

On the Move



2007-2035 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

July 2007

Toledo Metropolitan Area
Council of Governments



On the Move: 2007-2035 Transportation Plan

TOLEDO METROPOLITAN AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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TMACOG TRANSPORTATION STAFF
300 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
 PO Box 9508 Toledo OH 43697-9508
 Phone: 419-241-9155 • FAX: 419-241-9116
www.tmacog.org

Stephen J. Herwat P.E. , Interim Vice President of Transportation	Ext. 129 herwat@tmacog.org
Raja Andela , Transportation Engineer Integrated Transportation Database	Ext. 124 andela@tmacog.org
Patrick Dennis , Transportation Planner Freight Planning Regional Transportation Plan	Ext. 115 dennis@tmacog.org
Kent Gardam , Transportation Project Manager Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Program Monitoring	Ext. 116 gardam@tmacog.org
David G. Gedeon, AICP , Transportation Project Manager Pedestrian and Bikeways Planning Land Use/Socio-economic Data Forecasting/Growth Trends Travel Demand Variables Air Quality Coordination	Ext. 125 gedeon@tmacog.org
Sujatha Mohanakrishnan , Transportation Engineer Traffic Forecasting System Performance & Monitoring Committee Congestion Management System and Systems Analysis	Ext. 119 mohanakrishnan@tmacog.org
Diane E. Reamer-Evans , Transportation Project Manager Regional Transportation Plan Rail Passenger Planning Regional Transit Study Intelligent Transportation Systems Planning (ITS) Public Involvement Coordinator	Ext. 117 evans@tmacog.org
Donna F. Seeber Transportation Secretary	Ext. 120 seeber@tmacog.org
Roger A. Streiffert , Transportation Planner Geographic Information Systems Integrated Transportation Database	Ext. 122 streiffert@tmacog.org
Marc A. VonDeylen Transportation Technician	Ext. 136 vondeylen@tmacog.org

TMACOG OFFICERS

Barbara Sears – Chair
President of Council, City of Sylvania

Tina Skeldon Wozniak – Vice Chair
*President, Board of Lucas County
Commissioners*

