

Celebrate Spring on Your Bike - TMACOG's Bike Week is May 11-15

During national bike month in May, TMACOG invites people in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan to explore all the potential of bicycling. We have lots of places for recreational riding: dedicated bike paths in the region are growing and becoming increasingly connected. And bicycling is also a viable way to commute to work or school for many people. During Bike Week, May 11-15, people are encouraged to take advantage of the special events and opportunities to explore our region on a bicycle. See more details at <http://tmacog.org/bikeweek.htm>.

Bike Week Family Fun Ride

Tuesday, May 12, 6-7 p.m. Meet at the Wildwood Preserve Visitor Center

As part of the Toledo Metroparks' "Year of the Trail," come celebrate Bike Week with an escorted ride exploring the University/Parks Trail. Your bike guide will provide tips for riding safely on the park trails and on the road. This fun trip is appropriate for bike riders of all ages and abilities. All riders should wear helmets.

Bike to Work Day

Friday, May 15

For the last several years, local governments have rallied their employees and residents for Bike to Work Day. We're planning again this year for organized group rides in communities around northwest Ohio. In Toledo, riders will gather at Ottawa, Detwiler, and Walbridge parks on May 15 to ride downtown, leaving the parks at 7:30 a.m. To organize a Bike to Work Day ride in your office, see tips on www.tmacog.org/bikeweek.

Bike Safety Day

Friday, May 15, Westfield Franklin Park

The Safe Kids Coalition will have activities inside and outside the mall. Kids and adults can learn about how to share the road safely.

Bike to a Bus

From May 11 to May 15, TARTA bus fare will be only 25¢ for people using the bike racks.

Bike Information at your Library

Look for displays about bicycling at your Toledo-Lucas County Public Library branch or ask your librarian for information.

TMACOG has many resources for both the recreational and commuting bike rider. TMACOG's *Bicycle Facilities Guide for Recreational Riding* is a 16-page manual that includes maps of existing bike paths, signed bike routes and bike lanes. The guide is available at bike shops and at TMACOG. Commuters can refer to the Bike and Pedestrian pages at www.tmacog.org to find information on signed bike routes and bike lanes that connect to major destinations. See page 3 for more information on bike trails.



TMACOG's Bike to Work Day 2008. Riders gather at Walbridge Park (top) to ride downtown with an escort from the Toledo Police Mountain Bike Unit.



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Focal Points ...

COMMUTER SERVICES

Northwest Ohio CommuterLINK Update

As of April 1, 2009

Daily Adult Riders	11
Children Transported Daily	6
Number of Daycares Used	3
Employers	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.

Northwest Ohio CommuterLINK

----- Connecting people to jobs -----

A PROGRAM OF TMACOG

Ozone Action Season Underway

Ground level ozone is most often a concern during spring and summer months in our region. From mid-May through September, the City of Toledo Division of Environmental Services will monitor conditions and send out announcements forecasting air quality. Their forecasts are based on expected temperature, wind, heat, and amount of sunshine. Ozone and particulates are most likely to be problems on hot, sunny days with low winds and higher humidity. TMACOG works with the city and the EPA during Ozone Action Season to get the word out and raise awareness about ozone and other air pollutants.

The announcements will cite four levels of air quality from best to worst: Good, Satisfactory, Precautions Should be Taken by Sensitive Groups, and Caution.

Everyone is affected by ozone. Especially sensitive groups include anyone with asthma or emphysema, and young children (who breathe much more air per pound than adults). But athletes or people working outdoors should also be aware of ozone levels and try to adjust their activity and exposure.



Ground-level ozone (O₃) is created by a chemical reaction between oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the presence of sunlight. Nitrogen oxides are released from cars and industries that burn fossil fuels. VOCs are released when gasoline, paints, and solvents evaporate. Heat and sunshine combine with nitrogen and VOC to create ozone. Ozone causes problems because it is highly reactive. Not only does it interfere with human and animal respiration, but it also compromises the growth, reproduction, and overall health of crops and trees.

Individual actions can reduce ozone production. Automobile use is the largest contributor to ozone. To reduce ozone production, drive less or take the bus. If you must, drive only early in the morning or later in the evening. Avoid use of other engines including lawn mowers and gasoline-powered generators. Reduce household energy use in general by turning off appliances.

NW Ohio CommuterLINK Car Buy Update

Car Buy Program

January 1, 2001 - April 1, 2009

Since January, 2001, more than 515 vehicles have been delivered to working families in Lucas County.

