



## **TMACOG Passenger Rail Committee Agenda & Notes – April 2018**

Thursday, April 19, 2018, 2:30 p.m.

### **Welcome and introductions – Roger Streiffert, TMACOG**

#### **1. TMACOG Passenger Rail Study Funding - *Determine the best use for planning study funds – All Attendees***

The committee discussed the list of possible planning projects to use the 10K seed money and chose and prioritized the top three:

- 1) Participating in the Traverse City to Ann Arbor study (A2TC), extending it to Toledo.
- 2) The connection from Toledo, through Bowling Green, to Dunkirk, eventually to Columbus – Part of the Ohio Hub plan.
- 3) A new lift bridge over the Maumee River at the Middle Grounds.

The committee voted to use the money toward participating in the A2TC project (1). As per David Gedeon, there will be another 10K for FY 2019 which begins July 1, 2018. The committee wants to use the TMACOG 10K to try to leverage funding from other sources for the remaining 15K needed to join the study. If no other entities step up with money, we could use the 2019 10K toward the same study after July 1. Committee members will be contacting other stakeholders in the region about possibly contributing to the study. TMACOG staff will keep the committee advised on progress.

We heard from John Robert Smith, Chair of Transportation for America ([www.t4america.org](http://www.t4america.org)) by conference call on various federal funding sources available for passenger rail or rail projects in general, as provided under the FAST Act:

- Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program (CRISI): Money available for both FY 2017 and 18. Details at (<https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P1079>).
- Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD): Formerly known as TIGER grants, they are highly competitive with only 5% of applications funded, though it looks like additional funds may be available in FY2019. Details at: (<https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants>).

We hoped to hear from Alexander Metcalf, President of TEMS, Transportation Economics and Management Systems, a Maryland-based consultant working with Groundworks on the A2TC project. He was not available for the meeting and hopefully we can hear from him at a future meeting.

#### **2. Miscellaneous Passenger Rail Topics - *Ohio Rail Plan update/other information – Roger Streiffert, TMACOG***



Matt Dietrich, executive director of the ORDC, along with others met at TMACOG a couple of weeks ago to announce plans to update the Ohio Rail Plan, originally completed in 2010. The ORDC will be looking for input for the plan from various stakeholders including members of TMACOG's Passenger Rail and Freight Advisory Committees. We will discuss this topic further at the May committee meeting.

Because of Patrick Miller's other commitments, he has agreed to pass on the role of committee Chair to Tim Porter. Dr. Miller will continue as a valued member of the committee and will participate in meetings when he can. Roger Shope will continue as Vice Chair of the committee. TMACOG staff will follow the procedures in place to make this change. We thank Dr. Miller for his guidance and leadership over the past years.

**3. Other Business as Time Allows – Announcements/news/events/etc. – All Attendees**

Toledo Train Day 2018 will be held on Saturday, May 5 at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza. Attractions include vendor displays, model trains, freight locomotives, handcars and speeders, safety workshops, food, and music. Contact Bill Gill if you are interested in volunteering and visit: (<https://www.facebook.com/NationalTrainDayToledo/>) for more info.

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Preliminary Schedule of 2018 Passenger Rail Committee Meetings:**

Thursday, May 17, 2018, 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 16, 2018, 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 15, 2018, 2:30 p.m.