Bike to Work or School – For Your Health and for a Healthier Community

Bike to Work Day is Tuesday, May 20

Now an annual spring event, Bike to Work Day is an opportunity to experience bicycling as a practical way to commute. On May 20*, TMACOG is encouraging students and workers to give it a try. Leaving the car at home even a few days a week saves a lot of gas money and reduces road congestion and air pollution. And it’s not hard. In northwestern Ohio we have very few hills and lots of bike paths. Most workers commute nine miles or less which is actually an easy distance on a bicycle.

On Bike to Work Day, there will be two organized gathering points for bicyclists who commute to downtown Toledo: Ottawa Park on Kenwood near the police substation, and Walbridge Park near the Toledo Zoo. City of Oregon workers will finish their ride at Recreational Complex Pavilion on Seaman Road. TMACOG staff will be on hand to distribute information about safe bicycling and to enter riders in a drawing. Riders assembled at the two Toledo locations will leave at about 8:30 a.m. for the ride downtown. Experienced bicyclists will lead both groups, demonstrating safe and legal riding skills. If it’s too far to ride to work, cyclists can bike to a bus. All TARTA buses have bike racks and TARTA is only 25 cents all week (May 19-23) for people using the racks.

Enter to Win one of Forty $50 Gift Certificates!

Bicycle commuters who are part of an organized ride on Bike to Work Day can be entered in a drawing for one of 40 gift certificates each worth $50. Entry forms will be collected at gathering points before riders depart. Gift certificates are provided by the Bike Route and the Maumee Valley Alternative Transportation Alliance, a new organization promoting cycling and other non-motorized transportation. Additional sponsorship is provided by Owens Corning.

For more information on Bike to Work Day or to plan a group ride, contact Kent Gardam at 419.241.9155 ext. 116 or gardam@tmacog.org. For more information on area bicycle facilities, maps, and links to laws related to bike riding, see the Bike and Pedestrian section on the Transportation page of www.tmacog.org.

*rain date is Thursday, May 22.
Northwest Ohio CommuterLINK Update

As of April 1, 2008

Daily Adult Riders 11
Children Transported Daily 15
Number of Daycares Used 10
Employers 11
Employer Locations 11
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.

As of April 1, 2008

Currently Making Payments 9
Cars Paid Off 23
Cars Delivered 17

January 1, 2001 - April 1, 2008

(Fiscal Year to Date)

Forwarded for Special Transportation Grants

Local agencies which provide transportation services to elderly or disabled people have applied to ODOT for Federal Transit Administration grants to help with purchase of a lift van or other transportation equipment. In February, TMACOG’s Transportation Council and Executive Committee approved forwarding applications submitted by three local agencies: the East Toledo Family Center, United Jewish Council, and Bittersweet Inc. Grants have not been announced yet, but for the last few years, the TMACOG region has been awarded one or two grants each year.

Local Applications Forwarded for Special Transportation Grants

Share A Ride And Save for the Weekend

TMACOG is introducing a fresh campaign to encourage carpooling, “Share A Ride And Save for the Weekend” will soon be heard in regularly scheduled radio ads, and a new logo will be incorporated into print materials as they are reprinted.

“Save for the Weekend” is our way of reminding people that if you carpool during the work week, you’ll have more money available for the weekend,” says Stephanie Rizer, Share A Ride program manager. “You’ll be saving on gasoline and on car repair expenses because you’ll be putting fewer miles on your car.”

In addition to saving gas money and wear and tear on the car, fewer cars on the road mean less air pollution and less road congestion, too. A family that joins a carpool might even be able to get away with owning just one car which can be a considerable savings. To find carpool partners call Share A Ride at 419-241-1919. You’ll answer a few questions about your commuting time and route. Then TMACOG will match you with others who share your schedule. For more information, also see www.shareaire.org.

Perspectives...

TMACOG Partners with NARC on Ohio Conference on Freight

September 15-17, 2008
SeaGate Convention Centre
Toledo OH

For three days in September 2008, experts from around Ohio and the Great Lakes region will gather in Toledo for two conferences on transportation and freight. Three days of events begin with the one-day Transportation Summit. The summit focuses on the transportation needs of the immediate Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) area of Lucas and Wood counties in Ohio and southern Monroe County, Michigan. Presentations planned for the summit include funding, economic development related to transportation, safety and security, and green transportation.