Theodore Rutherford – Second Vice Chair
Mayor, Village of Green Springs

TMACOG STAFF

Anthony L. Reams
President

Jennifer Allen
Secretary

Raja Andela
Transportation Engineer

Tiffany Banks
CommuterLINK Program Manager

William Best
Vice President of Finance & Administration

Cindy Bland
Executive Secretary

Patrick Dennis
Transportation Planner

Kurt Erichsen, P.E.
Vice President of Environmental Planning

Kent Gardam
Transportation Project Manager

David Gedeon, AICP
Project Manager

Gregory Gettum
Marketing Manager

Stephen J. Herwat, P.E.
Interim Vice President of Transportation

Matthew Horvat
Maumee RAP Coordinator

Linda Lowe
Accountant

Mary Pat McCarthy
Writer/Associate Editor

Joyce Minarcin
Secretary/Accounting Clerk

Elaine Moebius
Portage River Watershed Coordinator

Sujatha Mohanakrishnan
Transportation Engineer

Diane Reamer-Evans
Transportation Project Manager

Peggy Ricard
Director of Communications

Stephanie Rizor
Share A Ride Program Manager

Donna Seeber
Transportation Secretary

Russell Stasiak
Car Buy Program Manager

Roger Streiffert
Transportation Planner

Michael Tippett
Graphics Coordinator

Marc VonDeylen
Transportation Technician

MEMBERS OF THE “ON THE MOVE: 2007-2035 TRANSPORTATION PLAN” TASK FORCE

A group of volunteers from businesses, neighborhood groups, transportation operators representing different modes, and state and local governments worked together through the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) to plan for our future. They reviewed forecasts of development and traffic; they listened to input from area residents on what is wrong and what opportunities are before us. They spent 27 months developing this plan. Without their efforts this plan would not have been completed.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Keith Avers, Township of Freedom	Edwin Nagle, Nagle Lines Inc.
Brian Babcock, Citizen Representative	Ray Norris, SSOE
Jeff Ballmer, City of Sylvania Task Force Chair	Shelley Papenfuse, Ability Center of Greater Toledo
William Biehl, Hull & Associates	John Quinn, Mayor, City of Bowling Green
Tom Blaha, Wood County Economic Development	Lynette Reichle, CN Richard Ellis/Reichle Klein
Pamela Boyd, MDOT	Gary Samples, Black Swamp Conservancy
Michael Carroll, Bowling Green State University	Bill Saunders, Maumee Valley Bicycle & Pedestrian Alliance
David Charville, Tetra Tech	Mike Schneider, R&J Trucking and Toledo Trucking Association
Rev. Larry Clark, Toledo Area Ministries	Gary Siegel, Point Place Business Association
Robert Davis, Toledo-Lucas County Plan Commissions	Jonathan Sobczak, Youth Leadership Toledo
Keith Earley, Lucas County Engineer	James Speck, Metroparks of the Toledo Area
Kenneth Fallows, Mayor, Village of Haskins	Lee Springer, Regional Growth Partnership
Larry Gamble, City of Maumee	David Steiner, Wood County Plan Commission
Diana Ganues, University of Toledo	Mike Stormer, ODOT District 2
James Gee, TARTA	Bill Sutton, St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center
Robert Greenlese, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority	Rick Theilen, City of Perrysburg
Hugh Grefe, Local Initiative Support Corp. (LISC)	Neal Thurber, BP Oil
Leola Haynes, Citizen Representative	Keith Tuttle, Motor Carrier Service
Ray Huber, Wood County Engineer	Carol Van Sickle, Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
Bill Kelly, TARTA	Mark Vonderembse, The University of Toledo Intermodal Transportation Institute
Tom Kovacik, TAGNO	Harry Ward, Westgate Neighbors
Robert Krompak, Ottawa County Development Corporation	Steve Way, DGL Consulting Engineers, LLC
Diana LaBiche, Greater Toledo Urban League	Gary Weinandy, City of Toledo
Royce Maniko, Monroe County	Robin Weirauch, Bowling Green State University
Charles Mann, Owens Community College	Earl Wilkinson, City of Toledo
John McHugh, DaimlerChrysler	Harry Wyatt, Jr., The University of Toledo
Sherri McNeill, Senior Centers Incorporated	
Kathy Mehl, Area Office of Aging of NWO, Inc.	
Kurt Miller, Miller Diversified, Inc.	
Justin Moor, Area Office of Aging of NOW, Inc.	
Ronald Myers, Lucas County	

GOAL GROUPS: For members of the seven goal subcommittees, see **Chapter VI**.

ABSTRACT

TITLE On the Move: 2007-2035 Transportation Plan

AUTHOR Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments

SUBJECT This report presents the “On the Move: 2007-2035 Transportation Plan” and briefly describes the overall development and the significant citizen involvement process used to create the plan for the TMACOG transportation study area. The eight chapters discuss plan requirements; development and evaluation; plan projects, initiatives and policies; and implementation. The plan reviews goals and objectives, financial and air emission constraints, and environmental considerations. Regional initiatives and policies to be implemented through studies, short-term projects and other actions are listed. Projects are listed and accompanied by maps. Projects are classified as funded (within the fiscal constraint) and reserve (needed projects that will only proceed if other than the normal funding included in the fiscal constraint is found).

The plan is also presented in a popular summary booklet and a technical summary booklet. A companion report, “On the Move: 2007-2035 Transportation Plan Development Report,” provides more in-depth description of plan analyses, task force evaluation, and public involvement meetings. All are available from TMACOG.

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SOURCE Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments
300 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
P.O. Box 9508
Toledo, Ohio 43697-9508
www.tmacog.org

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“We envision a vibrant region with a dynamic economy and high quality of life where transportation is a core strength.” On the Move: 2007-2035 Transportation Plan Vision Statement

What will the Toledo metropolitan area look like in 30 years? Over the next three decades, what improvements in transportation do we need for better freight movement, personal mobility, and regional strength?

