

TMACOG FREIGHT COMMITTEE AGENDA & MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011, 11 a.m.

1. Welcome and introductions – Ray Huber
2. 2011 Ohio Conference on Freight - Preview – John Crandall

The 2011 conference (September 20-21) is focusing on warehousing and distribution. Also included this year will be sessions on the various freight studies being completed in Ohio and neighboring states, and there will be more sessions related to truck freight. The truck freight sessions will be grouped on the first day to make it easier for trucking interests to attend. A session on pipelines is a first for the conference, and the Canadian freight connection to Ohio will once again be featured in several sessions. Two tours will be available to attendees: A look at modernization at the Port of Toledo, and a visit to Walgreen's Regional Distribution Center.

More information on the 2011 Ohio Conference on Freight along with registration can be found at www.tmacog.org or www.ohiofreight.org.

3. Port of Toledo Dredging Issue - Update – Joe Cappel

Keeping the Maumee River and Lake Erie approach channels open for shipping continues to be a very crucial issue for Port operations. Open lake disposal of the dredged material has been a controversial practice for many years, and the Toledo Harbor Task Force has been established to try to find a solution to this problem. With input from the task force and from public forums, Hull & Associates has been tasked with developing a Sediment Management Plan. The goal is to have a plan in place that will balance keeping the channel open with environmental concerns by the summer of 2012.

The dredging update presentation is available at www.tmacog.org on the Freight Committee page. Also on that page is the Toledo Harbor Sediment Public Forum presentation from June 15.

4. Toledo Area Industrial Real Estate Market – Lynette Reichle

Lynette was unable to attend the meeting. Her presentation may be rescheduled for a future meeting.

5. Ohio Turnpike Lease/Federal Transportation Reauthorization – Warren Henry

Regarding the possible lease of the Ohio Turnpike, the TMACOG Freight Committee came to an agreement that whether you are for or against a lease, there is a good chance that it is going to happen, and northern Ohio has speak with a unified voice on what the language of a possible lease should contain, and what northern Ohio should get out of it.

From this idea, TMACOG staff member Christine Drennon put together a one-page list of recommendations from the freight committee regarding the lease. This one page list has become part of a briefing paper on ownership and operation options for the Ohio Turnpike. This

document will be presented to the TMACOG Transportation Council and the Executive Committee for approval as the official response from TMACOG to the leasing issue. This document and its recommendations have been regarded as a practical course of action, rather than taking a “for” or “against” stand. At this time, no action has been taken to start the lease process, but all indications are that it will happen.

In a related discussion, it was mentioned that the Ohio Trucking Association and the Ohio Turnpike Commission have not been asked for their input regarding a turnpike lease.

The document Ownership and Operating Options for the Ohio Turnpike – Summary Recommendations & Briefing is available at www.tmacog.org on the Transportation Planning page.

Federal Transportation Reauthorization was not discussed at this time.

6. Other business/discussion – All

Other topics that were discussed:

Maher Terminals has taken a stake in the planned Medford International container terminal to be built in Nova Scotia. The terminal is intended to begin operations in 2013, and will connect to key North American markets through CN rail service.

Vikerman & Associates presentation North American Trade & Transportation: Emerging Opportunities is available at www.tmacog.org on the Freight Committee page. The presentation highlights changing ocean freight shipping patterns with the Panama Canal expansion and also container ship technology trends.

ODOT is leading a project to update NHS Intermodal Connectors statewide, in conjunction with district offices and MPOs. The first step is to review current facilities and routes and the second is to identify new possible facilities and routes. TMACOG staff will work with ODOT on this project. Staff will also seek input from the TMACOG Freight Committee. The NHS Connector project will be discussed at the August 24 freight steering committee meeting.

Charley Sheets brought some vintage rail maps to the meeting to share with members. One was a state rail network map from the early 1900s and the other was a Toledo streetcar rail map.

Kim Sherman from CSX intermodal will be our guest speaker at the September 28 full freight committee meeting.

7. Adjourn