

## Resolution Preamble

A low cost passenger rail system linking the University of Toledo's main campus with UT's Health Sciences campus, Owens Community College and Bowling Green State University addresses several important regional and state needs.

The proposed project would meet key transportation priority needs specified in the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Government's (TMACOG) 2007-2035 Transportation master plan, and would serve as an effective method of testing passenger rail as a means of fostering greater cooperation and sharing of resources among Ohio's institutions of higher learning.

The proposed project would further provide the first link in what could eventually become a statewide rail network integrating Ohio's 61 institutions of higher learning and thereby better serving the 450,000 students and more than 100,000 faculty and staff on those campuses. Such a system could become an integral part of Ohio's Higher Education infrastructure and in certain respects would mimic the function of the Ohio Supercomputer Statewide Network's distribution of supercomputing resources to university researchers throughout the state.

It is further proposed that the statewide rail network be called the Ohio Higher Education Rail Network (OHERN) and that an institute be established, initially at BGSU, to coordinate the planning, research and promotion of this effort.

### **Estimated Cost of the Ohio Higher Education Rail Network (OHERN) pilot plan:**

#### Capital Costs:

DMU Train: \$4.5 million. (Total annual lease payment for two trains: \$865,000)  
Construction of four temporary stations each at \$100,000

#### Annual Operating Expense:

Two trains running 6:30 – 12 midnight, seven days a week, ~ \$2.6m.

#### Annual Cost of the System:

Annual lease payment (\$865,000) + annual operating cost (\$2.6m) = \$3,465,000

Beginning date of the OHERN Pilot Project, i.e., initiation of train service: 2010/2011.

### **If students supported the total operating cost their activity fees would be increased by:**

50,000 Full-Time Equivalent Students \* (15 credit hours \* 2 semesters) = 1,500,000 credit hours per AY.  $\$3,465,000 / 1,500,000 = \$2.31$  added to each credit hour, or ~\$70 per fulltime student per AY.

### **Siting and Organization of the OHERN Institute (Fall, 2008 to Fall, 2010)**

The Ohio Higher Education Rail Network Institute will initially be housed at BGSU. The institute will draw upon existing research and planning resources at UT, Owens, BGSU, and TMACOG with each institution participating fully in planning and research efforts. The institute will include research associates and advisory board members from across Ohio.

## **Resolution Establishing the Ohio Higher Education Rail Network Institute**

**Calling on the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Government's Rail Passenger Committee members to support the establishment of a research institute responsible for the study, planning and promotion of a passenger rail pilot project linking northwest Ohio's public institutions of higher learning**

**Whereas**, In an effort to reduce redundancies in resources while strengthening programs at Ohio's 61 institutions of higher learning, the Ohio Board of Regents has called for increased collaboration among the state's universities and community colleges; and

**Whereas**, the state is in need of a cost effective, reliable mode of transportation providing students, faculty and staff easier access to shared resources at neighboring institutions of higher learning; and

**Whereas**, The Toledo Metropolitan area has, within a 20 mile radius of its main train station and linked by rail, four public institutions of higher learning; and

**Whereas**, The region's lead transportation planning agency, the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Government, is a national leader in rail research; and

**Whereas**, The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Government's 2007-2035 transportation master plan has established as a priority (Projects #6, #8, and #17) the creation of a passenger rail system linking Bowling Green State University, Owens Community College, the University of Toledo Health Campus and the University of Toledo's main campus;

**Therefore be it resolved**, that TMACOG's Passenger Rail Committee supports the establishment of a research institute whose purpose would be the further study, planning and promotion of a passenger rail pilot project linking Toledo's four metro area public institutions of higher learning.

Passenger Rail Committee  
Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Government  
300 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
Tel: 419-241-9155 Fax: 419-241-9116  
<http://www.tmacog.org>