TMACOG Resolution Supports Efforts to Limit Great Lakes Water Withdrawals

The eight Great Lakes states and two Canadian provinces have several agreements in place to protect water within the Great Lakes basin and the St. Lawrence River basin. One important agreement concerns water withdrawals from the Great Lakes. There has been concern that great quantities of fresh water could be withdrawn from the lakes and shipped or piped to drier parts of North America or even to other continents.

The Great Lakes Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (called the Annex), is an agreement among the Great Lakes states and provinces that would establish standards for water withdrawals within the Great Lakes basin. The Annex would prohibit diversion of water out of the Great Lakes basin, with limited exceptions. It would also require states to establish water conservation programs based on regional goals and objectives.

All 10 governments participated in crafting these rules and have signed their agreement. Legislation is now working its way through the eight states and will then have to be ratified by Congress. The Canadian provinces will amend their existing statutes. The same legislation must ultimately be passed by all states. A TMACOG resolution states that the Annex language as written would protect, conserve, restore and improve the water resources of the Great Lakes basin for future generations. It asks that the state and federal legislation be adopted, while also ensuring that the agreement does not impose unnecessarily rigid water use restrictions for municipal water supplies.

To read the resolution, click on the What’s Hot button on www.tmacog.org. Full text of the Great Lakes Basin Water Resources Compact is available on the Internet or from TMACOG staff. Contact Kurt Erichsen at 419.241.9155, ext. 126, or kurt@tmacog.org.
Donations of Cars and Trucks Now Accepted at TMACOG

TMACOG is now accepting donations of vehicles to support the work of the Commuter Services department. Donation of a vehicle you no longer need will directly benefit low-income working families in Lucas County.

TMACOG can accept donations of any type of vehicle: cars, vans, SUVs, pickup trucks, even boats and motorcycles. The donations will support the Commuter Services department which manages the Car Buy and CommuterLINK programs. People who make donations are also eligible for tax deductions.

TMACOG began the Car Buy program in 2001 because it became clear that public transit cannot always serve the transportation needs of a low-income family that has a parent working and children in daycare or school. To help qualified people get to work or accept work at locations or times when buses don’t run, TMACOG helps participants purchase a roadworthy used car. At the start of the 12-month program, participants get possession of a vehicle and then pay $150 each month. At the end of 12 months, they take title to their vehicle. Participants also take classes in car maintenance, household budgeting, and defensive driving. More than 465 cars have been delivered to families since the program began.

Many people now in the Car Buy program have also benefited from CommuterLINK, another TMACOG commuter program. CommuterLINK provides short-term transportation help to people getting established in school. To help qualified people get to work or accept work at locations that public transit cannot always serve the transportation needs of a low-income family that has a parent working and children in daycare or school. To help qualified people get to work or accept work at locations or times when buses don’t run, TMACOG helps participants purchase a roadworthy used car. At the start of the 12-month program, participants get possession of a vehicle and then pay $150 each month. At the end of 12 months, they take title to their vehicle. Participants also take classes in car maintenance, household budgeting, and defensive driving. More than 465 cars have been delivered to families since the program began.

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To donate a vehicle, call Russ Stasiak: 419.241.9155 ext. 158, or stasiak@tmacog.org. TMACOG will take it from there, arranging to tow your car if necessary, and handling all the paperwork. For more information on the program, see www.tmacog.org/GetToWorkOnWheels.

Proposed Tri-county Solid Waste Building a Model of Environmental Design

Tim Wasserman, Director

Ottawa-Sandusky-Seneca Solid Waste District

The Board of Directors of the Ottawa-Sandusky-Seneca Joint Solid Waste Management District unanimously voted to proceed with design of a new administration/maintenance building incorporating project elements to allow LEED Certification of the building. The building as proposed will be located in Fremont on N. Fifth Street at the southeast corner of U.S. 6 and the Rt. 20 Bypass.

Carl Koebel, president of the Board of Directors, said, “The new building should be the first project in Ottawa, Sandusky, or Seneca counties that will be LEED Certified.” LEED Certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a Green Building Rating System™ developed by the U.S. Green Building Council to encourage and accelerate global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices.

