

Final Printed Edition of the Big Picture

The TMACOG newsletter is changing to an all-electronic format. Beginning in July, those people on the mailing list for the *Big Picture* will not receive a printed newsletter in the mail but will receive an e-mail that will link to the digital edition. We will be sending out postcards to those people who are on the mailing list but for whom we do not have an e-mail address. To continue to receive important member news, please return the postcard, or contact TMACOG at public.info@tmacog.org and provide your 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.

The electronic version of the *Big Picture* will serve members better than the printed version:

- More timely information
- Instant links to technical source material including reports from ODOT and the EPA
- Links to registration for conferences and events
- Quick links to event calendars, including some committee agendas
- Contact links to TMACOG staff who are concerned with specific topics
- Better access to www.tmacog.org and all the information there



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Details of Transportation-Related Projects Funded by Federal Economic Stimulus Plan

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA, commonly referred to as the economic stimulus program) passed by the U.S. Congress has so far resulted in \$97,447,888 to fund 31 new transportation-related projects and programs with direct and indirect benefits for Lucas and Wood counties. Those projects fall into four funding categories.

1.) Fifteen local projects will be funded through an \$11,755,512 allocation to TMACOG's Transportation Improvement Program (the TIP). Those fifteen projects are:

- City of Bowling Green - N. Main Street – Clay to Dill Streets, resurfacing - \$597,700
- City of Maumee - Illinois Avenue – Conant to Ford Streets, resurfacing - \$461,994
- City of Northwood - Curtice and Bradner, intersection improvements - \$61,506
- City of Oregon - Coy and Starr, intersection improvements - \$194,201
- City of Oregon - Wheeling Street – Navarre to Brown Roads, resurfacing - \$1,022,111
- City of Rossford - downtown lighting improvements - \$263,000
- City of Toledo - Secor Road – Laskey to Monroe Streets, resurfacing - \$2,880,000
- City of Toledo - Detroit Avenue – I-75 to Central Avenue, resurfacing - \$570,000
- City of Toledo - Hill Avenue – Westwood to Detroit Avenues, resurfacing - \$1,175,000
- City of Toledo - Michigan Street – Lafayette to Madison, resurfacing - \$1,675,000
- City of Toledo - South Avenue – Detroit Avenue to Airport Highway, resurfacing - \$600,000
- City of Toledo - Telegraph Road – Alexis Road to Michigan state line, resurfacing - \$315,000
- Lucas County - traffic signal upgrades – 13 locations - \$420,000
- Toledo Lucas County Port Authority (Port Authority) - George Hardy Drive – Tiffin Road to St. Lawrence Drive, reconstruction - \$1,170,000
- Port Authority - dry bulk loading system - \$350,000

2.) Four local projects will be funded with \$31,300,000 to ODOT District Two from Ohio's allocation. Those four projects are:

- City of Oregon - Otter Creek Road reconstruction - \$3,000,000
- Norfolk Southern - Airline Yard rail project - \$6,500,000
- Port Authority - Toledo Shipyard modernization - \$15,000,000
- Port Authority - seaport crane - \$6,800,000

3.) Several statewide projects with benefits to the TMACOG region will be funded with \$45,477,926 from ODOT's statewide allocation. Those projects are:

- ODOT - stimulus engineering task orders (monitoring work, reporting, maintaining transparency for stimulus projects) - \$5,977,926
- ODOT - project plans and design (preparation and planning for future construction) - \$10,000,000
- Signal preemption (overriding traffic signals, usually for emergency vehicles) - \$2,500,000
- CSX National Gateway - double stack clearance to North Baltimore intermodal yard - \$20,000,000
- Project development for the Ohio Hub passenger rail corridors, including Toledo to Columbus and Toledo to Cleveland - \$7,000,000

4.) Seven transit projects in the TMACOG region will be funded with \$8,914,450 through ODOT's transit allocation. Those seven transit projects are:

- Bowling Green Transit - photo ID system - \$4,550
- Bowling Green Transit - capitalized maintenance - \$12,400
- TARTA - support vehicles - \$150,000
- TARTA - under 30-foot LTV buses - \$1,815,000
- TARTA - 35-foot plus buses - \$5,850,000
- TARTA - preventative maintenance - \$1,000,000
- TARTA - transit enhancements - \$82,500

TMACOG and other agencies that are working with ARRA funds will be monitoring and documenting the proper use of those funds. TMACOG's Transportation Department reports to ODOT and other federal agencies. For more information on stimulus fund projects see www.recovery.gov and www.tmacog.org (start with the What's Hot button). Information on regional environmental programs receiving assistance from ARRA funds is on page 3.

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Next Step in Public Transit Improvements

Two years ago, local mayors requested that TMACOG facilitate a series of meetings about our region's public transit service. The sixth Forum on Public Transit on April 28 brought this series of meetings to a conclusion with a commitment from the Forum leaders to take specific next steps towards improving transit.

As an outgrowth of the Forums, TARTA and an outside consultant completed a Comprehensive Operational Analysis in early 2009. This report was shared with area leaders concerned with public transportation. The analysis showed that TARTA's funding structure and service structure are both elements that are in need of modernization or improvement to address community issues.

At the conclusion of this series of meetings, regional leaders have a clearer idea of the challenges of a public transit system that serves a broad range of community needs. The mayors of Maumee, Oregon, Perrysburg, and Sylvania have made a commitment to jointly meet with their councils as well as other area jurisdictions to work out an agreement on the future of public transit in the region. Their challenges will include sources of funding, making routes and service more regionally accessible, as well as specific concerns expressed by the various jurisdictions. For its part, TARTA is preparing a report that will list steps that would allow a regional system to be established that does not rely on the current approach of individual community membership.

