



Mort Downey to Address Transportation Summit and Ohio Conference on Freight

Mortimer L. Downey will be the keynote speaker Monday, September 15 at a dinner which concludes TMACOG's Transportation Summit and is the first event of the 2008 Ohio Conference on Freight. The summit and conference will be at the SeaGate Convention Centre in Toledo.

Mr. Downey has had a prestigious career in national and international transportation. He completed eight years as U.S. Deputy Secretary of Transportation and managed that department's strategic planning process. He also served on the President's Management Council, and as a member of the board of directors of Amtrak. For a prior administration he served as the assistant secretary at the Department of Transportation with significant responsibilities for matters in the international arena, including bilateral negotiations, multinational conferences and international trade and development missions. Mr. Downey also served as executive director and chief financial officer at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) in New York. He will be addressing the summit and conference audience as chairman of the board of PB Consult, Inc., a firm which provides management consulting services to infrastructure owners, operators, developers and builders worldwide.

Also on the agenda of the Ohio Conference on Freight will be a presentation by Paul Martin and Bob Stevens representing **Melford International Terminal, Inc.** Melford International is developing a container terminal, rail intermodal facility, and logistics park at Melford on the Strait of Canso in Nova Scotia. Mark Barbash from the **Ohio Department of Development** will talk about strengthening the workforce for the integrated industries that make up freight transportation and logistics. Lisa Mancini, senior vice president for **CSX Gateway Intermodal Development** will describe the company's plans for increasing rail capacity and improving efficiency of goods transfer between east coast ports and Ohio and points west.

To see complete agendas or to register for the Transportation Summit or the Ohio Conference on Freight, go to www.tmacog.org and click on the conference logo on the home page.

Dam Mitigation and Site Restoration Workshop

There are two dam mitigation sites in the Toledo area which present two different challenges for restoration. A three-day workshop August 25-27 will include field work at both sites as well as presentations on hydrology, fluvial geomorphology, and restoration techniques.

The sites that are the subject of the workshop are Highland Park where a low-head dam is actually an encased sewer pipe which cannot be removed, and the Village of Ottawa Hills where a dam on the Ottawa River was removed in the fall of 2007. At Highland Park, mitigation efforts are designed to ease movement for fish and other aquatic wildlife. At the Ottawa Hills site, work will focus on restoration of the upstream portion of the river.

The workshop is open to anyone with an interest in dam mitigation and site restoration including consultants, contractors, nonprofit organizations, or ordinary citizens. Space is limited. To register, contact Kris Patterson, executive director of Partners for Clean Streams at 419.373.3006, or Matt Horvat at 419.241.9155 ext. 123 or horvat@tmacog.org.

Transportation Project Applications Due in September

Project applications for the Transportation Improvement Program (the TIP) and ODOT safety funds are being accepted in September 2008. Transportation Enhancement (TE) applications are due to TMACOG September 12. Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) project applications are due September 26. For application forms, contact Kent Gardam at 419.241.9155 ext. 116 or gardam@tmacog.org. Application forms for TIP and TE projects can also be downloaded from www.tmacog.org. Applications for ODOT safety funds are accepted twice a year with the next due date being September 30, 2008. Jurisdictions should contact ODOT District 2 Traffic Safety Engineer Jason Yeray at 419.373.4445 or jason.yeray@dot.state.oh.us.



Traffic Count Program to Extend Counting Season

TMACOG's traffic counting program collects and posts accurate information about traffic volume and speed throughout northwest Ohio and southern Monroe County, Michigan. This information is essential to jurisdictions making investments to improve safety, and also to businesses planning retail development or outdoor advertising. The staff normally measures 20 to 30 locations each week during the summer months. In 2008 and probably for the next few years, the counting program will extend well into the fall. Staff is handling requests from regional jurisdictions and working to update information where counts have not been taken for several years. The work load also includes some specific requests from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) needed to validate models and complete safety studies.

Traffic counts are updated and made accessible to the public as they come in. Go to www.tmacog.org/Transportation/traffic_flow.htm and select traffic database. A new feature of the database is a Google map add-on which shows precisely where the counts were taken. For more information contact Marc VonDeylen at 419.241.9155 ext. 136 or vondeylen@tmacog.org.

Monroe County Member Reception

TMACOG members from Monroe County are invited to join elected officials, community leaders, and key TMACOG staff at a reception Tuesday, September 30, 5-7 p.m. The reception will be held at the historic Motherhouse of the IHM Sisters in Monroe. Danielle Conroyd will speak about the renovation of the Motherhouse, which has been widely recognized for sustainable, environmentally conscious design. To register, contact Greg Gettum at 419.241.9155 ext. 132 or gettum@tmacog.org.

Ohio EPA Begins Long-Term Study of Portage River

As part of a state-wide program to document the condition of rivers in Ohio, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has begun comprehensive testing and sampling of the Portage River. The sampling is the first step in a federally required report called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). TMDL is the maximum amount of pollutants a water body can receive on a daily basis without violating water quality standards. A TMDL report identifies impairments in a watershed and uses community input to propose an improvement plan. The TMDL report will be an important resource as the partners of TMACOG's Portage River Basin Council create a watershed action plan for the Portage River.

School-age Commuters Can Pool to School

A parent who is managing the school commute can find that the driving adds hours to their day and costs plenty. A carpool can save gas for everyone, reduce road congestion, and give parents more time. Families who are interested can register with Share A Ride. Call 419.241.1919 (outside of the Toledo area call 800.241.1919) or register online at www.sharearide.org. Share A Ride staff will match families that live in the same neighborhood who are going to the same school and help you contact each other to form your own carpool. The more families from a school that register for Share A Ride, the better the chances of finding carpool partners.

College students can also enroll in Share A Ride. Students commuting from Toledo to Bowling Green State University, or from outlying areas to Owens Community College, can save on gas and parking fees by finding a carpool partner.

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