To Date Fiscal Year 2009

July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

Cars Delivered	32
Cars Paid Off	21
Currently Making Payments	38

Updated TIP Projects Posted for Review

With the addition of federal stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), this year's allocation for TMACOG's Transportation Improvement Program (the TIP) has doubled. Because the TIP has been significantly amended since it was published in 2008 and jurisdictions will want to be able to monitor projects in their communities, the 15 new projects made possible in Lucas and Wood counties with federal funds that go directly to TMACOG are posted on the TMACOG website at [http://www.tmacog.org/Transportation Meetings/TIP/3-23-09/ARRA_Project_Allocations_updated.pdf](http://www.tmacog.org/Transportation%20Meetings/TIP/3-23-09/ARRA_Project_Allocations_updated.pdf). Other TIP projects funded through normal federal channels and determined earlier are still posted on the home page of the Transportation Department at www.tmacog.org.

TMACOG manages the TIP for Lucas and Wood counties. TMACOG does long range planning for the southern townships of Monroe County in Michigan, however, the projects are programmed and funded through the SEMCOG TIP. The TIP is a prioritized list of federally funded projects and other major transportation projects in the region. The total additional allocation to the region as a result of the federal funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is \$12,460,115 of which \$704,603 is allocated for Michigan.



Bike Facilities for Recreational Riders

Communities in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan are building bike paths and making progress in connecting them. Following are some of the major bike systems in our region. For more information, see TMACOG's bike and pedestrian web pages, and the links at www.tmacog.org/bikeweek.



- Sylvania Bike Network - Paved bike path from Centennial Quarry to Pacesetter Park, and Monroe St.-Erie St. bicycle lanes
- Olander Park System - Paved bicycle and walking path on the park grounds at 6930 Sylvania Ave.
- Metroparks of the Toledo Area - Numerous bike paths including the University/Parks Trail, 6.3 miles between University of Toledo and King Rd. in Sylvania with connection at Wildwood. Secor, Pearson, Oak Openings and the river parks all have paved all-purpose trails within the parks.
- Wabash Cannonball Trail - One of the region's largest trail systems with two forks and a connector. Both forks have their eastern trailheads on Jerome Rd. in Maumee.
- North Coast Inland Trail - When complete, this trail will run 75 miles from Elyria west to Millbury. Some parts are complete, including a section near Elmore.
- Slippery Elm Trail - Wood County's premier trail, connecting Bowling Green, Portage, Rudolph, and North Baltimore.

Annual Work Program for TMACOG Transportation Department

Each year all departments at TMACOG create an annual work program which outlines the department's planned scope of work for the fiscal year. The Annual Work Program for the Transportation Department is reviewed by ODOT to ensure that work is well-coordinated between state and regional planning groups and that TMACOG carries out commitments as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Transportation

projects in the 2010-2011 work program (July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010) include an expanded traffic counting program, computer modeling, start up activities for updating the 2035 Plan, and tracking completion of the economic stimulus projects. The plan should be complete and approved in June, 2009. Annual Work Programs for all departments are posted on www.tmacog.org.

Focal Points *continued* ...

ENVIRONMENT

Storm Drains are for Rain, Not Paint

Spring cleaning season is upon us. As you go through your basement hauling out items that you want to dispose of, separate things that can go in the regular trash (landfill) from materials that should go to a hazardous waste facility. And don't throw or wash anything down a storm drain.



Items that need special handling include electronic waste, household hazardous waste, and tires. Examples of electronic waste are any kind of batteries and any appliances with circuit boards including phones, cameras, computers and accessories, and also CDs, and cassette and VHS tapes. Household hazardous waste includes gasoline, all vehicle fluids, fertilizer, fire extinguishers, fluorescent bulbs, and oil-based paints and stains.

For a more complete list of hazardous waste products, go to your county website. In Lucas County, go to www.co.lucas.oh.us and look for the solid waste management department. On the website, you can also make an appointment to drop off your hazardous waste at the county facility. The Keep Toledo-Lucas County Beautiful website also lists events at www.ktlcb.org. In Wood County, go to www.wcswmd.org or call 419.354.9297. The Wood County website includes a list of local businesses that recycle hazardous and electronic waste and also a calendar showing recycling events in different communities.