A dinner which concludes the Transportation Summit is also the kick off for the Ohio Conference on Freight. Now in its second year, the Ohio Conference on Freight will also be attracting participants from across the nation through a partnership with the National Association of Regional Conferences (NARC). As in 2007, the State Host Sponsor of the Ohio Conference on Freight is the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority. Both the Transportation Summit and the Ohio Conference on Freight are based at the SeaGate Centre. As the conference schedule is confirmed, details will be posted on www.tmacog.org. Look for the Ohio Conference on Freight logo on the Transportation home page.

Genoa Area Local Schools is the newest governmental member of TMACOG. Genoa is the first school system in Ottawa County to join TMACOG. More information about the school system is at www.genoa-schools.com.

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Save the Date

Wood County Member Reception
Monday, June 30, 2008
Bowling Green Community Center

Perspectives...

A letter from the President of TMACOG

In the same way, regional and state leaders must decide how and where to spend every shrinking dollars to best position the region for a sustainable future. The world market is a reality and necessitates a new look at goods movement between foreign and domestic markets. Bollenecks at west coast seaports and midwest rail yards make alternative ports of entry very attractive to shippers. Railroads are planning new transfer hubs to get freight to every corner of the nation. Businesses are demanding just in time deliveries of components and also want finished products to reduce the cost of inventory on hand. Multi-modal facilities equipped to handle sea, rail, and truck freight are the future of goods movement.

This region is ideally positioned geographically to be a multi-modal freight center. But, we must also be prepared in other ways: certainly with physical infrastructure, but as importantly, as a community. We must offer a workforce skilled in up-to-date logistics technologies. Fortunately we have a quality workforce and top-notch educational partners, willing to develop cutting edge training and curricula in freight management and goods movement.

We must also help our constituents understand and accept inevitable, sometimes difficult changes that come with preparing for the future. The future is here and multi-modal freight hubs are key to growth in our region. If we are to ensure the region’s success as a leader in goods movement, we must be prepared to accept the development of goods handling facilities. The challenges are many and decisions may be difficult, but our strength lies in our history of coming together in good and uncertain times to bring focus and direction to our region.

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TMACOG, the National Association of Railroad Passengers, and the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority are partnering in the event to promote greater interest in rail travel and bring attention to the need for a modern high speed rail system. For more information, contact Diane Reamer-Evans at ext. 117 or evans@tmacog.org; or e-mail the local chapter of All Aboard Ohio at Discoverrail@aol.com.
208 Plan Update Goes to Environmental Council

While the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan (the 208 Plan) is regularly updated and revised by the cooperating governments as needed, in 2008 it was completely reviewed and the update was voted on by the TMACOG Board of Trustees on June 11. The 208 Plan serves as an intergovernmental agreement about wastewater service areas, but it is also a capital improvement plan. Nearly half of the participating governments covered by the plan are dealing with problems of combined sewer overflows (CSOs). In some cases, plans to protect water quality will require a very large investment. In the Bowling Green area, more than $10 million will be needed for wastewater treatment plant improvements and CSO prevention. On South Bass Island, the plan calls for expanding the wastewater treatment plant and includes language requiring package plants and on-site septic systems to tap into available sewers. In Perrysburg, more than $30 million is necessary for CSO projects and an expansion of the wastewater treatment plant.

The revised 208 Plan will be presented to the Environmental Council on May 22. The council will be asking for comment and recommendations. The 208 Plan goes to the Board of Trustees June 11. If approved, it will then be sent to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. All members are invited to the May 22 meeting. To review the newest draft of the 208 Plan, see www.tmacog.org/Environmental/208PlanDrafts/208WaterManPlan_B.htm. For questions or comments, contact Kurt Enichsen at 419.241.9155, ext. 126 or kurt@tmacog.org.

