



Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG)

PUBLIC TRANSIT & PASSENGER RAIL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 18, 2015 — 2:30 p.m.

TMACOG Boardroom

notes

- 2:30 1. Welcome;** introductions; review agenda; approve November notes - *Patrick Miller, Chair*
- *William Gill, Vice Chair*
- 2:40 2. 2045 Plan** - *Staff*
- a. Review ranking of transit and rail projects—Scott Potter wants the Planning Committee to come and hear deliberations. Was surprised by the process. Discussed the
 - b. Review initiatives and policies—added mobility management
 - c. Public comment period and public meetings—provided
- 3:00 3. Committee business** - *Staff*
- a. FY 2016 work program: for approval—Tim / Roger moved seconded.
 - b. Committee officers for 2015—Robin moved Patrick, Roger as chair/vice chair.
 - c. Separate Transit committee at TMACOG? Separating the groups will not allow for cross-education; together we are stronger than apart. We are about moving people, and we are working together to make it work seamlessly. ‘I came to this committee representing rail, and now I’m involved with rail equally.’ We could have subcommittee meetings as needed, but keep them together. Avoid putting the two into separate silos. Jim: happy with committee as is. Focusing on the passenger is our goal. Initially was on Passenger Rail committee, at first didn’t like the addition, but has learned much about transit and sees that rail.
 - d. Innovation in Surface Transportation Act: HR 4726 introduced in House; introduced in Senate; creating a competitive program, each state would receive an amount of funding. The funds would be from existing sources. Jim Gee: have a national program, TIGER, which Ohio doesn’t actually always get funds from. This new competitive fund would give our states a better chance. Transportation for America supports. Will be reintroduced March. It would be a transparent process. \$195 million this year would be the outcome for Ohio. Sources: Surface Transportation Program is the source. Question: what is to say that ODOT wouldn’t just use it for highways? Offering local access to resources; ODOT would be part of the decision making process. Requested TMACOG send out to committee for their consideration.
- 3:20 4. All Aboard Ohio proposal: “3 Steps to a more multimodal ODOT”** - *Tom Galloway*
For discussion – see [article](#)

Tom: provided the AAO proposal summary. Asked individuals to provide support, and to endorse as a committee. Tom moved, Tim seconded, committee requests forwarding to Transportation Council. Motion approved.

3:35 5. Transit Updates and Issues - *Various*

- a. State: — ODOT Statewide transit study to be featured at Summit
 - small funding increase proposed for Ohio—7.5 million to 8.5 million proposed. Not significant dollar amount, but is the first time an increase has been suggested for transit in recent memory.
- b. Local — TARTA – no report
 - BG Transit – no report
 - Bedford Dial-A-Ride – Patrick says LET is asking participating jurisdictions for increase in funding (property tax). Would need to be voted on.
 - Perrysburg Transit --
 - Scott Potter update—previous Toledo mayor thought Uber and Lyft was a nonissue; but current administration has concerns, and Scott has been asked to put together a committee. He will report next time on what transpires. B& W has partnered with TARPS to do some overflow. Colette: saw an article that said these companies hurt the economy, since the people at the top make the money, and the people at the bottom don't. Also, they don't serve the underserved; and nobody has been able to stop them. Similar to jitney cabs in the past that undercut trolleys. Mostly young folks ride.
- c. Coordination & Mobility Management update: Toledo urbanized area; Wood County
- d. Transportation Advisory Committee – Diane reported the committee met in December and will meet again in March. A big issues at the last meeting was snow removal.
- e. Other – Colette 23% income tax cut will result in billions in decrease of income; transit is practically the only increase proposed in the budget.

3:55 6. Rail Updates - *Various*

- a. Train Day 2015 (May 2), and Friday Night by the Tracks, May 1— Bill noted the new “Amtrak Train Days” program, and the Friday Night fundraiser is expected to be a big success again this year. Jerry Wicks gave kudos to Bill Gill for the success of Train Day, and stated ProMedica should be a sponsor. ___ will share this thought with ProMedica.
- b. Regional – NOPRA.weebly.com is new website. It is also NOPRA.org. In Michigan, the legislature gave the MDOT director a hard time for having bought rail cars, but they are just sitting. Special runs were promised, but none have occurred (Ann Arbor to Detroit). Tim thought that SEMCOG owned the cars; there was interest from a party in renting the cars, but they were told to back off so as not to jeopardize future regular service.
Don Rozick reported on an issue with lack of restroom facilities in the cars.
- c. National—Amtrak is having a lot of problems with weather,

causing delays; Albany to Boston they are busing.
Waterloo is getting funding for a new station, a big step to improving passenger amenities. Elyria station was in such dangerous shape that passengers were being passed by; warned this could happen anywhere including Toledo.

4:15 7. Other Business, Announcements, etc.

4:25 Adjourn

Schedule for 2015	
Committee	Quarterly, third Wednesday, 2:30 p.m.: Feb 18, May 20 , Aug 19, Nov 18
Steering	Quarterly, second Tuesday, 2:30 p.m.: Jan 13, April 14, July 14, Oct 13