



“Location, Location, Location. Right Place, Right Time”

Winter General Assembly to Focus on Attracting Development

TMACOG members and guests will gather for their winter meeting at the Perrysburg Holiday Inn French Quarter on Tuesday, January 30. The membership has two annual meetings each year. The primary business of the winter meeting is the election of TMACOG officers: chair, vice chair, and second vice chair.

Workshops at the assembly will take different looks at how jurisdictions can attract development to their communities. Members will choose one of the three offered workshops. “Training for Change: Creating a New Workforce” will look at how area community colleges and career centers work with business and industry to train workers for now and for future opportunities. “Combining Strengths: Partnerships Attract Investment” will explore the potential of economic development partnerships including arrangements between universities and regional jurisdictions. The third workshop is a case study in how Wood County landed Bass Pro Shops. That panel

includes representatives of the Wood County Commissioners and the Wood County Economic Development Company.

The keynote presentation is “How to Attract Developers That Share Your Community Vision.” Developer Larry Dillin will talk about creating the right environment to foster public-private partnerships that build great communities. What does it take to attract the developer and development your community envisions? Incentives? Regulations? Where should jurisdictions draw the line?

Please note that the schedule for the assembly has changed from the format of previous years. The assembly starts later in the day and caucus sessions and elections are before the workshops. For more information or to register for the assembly, call Greg Gettum at 419.241.9155 ext. 132 or register online at www.tmacog.org.

AGENDA

1:30-2:15 p.m.	Registration and vendor exhibits
2:15-3 p.m.	Caucus sessions
3-3:30 p.m.	Business meeting and election of TMACOG Officers
3:30 p.m.	Break
3:45-5 p.m.	Workshops
	“Training for Change: Creating the New Workforce”
	“Combining Strengths: Partnerships Attract Investment”
	“How They Lured Bass Pro Shops: A Case Study”
5 -5:45 p.m.	Reception and vendor exhibits
6 p.m.	Presentation of colors by the Springfield High School Junior ROTC
6-7 p.m.	Dinner
7-7:30 p.m.	Keynote Presentation - Larry Dillin “How to Attract Developers That Share Your Community Vision.”



Larry Dillin, keynote speaker

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Focal Points ...

COMMUTER SERVICES

Northwest Ohio CommuterLINK Update

As of December 1, 2006

Riders Approved	3,844
Daily Adult Riders	34
Children Transported Daily	24
Number of Daycares Used	18
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

NW Ohio CommuterLINK Car Buy Update

Car Buy Program
As of December 1, 2006

Cars Delivered	424
Cars Paid Off	304

Car Buy Program Fiscal Year
(since 7/1/06)

Cars Delivered	21
Cars Paid Off	19

Fiscal Year 2007 goal:
four cars delivered each month

Share A Ride and Save a Lot

Finding a carpool partner is free, and fast, and a smart way to save. Carpoolers save:

- Gas money
- Car repair and maintenance costs
- Parking fees



TMACOG's Share A Ride is a computerized matching service that connects commuters with others sharing working hours and location. In a brief phone call or a few minutes online, a commuter looking for a carpool partner provides basic information: where you commute to and from and at what time you drive. The service will compare your information with the data from other commuters and generate a list of names and phone numbers. Then together you can arrange a carpool the way it suits you. Some people want to drive all the time but would like a partner to share the cost. Some would rather take turns driving. And some share only a couple days each week.

Sharing a ride also prevents:

- Air pollution. Car emissions account for 30-35% of ground-level ozone
- Road congestion. Traffic is increasing on area roads and highways

People who set up a carpool and register with Share A Ride are also registered for the Guaranteed Ride Home program. If your carpool partner has to leave work early, or work overtime, you can get a cab ride home up to four times a year. To register for Share A Ride, call 419.241.1919, or 800.241.1919 if you live outside the Toledo area, or register online at www.sharearide.org.

Winter Driving Safety Tips

Unpredictable winter weather and the longer hours of darkness make winter driving and the daily commute a more hazardous chore. Stay safe by staying prepared. Keep your car well-maintained and carry these supplies in your car.

- A flashlight with fresh batteries
- A first-aid kit
- Gloves, a wool cap, and a blanket
- Extra anti-freeze and extra windshield solvent
- Sack of sand or kitty litter and a small shovel
- Small tool kit, jumper cables, and flares
- Non-perishable food
- a cell phone





Stormwater Workshops Looked at Residential and Industrial Sites

Two workshops held in the fall introduced local builders, architects, and engineers to new innovations in low impact design and development. The focus was on how to control and treat stormwater close to the point of origin maintaining more natural features and fewer structural controls.