Learning about Habitat in the Portage River Basin

Students from four Junior and Senior High schools will be participating in an annual Portage River watershed-wide program this spring. In April, students applied their skills in real fieldwork: collecting water samples, measuring water chemistry, and identifying aquatic macroinvertebrates. Then on May 8, the students come together at Bowling Green State University to share results and take part in a series of educational workshops and activities.

This year, all participating students and classrooms will receive a packet of comprehensive field guides from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Wildlife. In addition to the ODNR, support for the Portage River Student Congress comes from TMACOG’s Portage River Basin Council, Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Ottawa and Wood counties, BGSU Center for Environmental Studies, and business partners Elmore Manufacturing and Brush Wellman, Inc.

Ad Hoc Committee Reviewing Environmental Priorities

TMACOG has formed a new ad hoc committee to review environmental needs and establish direction for TMACOG efforts in water quality in the Maumee River watershed. The group is co-chaired by Tina Sheldon Wozniak, chair of TMACOG and president of Lucas County Commissioners, and Jim Carter, TMACOG board member and president of Wood County Commissioners. At the initial meeting, committee members listed environmental issues affecting their jurisdictions. They also began a review of public and private environmental groups at work in the region to identify gaps and help focus attention on needs. Minutes from the first meeting of the Maumee River Ad Hoc Committee can be found on the Environmental home page of www.tmacog.org.

Ottawa River Habitat Inventory Complete

A project to identify land along the Ottawa River with potential for restoration of wetland habitat has concluded with a report on four separate parcels. The consultant managing the project is Mannik & Smith. Their team coordinated efforts with the Ottawa River Habitat Inventory management team which includes members from TMACOG, the University of Toledo, National Fish and Wildlife, and the Ohio EPA.

When developers get permission to build in an area where wetlands will be affected, they usually are required to restore some other wetland area – within the same watershed if possible. Because TMACOG and partners have identified areas with potential for restoration and have preliminary plans in place, the sites on the Ottawa River will be priorities for restoration.

Initial research looked at existing information including aerial maps, known wetlands, areas where endangered plants and animals were known to be, and type of land cover. From that compilation of research, the management team selected 10 properties for field evaluation. All 10 of the properties had some potential but four areas best fit the criteria for restoration, with large area, connection to existing habitat, and other natural features. The consultants developed conceptual plans for restoration of these four areas.

• Off Shoreland Road in Point Place, an area with existing aquatic vegetation has potential for restoration of an emergent wetlands.
• In Ottawa Park, an area north of Bancroft Street could be restored and would reduce flooding along a section of the golf course fairway in the park.
• The smallest of the parcels considered is in a wooded area in Willys Park. It has potential to be one or more vernal pools.
• In the Village of Ottawa Hills east of Talmadge Road, an area could be replanted to replace grasses with a diverse wetland mix, or re-graded and replanted to create a wet meadow.

This inventory will be shared with agencies that are responsible for restoration and mitigation planning. For more information, see www.tmacog.org/Environment/Ottawa_River_habitat.htm

Strickland to Seek Voter Approval for Clean Ohio Fund

Ohio Governor Strickland recently announced an agreement that would place the Clean Ohio Fund on the Ohio ballot in November, 2008. The fund calls for $400 million to preserve natural areas and farmland, protect streams, create outdoor recreation opportunities, and rehabilitate brownfields in urban areas. Between 2000 and 2006, the Clean Ohio Fund returned more than $5 million to Lucas County for the protection of open spaces and wetlands.

TMACOG administers the Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) in Lucas County. NRAC is the agency which recommends projects for funding under the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program. The TMACOG Environmental Council will vote on a resolution in support of Clean Ohio Fund at their meeting May 22. It is expected that the committee will approve and will recommend that the TMACOG Executive Committee also approve a resolution in support of the renewal. For more information about NRAC and the Clean Ohio Fund, see www.tmacog.org/Environment/NRAC/nrac_body.htm.
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- 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.

Share A Ride And Save for the Weekend

TMACOG is introducing a fresh campaign to encourage carpooling.
“Share A Ride And Save for the Weekend” will soon be heard in regu-
larly scheduled radio ads, and a new logo will be incorporated into
print materials as they are reprinted.