The district is partnering with Poggemeyer Design Group on plans for the new structure. The proposed 6,200 sq. ft. building will provide administrative and maintenance facilities for the OSS Joint Solid Waste Management District. The building and site will also be an educational tool to demonstrate “green” technology, including the use of recycled materials, innovative energy-saving building systems, and the use of alternative energy sources.

The OSS Joint Solid Waste Management Districts promotes and encourages recycling and plans for responsible waste management in Ottawa, Sandusky, and Seneca Counties.

2008 Directory of Public Officials Available in March

TMACOG members will be receiving their copies of the newly updated 2008 Directory of Public Officials this month. This year’s edition includes more websites and e-mails and more township officials. Members should have received a postcard asking if they would prefer a printed and bound directories, or CD versions. Please return the postcard and we will have directories mailed or dropped off to your offices. Directories are available for sale to non-members for $150. Call Greg Gettum for more information: 419.241.9155 ext. 132 or gettum@tmacog.org.

To respond to this letter, email perspectives@tmacog.org.
TMACOG can be to their organizations,” the members realize what a resource it is to share similar concerns and ideas with other villages.” she said. “It is nice to share similar concerns and ideas with other villages.”

“It is obvious from the attendance at the Winter General Assembly that TMACOG general assembly in January. The newly elected mayor of Luckey is Belinda M. Brooks. Ms. Brooks is raising her three children in the village and also moved her business there. In her role as mayor, she attended her first business meeting and general leadership at the group’s annual business meeting and general assembly Tuesday, January 29. Tina Skeldon Wozniak was elected chair of TMACOG, succeeding Barbara Sears who was recently appointed to the Ohio state legislature. Skeldon Wozniak is president of the Board of Lucas County Commissioners where she has served since 2002, as president since 2005. She was vice chair of TMACOG in 2007 and chaired TMACOG’s Commuter Services Council in 2006 and 2007. Theodore Rutherford, mayor of the Village of Green Springs, was elected vice chair and John Quinn, mayor of the City of Bowling Green, was elected second vice chair. Mayor Rutherford serves on TMACOG’s Leadership Development Committee and was TMACOG’s second vice chair in 2007. Mayor Quinn was part of the 2035 Plan Task Force that developed our region’s long range transportation plan.

Residents get their water supply from private wells and are in the middle of upgrading their water treatment system. While residents had been using home septic systems, the community accepted a sewer ordinance in December. Residents have until November to tap into the new wastewater system. The Ohio Department of Transportation is awarding $2.6 million to 15 communities for infrastructure projects including pedestrian crossing signals, sidewalks, pedestrian bridges, and improved signage. In northwest Ohio, communities receiving funds for infrastructure projects are Swanton, Oregon, and Montpelier. The Village of Whitehouse will receive $224,000 to construct a pedestrian bridge and sidewalks. Some funds are also being directed to communities for development of a School Travel Plan, a required outline of how communities will encourage safe school commute by means other than car or bus. Groups receiving funds to develop the plans include Waterville, Napoleon, Haskins, German and Clinton townships, Delta, Wauseon, Perrysburg, and the Henry County Health Department. Safe Routes to School is a federal program funded for the first time in 2008. Through the new program, the Ohio Department of Transportation is awarding $2.6 million to 15 communities for infrastructure projects including pedestrian crossing signals, sidewalks, pedestrian bridges, and improved signage. In northwest Ohio, communities receiving funds for infrastructure projects are Swanton, Oregon, and Montpelier. The Village of Whitehouse will receive $224,000 to construct a pedestrian bridge and sidewalks. Some funds are also being directed to communities for development of a School Travel Plan, a required outline of how communities will encourage safe school commute by means other than car or bus. Groups receiving funds to develop the plans include Waterville, Napoleon, Haskins, German and Clinton townships, Delta, Wauseon, Perrysburg, and the Henry County Health Department. Safe Routes to School is a federal program funded for the first time in 2008. Through the new program, the Ohio Department of Transportation is awarding $2.6 million to 15 communities for infrastructure projects including pedestrian crossing signals, sidewalks, pedestrian bridges, and improved signage. In northwest Ohio, communities receiving funds for infrastructure projects are Swanton, Oregon, and Montpelier. The Village of Whitehouse will receive $224,000 to construct a pedestrian bridge and sidewalks. Some funds are also being directed to communities for development of a School Travel Plan, a required outline of how communities will encourage safe school commute by means other than car or bus. Groups receiving funds to develop the plans include Waterville, Napoleon, Haskins, German and Clinton townships, Delta, Wauseon, Perrysburg, and the Henry County Health Department.

