

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

22 February, 2005

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TMACOG Transportation Improvement Program and Transportation Air Quality Conformity Report:

Public Review Period Announced

More than \$500 million will be spent on traffic projects in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan in the next four years. Eighty percent of that money is federal funding; 20 percent is local funding from sponsoring organizations. The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) is the agency that drafts the list of projects. This draft document is being created now, and will be finalized in May 2005 after public input is received.

Every other year, working with its members and committees, TMACOG prepares the list of traffic improvements: highway, transit, and bikeway projects in Lucas, Wood and southern Monroe counties. *The 2006-2009 Transportation Improvement Program* (the TIP) includes projects ranging from major improvements at the I75-475 intersection in Toledo, to landscaping and intersection upgrade on Indiana Avenue in Perrysburg. Most of the money spent in this region will be for repair and maintenance of existing roads.

The complete TIP ranks and evaluates projects that communities have agreed are important for our region. Among other criteria, the projects are evaluated for cost, how they will be maintained in the future, and their impact on the environment.

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TIP public comment period – add one

Currently, our region is not in attainment of new national standards for ozone. The Air Quality Conformity Report must demonstrate that the proposed transportation plans will not worsen air quality or make it harder for our region to attain air quality standards. TMACOG's analysis, using sophisticated forecasts for travel and traffic patterns, demonstrates that our region has met that test.

The statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is also being created. The planning process for the STIP is just like our regional process only covering all of Ohio's interstate and state routes. **Two public meetings are planned to present the draft TIP, the statewide STIP and the Air Quality Conformity Report:**

April 6, 2005, 3:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

ODOT District 2 Offices, 317 East Poe Rd., Bowling Green, OH

April 13, 2005, 3:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

TMACOG offices, 300 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Toledo, OH

In addition to the public meetings, any interested person can review the TIP and Air Quality Conformity Report at TMACOG's offices, at the Service Director's office in the cities of Bowling Green, Maumee, Northwood, Oregon, Perrysburg, Rossford, Sylvania, Toledo and Fostoria; the Monroe County Road Commission and the Lucas and Wood County Engineer's offices. The draft version is also posted at www.tmacog.org. A map is included which shows all projects in the TIP, organized by proposed year of construction. Written comments on the TIP must be received before 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 15, 2005.

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