Intermodal Link

Guide for Lawmakers on Regional Transportation Priorities

The Transportation Coalition in northwest Ohio has built and produced the 2008-2009 Transportation Legislative Agenda. The agenda is a guide to state and federal lawmakers, with special emphasis directed to the federal lawmakers who will be enacting the next federal transportation bill over the next two years. The introduction of the document explains that the transportation system is at a major turning point:

Fifty years ago our national vision was to build the pre-eminent interstate highways system in the world. That vision has been realized. We must now expand our surface transportation investment to integrate all modes of transportation—highway, freight and passenger rail, public transit, air, and sea—to meet the future demands created by an increasing population, expanding economy and global movement of goods.

In northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, we have embraced this vision of the future. An important feature of the 2008-2009 Transportation Legislative Agenda is a description of a five-part Lake Erie West Global Logistics Hub.

- **A Trans-continent Inland Port**
  - Direct rail access to uncongested ports at both the Atlantic and Pacific sea-ports of North America

- **Toledo Seaport**
  - Now the largest land-mass seaport on the Great Lakes, with direct access to the St. Lawrence Seaway

- **Toledo Express Air Commerce Park**
  - Air cargo, rail accessibility, and direct Ohio Turnpike access for triple-trailers

- **Southern Great Lakes Distribution Corridor**
  - Rail accessibility and access to strategic north-south and east-west interstate highways serving all of eastern North America

- **CSX National Gateway Intermodal Terminal**
  - Direct rail access to east coast sea-ports, with plans for greatly increasing freight capacity

Each element of this hub is important and all should be promoted in order to realize the full economic potential of the region. The coalition that produced the 2008-2009 Transportation Legislative Agenda includes representatives of transportation businesses, government agencies, elected officials, economic development organizations, and others. TMACOG is coordinating development of the agenda. To review the agenda, see the link on the Transportation Department home page of www.tmacog.org.

(continued on page 4)
Ozone Action Is a Season
– Not Just a Day

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Breathing ozone can worsen bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma. Ground-level ozone also can reduce lung function and inflame the linings of the lungs. Repeated exposure may permanently scar lung tissue. Healthy people also experience difficulty breathing when exposed to ozone pollution. Ozone can trigger a variety of health problems including chest pain, coughing, and congestion. Anyone who spends time outdoors in the summer may be affected, particularly children, outdoor workers, and people exercising. Children are especially vulnerable because of their developing lungs.

Anyone can ask to receive the ozone forecast by e-mail. Please contact env.information@toledo.oh.gov.

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TVACOG and the City of Bowling Green also organized a bike ride. There were at least 15 communities and businesses in the TMACOG region participating in Bike to Work Day. In Holland, four of the seven elected officials participated, and a total of seven of the 15 full-time employees took part. Oregon was well-represented with 27 riders and the City of Toledo rallied riders for three different routes. Members of the administration, several different departments, and a contingent of police officers from the Toledo Mountain Bike Division rode in from three city parks and converged at Government Center. The City of Bowling Green also organized a ride.

For more Bike to Work Day photos, click on the What’s Hot button at www.tmacog.org.

Ward Bridge Park was one of three gathering points for City of Toledo workers who participated in Bike to Work Day.

City of Oregon employees with Mayor Marge Brown (first row, second from left) on Bike to Work Day.

A letter from the Chair of TMACOG

Intermodal transportation is a hot topic for our entire region, and this column is a chance for me to thank every community that is active in this important project. By expanding our transportation opportunities and connecting rail, air, sea, and land together, we can spur a new generation of economic investment in northwest Ohio.

Urban communities and rural communities together recognize the promise that intermodal transportation brings. Over the next weeks and months, we must take time to find the best ways to work together and say yes to meaningful opportunities.

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

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Several other Wood County educational institutions are members of TMACOG: Bowling Green State University; Owens Community College; Eastwood, North Baltimore, and Northwood Local Schools; and Rossford Village Schools. These educational institutions forge bonds with business and government to provide greater opportunities for their students.

Jim Witt, Superintendent of Lake Local School District points to the mission statement of his district: “The Mission of the Lake Local Schools, a dynamic, caring district, with a tradition for excellence, is to prepare, motivate, and challenge all students to achieve their highest potential. We are a diverse global society, by providing an excellent education and challenge all students to achieve excellence, is to prepare, motivate, and challenge all students to achieve their highest potential. We are a diverse global society, by providing an excellent education and preparing them to be productive members of society. We are committed to preparing our students for lifelong learning and becoming citizens of the world.”

TMACOG members are in front from left: Tim Brown, and holding the check, Alvie Perkins and Jim Carter.

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Eco-friendly Frogtown Fair

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For more information on the event, including registering as an exhibitor, purchasing a rain barrel or exchanging a thermometer, contact the Toledo Division of Environmental Services at 419.936.3015 or env.information@toledo.oh.gov.

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40 Years of Regional Cooperation

Visitors to the TMACOG offices at 300 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive will see new displays celebrating TMACOG’s service to the region since 1968. On the walls of the hallway are large panels showing TMACOG projects and programs—from the early studies for a new Maumee River crossing, to the Metropolitan Drug Unit. In the lobby area of the third floor is a new display featuring framed portraits of each of TMACOG’s past chairs.