At the October workshop, attendees studied bioretention cells in residential developments. This practice captures rain runoff (stormwater), ponds water in a planned area, and treats contaminants through natural filtering processes. Such filters do an excellent job treating oils and petroleum products such as those found in parking lots or driveways. Speakers presented research on new demonstration site projects showing that it is possible to convert sediment traps at construction sites into retention cells for post-construction water quality management. While it is most efficient to incorporate biocell retention into the initial plan and design, it is also possible to retrofit a bioretention cell during re-development.

At the second workshop in November, attendees heard from speakers with careers in “green building” on commercial and industrial sites. Speakers Wendy Fry, of the Mannik and Smith Group, Inc., Philip Enderle, of the Collaborative, Inc., and Scott Sonnenberg of Eco-Design & Engineering, recommend that landscape architects be involved at all stages of development planning.



Scott Sonnenberg, PE, leads an exercise in how to incorporate low impact stormwater management standards in plat development plans at the November workshop.

Students for Research and Presentations

At the 17th Annual Student Watershed Watch Summit held November 15, three area classrooms were recognized for outstanding research and presentations on water quality testing in the lower Maumee River watershed. More than 600 students from 22 classes participated in the 2006 program.

The presentation by the freshman honors class of Maumee High School biology teacher Brad Ballard was recognized as Most Informative for their exhaustive report on their findings.

The award for Most Creative went to the Sylvania Northview class of Michelle Bogue. The students detailed their methodology in a live action film featuring popsicle stick puppets. They titled their film “Macropiece Theater: The Hester-Dendy Hotel.” A hester-dendy is a tool that collects macroinvertebrates (aquatic insects) from streambeds.

The Best Overall award went to student Lori Ashford, a senior at Bowsher High School. Lori is a student of teacher Dave Bourland. She was assisted in her research by Hull and Associates. Lori was recognized for use of the scientific method and rigorous standards.

The Student Watershed Watch is a project of TMACOG and the Maumee RAP. It is supported by donations from area groups including major sponsors DaimlerChrysler, BP, General Motors, the City of Toledo, the Metroparks of the Toledo Area, and Perstorp Polyols. The mission of the Maumee RAP is to return the waters of the Maumee watershed to swimmable and fishable condition.



The second part of the Student Watershed Watch is the presentation of results at the student summit. Scott High School students performed a skit and built a display charting their findings.

Region's Most Dangerous Roadway Problems Identified, Analyzed

At TMACOG's Roadway Safety Workshop December 7, first responders, community leaders, and transportation engineers focused attention on the most dangerous traffic issues in Lucas and Wood counties. The seminar is part of the local response to the goal of the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) to reduce traffic fatalities to 1 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by 2008. The current rate is 1.3 fatalities per 100 million VMT. TMACOG partnered with the Lucas County Safety Program / Safe Communities, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and ODPS to organize the workshop.

Presentations by the ODPS demonstrated how more precise accident record-keeping will generate better data and help research to improve safety. ODPS has created a new electronic accident filing form that law enforcement personnel are strongly encouraged to start using. Use will be mandatory by 2009. The Ohio Highway Safety Office presented information about funding



for education and enforcement available through their office.

ODOT has two rounds of applications for funding for construction projects and other countermeasures to

address high-crash, dangerous locations. Applications are due April 30 and September 30 each year. Problems and locations that were identified at the December 7 meeting, and subsequently ranked as high regional priorities, will receive extra weight in the application process.



“Safe Routes To School” Program Is Source of Funding

Under a new federal program, the state of Ohio now makes \$8 million available each year for improving walking and bicycling access within two miles of a school. The aim of the program is to make it safe for students to walk or ride bikes to school, encouraging activity and reducing reliance on cars. Schools that are aware of a deficit or opportunity in their area should work with local jurisdictions to apply for the funds.

Eligible projects can include purchase of land (or easements) for bike or walking paths, construction of new traffic islands or signals, improving sidewalks, and much more. Funds can be used for education or public awareness campaigns: distributing maps to students and their parents, or organizing a bike to school event.

The need for the Safe Routes To School program is apparent. In 2003, TMACOG conducted a regionwide survey of school pedestrian concerns. More than half of the responding schools reported missing or broken sidewalks within school walking distance. Speeding traffic, unsafe street crossings and lack of curb ramps were also of concern to schools.

For more information on the program see www.dot.state.oh.us/saferoutes, or contact TMACOG's Pedestrian and Bikeways Committee: David Gedeon, 419.241.9155 ext. 125.