“Save for the Weekend” is our way of reminding people that if you
carpool during the work week, you’ll have more money available for the
weekend,” says Stephanie Rizer, Share A Ride program manager.
“You’ll be saving on gasoline and on car repair expenses because you’ll be putting fewer miles on your car.”

In addition to saving gas money and wear and tear on the car, fewer
cars on the road mean less air pollution and less road congestion,
too. A family that joins a carpool might even be able to get away with
owning just one car which can be a considerable savings. To find car-
pool partners call Share A Ride at 800-241-1919. You’ll answer a few
questions about your commuting time and route. Then TMACOG will
match you with others who share your schedule. For more information,
also see www.sharearide.org.

Local Applications Forwarded for Special Transportation Grants

Local agencies which provide transportation services to elderly or
disabled people have applied to ODOT for Federal Transit Administra-
tion grants to help with purchase of a lift van or other transportation
equipment. In February, TMACOG’s Transportation Council and Execu-
tive Committee approved forwarding applications submitted by three
local agencies: the East Toledo Family Center, United Jewish Council,
and Bittersweet Inc. Grants have not been announced yet, but for the
last few years, the TMACOG region has been awarded one or two
grants each year.

TMACOG Partners with NARC on Ohio Conference on Freight

September 15-17, 2008
SeaGate Convention Centre
Toledo OH

For three days in September 2008, experts from around Ohio and the Great
Lakes region will gather in Toledo for two conferences on transportation
and freight. Three days of events begin with the one-day Transportation
Summit. The summit focuses on the transportation needs of the immediate
Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) area of Lucas and Wood
Counties in Ohio and southern Monroe County, Michigan. Presentations
planned for the summit include funding, economic development
related to transportation, safety and security, and green transportation.

A dinner which concludes the Transportation Summit is also the kick-
off for the Ohio Conference on Freight. Now in its second year, the
Ohio Conference on Freight will also be attracting participants from
across the nation through a partnership with the National Association of
Regional Conferences (NARC). As in 2007, the State Host Sponsor
of the Ohio Conference on Freight is the Toledo-Lucas County Port
Authority. Both the Transportation Summit and the Ohio Conference on
Freight are based at the SeaGate Centre. As the conference schedule
is confirmed, details will be posted on www.tmacrog.org. Look for the
Ohio Conference on Freight logo on the Transportation home page.

Welcome New TMACOG Member

Genoa Area Local Schools is the newest governmental member of
TMACOG. Genoa is the first school system in Ottawa County to join
TMACOG. More information about the school system is at www.genoa-
schools.com.

Save the Date
Wood County Member Reception
Monday, June 30, 2008
Bowling Green Community Center

Perspectives...

A letter from the President of TMACOG

Prices are climbing and the dollar is falling. The cost of oil, construction materials, and food all are rising. We
are constantly challenged to make the best use of our resources; opening windows before we turn on the air
conditioning; car pooling, and clipping coupons. The difficult spending decisions we make today in our
households help shape our future lifestyle expectations.

In the same way, regional and state leaders must decide how and where to spend ever shrinking dollars to best position the region for a
sustainable future. The world market is a reality and necessitates a new look at goods movement
between foreign and domestic markets. Bottlenecks at west coast seaports and midwest rail yards
make alternative ports of entry very attractive to shippers. Railroads are planning new transfer
hubs to get freight to every corner of the nation. Businesses are demanding just in time delivery
and also want finished products to reduce the cost of inventory on hand. Multi-modal facilities to handle sea, rail, and truck
freight are the future of goods movement

This region is ideally positioned geographically to be a multi-modal freight center. But, we must also be prepared in other ways; certainly with physical
infrastructure, but as importantly, as a community.

We must offer a workforce skilled in up-to-date logistics technologies. Fortunately we have a quality
workforce and top-notch educational partners, willing to develop cutting edge training and curricula
in freight management and goods movement.

We must also help our constituents understand and accept inevitable, sometimes difficult changes
that come with preparing for the future. The future is here and multi-modal freight hubs are key to
growth in our region. If we are to ensure the region’s success as a leader in goods movement, we must
be prepared to accept the development of goods handling facilities. The challenges are many and
decisions may be difficult, but our strength lies in our history of coming together in good and uncertain
times to bring focus and direction to our region.

