The third edition of the stormwater manual is posted on the Environment pages of www.tmacog.org. For more information on the manual or the Stormwater Coalition, contact Kurt Erichsen at 419.241.9155 ext. 126 or kurt@tmacog.org.
**Northwest Ohio CommuterLINK Update**

**As of September 1, 2008**

- Daily Adult Riders: 6
- Children Transported Daily: 6
- Number of Daycares Used: 4
- Employers: 6
- 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.*

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**Share A Ride Registration Now Online With Instant Reports**

People in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan who are looking for carpool partners may now register online and get a report of people with matching commutes immediately. Start at www.shareasride.org. Click on “Register.” You will be taken to RideShareOhio. Click on “Register” in the blue box to get started. Once you have entered some information about where you work and what your commute hours are, you can print out your carpool matches. Simply call the people on your report to start carpooling and saving gas money.

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**Share A Ride Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

**Q:** How much does Share a Ride cost?

**A:** It’s free. There is no charge to register and no charge to participate. Start saving right away.

**Q:** Do I need a car to participate in carpooling?

**A:** Not necessarily - you could be in a carpool as a passenger. As a passenger, you could contribute to the cost of fuel and parking.

**Q:** What if I don’t want to carpool everyday?

**A:** You and your carpool partners make arrangements to suit yourselves. Carpooling even a few days a week will still save you plenty.

**Q:** Will Share A Ride help me find a ride to doctor’s appointments or shopping trips?

**A:** No, Share A Ride is not an “on demand” service and does not provide transportation for medical or personal appointments. Share a Ride is a program to reduce the number of single occupant commuters driving to and from work or school.

**Q:** Where can I go for more information about the Share A Ride program?

**A:** You can call TMACOG at 419.241.1919 ext. 132 (outside of the Toledo area call 800.241.1919), or visit www.shareasride.org.

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**Intermodal Terminal Proposed in Southwest Detroit**

The Michigan Department of Transportation has proposed to consolidate rail and truck traffic to create a new Detroit Intermodal Freight Terminal near Dix and Livernois in southeast Detroit. The $612 million project will consolidate several Class I railroads into a common yard. The new track would also be used by Amtrak passenger trains. The Transportation Advisory Committee of Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) supports amending their long-term transportation plan to add the project. Financing is planned through a combination of state and federal sources, plus private contributions from several railroads.

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**2009 Directory of Public Officials**

TMACOG staff has begun preparation of the annual directory of public officials which includes information about jurisdictions and agencies in 14 counties of northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. Non-governmental members and non-elected entities will be receiving letters in November asking them to confirm their contact information. Information about elected officials will be confirmed in early 2009, after elections and after the new year’s first organizational meetings. New directories will be published in March. The directory is a benefit of membership in TMACOG. For more information, contact Jennifer Allen at 419.241.9155 ext. 134 or allen@tmacog.org.

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**Donate Your Car Soon for 2008 Deduction**

If you have a car, RV, motorcycle, or boat that you no longer need, consider donating it to TMACOG soon so that you can take a tax deduction in 2008. TMACOG accepts donations of any sort of vehicle. If it isn’t running, we’ll arrange to pick it up. For more information or to donate a vehicle, call Russ Stasiak at 419.241.9155 ext. 158.

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**Mark Your Calendar**

- **Fulton County Member Reception**
  - Thursday, November 13, 5-7 p.m.
  - North Star Bluescope Steel, Delta
- **2009 TMACOG General Assembly**
  - Thursday, January 29
  - Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg

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**North Star Bluescope Steel, Delta**

**2008 Deduction**

- **Donate Your Car Soon**
  - **Intermodal Terminal Proposed in Southwest Detroit**
  - **Share A Ride Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**
  - **Share A Ride Registration Now Online With Instant Reports**
  - **Northwest Ohio CommuterLINK Update**
  - **2009 Directory of Public Officials**
  - **Donate Your Car Soon for 2008 Deduction**
  - **Mark Your Calendar**

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**Perspectives...**

As we approach Election Day in one of the biggest financial crises our country has ever faced, our local communities have never faced a more important choice. Some say that our region must stick with the past legacies that have made us strong. Others say that it’s time to embrace the important opportunities of the future that are coming our way.