On the Move Plan to be Presented at Public Meetings in March

TMACOG's long-range plan "On the Move: 2007-2035 Transportation Plan" is nearly complete. After public input was gathered in 2005, and solutions formulated and evaluated in 2006, the task force has drafted a plan and is doing final reviews. The complete draft plan will be presented at public meetings in March, 2007.

On the Move



2007-2035 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The current draft project list is posted now on www.tmacog.org and interested people are invited to review and comment on it. While the plan is not completely finalized, there are many projects that the task force agreed are essential to maintenance and development of the transportation system in our region.

They include:

- I-475/US 23: on the west ring of I-475, add lanes, improve interchanges, add possible new interchange
- Purchase land for the "west side corridor," to be used for a bikeway and for a people mover as part of the Science and Technology Corridor
- Implement the "Ohio Hub" plan - improve rails to allow faster, more frequent passenger trains
- Build a new TARPS paratransit facility at the Toledo train station

When approved, On the Move will be the new long-range plan that is the outline of major transportation initiatives for our region. It will be the blueprint for our region's transportation legislative agenda, telling lawmakers the consensus of people in the region. It will also identify priorities for federal and state transportation funding and guide the four-year Transportation Improvement Program (the TIP).

For more information, contact Diane Reamer-Evans at 419.241.9155 ext. 117, or evans@tmacog.org.

2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program Under Development

TMACOG's four-year Transportation Improvement Program (the TIP) is revised every second year to maintain a current list of funded transportation projects in the region. The TIP is a coordinating tool, developed with input from citizen and transportation stakeholders. The current TIP (2006-2009 TIP), includes more than \$600 million in projects including bridge repairs, rail crossing improvements, and bicycle paths.

The next edition (2008-2011 TIP) is expected to be approved by TMACOG's TIP Committee at their meeting December 18, 2006. It will be available for public comment April 2 through April 13, 2007.



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Perspectives...

A letter from the Chair of TMACOG



When I first heard of TMACOG, I was on the Fostoria city council (which seems like a hundred years ago). I say “heard” because I remember the mayor back then talking about TMACOG. And not knowing what it

was, I just kept on hearing TEAM, TEAM, TEAM. Being new, and never too shy to talk or ask questions, I finally asked him what was this TEAM-A-COG that he kept talking about?

Well, many years later, and a little wiser, I realized that I heard it right the first time. TMACOG is a team of hard-working, dedicated folks. With all the issues governmental leaders face today, it is nearly impossible to accomplish much of anything without being part of a team.

TMACOG provides that venue for this whole region to work together as a team to help with all of today’s more pressing issues. And although TMACOG has been around awhile it is more needed now than ever.

TMACOG provides me and my city the contacts with the other “players” on the “team.” Those member-to-member relationships that I have made over the years are an invaluable source of knowledge and wisdom. When I was a “wide-eyed rookie,” TMACOG offered me a golden opportunity to learn from the “seasoned veterans” on the team.

It has been my utmost honor and pleasure to be the “captain” of our team at TMACOG. Being the chairman this past year has re-affirmed my belief that TMACOG truly is the governmental partner of choice to coordinate regional assets, opportunities, and challenges. I look forward to actively participating in the coming years with my teammates, in some capacity or another (probably on the bench).

GO TEAM!

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



National Conference Targeted Freight

TMACOG represented the region and played a significant role in a recent national freight forum hosted by the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC). TMACOG President Anthony Reams and Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority President James Hartung made a joint presentation describing the working relationship between TMACOG and the Port Authority at the December freight and goods movement summit held in Corpus Christi, TX. Reams currently serves as second vice chair of the Board of Executive Directors of NARC. TMACOG Vice President of Transportation David Dysard moderated a session on “Economic Opportunities in Logistics and Just-in-time Delivery.” Dysard is chair of the Ohio Association of Regional Council’s transportation committee.



James Hartung (left), and Anthony Reams at the NARC freight summit

“Best Local Land Use” Workshops Offered by Ohio Lake Erie Commission

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission and Cleveland State University have partnered for a series of workshops around Ohio to address technical issues of best practices in total and balanced growth programs, including brownfields, historic and scenic protection, development regulations, and protective regulations. Two of the workshops are in northwest Ohio.

- Wednesday, January 17, Holiday In French Quarter, Perrysburg, 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 31, Erie County Building, Sandusky, 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Registration is due a week before the session that you plan to attend. Call 419.245.2514 for more information or to register. Additional opportunities planned for the spring include free technical assistance services that will be offered to ten individual communities in the Lake Erie Basin. See www.epa.state.oh.us/oleo/bg1/index.html.



Our Vision...

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

The Big Picture is published by TMACOG

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