Swan Creek Pilot Project Continues Approval Process

A three-year project to define land-use priorities in the large Swan Creek watershed has been completed and has been approved by nearly 90 percent of the 23-jurisdiction watershed. With the endorsement of the watershed communities, the plan document has been submitted to the Ohio Lake Erie Commission for formal approval.

The Swan Creek Balanced Growth Plan (BGP) describes land within the Swan Creek watershed as Priority Development, Priority Conservation, or Priority Agriculture. Agreement on these designations will make planning for future development more coordinated within the watershed, and more predictable for developers and for communities. Also, because the plan has been endorsed by more than 75 percent of the jurisdictions in the watershed, communities are eligible for incentives from the state to implement the plan.

The Swan Creek BGP has been approved by TMACOG's Environmental Council, and will next be considered by the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees at their June meetings. To see the complete final report including an extensive series of maps that define the plan, see www.tmacog.org/Environment/swanpilot.htm.



The April meeting of the Portage River Basin Council was at the Wood County Historical Center and Museum just south of Bowling Green. After the meeting, council members inspected the new walking bridge across the North Branch Portage River on the property of the historical center.



Implementing LID in Michigan: A New Resource for Designers and Reviewers from SEMCOG

SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, developed a guidance manual — *Low Impact Development Manual for Michigan: A Design Guide for Implementers and Reviewers* — that includes approximately 500 pages of technical and policy guidance in implementing LID specific to Michigan conditions. Local governments, engineers, developers, and builders can refer to the LID manual as a policy and design guide for new development and redevelopment projects in communities, as well as along transportation corridors.

Low impact development is one part of managing stormwater to reduce pollution and meet other water quality goals within communities. LID's goal is to mimic a site's pre-settlement hydrology by using design techniques that infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate, and detain stormwater runoff close to where it originates. LID is implemented through practices such as bioswales, rain gardens, and green roofs to capture 100 percent of stormwater runoff, thereby eliminating the need

and costs for municipal infrastructure and utility and maintenance.

The benefits of LID are numerous and include cleaner lakes and streams through ground water recharge, decreased flooding, and decreased erosion. A variety of sources document cost advantages of LID practices compared to traditional development using conventional stormwater management techniques.

In addition to the 500-page manual, SEMCOG developed three brochures designed to provide general information to developers, local units of government, and the general public on low impact development principles. The manual and brochures can be downloaded from www.sem-cog.org. For more information, contact SEMCOG at infocenter@semcog.org, or 313.324.3362.

Information provided by SEMCOG.

Stormwater Coalition

For northwest Ohio, TMACOG's *Stormwater Management Standards Manual* (see www.tmacog.org), addresses similar issues and also includes model regulation language for Ohio jurisdictions. "Green Infrastructure" will be a focus of the Stormwater Coalition in the coming year. Green infrastructure includes those stormwater control measures that contain and control water onsite, reducing or eliminating the need for costly built piping and water treatment construction.

Recovery Funds for Environmental Planning

To monitor federal economic stimulus plans that affect environmental planning, see the EPA site: www.epa.gov/recovery. The following chart from the EPA website is a snapshot of the EPA's allocation of the ARRA stimulus money. Wastewater infrastructure is by far the largest category. In addition to putting people to work, money for sewage treatment will help communities nationwide which are struggling to comply with EPA mandates and lack of funding. Additional funding for water/sewer infrastructure from federal stimulus funds is available through USDA Rural Utility Service for communities with population less than 10,000.

