

**TMACOG**  
**On the Move: 2007-2035 Transportation Plan**  
**ENVIRONMENT GOAL GROUP**

NOTES: January 24, 2006

In attendance: Keith Avers, Bill Biehl, Ken Fallows, Gary Samples, Jim Speck, Neal Thurber  
(Staff David Gedeon, Diane Reamer-Evans)

**Agenda 3. Clarify Environmental Goal:**

Gary: goal should be preparing for an energy-scarce future

Ken: add “while increasing energy conservation”

Keith: Port is not pushing sea transport of grain

**Decision:** “Protect, sustain and enhance community and natural environments and natural resources.

What is City of Toledo’s plan for future? (grow center city or let die?) Need to look at city’s 2020 plan.

**Agenda 4. Understanding our Region’s Needs – Public Input**

Problem Statement 1, Expand energy options...:

Neil: being looked at, at the state/national level; not sure this is our bailiwick.

Ken: maybe we can look at adding lanes for alternative-fueled vehicles

Bill: policies are a good option

**Decisions:** Also refer this to Research & Innovation Group

Move “Provide easy access for transportation that does not emit greenhouse gases”  
comment to “Transportation options” problem statement.

Problem Statement 5, ...expand ped and bike options:

Ken: only so many rail beds – where do you ride? Bike lanes: Ohio is poor in implementing. Street design is as important as paths.

**Agenda 6. Other Perspectives on Needs**

Environmental issues of importance to Group members:

- 1) Keith Avers, Freedom Twp: loss of farmland – no teeth in zoning regs. Urban sprawl means farm machinery, pedestrians, joggers, etc, mixing on roads not designed for that. New roads: tend to go thru lightly populated areas (more loss of farmland and disruption of rural life). New more stringent septic system regs: may significantly increase costs (\$15-20,000) for new or newly purchased houses.  
-Ken: forbid building roads through wetlands (*Noted need for population change maps.*)
- 2) Bill Biehl, Hull & Assoc: 1. Wetlands an issue: if we have to mitigate their loss, there is no mitigation bank – hats off to Oregon for trying to start one.

2. Storm water: old storm sewers, combined storm and waste sewers. New storm water management requirements important. New Maumee River Crossing runoff should not go directly into river.
3. Continued planning for parks.
- 3) Jim Speck, Metroparks: Water quality—handled from runoff: detention ponds; green roofs; porous pavements; preservation of open space—cluster housing & development; use of native plant materials (use of native grasses requiring less mowing = decreased emissions & less compaction of soil); plant more trees (and take care of them) to improve air quality.
  - Keith: Use of natural sound barriers vs sound walls?
  - Jim: will new I-280 bridge plantings be maintained by ODOT in long run?
  - Native plantings & natural drainage can be used to establish unique local character.
- 4) Ken Fallows, Village of Haskins, TMACOG Environmental Council: NW Ohio highway corridors not very attractive. Use of medians for mass transit? Park and ride—need more, better identified. (Transit ridership may increase as gas prices rise.) Natural drainage?
  - Neal: BP projecting gas prices drop, not increase
  - Jim: measure values for users: visual survey “what’s a high-use trail? Low-use?”
- 5) Neal Thurber, BP, TMACOG AQ Committee: Improved management of congestion—could be a powerful output of this group. We’ve done nothing to facilitate I-280 detours
  - Dave G/Neal: construction is inevitable; congestion mitigation important to deal with it.
  - Keith: Oregon Rd, blockage of rail crossings
  - Keith: provide diversion lanes parallel to interstate; information coordination.
  - Dave G: diesel anti-idling

**Assignments for Feb. 28, 3:00 p.m.:**

- Read Needs Report (background data document)
- Review Toledo 2020 Plan (Dave Gedeon will provide web link)
- Rank problem statements