Go to the Website

As TMACOG communications become more and more digital, we want to remind you that important member information has been organized, sorted, and posted on www.tmacog.org. Some of the valuable and useful information on the TMACOG website includes:

- Information about projects funded by ARRA economic stimulus funds: (Under the What's Hot button): www.tmacog.org/Fed_Eco_Projects.htm
- Ozone Action Season: www.tmacog.org/ozoneactionseason.htm
- Event calendars including council and committee meetings, many with links to agendas and minutes
- Share A Ride: register online at www.sharearide.org
- Press releases and photos from Bike Week and Train Day
- Many TMACOG reports and publications that can be downloaded and printed

TransportationMATTERS Coalition to Address TMACOG Audience

TransportationMATTERS is a broad-based, statewide "coalition of coalitions," an assembly of representatives of many transportation modes and related industries. This group of transportation professionals advocates for full funding of a safe and efficient multimodal transportation network that preserves and enhances Ohio's economic competitiveness, mobility and quality of life. The coalition is supported by many of Ohio's Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) through the Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC). Representatives from TransportationMATTERS will give a presentation at the TMACOG offices June 17 following the TMACOG Board of Trustees meeting. For more information contact Cindy Bland at 419.241.9155 ext. 107, or bland@tmacog.org.

2010 Census Underway with Address Verification Operation

The first visible activities of the 2010 Census have begun with workers on the street working to verify more than 145 million addresses nationally. This phase of the census has people equipped with hand-held computers using GPS to capture coordinates for most of the nation's housing units. This operation should greatly reduce coding errors caused by using paper maps in previous counts.



The address canvassing operation will be conducted out of 151 local census offices across the U.S. Work began in April and should conclude in July, 2009. In most cases, census workers will knock on doors to verify addresses and inquire about additional living quarters on the premises. This is the first census to include group quarters (such as dormitories, group homes, prisons, and homeless shelters) in the address canvassing operation, which should improve both the accuracy and coverage of the final count.



Additional Clean Ohio Funds for Lucas County

When the Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) recommended projects to receive \$1.26 million in Clean Ohio grant money at their meeting in March, it was with the stipulation that \$253,216 of it was contingent on full funding from the state of Ohio. That funding did remain in the budget and all four projects to preserve open space in Lucas County that were recommended will be funded.

- 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 Ohio legislature also approved an additional \$1.26 million for another round of grant applications. An informational meeting for potential applicants will be September 11 and applications are due November 20. NRAC will meet to review applications December 14.

Before the next round, the Lucas County NRAC committee is reviewing scoring methodology and reconsidering the criteria used to award points. A revised scoring sheet (available to applicants) will be clearer and easier to use. The committee will also reduce the point value of matching funds and increase the point value of projects that add to an already preserved area. For more information contact Kurt Erichsen at 419.241.9155 ext. 126 or kurt@tmacog.org

Stimulus Funds Assist Region's Water Plans

Ohio estimates that the state will receive about \$58.5 million in funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for drinking water projects and \$220.6 million for water pollution control projects. By the end of April, the Ohio EPA had received project funding requests for 3,500 projects for a total of \$8.4 billion.

The Ohio EPA has recently released a list of projects that the agency intends to support with ARRA money through the Water Supply Revolving Loan Account. The list includes a project in Fulton County that would serve the Lyons and Metamora areas, and a \$13 million project in Bowling Green for improvements to their water treatment plant. Many more regional projects are on the intended projects list for funding through the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund including large sewerage projects in Gibsonburg, Green Springs, Napoleon, Put-in-Bay, Pemberville, Elmore, and in Williamsburg, a Wood County subdivision. In many cases, the ARRA funds will be used for principal forgiveness - paying off the loan. In others, the ARRA funds will augment other matching funds.

More information is available at: www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/dwaf_economic_stimulus.htm and www.epa.state.oh.us/defa/stimulus.html

Mark Your Calendar

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

A letter from the President of TMACOG



Anthony L. Reams

The year TMACOG came into being was one of great change and tumult for our country and the world. In the United States, 1968 marked a pivotal moment for the civil rights movement and America was rocked by the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy. Across the globe, the Tet Offensive

began with attacks on major cities in South Vietnam prompting President Lyndon Johnson to initiate talks of peace in Vietnam. News of these events was brought to us over a period of days and weeks by radio, television, magazines, and newspapers. We set aside time to watch favorite network news or read our newspapers of choice.

In 2009, technology allows us to receive news from around the globe literally as it happens. As our world becomes broader, it is imperative to have up-to-date information at a moment's notice. Because we want to make sure our members receive fast, reliable information about projects and issues that affect you and our region, the *Big Picture* is going digital. With an electronic newsletter there is no need to carry a publication around with you, just log on at your convenience. It also will allow us to provide you with more in-depth information, helping you navigate to other valuable Internet information.

In addition to bringing you more complete news faster, going electronic will help us be better stewards of our environmental and financial resources. Going digital means saving paper, which protects our environment - from the paper manufacturing process, to used or unwanted paper disposal in our landfills. It also allows us to make better use of member dollars by providing significant cost and material savings in printing and mailing.

We hope you enjoy going digital and green with us. We're looking forward to exploring all the potential inherent in new digital communication.

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