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

Anthony L. Reams
Bike to Work or School – For Your Health and for a Healthier Community

Now an annual spring event, Bike to Work Day is an opportunity to experience bicycling as a practical way to commute. On May 20*, TMACOG is encouraging students and workers to give it a try. Leaving the car at home even a few days a week saves a lot of gas money and reduces road congestion and air pollution. And it’s not hard. In northwest Ohio we have very few hills and lots of bike paths. Most workers commute nine miles or less which is actually an easy distance on a bicycle.

On Bike to Work Day, there will be two organized gathering points for bicyclists who commute to downtown Toledo: Ottawa Park on Kenwood near the police substation, and Walbridge Park near the Toledo Zoo. City of Oregon workers will finish their ride at Recreational Complex Pavilion on Seaman Road. TMACOG staff will be on hand to distribute information about safe bicycling and to enter riders in a drawing. Riders assembled at the two Toledo locations will leave at about 8:30 a.m. for the ride downtown. Experienced bicyclists will lead both groups, demonstrating safe and legal riding skills. If it’s too far to ride to work, cyclists can bike to a bus. All TARTA buses have bike racks and TARTA is only 25 cents all week (May 19-23) for people using the racks.

*rain date is Thursday, May 22.

Enter to Win one of Forty $50 Gift Certificates!
Bicycle commuters who are part of an organized ride on Bike to Work Day can be entered in a drawing for one of 40 gift certificates each worth $50. Entry forms will be collected at gathering points before riders depart. Gift certificates are provided by the Bike Route and by the Maumee Valley Alternative Transportation Alliance, a new organization promoting cycling and other non-motorized transportation. Additional sponsorship is provided by Owens Corning.

For more information on Bike to Work Day or to plan a group ride, contact Kent Gardam at 419.241.9155 ext. 116 or gardam@tmacog.org. For more information on area bicycle facilities, maps, and links to laws related to bike riding, see the Bike and Pedestrian section on the Transportation page of www.tmacog.org.
## Eventline...

### May 2008

- **Thursday, May 1**  
  FEMA Floodplain Management Committee  
  Time: 10 a.m.  
  Location: TMACOG Boardroom  
  Contact: Kurt Erichsen, ext. 126
- **Wednesday, May 7**  
  Stormwater Coalition  
  Time: 1:30 p.m.  
  Location: TMACOG Boardroom  
  Contact: Kurt Erichsen, ext. 126
- **Wednesday, May 15**  
  Thursday, May 29  
  Transportation Council  
  Time: 3 p.m.  
  Location: TMACOG Boardroom  
  Contact: Warren Henry, ext. 129
  Ottawa County Member Reception  
  Time: 5-7 p.m.  
  Location: Schedel Arboretum & Gardens, Elmore  
  Contact: Greg Gettum, ext. 132
- **Thursday, May 22**  
  Environmental Council  
  Time: 1:30 p.m.  
  Location: TMACOG Boardroom  
  Contact: Kurt Erichsen, ext. 126
- **Tuesday, May 27**  
  Freight Committee  
  Time: 11:30 a.m.  
  Location: TMACOG Boardroom  
  Contact: Patrick Dennis, ext. 115
- **Wednesday, May 28**  
  System Performance and Monitoring Committee  
  Time: 2 p.m.  
  Location: TMACOG Boardroom  
  Contact: Kent Gardam, ext. 116

### June 2008

- **Wednesday, June 4**  
  Transportation Council  
  Time: 3 p.m.  
  Location: TMACOG Boardroom  
  Contact: Diane Reamer-Evans, ext. 117
- **Wednesday, June 11**  
  Stormwater Action Group  
  Time: 10 a.m.  
  Location: TMACOG Boardroom  
  Contact: Kent Gardam, ext. 116
- **Wednesday, June 25**  
  Transportation Council joint meeting with SEMCOG  
  Time: 1 p.m.  
  Location: Cabela's, Dundee, MI  
  Contact: Warren Henry, ext. 129

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**TMACOG Phone: 419.241.9155**