

## TMACOG FREIGHT COMMITTEE AGENDA & MEETING NOTES

Tuesday November 24, 2009, 11:30 a.m.

- 1. Welcome and introductions - Ray Huber**
- 2. Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) – Michael Stormer**

Mike delivered a presentation on the future ITS planned by ODOT for the Toledo area. He talked about the history of developing ITS in the area and the many stakeholders that have been involved in that development. The Freeway Management System (FMS) planned for the Toledo area will cover I-75 (from SR 582 north well into Monroe County), I-475, I-280, US 23 (from the I-475 split north into Monroe County), US 24 (west of Maumee onto the new alignment), and SR 795 (between I-75 and I-280).

The system will consist of 9 dynamic signs (viewable from the lanes that are inbound into Toledo), 61 CCTV cameras (mounted on 70' poles), 21 flow detectors, speed detectors covering 60 mi of highway, and a highway advisory radio system.

The timeframe for construction:  
June '09 – detail design completed  
August '10 – plans completed  
January '11 – project awarded  
January '11 through July '12 – construction  
Cost – 10.8 million

Monitoring of the system by ODOT staff will be web-based with workstations probably located in Bowling Green at ODOT District Two offices. When completed, the camera views and traffic info will be accessible on [buckeyetraffic.org](http://buckeyetraffic.org). Open [buckeyetraffic.org](http://buckeyetraffic.org) and look at the Dayton region for an idea of what will be available for the Toledo area. Contact Mike Stormer at ODOT ([Michael.Stormer@dot.state.oh.us](mailto:Michael.Stormer@dot.state.oh.us)) with any questions about the system.

- 3. Update on passenger rail in Ohio – Diane Reamer-Evans**

Diane gave an update on plans for passenger rail in the Toledo area and all of Ohio. Here is the latest news:

1. Stimulus Funding—announcement of selected applicants approx Jan. 2010
  - a. Ohio applied for \$560 million in ARRA (federal stimulus) to build startup service on the 3C corridor.
  - b. Michigan applied for \$993.6 million to continue to develop the high speed line from Detroit/Pontiac to Chicago
  - c. Indiana applied for \$2.8 billion to implement the Chicago-Toledo-Cleveland corridor of the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative.
2. Ohio's TRAC has authorized ODOT to spend \$7 million on advancing the Ohio Hub. Will do the required program-level environmental studies for 4 corridors,

including Toledo-Columbus and Toledo-Cleveland (stations, tracks to use, major capital improvements identified). Selecting consultant.

3. Both Marcy Kaptur and Senator Sherrod Brown have put modest amounts of money for the Ohio Hub in the FY 2010 Transportation budget bill, passed by both houses, but conference committee now needed. (Kaptur -- \$500,000 for Cleveland-Toledo-Detroit; Brown \$700,000 for Ohio Hub.)
4. Our region's new advocacy group, Northwest Ohio Passenger Rail Association, held a program meeting in October. Ohio Rail Development Commission director Matt Dietrich and State Rep Peter Ujvagi spoke.

Also, a reminder of two upcoming events:

TMACOG Transportation Summit – Fri, March 19, 2010 (please contact Diane, [evans@tmacog.org](mailto:evans@tmacog.org), or Ken Fallows with your ideas for topics for the summit)

National Train Day, Toledo – Sat, May 1, 2010

#### **4. Preparations for 2035 Plan update – Roger Streiffert**

TMACOG has begun the process of updating the 2035 Plan that was completed in 2007. We have a basic schedule of when the various pieces of the update process need to be completed, culminating in the final approval of the Plan in June of 2011.

As part of the process, we will need to determine if each of the original projects has been completed, is in progress, is still a viable project, or is not. We are asking the freight committee for their input on updating the freight-related projects, initiatives, and policies. Some of the projects may need to be dropped, others reworded. We can also add new projects based on what is important to freight movement at the present time. Information from listening sessions could also be used as a source for new projects. Our goal is to have a ranked draft list of freight projects by the end of June 2010. Over the next several meetings, I will provide information to the committee and ask for your comments and suggestions. We will pass our recommendations to freight committee members who are on the TMACOG Transportation Committee, that will be making the final decisions on project updates. Those members include Ray Huber, Mike Stormer, Ken Fallows, and Rich Martinko.

Background information provided at this meeting:

List of 2035 freight projects, initiatives, and policies from the 2007 plan

List of 2035 safety projects from the 2007 plan

Map of 2035 freight projects

Results of the 2009 listening sessions and info from 2003-2008 listening sessions

Technical Summary of all 2035 projects, initiatives, and policies from 2007

Please look over this information and start thinking about your ideas for project updates and new projects to possibly add to the plan. If you need any of this information, please contact me ([streiffert@tmacog.org](mailto:streiffert@tmacog.org)).

#### **5. Toledo Regional Economic Plan – Transportation and Logistics Industry Sector – Warren Henry**

In a white paper published in September 2004, Dr. Michael Carroll of BGSU and Dr. Neil Reid of UT identified several industry sectors that should become the focal point for our region's economic development strategy. Of the eight recommended for consideration, five were selected for further evaluation. Workgroups were subsequently formed and tasked to identify specific opportunities with recommendations for developing each of the target industries. One of these sectors, transportation and logistics was identified as a cross-cutting cluster which provides critical support to the region's entire economic base. On September 25, the findings of each of the workgroups were presented at the University of Toledo. With respect to transportation and logistics, the following opportunities were identified:

- a. Commercial and industrial development around the CSX and Airline Yard intermodal sites.
- b. Increase and diversify cargo through the Port of Toledo including bulk, break bulk, and containerized freight.
- c. Expand international air freight cargo operations at the Toledo Express Airport. Include air/truck transfer of freight into and out of the region.
- d. Development of modern warehouse and storage facilities.
- e. Leverage existing transportation and logistics investments through "Value Added" strategies. Examples include assembly and sub-assembly, packaging, and redistribution to retail.
- f. Attract and support 3PL and 4PL freight forwarding companies.
- g. Increase distribution of perishable food, pharmaceuticals, and floral products requiring refrigeration through Toledo Express Airport.

Specific recommendations related to each of the opportunities are provided in the *Toledo Regional Economic Plan: Transportation and Logistics Industry Sector* report. A draft copy of the report has been posted on the TMACOG website ([http://www.tmacog.org/Transportation/Meta\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.tmacog.org/Transportation/Meta_Plan.pdf)).

## **6. Other business/discussion – All**

Lower-than-expected costs for projects using federal stimulus funds have allowed the Ohio Department of Transportation to reinstate bridge construction at railroad crossings in Fostoria and Swanton that had been put on hold. They are the Jones Road crossing on the north side of Fostoria and the Hallett Avenue crossing in Swanton. See our updated map of road/rail grade separation projects in the TMACOG map gallery under Transportation at TMACOG.org.

In related discussion, Rob Greenlese mentioned that the ORDC/ODOT preempted traffic signal (traffic backups onto rail crossings) training sessions were very good and should be attended by all highway engineers. Ray Huber talked about the difficulty in trying to close redundant rail crossings for safety reasons because of public opposition to losing a convenient route for crossing rail lines.

## **7. Adjourn**