Luckily, we have an organization like TMACOG that can give us both. Although TMACOG has had a long history in this community, it has never been old. For the last 40 years, TMACOG has fought for our shared interests, no matter what challenges our region has faced. We’ve built bridges, both figuratively and literally, to bring us closer together and help our region grow and thrive. But without your support and participation, TMACOG is nothing more than a funny acronym.

No matter who you are supporting this election season, our region deserves strong leaders who recognize the significant challenges that we face, and are ready to make a difference. Elected office should not be easy. The voters have given us incredible responsibilities and we have no choice but to get it right.

Now more than ever, we must make sure that the voices that will fight for northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan are heard. That’s what each of us pledges as a member of TMACOG.
Clean Ohio Funds Available to Nonprofits in Lucas County

The Clean Ohio Fund has allocated at least $1.01 million for open space preservation in Lucas County. Additional funds may be available if Ohio voters approve a ballot issue in November. Nonprofit agencies in Lucas County are invited to apply for these funds through TMACOG and the Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC). Potential applicants are strongly urged to attend an informational meeting December 2, 2:30 p.m. at TMACOG. The deadline for applications is February 6 at 5 p.m. All applicants will be notified of NRAC’s recommendation by March 31. For more information or to request an application, contact Kurt Erichsen at 419.241.9155 ext. 126 or kurt@tmacog.org.

Student Watershed Watch in the Maumee River Watershed

The 2008 Student Watershed Watch will be the 19th for this annual two part water quality monitoring project. Each year, TMACOG and its supporting partners provide testing kits, teacher training sessions, and manuals for up to 20 classrooms from middle school to high school. At rivers and streams throughout the watershed, students test water samples for pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, nitrates and phosphates, and more. Students also search for and identify macroinvertebrates. The type of living things found in the water and streambed is a good indicator of the health of the water. Back in the classroom, students review their work and prepare their reports.

Nearly 240 students will participate in the Student Summit November 19 at the Toledo Zoo. Each classroom is responsible for creating a display of their findings. Some schools have been part of the Student Watershed Watch for many years and students from those schools chart the current year findings against their historical records. Each class also creates a presentation, usually in PowerPoint but sometimes involving animation, puppets, or theatre.

Thank you to the 2008 donors who support the project: City of Toledo, First Solar, Sunoco, Perstorp, and GM. Additional support is provided by the Toledo Zoo, the University of Toledo, and EarthForce.

Dam Mitigation Projects Have Dramatic Effects

On Swan Creek in South Toledo’s Highland Park, a concrete-encased sewer pipe created a dangerous low-head dam. On the Ottawa River in Ottawa Hills, an eight foot tall dam no longer served a function and created dangerous turbulence. In both cases, TMACOG and its partners were able to reduce the danger and allow fish to move freely upstream.

Partners for Clean Streams, TMACOG, the Joyce Foundation, and others cooperated in a project that has created new attractive access to the river at Highland Park, with native planting areas. In the river itself, small and large stones were used to create stepdowns from the dam.

In the Ottawa River off Secor Road, the tall dam was reduced to rubble to create a riffle. Some of that rubble was also used to shore up erosion prone river banks.
### TIP: Federal Fund Obligated Projects During State Fiscal Year 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PID</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Project Limits</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Total Project Fund</th>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Total Project Fund</th>
<th>Phase</th>
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<td>Providence-Naples to Hudson</td>
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<td>Replace Existing Structure</td>
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### TRANSIT PROJECTS

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<th>Phase</th>
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### PROGRAMS

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<td>Accessible Vehicles to Area Agencies</td>
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<td>TTA 5310</td>
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### Lead Agency

- ODOT
- Oregon
- Toledo
- Lucas County
- ODOT
- TAMCOC
- TAMCOC
- TAMCOC
- TAMCOC
- TAMCOC
- TAMCOC
- TARTA
**TIP: Federal Fund Obligated Projects During State Fiscal Year 2008**

