingwood entrance ramp*)
- C-22 Replace TARTA bus fleet (2 cycles of replacement)

Priority Projects

- 1 Build Trans-Pacific Inland Port (rail/truck intermodal freight terminal) and improve road access and utilities (up to \$100 million total)
- 2 Widen I-75 to 6 lanes from Findlay to Perrysburg
- 3 ITS arterial signal coordination—timing of traffic signals for better flow
- 4 US 20A, from I-475 to Toledo Express Airport—relocate, widen & managed access for improved road access to freight terminals
- 5 US 20, widen to 5 lanes and add turn lanes at intersections, from Perrysburg to SR 420
- 6 Fund and build Technology Corridor people-mover, connecting UT Health Science Campus (former MCO) to UT to Art Museum (\$70 m total)
- 7 Build North Toledo intermodal (rail/truck) terminal (\$30 m total)
- 8 Ohio Hub High Speed Rail implementation—may include passenger rail/rail overpass in Northwood, new Maumee River Bridge, upgrade MLK Plaza infrastructure & passenger access to multiple rail lines, etc.
- 9 Eliminate rail/highway conflict that impedes access to proposed Jeep supplier park (*rail overpass or relocation; or "MULTI-F" freight monorail*)
- 10 Build downtown Toledo trolley system and link to Tech Corridor (see project 6) at Art Museum (\$77 m total)
- 11 Add rural transit circulators (bus or van call-a-ride)—requires additional funding base
- 12 Build North Baltimore area road improvements from I-75 to CSX intermodal yard
- 13 Build bike connector from North Coast Inland Trail to Wabash Cannonball Trail, across northern Wood County
- 14 Rehab or replace "upriver" rail bridge as ped-bike crossing (part of Westside Corridor project C-9)
- 15 Build Douglas/Laskey/Tremainsville roads roundabout (modern circular intersection)
- 16 Reconstruct Alexis Rd. pavement from Hagman Rd. to US 23
- 17 Provide separate transit connection linking BGSU to Owens CC to UT Health Science campus (former MCO) in I-75/I-475 and/or rail right-of-way
- 18 Build Summit St. rail grade separation (CSX overpass)
- 19 Build freight monorail ("MULTI-F") to move parts/goods between suppliers and factories

