Westside Corridor
Project Description

Since 2003, efforts have been underway to purchase approximately 11 miles of the CSX Toledo Terminal Westside Corridor to preserve the rail right-of-way for future use. The rail corridor, shown on the enclosed map, extends from Laskey Road to River Road in Toledo and from River Road (State Route 65) to Bates Road in Wood County.

Because preservation of the corridor for public use is identified as a priority in the TMACOG 2035 Transportation Plan, we want to purchase this property now while it is available. Therefore, a consortium of local stakeholders has come together to purchase the property using federal transportation funds. Consortium members include the Trust for Public Land, Metroparks of the Toledo Area, University of Toledo, City of Toledo, Wood County Park District, Wood County Port Authority, and Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG).

As a combination of federal and local funds was originally dedicated in 2005 for this project, other worthy transportation projects in our region will not be delayed. No additional local funds will be needed to acquire the property since $7,665,275 of federal plus $1 million of Metroparks land acquisition funds will be drawn from for the property purchase. Hopefully, we will be able to purchase the right-of-way by July of 2011.

As future funds are secured, it is intended that the right-of-way will be developed over time as a multi-use trail forming a major north/south backbone connecting schools, recreation areas, and other important facilities. The corridor connects the University of Toledo, the University Parks Trail, Wildwood Preserve Metropark, the Ottawa Park Trails, several City of Toledo parks and schools, and the W.W. Knight Nature Preserve in Wood County. The trail also links healthcare facilities, workplaces, and commercial areas. As it is developed, the corridor will provide connectivity to a statewide system of trails being developed in our region including the North Coast Inland and Wabash Cannonball Trails.

As Norfolk Southern currently has an easement that allows operation of their trains in the middle section of the corridor, we expect the initial trail development will occur in the northerly and southerly reaches of the corridor. A major improvement will be the replacement of the existing railroad bridge over the Maumee River with a new structure suitable for pedestrian and bike use. The new bridge would have sufficient capacity to carry maintenance and emergency rescue vehicles.

We believe that this project represents an excellent opportunity to further northwest Ohio trail objectives, increase outdoor recreational opportunities, and benefit economic development.

Prepared by
Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments
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