Eco-friendly Frogtown Fair
The Transportation for Tomorrow” Survey – Fill Out Online

The 21st Century Task Force held a public meeting at Nitschke Hall at the University of Toledo, June 10.

Applications Available for TIP and Transportation Enhancement Projects

The Transportation Summit & Ohio Conference on Freight

From September 15 through September 17, Toledo will be the site of two important transportation-related conferences. The Transportation Summit on September 15 focuses on the transportation issues directly affecting northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. Workshops at the summit will address innovations in fuel efficiency and the relationships between transportation, economic development, and funding. The opening presentation will address emergency evacuation and the upcoming Toledo area freeway management system.

The Transportation Summit concludes with a dinner on September 15 that is also the kick off for the Ohio Conference on Freight. The conference, which continues September 16 and 17, addresses all modes of freight transportation, transportation logistics, and related workforce development in Ohio and the Great Lakes region.

The conference is presented by TMAOG in partnership with the National Association of Regional Councils. The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority is the state Host Sponsor. For more information or to register for either or both conferences, go to www.tmacog.org and click on the freight conference logo.

Next Phase of “Fort to Port” Project Underway in Henry County

In northwest Ohio, US 24 is a critical shipping route. ODOT states that trucks represent a third of the overall traffic on the highway. The mixture of trucks with residential commuter traffic has created long-standing safety concerns. The “Fort to Port” project is the complete renovation of US 24 connecting Fort Wayne, Indiana, with the Port of Toledo. A phase of construction now underway in Henry County will reconstruct US 24 as a four-lane highway from Township Road 10 to County Road 4A. The 5.11-mile section also includes the realignment of CR 4A, creating four bridges over streams or railroads and building an interchange at State Route 109. The renovation will reduce the number of access points as well as add lanes, and is expected to reduce accidents significantly. The entirely renovated highway between Napoleon and Waterville is scheduled to be complete in the fall of 2011.

New Guide to Bicycle Facilities Available

TMAOG’s Pedestrian and Bikeways Committee has revised the regional bike facilities guide. The new edition will be published in July. Also in progress is a bicycle user’s pocket guide which will be produced later in the summer. These two guides will provide information for both recreational and commuting cyclists.

The 2008-2009 Bicycle Facilities Guide for Recreational Riding provides a large map showing current bike trails, paths, lanes, and signed routes. Additional maps show details of paths in the Toledo area and its suburbs and plans for future development. The guide lists details of the region’s many multi-use paths with information about trail surface and how different resources connect. The full-size 12-page guide will be available upon request at TMAOG, and a PDF will also be posted at www.tmacog.org.

Where the comprehensive facilities guide provides an overview of recreational facilities as well as street routes, the Bicycle User’s Pocket Guide is being designed as a compact reference tool for bike commuters. It will help a cyclist design a route to match the rider’s skill level with details of amount of traffic and traffic speed on different roadways. For more information see the bike and pedestrian section of the Transportation Department pages on www.tmacog.org.
The Transportation (TE) program is a part of the TIP with a separate application, also due by September 12. Eligible TE projects must be related to surface transportation and can include pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and safety programs, scenic and historic highway programs, street landscaping and scenic beautification, historic preservation, and environmental mitigation. Examples of TE projects in the TMACOG region include the bike and pedestrian bridge over U.S. 24 at the Fallen Timbers Battlefield, streetscapes on Monroe Street in downtown Toledo, and bike paths in the City of Oregon.

Applications for TIP projects and for TE projects will be mailed to jurisdictions and can also be downloaded from www.tmacog.org. Contact Kent Gardam at 419.241.9155 ext. 116 or gardam@tmacog.org for TIP projects and Diane Reamer-Evans for TE projects: ext. 117, or evans@tmacog.org.

The Ohio 21st Century Transportation Priorities Task Force wants as much public input as possible as it works on a tight schedule to prepare its report this fall. Interested people are asked to go to http://transportationfortomorrow.ohio.gov (don’t type “www.”) and fill out a survey which asks you to weigh the important decisions that need to be made about transportation expenditures.

The task force has been convened by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to involve all Ohioans in transportation issues facing the state. The goal of the task force is to prioritize transportation needs. The task force is being convened by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to involve all Ohioans in transportation issues facing the state. The goal of the task force is to prioritize transportation needs.

Balances the movement of people and freight
Promotes safety and reduces congestion
Creates jobs
Encourages responsible growth
Helps to build sustainable communities
Links all modes of transportation: connecting highways to rail, aviation, water ports, and transit

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The 63-member task force includes four members from northwest Ohio: Anthony Reams, president of TMACOG, chairs the sub-committee charged with promoting a multimodal transportation system. James Hartung, president of the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority; and Mark Vonderembse, professor of Information Operations & Technology Management at the University of Toledo, are also on that sub-committee. Curt Finkbeiner, mayor of the City of Toledo, is a member of the economic development sub-committee.