**ROADWAY PROJECTS**

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<td>1st Q</td>
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<td>R/W Acquisition 800,000 –</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>Lucas County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L300</td>
<td>LUC US62 05.5 Safety Smooth Seal</td>
<td>Providence-Neapolis to Dutch</td>
<td>Smooth Seal Pavement Application</td>
<td>3rd Q</td>
<td>L350/L500</td>
<td>648,770 505,814</td>
<td>Construction 505,814 –</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>ODOT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L300</td>
<td>LUC Var Quadrail</td>
<td>Various Lucas County Roads</td>
<td>Quadrail Project</td>
<td>1/18/2008</td>
<td>L350</td>
<td>300,000 274,320</td>
<td>Construction 274,320 –</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>ODOT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L300</td>
<td>LUC Var Pavement Markings</td>
<td>Various Lucas County Roads</td>
<td>Pavement Markings</td>
<td>2/6/2008</td>
<td>L350</td>
<td>120,999 109,999</td>
<td>Construction 109,999 –</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>ODOT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L300</td>
<td>LUC Var Raised Pavement Markings</td>
<td>Various Lucas County Roads</td>
<td>Raised Pavement Markings</td>
<td>8/3/2007</td>
<td>L250</td>
<td>69,880 64,224</td>
<td>Construction 64,224 –</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>ODOT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L300</td>
<td>LUC/WO0 UU50 8.00/2.41 (Safety)</td>
<td>Central &amp; Reynolds</td>
<td>Smooth Seal / Microsurfacing</td>
<td>3/15/2007</td>
<td>L350/L500</td>
<td>2,439,580 1,960,742</td>
<td>Construction 1,960,742 –</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>ODOT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L300</td>
<td>WOD I-77 0.71</td>
<td>South of CSX to SR215</td>
<td>4-Lane Resurfacing</td>
<td>12/12/2007</td>
<td>L010</td>
<td>4,488,150 3,672,121</td>
<td>Construction 3,672,121 –</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>ODOT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L300</td>
<td>WOD SR117 8.80</td>
<td>Over I-280</td>
<td>Replace Existing Structure</td>
<td>4th Q</td>
<td>L1C0/L300</td>
<td>4,145,236 2,590,200</td>
<td>Construction 2,590,200 –</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>ODOT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L300</td>
<td>WOD Wales Roads Grade Separation</td>
<td>Wales Road &amp; CSX RR</td>
<td>Right of Way Acquisition</td>
<td>4th Q</td>
<td>L400</td>
<td>2,807,000 1,579,500</td>
<td>R/W Acquisition 1,579,500 –</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>ODOT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L300</td>
<td>WOD CR10 CSX</td>
<td>East Broadway CSX Xing</td>
<td>RR Crossing Reconstr. Reimbursement</td>
<td>10/15/2007</td>
<td>L550</td>
<td>193,000 190,000</td>
<td>Construction 190,000 –</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>ODOT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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**TRANSIT PROJECTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PID</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Project Limits</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Federal Fund Type</th>
<th>Total Project Phase Amount $</th>
<th>Federal Funds Obligated in SFY 2008</th>
<th>Remaining Programmed for Future Phases</th>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Lead Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L300</td>
<td>LUC TARTA (3) 35-foot Buses</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>Purchase of 3 buses</td>
<td>1st Q</td>
<td>L400</td>
<td>1,000,000 800,000</td>
<td>Purchase 800,000 –</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>TARTA</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

**PROGRAMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PID</th>
<th>TIP Project Management</th>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Federal Fund Type</th>
<th>Total Project Phase Amount $</th>
<th>Federal Funds Obligated in SFY 2008</th>
<th>Remaining Programmed for Future Phases</th>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Lead Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L300</td>
<td>TMA CCG 7P</td>
<td>Annual Program</td>
<td>Federal Project Management</td>
<td>4/16/2007</td>
<td>L230</td>
<td>100,000 80,000</td>
<td>Planning 80,000 –</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>TMA CCG</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>L300</td>
<td>TMA CCG Air Quality Program</td>
<td>Annual Program</td>
<td>Includes Ozone Action, Gas Cap, etc.</td>
<td>4/16/2007</td>
<td>L400</td>
<td>85,000 68,000</td>
<td>Planning 68,000 –</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>TMA CCG</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L300</td>
<td>Ohio MPO Consolidated Planning Program Statewide</td>
<td>MPO Consolidated Planning Program</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>L400</td>
<td>73,000 58,400</td>
<td>Planning – –</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>TMA CCG</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L300</td>
<td>Access To Jobs Program Region-Wide</td>
<td>Specialized Transport</td>
<td>Paratransit Vehicles</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>FTA JAR</td>
<td>79,734 79,734</td>
<td>Program – –</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>TMA CCG</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L300</td>
<td>Access To Jobs Program Region-Wide</td>
<td>Specialized Transport</td>
<td>Accessible Vehicles to Area Agencies</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>FTA 5310</td>
<td>– –</td>
<td>Program – –</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>TMA CCG</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.
Clean Ohio Funds Available to Nonprofits in Lucas County