- 20 Eliminate Detroit Ave. and Glendale Ave. choke point,* Schneider Rd. to Harvard Blvd.
- 21 Provide Airport Hwy ped/bike facilities from Holland-Sylvania Rd., across I-475 and accessing Spring Meadows shopping center
- 22 Eliminate Berdan Ave. choke point* from Martha to Cherry streets
- 23 Eliminate Alexis Rd. choke point* from Hagman Rd. to Suder Ave.
- 24 Eliminate Monroe/Alexis/Main St. choke point* (City of Sylvania)
- 25 Build connector between Oregon trail system and Craig Bridge bike path
- 26 Provide signal prioritization for transit and emergency vehicles
- 27 Eliminate SR 51 (Woodville Rd.) choke point* from Oak St. to Curtice Rd.
- 28 Build Detroit/Telegraph/Laskey roads roundabout (modern circular intersection)
- 29 Widen the I-75 Disalle Bridge; improve South Ave. and Miami St. ramps
- 30 Build pedestrian bridge across Douglas Rd. at UT tied to Westside corridor
- 31 Advance warning signal for blocked rail crossings (Westwood/NS, Consaul/NS&CSX, Matzinger/CSX&AA, Summit/CSX)
- 32 Eliminate Detroit Ave. choke point* from Waggoner to Lagrange
- 33 Provide real time bus arrival information
- 34 Heatherdowns/Garden Rd. (Holland-Sylvania Rd. to Manly Rd.)—widen road, replace bridge, add roundabout (modern circular intersection)
- 35 Build Swan Creek trail from RiverWalk/Erie St. Market to Swan Creek Metropark
- 36 Build Consaul Street rail grade separation (bridge over CSX/NS)
- 37 Build Vickers crossing rail/rail separation (CSX bridge over NS)
- 38 Build Eastside Maumee River trail from Craig Bridge to International Park including ped/bike crossing of Main St. (possibly grade-separated)
- 39 Build efficient road connector from I-75 to US Post Office & MLK Plaza (train station)
- 40 Eliminate Wheeling St. choke point*, Navarre to Woodville Rd., and add bike facility
- 41 Add ped/bike connection across I-475 on SR 25 (Perrysburg)
- 42 Add pedestrian facilities on Wooster St crossing of I-75 (accessing stores)
- 43 US 20 from Perrysburg to SR 420: build ITS traffic management system (cameras/signs)
- 44 Central Ave., widen to 5 lanes from Centennial to Crissey Rd. and add turn lanes
- 45 Buy rail right-of-way and extend University/ Parks Trail into Michigan; and provide access road right-of-way for Holland-Sylvania Rd.
- 46 Provide robust traveler information for highway and transit modes (traveler info kiosks)
- 47 SR 65—add paved berms from Grand Rapids to Rossford, excluding curbed sections and areas within City of Perrysburg
- 48 Build Riverside Trail-Phase 2 from Craig Bridge to Point Place
- 49 Build Point Place Connector Bike Trail
- 50 SR 64—add paved berms from Whitehouse to Waterville
- 51 Bike network signage project—post signs on designated bike routes
- 52 Complete Oregon bike network (various locations, 19.6 miles—see map)
- 53 Place advance warning signs on I-75 at I-80/90 / SR 795 (for turnpike backups)
- 54 Make SR 795 (2000 feet) 4 lanes to I-280, from Lemoyne Rd. to Pemberville Rd.
- 55 Complete Sylvania-Metamora Rd. (Erie St.) bike path west of Centennial Park, and bike lanes south on Kilburn Rd. to Central Ave.
- 56 Build connection between Oregon trail system and North Coast Inland Trail
- 57 US 6 from Napoleon to Fremont—add turn lanes
- 58 I-80/90 at SR795 / I-75—increase turnpike entrance capacity (add 2-3 reversible booths)
- 59 Extend Toledo Express Airport north-south runway
- 60 Build new parallel east-west runway at Toledo Express Airport

* Widen narrow road areas and provide bike/ped facilities



Terra Community College

Terra Community College in Fremont has been serving students for almost 40 years. In 1968, the school was called the Vanguard Vocational Center and had 78 engineering and business students enrolled in full-time night school. In 1973, the Board of Trustees officially changed the name to Terra Technical College, and in 1994 the school became Terra State Community College.

In 2007, Terra has an enrollment of 2300 students, and offers a full curriculum leading to an Associate Degree in Applied Business, Applied Science, Arts, Individualized Study, Science, or Technical Studies. Students who plan to continue their education may transfer credits to a four-year college or university.

As part of their growth and development plan, Terra Community College joined TMACOG in 1996. "One of the greatest benefits of participating in TMACOG is that the organization brings us into contact with many individuals and agencies that we don't normally encounter in our day-to-day operations," says Dr. Marsha Bordner, president of Terra Community College. "I have met any number of governmental officials, school leaders, and potential employers for our students through networking events provided through TMACOG."

TMACOG hosts county member receptions each year and in 2007, the Sandusky County member reception will be held at Terra. The reception will be Thursday, April 26, 5-7 p.m. in the Board of Trustees Room.



News Files...

Disaster Planning is Focus of Professional Development Day

"How do you keep it going? A Tactical Plan for Continuity of Operations"

If bird flu sickens half of the working people in Ohio and Michigan, if tornados destroy vital infrastructure, how can governments protect citizens and keep systems operating? At a half-day seminar on Professional Development Day, local experts will discuss their strategies. Panelists will include Eric Larson, fire chief in Lake Township and formerly the EMS director for Wood County; and David Grossman, Toledo-Lucas County health commissioner. Attendees will also tour the new Owens Community College Center for Emergency Preparedness.

Professional Development Day is Saturday, March 17, 8:30 a.m. to noon. To register or for more information call Cindy Bland at 419.241.9155, ext. 107. There will be no charge for TMACOG members, \$25 fee for non-members.