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**Swan Creek by Canoe**

Recently, a group of people concerned with water quality in the region toured Swan Creek by canoe from a point near Reynolds Rd. and Airport Hwy, to where the creek empties into the Maumee River at the Middlegrounds in downtown Toledo. Those taking the trip were comparing the condition of the creek to what was seen on a similar excursion made 30 years ago. Matt Horvat, TMACOG’s Maumee River Coordinator was part of the group. He said that the condition of the creek was better than he anticipated. The biggest concern that he noted is stormwater management—the volume and velocity of inflows, and controlling June 6 on Swan Creek contaminants that come with stormwater. As the river enters downtown Toledo, Horvat notes that the city’s back is to the river, with walls and industry blocking access and views.

**Environmental Resolutions Approved by TMACOG Leadership**

The TMACOG leadership reviewed resolutions at their June 11 meeting in support of environmental initiatives. A resolution in support of the Clean Ohio Fund was approved by the Executive Committee. If renewal is approved by voters in November, at least $400 million will be available in Ohio to preserve natural areas and farmland, protect streams, create outdoor recreation opportunities, and rehabilitate brownfields. Between 2000 and 2006, the Clean Ohio fund returned more than $5 million to Lucas County for the protection of open spaces and wetlands. The Board of Trustees approved resolutions in support of a Portage River log jam removal project consistent with the health of habitat, and to endorse the update to the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan (the 208 Plan). The 208 Plan is an ongoing program between jurisdictions in northwest Ohio and southern Michigan which documents consensus on sewer and sewerage plans for the region.
**Northwest Ohio CommuterLINK Update**

As of May 1, 2008

- Daily Adult Riders: 26
- Children Transported: 24
- Number of Daycares Used: 13
- Employers: 22
- Employer Locations: 22
- TARTA routes affected: 4

**Northwest Ohio CommuterLINK**

Connecting people to jobs

A PROGRAM OF TMACOG

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**Northwest Ohio Car Buy Update**

**Car Buy Program**

January 1, 2005 - June 1, 2008

- Cars Delivered: 473
- Cars Paid Off: 387

**Fiscal Year 2008**

(June 30, 2007 - June 1, 2008)

- Applicants Approved: 38
- Cars Delivered: 24
- Currently Making Payments: 44

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**A letter from the Chair of TMACOG**

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Whether you represent Springfield Township, Wood County, or the City of Toledo, all of us recognize the extraordinary opportunities that intermodal transportation brings. We should be proud as a community to have such significant leaders to rely on, like Rich Martinko with the University of Toledo’s Intermodal Transportation Institute or Jim Hartung and the staff of the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority. And of course, we can’t forget to thank our own champion of this issue, Tony Reams of TMACOG!

Urban communities and rural communities together recognize the promise that intermodal transportation brings. Over the next weeks and months, we must take time to find the best ways to work together and say yes to meaningful opportunities.

I can assure you that Lucas County will be reaching out to partner with communities in and out of the county to take us to the next level with intermodal transportation. TMACOG will continue to be a resource for expertise and a forum for nonpartisan cooperation as we proceed. I hope that community leaders will continue to pay close attention to developments and participate in public hearings and input sessions. We need everyone’s input and all good ideas brought to the table.

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**Perspectives...**

To respond to this letter, email perspectives@tmacog.org
The Transportation Coalition in northwest Ohio has built and produced the 2008-2009 Transportation Legislative Agenda. The agenda is a guide to state and federal lawmakers, with special emphasis directed to the federal lawmakers who will be enacting the next federal transportation bill over the next two years. The introduction of the document explains that the transportation system is at a major turning point:

Fifty years ago our national vision was to build the pre-eminent interstate highway system in the world. That vision has been realized. We must now expand our surface transportation investment to integrate all modes of transportation—highway, freight and passenger rail, public transit, air, and sea—to meet the future demands created by an increasing population, expanding economy and global movement of goods.

In northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, we have embraced this vision of the future. An important feature of the 2008-2009 Transportation Legislative Agenda is a description of a five-part Lake Erie West Global Logistics Hub.

- **A Trans-continental Inland Port**
  Direct rail access to uncongested ports at both the Atlantic and Pacific sea ports of North America

- **Toledo Seaport**
  Now the largest land-mass seaport on the Great Lakes, with direct access to the St. Lawrence Seaway

- **Toledo Express Air Commerce Park**
  Air cargo, rail accessibility, and direct Ohio Turnpike access for triple-trailers

- **Southern Great Lakes Distribution Corridor**
  Rail accessibility and access to strategic north-south and east-west interstate highways serving all of eastern North America

- **CSX National Gateway Intermodal Terminal**
  Direct rail access to east coast sea ports, with plans for greatly increasing freight capacity

Each element of this hub is important and all should be promoted in order to realize the full economic potential of the region. The coalition that produced the 2008-2009 Transportation Legislative Agenda includes representatives of transportation businesses, government agencies, elected officials, economic development organizations, and others. TMACOG is coordinating development of the agenda. To review the agenda, see the link on the Transportation Department home page of www.tmacog.org.

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