The Clean Ohio Fund has allocated at least $1.01 million for open space preservation in Lucas County. Additional funds may be available if Ohio voters approve a ballot issue in November. Nonprofit agencies in Lucas County are invited to apply for these funds through TMACOG and the Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC). Potential applicants are strongly urged to attend an informational meeting December 2, 2:30 p.m. at TMACOG. The deadline for applications is February 6 at 5 p.m. All applicants will be notified of NRAC’s recommendation by March 31. For more information or to request an application, contact Kurt Ericson at 419.241.9155 ext. 126 or kurt@tmacog.org.

Student Watershed Watch in the Maumee River Watershed

The 2008 Student Watershed Watch will be the 19th for this annual two-part water quality monitoring project. Each year, TMACOG and its supporting partners provide testing kits, teacher training sessions, and manuals for up to 20 classrooms from middle school to high school. At rivers and streams throughout the watershed, students test water samples for pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, nitrates and phosphates, and more. Students also search for and identify macroinvertebrates. The type of living things found in the water and streambed is a good indicator of the health of the water. Back in the classroom, students review their work and prepare their reports.

Nearly 240 students will participate in the Student Summit November 19 at the Toledo Zoo. Each classroom is responsible for creating a display of their findings. Some schools have been part of the Student Watershed Watch for many years and students from those schools chart the current year findings against their historical records. Each class also creates a presentation, usually in PowerPoint but sometimes involving animation, puppets, or theatre.

Thank you to the 2008 donors who support the project: City of Toledo, First Solar, Sunoco, Perstorp, and GM. Additional support is provided by the Toledo Zoo, the University of Toledo, and EarthForce.

Dam Mitigation Projects Have Dramatic Effects

On Swan Creek in South Toledo’s Highland Park, a concrete-encased sewer pipe created a dangerous low-head dam. On the Ottawa River in Ottawa Hills, an eight foot tall dam no longer served a function and created dangerous turbulence. In both cases, TMACOG and its partners were able to reduce the danger and allow fish to move freely upstream.

Partners for Clean Streams, TMACOG, the Joyce Foundation, and others cooperated in a project that has created new attractive access to the river at Highland Park, with native planting areas. In the river itself, small and large stones were used to create stepdowns from the dam.

In the Ottawa River off Secor Road, the tall dam was reduced to rubble to create a riffle. Some of that rubble was also used to shore up erosion prone river banks.
### Northwest Ohio CommuterLINK Update

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily Adult Riders</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Transported Daily</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Daycares Used</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employers</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TARTA routes affected</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 Registration Now Online With Instant Reports

People in northwestern Ohio and southeastern Michigan who are looking for carpool partners may now register online and get a report of people with matching commuting information. Start at www.sharearide.org. Click on “Register.” You will be taken to RideShare Ohio. Click on “Register” in the blue box to get started. Once you have entered some information about where you work and where your commute hours are, you can print out your carpool matches. Simply call the people on your report to start carpooling and saving gas money.

#### Share A Ride Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q: How much does Share a Ride cost?</td>
<td>A: It’s free. There is no charge to register and no charge to participate. Start saving right away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q: Do I need a car to participate in carpooling?</td>
<td>A: Not necessarily - you could be in a carpool as a passenger. As a passenger, you could contribute to the cost of fuel and parking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q: What if I don’t want to carpool everyday?</td>
<td>A: You and your carpool partners make arrangements to suit yourselves. Carpooling even a few days a week will still save you plenty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q: Will Share A Ride help me find a ride to doctor’s appointments or shopping trips?</td>
<td>A: No, Share A Ride is not an “on demand” service and does not provide transportation for medical or personal appointments. Share A Ride is a program to reduce the number of single-occupant commuters driving to and from work or school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q: Where can I go for more information about the Share A Ride program?</td>
<td>A: You can call TMACOG at 419.241.1919 ext. 132 (outside of the Toledo area call 800.241.1919), or visit <a href="http://www.sharearide.org">www.sharearide.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Intermodal Terminal Proposed in Southwest Detroit

