



Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments

## 2035 Regional Transportation Plan Task Force

Celebration of Plan Approval

Tuesday, July 17, 2007 – 1:30 p.m. at TMACOG

### Agenda\*

#### Refreshments

#### 1. Convene meeting / Introductions

*Earl Wilkinson, Vice Chair*

#### 2. Approval of Plan

*Diane Reamer-Evans*

Letter from FHWA—letter has been received from Federal Highway Administration, approving the 2035 Plan as being in conformance with federal air quality regulations, as of July 1, 2007. This is the letter we needed. The plan task force is to be congratulated for successful completion of the plan. The full plan report, a popular summary and a technical summary will all soon be available.

#### 3. Plan Process and Content Evaluation (see evaluation form posted at

*David Gedeon*

[www.tmacog.org/Transportation/2035/taskforce.htm](http://www.tmacog.org/Transportation/2035/taskforce.htm) )

Your thoughts on what worked well and what could be improved. Also, in stepping back and looking at the completed plan, what are your observations?

#### Discussion:

Question 1: Did plan process have good input from all sectors of the community?

- Problem understanding projects vs. initiatives vs. policies vs. goals. Needs to be clearer. (Whether to do initiatives and policies is the decision of our region, not federally-mandated)
- Perhaps there were too many input opportunities, resulting in more emphasis on non-transportation issues (environmental, environmental justice), bogging down progress
- Plan should be simpler: goals & objectives, and action plan.
- Needed better private sector input (lack thereof is partly the private sector's fault). Listening sessions (focus groups) would be good for getting input from major shippers and carriers, like the Freight Committee does.

Question 2: Was plan based on solid data, information and technical analysis?

- The information available to the task force was considered.
- Did not have adequate information. In some cases, information available depended on who happened to be at the table. Needed more info on what was happening in relationship to a proposed project.
- Process was way too long – affects input and outcomes. (The presence or absence of a particular task force member resulted in changed priorities.)
- Technical analysis (data, maps) were first class.

Question 3: Was the plan well-balanced in content, reflecting a broad range of community needs?

- Needed more private sector input (see comment under Question 1).
- This plan was much broader; less emphasis on just highways.
- Highways still get the most money in this plan, as has been the tradition.
- Danger that we dilute the mission of the plan? Is it too broad? How does it relate to federal guidance?
- \$153 m in plan is involved in ped-bike transportation – those concerned about this issue showed up and got heard.
- TMACOG did great job in pulling together a wide diversity of people.

Task Force will be requested to complete the 6-question survey and return it by a date certain.

#### 4. Next steps

- a. Planning Committee ranking initiatives: goal is to prioritize initiatives and begin work on one or more
- b. Tracking 2035 Plan implementation, benchmarking progress: will develop a means of tracking progress on plan projects and initiatives. A new effort, based on discussions towards the beginning of the Plan process, is to develop a benchmarking process identifying actual impacts on the region as the plan is implemented.
- c. Other: TMACOG should provide plan to all jurisdictions, and take the initiative to go to all jurisdictions, large and small, to tell them about the plan.. Should provide updates regularly to the jurisdictions (remember the communications glitches with North Baltimore?).

#### 5. Other business

Patrick Dennis announced the first ever Ohio Conference on Freight that TMACOG is doing on September 17-18, 2007. Cost for full conference is \$150. See the home page of the TMACOG website [www.tmacog.org](http://www.tmacog.org) (click on the Freight Conference logo) for details and registration.

#### 6. Adjourn

*Earl Wilkinson, Vice Chair*

Next meetings: The 2035 Plan Task Force is disbanded. Please contact Diane if you would like to serve on the Planning Committee.

UPCOMING TRANSPORTATION PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.— August 21, October 16, December 18

*\*This Agenda and other meeting materials are posted at [http://www.tmacog.org/2035\\_taskforce.htm](http://www.tmacog.org/2035_taskforce.htm)*