

FEMA to Host Meetings About New Floodplain Maps

On Monday, April 27, there will be two meetings at TMACOG where representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will explain the new 100-year floodplain maps for Lucas County and describe what the maps will mean for property owners. Floodplain maps were recently revised based on current data and modern mapping technology. Both meetings will be held in the Grand Lobby of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza on the third floor of the Amtrak building.

The first meeting from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. is for all local officials in Lucas County. The presentation will be tailored to mayors, township trustees, council members, and administrators throughout the county. FEMA will not host separate meetings at separate cities in the county; all officials in Lucas County or their representatives are encouraged to attend this April 27 meeting. FEMA suggested that realtors and property insurance professionals should also attend this first meeting of the day. The second meeting – in the same location from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. – is directed to the general public. Property owners will be able to see where their property falls in relation to the newly revised floodplain maps and, if the land is within the floodplain, to learn more about how and when they will need to revise their flood insurance. The preliminary maps are posted on www.co.lucas.oh.us. Select *floodplain map* under the maps section of the home page. For more information on the meetings contact Kurt Erichsen at 419.241.9155 ext. 126 or kurt@tmacog.org.

TMACOG to Host Workshop on “Green” Concrete

The Ohio Ready Mix Concrete Association (ORMCA) will demonstrate the benefits of pervious concrete at a program at TMACOG Monday, April 20, 2009 from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur will open the session.

This workshop will show how environmentally friendly products such as pervious concrete can be incorporated into construction projects in this region. Topics will include characteristics of pervious concrete including freeze-thaw stability and general maintenance. Pervious concrete is also used in “green” designs to reduce stormwater costs and help projects meet LEED Green Building standards. The workshop is directed toward elected officials, decision-makers, engineers, planners, and project managers. Please register by April 13. The fee is \$15. The registration form is available on-line at ohioconcrete.org. For registration questions, contact Wayne Moening from ORMCA at 419-796-0019 or wayne@ohioconcrete.org. For program questions, contact Kurt Erichsen, TMACOG vice president of Environmental Planning, at 419-241-9155 ext. 126 or kurt@tmacog.org. Documentation will be provided for 2.5 hours of Continuing Professional Development for Ohio Professional Engineers.

Follow Updates to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

To help members stay current with progress in funding regional infrastructure plans through the federal stimulus program, the TMACOG website is being updated frequently with new information and links. At www.tmacog.org, click on the What’s Hot button to access the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act page. Also see www.recovery.ohio.gov. This is Ohio’s interactive headquarters for the federal plan.

TIP Amended to Include Economic Stimulus Plans

Funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) have nearly doubled the size of TMACOG’s current fiscal year Transportation Improvement Program (the TIP). The TIP Committee is the clearinghouse for compiling, ranking, and recommending transportation projects in Lucas and Wood counties in Ohio and the southern townships of Monroe County in Michigan. The total additional allocation as a result of the federal ARRA funding being coordinated in our area is \$12,460,115 (of which, \$704,603 is allocated for Michigan). Because the TIP has been amended since it was published in 2008 and jurisdictions will want to be able to monitor projects in their communities, the new TIP is posted for public access on www.tmacog.org. A list of projects submitted is also available on the website and the project applications are available for review at TMACOG offices. For more information contact Kent Gardam at 419.241.9155 ext. 116 or gardam@tmacog.org.

Recommendations Announced for Clean Ohio Grants in Lucas County

At a meeting at TMACOG March 9, the Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) reviewed applications for more than \$1 million for the preservation of open spaces in Lucas County. The committee reviewed eight proposals and has recommended funding the following:

- 1) Kitty Todd 2 – a project of the Nature Conservancy
- 2) Sandair Tract - Oak Openings Greenway, Metroparks of the Toledo Area
- 3) West Winds Tract - Oak Openings Greenway, Metroparks of the Toledo Area
- 4) Secor Metro Expansion Oak Openings Greenway, Metroparks of the Toledo Area

The first two projects are recommended for funding in this round. Projects three and four are reserve projects, recommended for anticipated funds that are contingent upon action by the Ohio legislature. The NRAC committee reviews and ranks applications based on many criteria including how the project would protect open land, protect threatened species, and/or connect corridors for natural areas. More details are available on the Environment home page of www.tmacog.org.



2009 Bike Week is May 11-15

During the annual Bike Week, TMACOG and other agencies invite people of all ages and fitness levels to learn about options for cycling for recreation and commuting.

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 (tentative)

Over the last several years, local governments have enjoyed rallying their employees for Bike to Work Day. We're planning again this year for organized group rides in communities around northwest Ohio. In Toledo, plans are underway for an escorted ride to downtown Toledo on Friday morning. All week, TARTA bus fare will be only 25¢ for people using the bike racks.

Northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan have many bike trails that are increasingly well-connected. For details, see TMACOG's *Bicycle Facilities Guide for Recreational Riding*, a 16-page booklet that includes maps of existing bike paths, signed bike routes and bike lanes. The guide is available at bike shops and at TMACOG. For much more information about cycling, see the Bike and Pedestrian pages on www.tmacog.org.

National Train Day Kicks Off in Toledo May 2

Celebrating the anniversary of the completion of America's first transcontinental railroad, rail advocates in the Toledo region have planned a family-friendly day of train-related events at Toledo's Amtrak station on Saturday, May 2. National Train Day in Toledo begins at 9:30 a.m. with opening ceremonies and continues until 4 p.m. All events are free and parking is free at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza. The day's activities will include model train exhibits, entertainment, and open house tours.

National Train Day aims to increase awareness of rail travel as a fun and viable option. The important role of freight trains will also be highlighted. Businesses, non-profit agencies and train clubs that are interested in participating with displays or as event sponsors may contact Diane Reamer-Evans at 419.241.9155 ext. 117, or evans@tmacog.org.

Nominations Sought for Clean Ohio Fund Council

The Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) is an 11-member committee that evaluates applications for and allocates grants from the Clean Ohio Fund in Lucas County. The council is seeking nominations to fill one vacancy and serve a three-year term. Qualified candidates can submit applications to TMACOG until 5 p.m. April 28, 2009. TMACOG administers NRAC District 12 in Lucas County.

To be a candidate for a position on the NRAC committee, an applicant must be appointed by one of the following types of organizations located within Lucas County: business, realty, planning agency, or Port Authority. Applicants should submit the completed nomination form, a resume, and letter from their organization in support of their nomination. The nomination form is posted at www.pwc.state.oh.us/NRAC.nomination.form.pdf. For more information, contact Kurt Erichsen at 419.241.9155 ext. 126, or kurt@tmacog.org.

To find the latest updates go to...

www.tmacog.org



Mark Your Calendar

Forum on Public Transit

Tuesday, April 28, 4:30 p.m.

Grand Lobby of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza

Sandusky Member Reception

Wednesday, April 29, 5-7 p.m.

Hayes Presidential Center, Spiegel Grove, Fremont

2009 Ohio Conference on Freight

September 22-23, 2009

Hilton Hotel Toledo and Dana Conference Center, Toledo

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