The Michigan Department of Transportation has proposed to consolidate rail and truck traffic to create a new Detroit Intermodal Freight Terminal near Dix and Livernois in southeast Detroit. The $612 million project will consolidate several Class I railroads into a common yard. The new track would also be used by Amtrak passenger trains. The Transportation Advisory Committee of Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) supports amending their long-term transportation plan to add the project. Financing is planned through a combination of state and federal sources, plus private contributions from several railroads.

#### 2009 Directory of Public Officials

TMACOG staff has begun preparation of the annual directory of public officials which includes information about jurisdictions and agencies in 14 counties of northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. Non-governmental members and non-elected entities will be receiving letters in November asking them to confirm their contact information. Information about elected officials will be confirmed in early 2009, after elections and after the new year’s first organizational meetings. New directories will be published in March. The directory is a benefit of membership in TMACOG. For more information, contact Jennifer Allen at 419.241.9155 ext. 134 or allen@tmacog.org.

#### Donate Your Car Soon for 2008 Deduction

If you have a car, RV, motorcycle, or boat that you no longer need, consider donating it to TMACOG soon so that you can take a tax deduction in 2008. TMACOG accepts donations of any sort of vehicle. If it isn’t running, we’ll arrange to pick it up. For more information or to donate a vehicle, call Russ Stasiak at 419.241.9155 ext. 158.

#### Mark Your Calendar

- **Fulton County Member Reception**
  - Thursday, November 13, 5-7 p.m.
  - North Star Bluescope Steel, Delta

- **2009 TMACOG General Assembly**
  - Thursday, January 29
  - Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg

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**Perspectives...**

A letter from the Chair of TMACOG

As we approach Election Day in one of the biggest financial crises our country has ever faced, our local communities have never faced a more important choice. Some say that our region must stick with the past legacies that have made us strong. Others say that it’s time to embrace the important opportunities of the future that are coming our way.

Luckily, we have an organization like TMACOG that can give us both. Although TMACOG has had a long history in this community, it has never been old. For the last 40 years, TMACOG has fought for our shared interests, no matter what challenges our region has faced. We’ve built bridges, both figuratively and literally, to bring us closer together and help our region grow and thrive. But without your support and participation, TMACOG is nothing more than a funny acronym.

No matter who you are supporting this election season, our region deserves strong leaders who recognize the significant challenges that we face, and are ready to make a difference. Elected office should not be easy. The voters have given us incredible responsibilities and we have no choice but to get it right.

Now more than ever, we must make sure that the voices that will fight for northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan are heard. That’s what each of us pledges as a member of TMACOG.
Stormwater Manual – Updated to Protect Water and Keep Jurisdictions in Compliance

Communities in northwest Ohio seeking to protect water and stay in compliance with state and federal regulations have a new tool. TMACOG’s newly revised Stormwater Management Standards Manual provides language that can be incorporated into regulations of counties, cities, townships, and villages to keep jurisdictions in compliance with Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements for Stormwater “Phase I” and “Phase II” communities.

Communities are required by the EPA to regulate erosion and sediment control as well as illicit discharge detection and elimination. Some communities also have regulations about riparian setbacks and conservation development. The updated manual addresses all four topics. In all cases, the model resolution language in the updated Stormwater Management Standards Manual was developed by the staffs of local jurisdictions working through the Stormwater Coalition.

Erosion and sediment control concerns protection of water during construction activities and post-construction erosion control measures. Illicit discharge and elimination is about finding and fixing leaking sanitary systems as well as preventing other trash or contaminants from being carried in stormwater. Riparian setback ordinances describe how much vegetated area should be maintained around streams and other waterways. Conservation development conserves natural features which control stormwater and minimizes runoff from impervious surfaces.

The balance of the stormwater manual defines terms, describes regulations, and is an extensive description of best management practices to protect water quality. The manual is a tool for builders, construction teams, engineers, inspectors, code administrators, and others working with development and environmental issues.

