



Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG)
PUBLIC TRANSIT & PASSENGER RAIL COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 19, 2014 — 2:30 p.m.
TMACOG Boardroom

NOTES

1. **Welcome**; introductions; review agenda and approve November/January notes - *Patrick Miller, Chair*
Diane convened meeting; introductions were made. Jan. and Nov. notes approved.
2. **Election of committee leadership for 2014** - *Staff*
 - a. **Officers**: 2014 – Patrick Miller, chair; Bill Gill, vice chair
 - b. **Steering committee**: 2014 members: officers plus Colette Cordova, Area Office on Aging; Ron Sheck, All Aboard Ohio; Scott Potter, Black & White Cab; Tim Porter, NOPRA.
3. **Status of 5310 “elderly & handicapped” funding** - *Staff*
 - a. **ODOT announces funding round** –Diane reviewed the ODOT memo re. Specialized Transportation Program (S. 5310) funding round; talk with Dave Gedeon regarding any questions. Applications are due March 24.
 - b. **TMACOG Resolution and next steps**– At a special January meeting, the Public Transit/Passenger Rail Committee passed a motion to recommend to Transportation Council approval of the resolution and MOU making TARTA the designated recipient of our region’s 5310 funds and retaining a role for TMACOG in project selection. On February 5, Transportation Council also voted to recommend approval. The resolution and MOU now go to TMACOG board and ultimately must be approved by Federal Transit Administration.
See Warren if interested in selection/ranking committee
4. **Wood County coordination plan** - *Robin Richter, WSOS*

Human services-public transit coordination plan nearly finished!
Robin provided handouts. At Feb. 26 meeting, stakeholders will be prioritize strategies; also looking for commitments from agencies willing to participate. Date for adoption will be prior to 5310 deadline so Wood County area agencies can apply for funds. The draft plan will be presented to Wood County Commissioners in early March. National Easter Seals has been providing technical assistance. The core group includes Dr. Russell Mills, BGSU; Wood County United Way; Denise Niese, Aging committee; others. Noted the Sentinel newspaper article about non-emergency medical funds – efforts to provide more funds. WSOS has been facilitating the process, but once the plan is done, their job is likely done.
5. **Toledo metro area coordination** - *Staff, TAPP team*
 - a. **ODOT coordination meeting**: March 18 (Combine with Advisory Committee meeting)

ODOT will hold (TMACOG to host) a workshop March. Topics to include mobility management and one-stop call centers for urban areas.

Potential speakers at the forum: mobility managers from other regions. Other topics that would be of interest at the forum: Senior connections; going beyond vehicle transit; integration between train and transit. Need to look at larger regional issues – bus rapid transit? Need to think more broadly and expansively—such as Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to create a rail network and tie local transit services to this backbone. Funding issues for office of transit: they receive only 1% of ODOT budget. Reaching greater region destinations like Ann Arbor. Also, where does ODOT think mobility management will be 5 years from now?

b. No additional funding for “Toledo Area Partnership Project” Colette reported we did not get funded for round 2; however we will continue with the work anyway.

6. 2045 Plan: first look

- *Staff*

a. Review what’s in current plan—The committee reviewed tables showing progress/status of 2035 Plan transit and rail-related projects and initiatives. Roger Shope noted rail status should include Lakeshore initiative and other advocates’ efforts. Importance of 4 tracks being built as part of the McCord Rd. underpass project: part of effort to widen to 4 tracks at all overpasses on the Chicago-NY line.

b. Key issues for new plan—Public input opportunities: meetings, surveys. This will help identify rail and transit issues that need to be addressed in the 2045 Plan.

7. TMACOG FY 2015 action plan for transit/rail

- *Staff, steering*

For committee approval

Staff presented the draft transit and rail elements for the FY 2015 TMACOG annual work program. Rob: a 5310 project selection committee is essential to functioning of the program. Process will need to be transparent. Diane will advise the PT/PR committee of any progress. Revisions were made; motion was made and seconded to approve 60160; Robin requested amount in budget. Moved and seconded approval of 6130.

8. Transportation Summit: transit to be highlighted

- *Staff*

Friday, April 11, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., the Pinnacle, Maumee. One of the three workshops plus the keynote speaker will focus on transit issues.

9. Rail Updates

a. National Train Day Toledo: Sat., May 3, 2014. Volunteer sign up. *–Tim Porter*

Need volunteer coordinator and volunteers. Have a good start on organizing.

b. Lakeshore Corridor – several advocacy groups are working on this – campaign to add trains. Also working on a joint TIGER grant to upgrade four stations along the corridor. A lot of positive energy working on these initiatives. The Hoosier train was saved through efforts of Midwest High Speed Rail Association; college students were involved in the campaign. *--Tim Porter, Tom Galloway*

c. Michigan—lack of state funding support for transit connections was a setback in the Detroit area. *--Patrick Miller, Lee Markham*

d. Other: Don R. noted the Cardinal train goes through southern Ohio. Boy Scouts have purchased land along the corridor.

10. Transit Updates

a. Spencer Township: providing limited transportation (subsidized taxi) now that they have exited TARTA.

b. Complete Streets policy: TMACOG Transportation Council motion to recommend approval passed unanimously.

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