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HOMEOWNERS IN PORTAGE RIVER WATERSHED STILL ELIGIBLE FOR SEPTIC SYSTEM FUNDS

Homeowners in targeted areas of Hancock, Ottawa, Sandusky and Wood counties are still eligible for funding that would help pay for failed septic systems. Careful management by county health departments has stretched a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to as many as a dozen more replacements than had originally been budgeted for.

Priority will be given to systems that have clearly failed, with visible sewage discharge to the Portage River or its tributaries. Installations must be completed by June 30, 2008, when the grant program concludes.

To apply for grant funds, homeowners should contact their county health departments:
- Hancock County Health Department, Lindsay Summit: 419-244-7969
- Ottawa County Health Department, Scott Young: 419-734-6800
- Sandusky County Health Department, Mary Dennis: 419-334-6372
- Wood County Health Department, Jerry Bingham: 419-352-8402

Homeowners can also download the application from the TMA COG website: www.tmacog.org. This project is for residential systems only, not for businesses or institutions. It will not pay for sewer taps, or for systems that discharge off-lot.

REGION-WIDE REVIEW OF 208 PLAN UNDERWAY

All local governments that own sanitary sewers or wastewater treatment plants in TMA COG’s region are asked to review their portions of the 208 Plan by March 27. The plan is due for a major update. After approval by the TMA COG Board of Trustees, it will be submitted for certification to the Governors of Ohio and Michigan. Send comments to Kurt Ericsen at 419.241.9155 ext. 126 or kurt@tmacog.org.

The 208 Plan is the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan for Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Wood counties in Ohio; and Bedford, Erie, and Whiteford townships of Monroe County, Michigan. It is our region’s plan for how local governments will work together to implement the federal Clean Water Act. While the plan is updated frequently in response to anticipated development or when communities invest in new treatment facilities, this year TMA COG is asking that all the cooperating parties do a complete review.

The Clean Water Act calls for local jurisdictions and agencies to carry out specific roles in protecting water quality. For instance, a community that owns a sewage treatment plant is required to operate that facility and meet discharge permits set by its EPA permit. Agencies with specific responsibilities in implementing the Clean Water Act are called Designated Management Agencies, or DMAs. In our region, DMAs are cities, townships, and villages, as well as county health departments and soil and water conservation districts. The 208 Plan describes Facility Planning Areas (FPAs) which are operational areas that may fall under more than one DMA. Current materials are posted on the TMA COG website.

- Draft updates to the 208 plan chapters are at: www.tmacog.org/Environment/208%20New%20Drafts/2009WaterMainPlan_B.htm
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ottawa river habitat inventory

New leadership was elected at the January meeting of the Portage River Basin Council. Larry Sorrells, council member of the City of Bowling Green, was elected chair and Virginina Park, Bay Township trustee and Ottawa County recorder, was elected vice chair. Members of the council extended thanks and appreciation to Tom Brown, former mayor of Port Clinton and retiring chair of the council. The next meeting of the Portage River Basin Council will be Thursday, April 17 at the West Millgrove Fire Station. Contact Elaine Moebius at 419.241.9155 ext. 139 or moebius@tmacog.org.

A resolution concerning logjam removal on the Portage will be considered at the next meeting of the entire Environmental Council Thursday, March 27, 1:30 p.m. at TMA COG. Speakers have been invited to that meeting to represent all sides of the issue. The meeting is free and open to the public.

ottawa river tributary showing outfall.

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wetlands have been proposed as a way to capture and treat bacteria that has been contaminating the Lake Erie beaches at the park leading to posted warnings. Studies show that E.coli tends to be flushed out of Berger Ditch into the park following rains. Of three wetland alternatives initially proposed, the consultants focused on the one that would be effective in cases of a rare heavy downpour or more frequent showers. The preferred alternative would include a multi-stage channel configuration in the upstream area on City of Oregon property and in the downstream area on the Maumee Bay State Park property. In both locations, the channel would incorporate multiple floodplains with wetland components. Operation and maintenance costs of the proposed plan are minimal, limited to periodic channel maintenance.

