



NOTES

1. Welcome; introductions; review agenda and approve February notes--Special recognition of Lloyd Hill, retiring committee member. - *William Gill, Vice Chair*

- Introductions were made. Stu Nicholson joined via telephone.
- Notes approved via motion
- Diane presented a plaque from TMACOG recognizing Lloyd’s many years of service on rail-related committees. Due to health issues, Lloyd is resigning from this and related committees.

2. Station Area Draft Plan presentation (*see slides*) - *Bob Seyfang, Toledo Design Center*

Train station was dedicated 1996; the thought was that this would revitalize the neighborhood. John Loftus, Port Authority, had a passion for the future of the neighborhood and station. This is a gateway to the city and region, and it’s not a memorable sight. We have a lot of good pieces, but not woven together. Toledo Design Center has done plans for other downtown area neighborhoods; this is the next step. New Metroparks director Steve Madewell supports strengthening the area in light of new metropark.

Plan is still being finalized; includes several elements. One concept: improve road access with roundabout at Williams & Summit for more direct access to station; maybe a smaller one near metropark. Possibly add focal point of former Victorian tower that was part of the previous station. Improve access for future Greyhound buses. Tear down part of old mail building, leave the rest for Port Authority equipment; this will provide for more parking area as well. TARPS is a good neighbor; in future TARTA would likely provide more service. A recommendations for streetscaping on Broadway will be included.

Greyhound will mean station open 24 hours. Tracks 1 and 2 will come out: create a green, low-maintenance area; use tracks 3, 4 and 5; elevators would take passengers to multiple tracks. Extra canopies would be removed. Station is of an age that it could be on national register. Add bioswale on outside of tracks? Do a solar field on NS property? Low cost to bring in Greyhound; in progress, they may come by end of year. Their leaving Jefferson Street may allow redevelopment of adjoining Pythian Castle.

Discussion: Ron Sheck feels moving Amtrak up to upper level should be discussed; operating people in some other locations don’t like adding Greyhound; should keep this concept, Amtrak up, Greyhound down, for the long term. Bob: some places it works well, like Minneapolis. Tim: since more trains are likely coming, may need 5 tracks.

Has Park Hotel realtor, Danberry National, seen proposed image? Stu: has anyone contacted “boutique” hotels about Park Hotel? A: no. Building is in okay shape but needs attention quickly. Banquet facility? Example: La Posada, 50-room hotel. New dynamic: warehouse lofts, but not room for parents to stay when visiting, so hotel would help. Ron: there are lots of good examples of how to revive areas around stations.

Artist Row / “under the bridge” area has potential, just across from new Middlegrounds Metropark. Metroparks are working with JJR consulting firm to develop Ottawa Street as entrance to the park. City of Toledo is obtaining land from NS for the road.

3. 2045 Plan - *Staff and committee*

- a.** Review draft list of projects, initiatives, and policies (*see attached work sheet and project list*)
Diane presented a worksheet related to the personal mobility goal of the 2045 Plan and a draft list of potential projects based on committee and public’s suggestions. The committee was asked to individually rank the projects based on how well they accomplished desired outcomes.

b. What is BRT? –presentation, Janet Arcuicci (see slides)

One of the committee’s suggestion was to pursue bus rapid transit. Janet presented information on BRT, which is the use of buses to simulate light rail. Can include pre-purchase of ticket, level boarding, exclusive right-of-way, limited stops. Is working well in Cleveland on the Euclid Street, where it was part of a strategy to redevelop this corridor linking downtown to the Cleveland Clinic and universities.

Alexis Zapata, Toledo Design Center intern, quoted a Bogota, Colombia, mayor: no one has right to parking; a bus has more rights than parkers. Bogota did a car-free day. BRT or express bus to link universities? Jerry Wicks, OHERN, supports this—add to list. Scott: turnaround time for implementing BRT? 5 years minimum probably. Pass levy first—implement incremental improvements while doing study and seek funds to implement. Scott: would make sell easier for sales tax. Q: any support from Columbus? A: Stu: little or no awareness or support. Janet will send out additional info on BRT.

4. Improving Rail Transportation in our region

For review & approval: TMACOG report

Diane presented a draft target statement and report on work completed during the past fiscal year. Ron Sheck moved, Tim Porter seconded, and report was accepted.

5. Transit Updates

- Various

a. Wood County Stakeholders: Oct. 9th, 1 p.m., Wood Co. Courthouse Building, 5th Floor. Presentation—City of Kent & Kent State, successful transit & community redevelopment project. Janet arranged for this presentation. The meeting is open to all interested.

b. Toledo area coordination plan – no report.

6. Rail Updates

- Various

a. Passenger Rail Forum- still working on speaker. Ron suggests David King exec. Dir. Triangle Transit in NC; prior to that, put together intercity system in NC. Is also on board of Reconnecting America. Stu: suggests National Assoc. of Railroad Passengers, new chairman. Jolene Molitoris is a third possibility. Could also contact Illinois DOT, they are doing a lot—upgrading service and opening lines for new service (Bill Gill has a contact name).

b. Lakeshore Initiative—Rick Harnish, Midwest High Speed Rail Association, will come for special meeting in the fall to help develop support for this initiative.

c. Other: Tim stated as he talks with politicians, he finds they need info and explanations, then they get excited about the possibilities. Currently not a top priority for many, not a public-transit friendly legislature.

Stu: working on proposal to do 110 mph Columbus to Chicago, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the MPOs and mayors along corridor – agreed to fund an environmental study.

7. Other Business, Announcements, etc.

Adjourn

Schedule for 2014	
Committee	Quarterly, third Wednesday, 2:30 p.m.: Feb 19, May 21, Aug 20, Nov 19
Steering	Quarterly, second Tuesday, 2:30 p.m.: Jan 14, April 8 , July 8, Oct 14