

TMACOG Freight Steering Committee - Meeting Agenda & Notes

October 26, 2011 - TMACOG Boardroom

1. Welcome and introductions – Ray Huber

2. Multimodal Needs Assessment – Christine Drennen

Assessment of the interconnections among all transportation modes in the TMACOG planning area

As a part of our FY2011 Annual Work Program, TMACOG staff created the Multimodal Needs Assessment. This project and final report provides an assessment of the interconnections among all transportation modes in the TMACOG metropolitan planning area: highway, freight and passenger rail, public transit, bicycle/pedestrian, air, and water. This multimodal analysis of the regional system also takes into consideration the concept of complete streets, which is defined as a roadway that accommodates all travelers, particularly public transit users, bicyclists, pedestrians, motorists, and freight vehicles, to enable all travelers to use the transportation network safely and efficiently.

The report describes the “completeness” of existing pedestrian, bike, and street travel routes in the TMACOG region with an emphasis on connectivity between modes. Discussion at the steering committee meeting was focused on this connectivity, especially in relation to freight hubs and freight movement between these hubs. Having efficient highway and rail connections throughout the region benefits the movement of freight and ultimately the regional economy.

The Multimodal Needs Assessment report is available at www.tmacog.org under Transportation.

3. Intermodal Facility and Connector Update Project – Roger Streiffert

Update on the progress of the NHS connector project

As a part of our 2012 annual work plan, TMACOG staff will be doing a study of our current NHS intermodal connector routes and recommend any needed changes, deletions, or additions. ODOT has also begun a statewide project to update the connector routes throughout Ohio, and is seeking input from TMACOG and from ODOT district 2. Staff is working in conjunction with ODOT to update these important “last mile” freight connectors.

ODOT’s due date of September 15, 2011 to submit any initial recommendations has come and gone. Staff submitted recommendations on updates to existing routes and an initial list of possible new facilities to add to the list. The routes are based on individual facilities and whether they meet the criteria for volume of freight or volume of trucks. Further recommendations can be made by July 1, 2012, and once every year going forward.

A highway having the NHS intermodal connector designation can better leverage funding for any improvements needed to the route. Having the NHS intermodal connector designation stresses the importance of these routes to the movement of freight in the region. Therefore, we

are suggesting facilities and routes that may already be eligible for federal funding, but could benefit from the designation when competing for project funding with other highway projects.

Some of the facilities we are suggesting for inclusion are Cargill Grain Terminal, Andersons Maumee Facility, BP Husky, Libby Glass, GM Powertrain, Toledo Refining Co. (former Sunoco), Pilkington Glass, Chrysler Assembly, and Chrysler Machining. We are also looking at a secondary route for Airline Yard, and clusters of facilities at Ampoint Industrial Complex and in the Stickney and Matzinger area. TMACOG staff will ask for input from the freight committee as we work through this update process.

4. TMACOG Transportation Plan Measures – Roger Streiffert

Meeting goals for improving the movement of freight

Every two years, TMACOG staff takes a look at how we are meeting the goals set from our long range transportation plan. From the 2035 Plan the goal for freight is to be a world class multimodal freight transportation hub. We looked at four plan success measures to see how well we have met that goal over the last few years.

- 1) Implement plan projects and initiatives related to freight hubs. There were significant projects underway or scheduled for the four main hubs in the region – Toledo Seaport, Toledo Express, Airline Yard, and the CSX North Baltimore facility.
- 2) Complete priority grade separation projects. Since 2008, two have been completed and four have been funded and are under construction or are planned for the near future.
- 3) Improve roadways connecting freight facilities (NHS Connectors and Michigan legal weight routes). 4.4% of the total lane miles of these routes have been improved during FY2010-2011. In the previous 2 year period, 2.9% were improved.
- 4) Reduce truck crash rate on state highway system. The truck crash rate (number of crashes per million vehicle miles traveled) has decreased 18.6% from 2007 to 2010.

5. Committee Membership/Leadership – Roger Streiffert

The TMACOG Freight Committee for 2012

Staff will contact all freight committee members over the next several months to determine the status of their membership for 2012. Also, the committee will need to re-evaluate the steering committee membership and possibly add new members to replace those that will not be continuing in 2012.

6. Other Business/Discussion

Kim Sherman from CSX Intermodal is scheduled to present at the November 23 full freight committee meeting. Details will be sent out before the meeting. Please have some questions in mind for Kim regarding the future of the North Baltimore facility.

7. Adjourn