The next steps to implementing this project start with finding funding to pay for additional monitoring and modeling, final design, and construction. Costs to complete the plan are estimated at $2.96 million. If funding is secured during 2008 and 2009, construction may be completed by 2012.

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Ottawa River Habitat Inventory

Consultants who have been evaluating property along the Ottawa River for potential for remediation will complete their research in March. Mannik & Smith Group and the project management team first identified 10 areas with restoration potential as wetlands or riparian habitat. That list was narrowed to four sites and a conceptual habitat restoration plan was developed for each. The goal of the work is to establish a bank of land that will be ready for remediation when funds become available. Preliminary research and aerial maps are posted on the Ottawa River page of www.tmacog.org.

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(Images of wetland plans and diagrams)
Village of Luckey

The Village of Luckey is in the Portage River watershed in a lightly populated area of eastern Wood County. The .68-square mile that makes up Luckey is the only incorporated village in Troy Township. Records show that Luckey was first surveyed in 1820 and settlement began around 1833. It has always been a small village although in 1883 it included a hotel, a sawmill and factory and had plans for two saloons, seven houses and a limestone quarry. About 950 people now live in the village limits. Luckey Elementary Schools serves grades K-5, about 190 students. Older students attend Eastwood Local Schools. Most non-agricultural workers commute to Bowling Green or Toledo for work.

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Safe Routes to School is designed to make walking or riding a bike to school a safe and normal routine for children again. In 1969, about half of all students walked or rode a bike to school. In 2007, more than 85 percent of children arrived at school in private automobiles.

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Many people now in the Car Buy program have also benefited from CommuterLINK, another TMACOG commuter program. CommuterLINK provides short-term transportation help to people getting established in a job. To be eligible, participants must be working 30 hours a week at a job not accessible by TARTA, and receiving Ohio Works First benefits.

To donate a vehicle, call Russ Stasiak: 419.241.9155 ext. 158, or stasiak@tmacog.org. TMACOG will take it from there, arranging to tow your car if necessary, and handling all the paperwork. For more information on the program, see www.tmacog.org/carbuyme.

Proposed Tri-county Solid Waste Building a Model of Environmental Design

Tim Wasserman, Director
Ottawa-Sandusky-Seneca Solid Waste District

The Board of Directors of the Ottawa-Sandusky-Seneca Joint Solid Waste Management District unanimously voted to proceed with design of a new administration/maintenance building incorporating project elements to allow LEED Certification of the building. The building as proposed will be located in Fremont on N. Fifth Street at the southeast corner of U.S. 6 and the Rt. 20 Bypass.

Carl Koebel, president of the Board of Directors, said, “The new building should be the first project in Ottawa, Sandusky, or Seneca counties that will be LEED Certified.” LEED Certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a Green Building Rating System™ developed by the U.S. Green Building Council to encourage and accelerate global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices.

The district is partnering with Poggenmeyer Design Group on plans for the new structure. The proposed 6,200 sq. ft. building will provide administration and maintenance facilities for the OSS Joint Solid Waste Management District. The building and site will also be an educational tool to demonstrate “green” technology, including the use of recycled materials, innovative energy-saving building systems, and the use of alternative energy sources.

The OSS Joint Solid Waste Management Districts promotes and encourages recycling and plans for responsible waste management in Ottawa, Sandusky, and Seneca Counties.

2008 Directory of Public Officials Available in March

TMACOG members will be receiving their copies of the newly updated 2008 Directory of Public Officials this month. This year’s edition includes more websites and e-mails and more township officials. Members should have received a postcard asking if they would prefer a printed and bound directories, or CD versions. Please return the postcard and we will have directories mailed or dropped off to your offices. Directories are available for sale to non-members for $150. Call Greg Gettum for more information: 419.241.9155 ext. 132 or gettum@tmacog.org.

To respond to this letter, email perspectives@tmacog.org.
The eight Great Lakes states and two Canadian provinces have several agreements in place to protect water within the Great Lakes basin and the St. Lawrence River basin. One important agreement concerns water withdrawals from the Great Lakes. There has been concern that great quantities of fresh water could be withdrawn from the lakes and shipped or piped to drier parts of North America or even to other continents.