The third edition of the stormwater manual is posted on the Environment pages of www.tmacog.org. For more information on the manual or the Stormwater Coalition, contact Kurt Erichsen at 419.241.9155 ext. 126 or kurt@tmacog.org.

The Ohio EPA requires that Phase II jurisdictions adopt ordinance or regulations about:

- Erosion and Sediment Control
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

The Stormwater Coalition recommends that jurisdictions also adopt regulations about:

- Riparian Setbacks
- Conservation Development

Failing silt fence. Photo courtesy of City of Toledo, Environmental Services.
2008 Conference on Freight Demonstrated Ohio’s National Influence

At the 2008 Ohio Conference on Freight, held in Toledo and presented by TMACOG, nearly 200 attendees from 14 states and provinces heard exciting news about international movement of freight and the potential impact for Ohio and the Great Lakes region.

Private and Public Investment in Intermodal Facilities
Innovation in rail and intermodal transport was a major focus of the conference. At plenary sessions attended by all conference goers, the CSX National Gateway and the development of the Melford International Terminal in Nova Scotia were showcased as two huge private investment projects that could result in significant increases in freight transportation on Ohio’s roads, rails, and ports. The CSX National Gateway would require a public component to be fully developed, but is already in development in Ohio (Wood County intermodal yard) and through improvements to the rail corridor connecting to port facilities along the central east coast of the U.S. The Melford Terminal is a privately funded deep sea port project in Nova Scotia that would connect to short sea shipping, rail, and highway systems in the Great Lakes region. Both the CSX and the Melford presenters showed that existing ports and their connections to transportation are becoming increasingly congested, making viable business ventures of new intermodal facilities that handle shipping containers.

National Perspectives on Policy
Keynote speakers Mortimer Downey and Frederick Smith discussed national transportation policies in their addresses. Mort Downey, chairman of the board of PB Consult, Inc. was for eight years a U.S. Deputy Secretary of Transportation where he managed the department’s strategic planning process. Frederick Smith is vice president of the Institute for 21st Century Energy, affiliated with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Their presentations showed the need for new national energy and transportation policies and urged Ohio transportation experts to participate in the decision-making process.

Workshops
Break out sessions covered a wide range of topics, from dredging in the Great Lakes (the port of Toledo accounts for about half of the entire dredging budget in all of the Great Lakes), to international bridges to Canada, to development of a workforce for the transportation, warehousing, and logistics (TWL) industry. Only recently has the TWL workforce been recognized as a unit. This trained workforce finds work in established transportation venues including trucking and rail, but also in newer facilities called third party logistics suppliers which store, kit, and provide just in time services to manufacturers.

Presentations from plenary sessions and workshops are all posted at www.tmacog.org. Click on the Ohio Conference on Freight logo on the home page.

Mortimer Downey, chair of PB Consult, was the featured speaker September 15 at the 2008 Ohio Conference on Freight. TMACOG President Tony Reams and Lisa Mancini, senior vice president for strategic planning at CSX.
Transportation Summit – Statewide Challenges, Regional Opportunities

At TMACOG’s Transportation Summit, held this year in conjunction with the 2008 Ohio Conference on Freight, attendees heard sobering news about funding and some positive news about innovations in fuel efficiency and economic development.

Crisis in Transportation Funding
On the somber side, presentations by Fred Abousleman, the director of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), and David Dysard, deputy director of district two at the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) both described a dire situation for funding transportation infrastructure.

Dysard presented details about the shortfall between the rising cost of concrete, steel, and other construction materials and the available funds generated by a fixed tax on gasoline consumption. ODOT estimates that it has lost 43 percent of its purchasing power to inflation. According to Dysard’s report, even though ODOT is spending more money every year, communities in Ohio will be hard pressed to even maintain their existing infrastructure, much less build anything new.

Fred Abousleman looked at the political scene in Washington D.C. and predicted that not much will change soon. Although the existing federal transportation bill (SAFETEA-LU) will expire September 30, 2009, Abousleman is gloomy about the chances of quick passage of an effective bi-partisan bill. He does see some hope in the fact that both major presidential candidates have some experience with transportation issues. Also on the more encouraging side, ODOT’s new mission statement clearly defines the agency’s dedication to a multimodal transportation system, one that utilizes road, rail, water, and air transport to move people and goods.