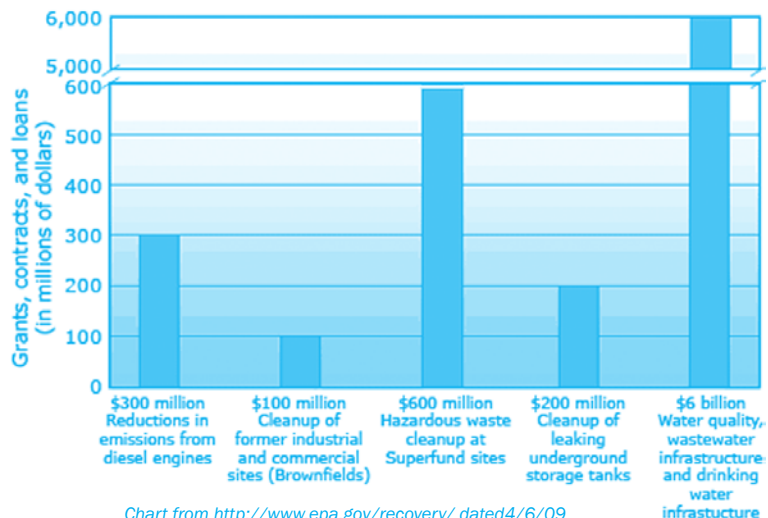


Chart from <http://www.epa.gov/recovery/> dated 4/6/09



Village of Archbold

The Village of Archbold is in the southwest corner of Fulton County, a largely agricultural area of small villages and farms. Archbold fosters a community character based on the area's first residents. German Township and the Village of Archbold in Fulton County were largely settled by immigrants from the Alsace-Lorraine region that was sometimes French and sometimes under German control. Those settlers brought with them the Mennonite character that still persists in the village. Nearby Sauder Village is a visitor attraction which showcases preserved buildings and industries from the area's early inhabitants.

But even with a strong heritage, Archbold is not a village that time forgot. The current village has 4,290 residents and most of the working population has found work close to home. Water supply is from the Tiffin River. The village operates its own water supply and sewage treatment facilities, and has an extensive park and recreation system, including a community swimming pool. The village school system, from kindergarten through high school, is consistently rated as excellent.

Village Mayor Jim Wyse finds value in Archbold's membership. He says, "Membership in TMACOG provides visibility for the Village, access to all the member benefits, and an opportunity to participate in regional transportation and infrastructure planning." Mayor Wyse also reminds village residents that council meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month in Council Chambers.

Other Fulton County members of TMACOG are the City of Wauseon; the villages of Delta, Lyons, Metamora, and Swanton; and Northwest State Community College.



News Files...

Safety Council of Northwest Ohio Rewarded for Service to Region

The Safety Council of Northwest Ohio (SCNWO) was awarded second place in an annual recognition program conducted by the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation. The Northwest Ohio council shared second place with the Safety Council of Greater Columbus. The award recognizes regional safety councils for their continued efforts to prevent workplace injuries and educate businesses on occupational safety and health issues unique to their region's industries.

Dennis McMickens, president and CEO of the SCNWO, says that the award was "earned recognition." He said, "Everyone, staff and board members, contributed to the attainment of this prestigious award and recognition. Expansion of services, staff development, and board member support and involvement all contributed to our success." The recognition includes a cash award of \$5,500 added to the agency's annual subsidy.

Genoa Bank Recognized for Economic Impact

The Ottawa County Improvement Corporation (OCIC) recognized Genoa Bank as the 2009 Economic Development Partner at its March meeting. In its statement the OCIC noted several business development projects that have generated new investments, job creation, and revitalization of the downtown Genoa business district. Genoa Bank is also one sponsor of several of TMACOG's 2009 county receptions.



Taking your banking needs personally.

New Members Join TMACOG

Township trustees of Portage Township in Wood County voted to become members of TMACOG at their March meeting. They join 36 other jurisdictions and special districts from Wood County as TMACOG members.

The Board of Education for Washington Local Schools in Lucas County also voted to join TMACOG. Schools, colleges, and universities now compose a significant caucus among TMACOG members. There are now 19 educational institutions that are TMACOG members out of a complete membership of about 150 governmental and non-governmental members.

Perspectives...

A letter from the President of TMACOG



Anthony L. Reams

As elected officials and business leaders you know the full measure of the difficult economic times we've been facing. However as is the case in many crisis situations, the financial collapse over the past year has forced us to confront the flaws in traditional ways of doing things. It is clear that as

individuals and a nation we must take bold, creative steps to change our thinking and our actions to come out of the current situation stronger and more viable than ever.

I am pleased to say that ODOT is taking this challenge to heart in their approach to the allocation of Ohio's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. ODOT has chosen to primarily fund local projects rather than their own state projects; although there are state projects ready to replace any that a community cannot deliver to avoid any potential loss of ARRA funds. TMACOG, as the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), also has allocated \$11,755,000 of ARRA funds for 15 projects in eight jurisdictions.

By directing significant ARRA funds for marine and rail projects, ODOT is truly taking a multimodal approach to the future of goods movement throughout the state and northwest Ohio in particular. The approach taken by the state invests not only in transportation infrastructure and current construction jobs, but perhaps more importantly, in a transportation economy for our region. This investment holds the promise for a growing logistics industry, providing even more jobs moving forward.