These are the core questions that TMACOG and the people of our region (Lucas and Wood counties in northwest Ohio, plus southern Monroe County, Michigan) addressed in developing the “On the Move: 2007-2035 Transportation Plan.”

The purpose of the “On the Move: 2007-2035 Transportation Plan” is to provide a program of transportation projects, initiatives, and policies that will guide nearly \$8 billion of public investment over 28 years to enhance our regional transportation system. This plan takes a total modal view as all transportation modes are included, and there is a focus on integrating improvements to further develop an intermodal transportation system moving both people and goods.

There was also a focus throughout plan development on full participation by local governments, businesses, and citizens. The On the Move plan task force coordinated creation of this plan. The task force was a broad-based group consisting of representatives of governments, economic development and planning agencies, institutions and service agencies, the private sector, transportation stakeholders, and citizen advocates from neighborhoods. For more than two years, the task force worked with staff to make decisions on plan content and direction and develop an innovative public involvement process. The plan task force looked at technical analysis, brainstormed solutions, and made tough decisions on priorities. All public input was evaluated by the full task force and special working subcommittees (called goal groups) and incorporated into the problem statements that were the basis of the plan.

The plan is structured around seven goals, which were used to evaluate and rank proposed projects and initiatives based on impacts to the region and its transportation system:

“Our region and its transportation system will:

- Be designed and operated to promote safe and efficient travel across all modes,
- Protect the region’s investment by maintaining and preserving the existing system,
- Protect and sustain community and natural environments,
- Be a top quality multimodal passenger transportation hub,
- Be a world-class multimodal freight transportation hub,
- Be a center of transportation research and innovation, and
- Be successful in obtaining adequate funding for transportation facilities.”

Measures of effectiveness were developed and used to evaluate and select plan projects based on these goals. Plan development also was guided by the planning factors and other requirements of the federal “Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users” (SAFETEA-LU). The 2035 Plan is fully compliant with SAFETEA-LU, incorporating the new emphases on consultation with environmental and planning agencies, use of visualization methods to more clearly communicate plan content to the public, and working towards a safer and more secure transportation system. As with previous plans, the impacts on air emission constraints and on low income and minority neighborhoods were evaluated to insure compliance with federal requirements. The “On the Move: 2007-2035 Transportation Plan” is fiscally constrained based on expected federal, state, and local resources. A fiscal balance analysis table (**Chapter II-4**) shows anticipated transportation revenue against future project needs.

At the heart of the plan are 82 projects with funding already committed or expected to be available during the life of the plan. These are listed according to regional priority and identified by the goal they most directly address. There are 26 projects, representing an investment of \$985 million, with the primary goal of improving safety and system efficiency, including rail-highway overpasses, and expressway improvements. To address the system preservation goal, \$26.6 million is set aside for 33 pavement reconstruction projects and an unspecified number of bridge improvement projects.

An Intelligent Transportation System freeway management system addresses both the safety and efficiency goal and the goal of protecting the environment by improving traffic flow and reducing pollutant emissions from stalled traffic. To implement the goal of a multimodal system for personal mobility (“passenger goal”) the plan calls for nine transit projects including a downtown trolley, one passenger rail project (infrastructure needed for the proposed Ohio Hub high speed rail system), a passenger marina, two pedestrian projects, 18 bikeway projects, and nine “complete streets” upgrades to improve bicycle and pedestrian access to specific street locations.

Fourteen freight transportation-related projects will support development of and improve road access to intermodal hubs, increase air freight capacity (runway extension), and introduce an innovative freight monorail. One project related to the research goal is included, a people-mover providing a transportation connection within a new research and technology corridor. A reserve list with six projects represents more than \$265 million in needs that cannot be funded under the anticipated federal and state dollar allocations to the Toledo metropolitan area.

In addition to projects, the plan encompasses 18 initiatives (major studies, other strategic actions) and 41 policies (to guide future action in the region). These are also based on meeting the seven plan goals.

An implementation schedule concludes the plan. The implementation schedule lists lead agencies, the time period during which the projects can be funded for construction, and the estimated cost in dollars.

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