Passenger Rail in Ohio Gains Momentum

Senate Bill 294, The Passenger Rail Investment & Improvement Act, has been introduced in the U.S. Senate and is expected to pass. The bill would establish a first-ever funding mechanism for state-generated passenger rail plans, like the "Ohio Hub," including an 80% - 20% federal/state match.

The Ohio Hub is a plan for fast, frequent, passenger trains that would link to other state and regional passenger systems. The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) has been studying routes and investigating costs for several years, with strong support of regional and state governments. In

2006, after public input, the ORDC expanded its proposed system to add lines, including a link from Columbus to Toledo to the Detroit Metro Airport. Midpoint stops are expected in Bowling Green and Monroe.

The updated ORDC report, which will be released in early spring 2007, will lay out a comprehensive description of the proposed rail system including where rails will go, how existing lines will be upgraded to accommodate the faster trains, which cities will have stations, and the frequency and speed of the train service. For more information on the Ohio Hub, see www.dot.state.oh.us/ohiorail.



New TMACOG Leadership Elected at 2007 Winter General Assembly

At the 2007 winter meeting of the general assembly, TMACOG members elected Barbara Sears as chair. Sears is president of council for the City of Sylvania. As TMACOG chair, Sears will also chair the agency's Leadership Development and Long Range Planning/Resource Development committees. See her Perspectives column in this issue of the *Big Picture*.

Tina Skeldon Wozniak was elected vice chair. She will continue to serve as chair of TMACOG's Commuter Services Council and in her elected office as president of the Lucas County commissioners. Ted Rutherford, the mayor of the Village of Green Springs was elected second vice chair. Rutherford will serve as vice chair of the Leadership Development Committee and will take on the additional role of vice chair of the Environmental Council. For a complete list of members of the 2007 Board of Trustees, and to see photos from the 2007 Winter General Assembly, see www.tmacog.org.



Barbara Sears
Chair, TMACOG

"To improve quality of life in the region, TMACOG will: Promote a positive identity for the region."

So how does TMACOG work toward its mission? We start by bringing experienced and passionate folks who are nationally recognized in their areas of expertise to meet with our nation's leaders.

A group of five from TMACOG recently attended the National Conference of Regions in Washington, D.C. We met our goal of 23 conference meetings, one meeting with the USEPA, and meetings at offices of Senators Brown and Voinovich, and Representative Kaptur. With our team of Mayor Kenneth Fallows (chair of the Environmental Council), Tony Reams (TMACOG president), Dave Dysard (vice president of transportation), Kurt Erichsen (vice president of environmental planning), and me (chair of TMACOG), we had a forceful presence.

Tony was the moderator of a session about the impacts of EDA regulations and Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED). Did someone say TMACOG doesn't "do" economic development? Not true! Everything TMACOG does supports economic development.

Word that Mayor Fallows was at the USEPA Office of Water attracted lots of attention. Mayor Fallows and Kurt Erichsen demonstrated absolute understanding of not only our region's issues but national initiatives managed by the office. It was clear that Dave Dysard has national respect, too. Senator Brown's new Chief of Staff took notes as Dave described our region's agenda.

All in all it was a successful trip that builds on our relationships nationwide and that will insure future success for our region!

TMACOG's Vision Statement states: "TMACOG will be the governmental partner of choice to coordinate regional assets, opportunities and challenges."

To respond to this letter, email perspectives@tmacog.org





Our Vision...

TMACOG will be the governmental partner of choice to coordinate regional assets, opportunities, and challenges.

The Big Picture is published by TMACOG

Chair

Barbara Sears, President of Council
City of Sylvania

Vice Chair

Tina Skeldon Wozniak
President of Commissioners,
Lucas County

2nd Vice Chair

Ted Rutherford, Mayor
Village of Green Springs

President

Anthony L. Reams

TMACOG

300 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
P.O. Box 9508
Toledo, Ohio 43697-9508

419.241.9155

FAX: 419.241.9116

E-mail:

public.info@tmacog.org

www.tmacog.org

TMACOG

300 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
P.O. Box 9508
Toledo, Ohio 43697-9508

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Toledo, OH
Permit No. 79