The Great Lakes Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (called the Annex), is an agreement among the Great Lakes states and provinces that would establish standards for water withdrawals within the Great Lakes basin. The Annex would prohibit diversion of water out of the Great Lakes basin, with limited exceptions. It would also require states to establish water conservation programs based on regional goals and objectives.

All 10 governments participated in crafting these rules and have signed their agreement. Legislation is now working its way through the eight states and will then have to be ratified by Congress. The Canadian provinces will amend their existing statutes. The same legislation must ultimately be passed by all states. A TMACOG resolution states that the Annex language as written would protect, conserve, restore and improve the water resources of the Great Lakes basin for future generations. It asks that the state and federal legislation be adopted, while also ensuring that the agreement does not impose unnecessarily rigid water use restrictions for municipal water supplies.

To read the resolution, click on the What’s Hot button on www.tmacog.org. Full text of the Great Lakes Basin Water Resources Compact is available on the Internet or from TMACOG staff. Contact Kurt Erichsen at 419.241.9155, ext. 126, or kurt@tmacog.org.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>March 2008</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 5</td>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>TMACOG Boardroom</td>
<td>Warren Henry, ext. 129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 6</td>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>TMACOG Boardroom</td>
<td>Kurt Erichsen, ext. 126</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEMA Floodplain Management Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stormwater Coalition</td>
<td></td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>TMACOG Boardroom</td>
<td>Kurt Erichsen, ext. 126</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wabash Cannonball Coordinating Committee</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>Maumee Municipal Building</td>
<td>Diane Reamer-Evans, ext. 117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commuter Services Council</td>
<td>Monday, 10</td>
<td>noon</td>
<td>TMACOG Boardroom</td>
<td>David Gedeon, ext. 125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership/Communications Committee</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>TMACOG Boardroom</td>
<td>Greg Gettum, ext. 132</td>
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<td>Wednesday, March 12</td>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>TMACOG Boardroom</td>
<td>Kurt Erichsen, ext. 126</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stormwater Action Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 13</td>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Toledo Express Airport</td>
<td>Matt Horvat, ext. 123</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swan Creek Watershed Pilot</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April 2008</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 2</td>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>TMACOG Boardroom</td>
<td>Warren Henry, ext. 129</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 9</td>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>TMACOG Boardroom</td>
<td>Kurt Erichsen, ext. 126</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stormwater Action Group</td>
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<td>Friday, April 11</td>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>TMACOG Library</td>
<td>Tony Reams, ext. 179</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leadership Development Committee</td>
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<td>Monday, April 14</td>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>TMACOG Boardroom</td>
<td>Tony Reams, ext. 179</td>
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<td>Transportation Improvement Program (TIP Committee)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>TMACOG Boardroom</td>
<td>Kent Gardam, ext. 116</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board of Trustees</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>TMACOG Boardroom</td>
<td>Tony Reams, ext. 179</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 16</td>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
<td>TMACOG Boardroom</td>
<td>David Gedeon, ext. 125</td>
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<td>Air Quality Committee</td>
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<td>Thursday, April 17</td>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>West Millgrove Fire Station</td>
<td>Elaine Moebius, ext. 139</td>
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<td>Portage River Basin Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 22</td>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Transportation Conference Room</td>
<td>Patrick Dennis, ext. 115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freight Steering Committee</td>
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<td>Wednesday, April 26</td>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>TMACOG Boardroom</td>
<td>Diane Reamer-Evans, ext. 117</td>
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<td>Transportation Planning Committee</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>TMACOG Boardroom</td>
<td>Kent Gardam, ext. 116</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Council</td>
<td></td>
<td>1:15 p.m.</td>
<td>TMACOG Boardroom</td>
<td>Kent Gardam, ext. 116</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Fastest Train in the World” High Speed Rail Presentation and Luncheon (reservations required)</td>
<td></td>
<td>11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>The Toledo Club</td>
<td>Diane Reamer-Evans, ext. 117</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 23</td>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>TMACOG Boardroom</td>
<td>Diane Reamer-Evans, ext. 117</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park &amp; Bikeways Committee</td>
<td></td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
<td>TMACOG Boardroom</td>
<td>Kent Gardam, ext. 116</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation Improvement Program (TIP Committee)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>TMACOG Boardroom</td>
<td>Kent Gardam, ext. 116</td>
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