Workshops
One workshop at the summit, moderated by Ohio Fire Marshall Michael Bell, presented thoughtful information about the many transportation challenges of an emergency evacuation of the region. Plans to move people quickly and safely will depend on the number of people evacuated, the weather, and even if school buses will be available for transportation. Regional cooperation is essential between communities being evacuated and communities preparing to accept evacuees.

Some positive information came from a workshop on transportation and economic development. Statistics presented by Rich Martinko of the University of Toledo Intermodal Transportation Institute showed that our region is centrally located in the flow of movement of goods. Tom Blaha of the Wood County Economic Development Commission provided examples of how business deals were made by demonstrating the region’s good road connections and relatively uncongested highways. Tying things together, Lynette Reichle of CB Richard Ellis/Reichle Klein noted that the major real estate transactions in the region in the last six months were all distribution-related.

There was plenty of new information about “green” energy in a workshop led by Mike Beasley, Lucas County Administrator. It included news about adding hydrogen to biodiesel in TARTA buses, an experiment to increase fuel efficiency, and using solar and wind power for portable traffic and weather systems.

Presentations from plenary sessions and workshops are all posted at www.tmacog.org. Click on the What’s Hot button.

Warren Henry, TMACOG vice president of Transportation; Fred Abousleman, director of the National Association of Regional Councils; and David Dysard, deputy director district two, Ohio Department of Transportation (from left).
Wednesday, November 5
Transportation Council
Time: 3 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Warren Henry, ext. 129

Thursday, November 6
FEMA Floodplain Management Committee
Time: 10 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Kurt Erichsen, ext. 126

Transit Forum
Time: 1 p.m.
Location: Grand Lobby of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza
Contact: Diane Reamer-Evans, ext. 117

Stormwater Coalition
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Kurt Erichsen, ext. 126

Monday, November 10
Car Buy Review Committee
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Library
Contact: Tiffany Banks, ext. 157

Commuter Services Council
Time: noon
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: David Gedeon, ext. 125

Membership Committee
Time: 4 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Transportation Conference Room
Contact: Greg Gettum, ext. 132

Wednesday, November 12
Stormwater Action Group
Time: 10 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Kurt Erichsen, ext. 126

Finance, Audit & Administration Committee
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Bill Best, ext. 108

Friday, November 14
Leadership Development Committee
Time: 9 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Library
Contact: Tony Reams, ext. 179

Tuesday, November 18
Pedestrian & Bike Steering Committee
Time: 8 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Kent Gardam, ext. 116

Wednesday, November 19
Air Quality Committee
Time: 8 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: David Gedeon, ext. 125

Executive Committee
Time: noon
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Tony Reams, ext. 179

Thursday, November 20
Environmental Council
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Kurt Erichsen, ext. 126

Monday, November 24
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Committee
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Kent Gardam, ext. 116

Tuesday, November 25
Freight Committee
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Warren Henry, ext. 129

Tuesday, December 2
Clean Ohio Fund - Informational Meeting
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Diane Reamer-Evans, ext. 117

Wednesday, December 3
Transportation Council
Time: 3 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Warren Henry, ext. 129

Thursday, December 4
Communications Committee
Time: 4 p.m.
Location: Oliver House
Contact: Peggy Ricard, ext. 105

Monday, December 8
Car Buy Review Committee
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Library
Contact: Tiffany Banks, ext. 157

Membership Committee
Time: 4 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Library
Contact: Greg Gettum, ext. 132

Wednesday, December 10
Stormwater Action Group
Time: 10 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Kurt Erichsen, ext. 126

Tuesday, December 16
Transportation Planning Committee
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Diane Reamer-Evans, ext. 117

Wednesday, December 17
Air Quality Committee
Time: 8 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: David Gedeon, ext. 125

Executive Committee
Time: noon
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Tony Reams, ext. 179

Board of Trustees
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Tony Reams, ext. 179

Monday, December 22
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Committee
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Kent Gardam, ext. 116

Tuesday, December 23
Freight Steering Committee
Time: 10 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Warren Henry, ext. 129