

# Funding Group brainstorming notes, for April 2006 meeting

#1 More efficient / balanced use of funds		
	Project or Initiative	Policy
Short term/ Fix Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate public, policy makers and engineers:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Public:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Increasing material costs</li> <li>— Regional speakers bureau, grass-roots but TMACOG-coordinated</li> <li>— Media campaign—all chip in</li> <li>— Consistent message &amp; factual</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Engineers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— New materials/technologies</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Policy makers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Encourage long-range plans</li> <li>— Why it takes so long</li> <li>— Experiencing volatility in prices; traditional funding levels don't work</li> <li>— Smart strategies for keeping up the system</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Build own roads w/public staff (cheaper)</li> </ul>	<p>TIP – project selection criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reduce red tape</li> <li>○ Use more dollars for preservation (local funds for capacity)</li> <li>○ Less restriction for right-of-way acquisition and construction</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use best available technology to build long-lasting roads</li> </ul>
Long term / Fix Causes	<p><b>Regional Forum on what will be done in next year --TIP program announcement; Unified message</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>NOT</u> worst first</li> <li>○ Design-build (stretch dollars)</li> <li>○ Construction warranties (long enough to be effective: 10 years?)</li> <li>○ Build long-lasting roads</li> <li>○ Life cycle policy: <u>NOT</u> requirement?</li> </ul>

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#2 More regional cooperation; get most out of funding	
	Project / Initiative / Policy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint projects –               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Signs and signals</li> <li>▪ Mill and fill (city-twp, for example)</li> <li>▪ Contracting projects and services</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Joint salt purchase – [bring in by ship]</li> <li>• Joint materials purchase</li> <li>• Snow plowing coop.</li> <li>• Purchase of equipment, joint / shared               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ milling machines</li> </ul> </li> <li>[educate public]</li> <li>• Reward coop. projects via selection criteria</li> <li>• State purchasing</li> <li>• Specialization / trade / sell services</li> <li>• <b>Regional coordination</b> (see #6)</li> </ul>

#3 Region gets fair share of funding	
	Project / Initiative / Policy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative Agenda – push (\$ needed for projects)</li> <li>• Reduce / eliminate earmarks – <i>Policy</i> – “0” sum; finite resources</li> <li>• Educate elected officials and staff               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Show how using dollars efficiently</li> <li>▪ <i>Initiative</i> – Research – is there a direct correlation between transportation investment &amp; economic development?* -- and demonstrate how using funds efficiently</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Importance of transportation expenditures / benefits (esp. to support increased tax initiatives)</li> </ul>
	* Yes, when spend funds on “de-bottlenecking”

# 4 Increase dedicated funding from traditional sources	
	Project / Initiative / Policy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sales tax (more tax on bigger / heavier / more expensive cars)</li> <li>• Use tax</li> <li>• Border-state issues</li> <li>• Raise gas tax – [if needed?]</li> <li>• Insure “pump” dollars go to transportation</li> <li>• Change gas tax from set / gallon to percent sales tax</li> </ul>

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### #5 Innovative ways to get additional funding for new transportation system improvements

- Local self-help: **impact fees; tax ourselves**
- Property, sales and income taxes: ~~avail~~ **all have been used**
- New sources for transit
- Larger regional coord / funding / compact
  - multi-state
- **Townships/more rural areas need “small projects” funds**
- **TID’s (transportation improvement districts)**
- **Statewide bond issues**

[NEW:]

### #6 Able to balance split of funding between modes based on priorities and needs

- Determine fair balance
- Long-term: think multi-modal in design [*“complete streets”*]
  - opportunity for bike lanes
  - Park n Ride
  - Transit accommodations
- New way to fund transit?
  - Think long-term- what will transit look like?
  - Regional System (link to BG) / Regional funding? (property or sales tax)
- Charge people for true cost of development (impact fees) – currently limited & commercial only.
- Increase effectiveness of each mode
  - Example: is transit system most effective? (and other modes)
- Joint planning between/among modes – sit down together, holistic design solutions (currently single-mode planning)
  - Bring together key players: modes; jurisdictions
  - Thru TIP committee? Jurisdiction announces project and opportunity for partnering
    - Requirement for consultation pre-application
- TMACOG include in new–official training: multi-modal and holistic transportation planning
- Transportation Summit – educate officials