ODOT's shift from funding highway-centric projects to supporting multimodal transportation is the kind of philosophical change that we all must be prepared to make. Funding for single purpose, single jurisdictions projects is no longer. As TMACOG members know, sharing ideas, experiences, challenges, and solutions is the most effective use of our regional resources. Now, as much as ever, cooperation and collaboration are key to our region emerging from this financial storm as leaders in a new world economy.

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



The Big Picture Going Digital

To communicate with TMACOG members more efficiently and in a more timely manner, the monthly TMACOG newsletter, the *Big Picture*, will become digital later this year. All members who are currently on the mailing list and for whom TMACOG has e-mail addresses will receive the newsletter as a link in an e-mail message. We will be contacting the other approximately 815 people and asking for an e-mail address. We are considering options for keeping people informed who do not have access to an e-mail account. For more information, contact Peggy Ricard, director of communications, at 419.241.9155 ext. 105 or ricard@tmacog.org.



Tour Amtrak Cars on Train Day

People interested in trains and train travel will have a chance to tour actual Amtrak cars at a celebration of National Train Day at Toledo's Amtrak station on May 2. The family-friendly open house at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza begins at 9:30 a.m. with opening ceremonies and continues until 4 p.m.

Mark Your Calendar

Wood County Reception

Thursday, May 28, 5-7 p.m., at the Wood County Historical Center and Museum, Bowling Green

Northwest Ohio Woodland & Wildlife Family Festival

Saturday, May 30, 9 a.m. - noon, at Schedel Arboretum & Gardens, Elmore

Ottawa County Reception

Tuesday, June 30, 5-7 p.m., at the Brown Welcome Center at Schedel Arboretum & Gardens, Elmore

2009 Ohio Conference on Freight

September 22 & 23, Hilton Hotel Toledo and Dana Conference Center, Toledo



Our Vision...

TMACOG will be the governmental partner of choice to coordinate regional assets, opportunities, and challenges.

The Big Picture is published by TMACOG

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Eventline...

May 2009

Saturday, May 2

National Train Day Open House
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Opening Ceremony 9:30 a.m.
Location: Toledo Amtrak Station,
415 Emerald Ave.
Contact: Diane Reamer-Evans,
ext. 117

Tuesday, May 5

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

Thursday, May 7

Portage Education Committee
Time: 10 a.m.
Location: Wood SWCD
Contact: Elaine Moebius, ext.
129

Friday, May 8

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

Monday, May 11

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 Library
Contact: Greg Gettum, ext. 132

Wednesday, May 13

**Northwest Ohio Water Quality
Workgroup**
Time: 9 a.m.
Location: Wood County Health
Dept.
Contact: Elaine Moebius, ext.
139

Communications Committee

Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location: Rudolph/Libbe box at
Fifth Third Field
Contact: Peggy Ricard, ext. 105

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

Thursday, May 14

**Northwest Ohio Passenger Rail
Leadership Consortium**
Time: 7 a.m.
Location: Holiday Inn French
Quarter, Perrysburg
Contact: Diane Reamer-Evans,
ext. 117

System Performance and Moni- toring Committee

Time: 2 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Lisa Householder,
ext. 124

Friday, May 15

BIKE TO WORK DAY
Time: 7:30 a.m.
Location: Ottawa, Detwiler &
Walbridge parks
Contact: Kent Gardam, ext. 116

Monday, May 18

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

Tuesday, May 19

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

Portage Wastewater Committee

Time: 2 p.m.
Location: Sandusky County
Health Dept.
Contact: Elaine Moebius, ext.
139

Wednesday, May 20

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

Tuesday, May 26

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

Thursday, May 28

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

Wood County Reception

Time: 5-7 p.m.
Location: Wood County Historical
Center and Museum, Bowling
Green
Contact: Greg Gettum, ext. 132

June 2009

Tuesday, June 2

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

Thursday, June 4

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

Stormwater Coalition

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

Monday, June 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, June 10

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

Friday, June 12

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

Tuesday, June 16

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

Wednesday, June 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: 2 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Tony Reams, ext. 179

Monday, June 22

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

Tuesday, June 23

Freight Steering Committee
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Warren Henry, ext. 129

Wednesday, June 24

**Transportation Council joint
meeting with SEMCOG**
Time: 1 pm
Location: Cabela's, Dundee, MI
Contact: Warren Henry, ext. 129

Tuesday, June 30

Ottawa County Reception
Time: 5-7 p.m.
Location: Brown Welcome Center
at Schedel Arboretum &
Gardens, Elmore
Contact: Greg Gettum, ext. 132