



TMACOG Passenger Rail Committee Agenda & Notes – February 2018

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

Welcome and introductions – Roger Streiffert, TMACOG

1. Committee Leadership/Structure/Organization - *Including AWP/operating procedures/web pages* – Roger Streiffert, TMACOG

Below are the main points regarding leadership, structure, and organization:

- Dr. Patrick Miller will remain as committee Chair for 2018. Vice Chair position is not yet final, depending on availability of members interested in the position.
- Point was made by Tim Porter that it is important to have either the Chair or Vice Chair present as a voting member at Transportation Council meetings.
- Staff created an updated list of all current members and will ask for updates on professional titles or affiliations.
- Staff will also check with all committee members regarding meeting days, times and duration. Changes can be made based on your input.
- The Annual Work Program (AWP) for FY 2019 for passenger rail planning is complete and has been approved by Transportation Council. Due to staff changes and a time crunch, the AWP is basically a carry-over from 2018 (current). The AWP is a guide for what minimum items need to be accomplished for the fiscal year, so I am not concerned if not all planning goals are listed. We can always do more than what is included in the AWP. Minor tweaks to the 2019 AWP can still be made before final submission to ODOT. I will ask if any minor revisions are needed.
- Some minor wording updates are needed for the committee operating procedures to bring them in line with those of other TMACOG committees. While it is in the process of being revised, I will ask for any other updates that may be needed.
- Staff will update the web pages at tmacog.org for the passenger rail committee and for passenger rail planning. The “regional passenger rail” map will also be updated.
- Because the committee meets only quarterly, I will keep communication flowing through email. I will ask for your input, suggestions and comments through email messages to efficiently accomplish what we need to do between our scheduled meeting dates.

Look for emails coming soon asking for your suggestions on the above topics.

2. Identify Passenger Rail Priorities - *Projects, initiatives, policies for the region & beyond* – All Members

We did not have time at the meeting to create a list of the most important projects, but look for an upcoming email asking for your contributions to this list. This will provide information needed for the update to the legislative agenda and to the 2045 transportation plan. Once created, this list of passenger rail priorities will be revised yearly as needed.



3. Committee Short-term and Long-term Goals – *What does the committee want to accomplish?* – All Members

I would like to create a list of short-term and long-term goals that the committee would like to accomplish. It would not be a list of specific projects as in agenda topic 2, but instead will include more general, ongoing goals.

4. Other Business or Announcements - *Other items of interest as time allows* – All Members

From Peter Voorhees: MORPC in Columbus is exploring a possible passenger rail corridor connecting Chicago to Columbus and on to Pittsburgh. This is in conjunction with the “Hyperloop” study. For more info visit: <http://www.morpc.org/news/morpc-announces-2-5-million-rapid-speed-transportation-initiative/>.

If a passenger rail corridor is developed between Columbus and Fort Wayne, IN, this could possibly lead to a connection from the corridor north to Bowling Green and to Toledo. This connection to Fort Wayne is included in the Ohio Hub plan.

With the restructuring of CSX, they may be willing to sell some of their rail corridors that are no longer in use. This could benefit passenger rail development if existing rail corridors could be purchased for use as passenger routes.

TMACOG has budgeted \$10,000 to be used by the Passenger Rail Committee toward a study or planning effort that would be a benefit to regional passenger rail. Staff will ask committee members for suggestions for worthy projects. We will then choose a project that all committee members agree would be the best use of the planning money. Look for an email coming soon.

Meeting Adjourned

Preliminary Schedule of 2018 Freight Advisory Committee Meetings:

- Wednesday, March 28, 2018, 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, July 25, 2018, 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, September 26, 2018, 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 11:30 a.m.