

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

February 1, 2008

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TMACOG Hosts Forum on Ohio Passenger Rail Funding Proposal

The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) is inviting business leaders and elected officials to hear about an upcoming proposal for state funding for one phase of the Ohio Hub - Ohio's proposed high-speed passenger rail system.

The Special Forum on Ohio Hub Funding Issues for Northern Ohio and Southeast Michigan is hosted by TMACOG in conjunction with the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC). The meeting is Monday, January 28 at 10 a.m. in the TMACOG offices at 300 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.

To move the Ohio Hub forward towards construction, the ORDC is preparing a request to Congress for funding for a first phase study of the northern section of the Ohio Hub. This will include a Cleveland-Columbus corridor, as well as the Cleveland-Toledo-Detroit corridor under discussion. The first phase of study would identify where stations should be located between Cleveland and Detroit, what physical infrastructure may be needed (renovating bridges, for example), and where physical changes might need to be made to existing tracks.

People attending the forum will be asked if they will support the request for first phase funding and if northern Ohio and southeast Michigan communities will advocate for the high-speed passenger rail plan. Bringing a state-wide passenger rail system into reality will require cooperation between jurisdictions and support from all financial sectors. Presenters will discuss some of the possibilities for funding that are under consideration. The meeting is free and open to the public.

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