

I. INTRODUCTION TO “ON THE MOVE: 2007-2035 TRANSPORTATION PLAN” FINAL REPORT

The Process

Big bridges aren't built overnight and highways do not pave themselves, but all transportation projects start somewhere. In northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, transportation plans come from the research, study and evaluation of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) and its partners. TMACOG maintains a long range plan that literally shapes our region's future. This plan, “On the Move: 2007-2035 Transportation Plan,” is our region's new long range plan, the result of two years of work by a 57-member task force following extensive public input from business and neighborhood leaders, employers, real estate experts, planners, educators, economic development professionals, and many other members of the public.

The plan has been developed and evaluated with real-world consideration: Do we need new roads or should we just fix the old ones? How much freight can we move through our area? Can kids walk and ride bicycles to school safely? Can we improve transportation without causing pollution? How can people get around, especially if they don't drive? And how will we pay for it? The result of all the analysis is this plan. It's a list of projects, initiatives and policies that will change our region over the next 25 years and more.

“On the Move: 2007-2035 Transportation Plan” complies with SAFETEA-LU (federal transportation) regulations. The TMACOG planning process incorporates the new planning cycles, increased attention to safety issues, and all other changes from the previous regulations. The public input process used expanded visual communication techniques that are also linked to more efficient and creative use of the TMACOG website. As required, the On the Move plan will be updated every four years, with the next review in 2011.

Projects

The list of projects that we plan to accomplish in this area by 2035 is 82 items long (see **Chapter VI-8**). It is divided into committed projects, which are those that have already had at least some funding committed; and priority projects, for which funding is expected. Both sections are listed in priority order. The plan projects were developed and selected based on seven goals. (To read more about how the process of evaluating and ranking projects worked see **Chapter V** of this report, and On the Move Plan Process and Plan Task Force on the transportation page of www.tmacog.org).

Initiatives

There are many valuable transportation projects that don't involve construction. The 2035 Plan includes 19 initiatives in our region that stress research, collaboration, and community education (see **Chapter VI-9**). These initiatives, listed by the goals that they serve, are aimed at solving important regional needs. The initiatives will ensure that we have good information and strategies that will lead us to make smart decisions and take effective action.

Policies

The policies established in the 2035 Plan will guide future actions in the region. These are 41 very specific positions, reflecting task force consensus on significant challenges. From support for roundabout intersections, to improving safety at rail crossings, these policies establish a foundation for transportation-related work for the next 25 years or more. Like the initiatives, these policies are also organized by the plan's goals.

Goals

The "On the Move: 2007-2035 Transportation Plan" Goals are:

- Safety and Efficiency – Be designed and operated to promote safe efficient travel across all modes,
- System Preservation – Protect the region's investment by maintaining and preserving the existing system,
- Environment – Protect and sustain community and natural environments,
- Passenger – Be a top quality multimodal passenger transportation hub,
- Freight – Be a world-class multimodal freight transportation hub,
- Research – Be a center of transportation research and innovation, and
- Funding – Be successful in obtaining adequate funding for transportation hub facilities.