



Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG)

**PUBLIC TRANSIT & PASSENGER RAIL COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, May 22, 2014 — 2:30 p.m.**

TMACOG Boardroom

**NOTES**

1. **Welcome**; introductions; review agenda and approve February notes - *Patrick Miller, Chair*
  
2. **2045 Plan** - *Staff*
  - a. Review public comment on transit and rail issues
    - Information needs to be shared widely
  - b. Key issues for new plan
    - Committee members brainstormed --see end of Agenda for detailed notes from table discussions groups.
  - c. Potential projects
  
3. **Transit Updates** - *Various*
  - a. S. 5310 funding:
    - March statewide funding round: local applications (TMACOG ranks and submits to state for selection)
    - Status of designating TARTA as recipient: in process, needs approval of Governor
  - b. One-Call, One-Click training grant: Colette reported that Area Office on Aging, TMACOG, TARTA/TARPS, Black & White, and Ability Center staff are participating in training on how to do a one-call, one-click transportation
  - c. TARTA: Rossford ballot issue— Jim Gee reported opt-out window closed end of 2013. Rossford Council decided not to put opt-out on ballot, since got more service for their money. Ant-tax group petitioned; Wood Co. prosecutor's office ruled should go on ballot. So expect to be on November ballot barring a prosecutor's opinion.
  - d. Other: Michigan, Patrick Miller: MI Public Transit Assoc—Ann Arbor area transit got a ballot win, more funding for transit.
    - Rail connection to Toledo is not a top priority for SEMCOG
    - Funding issues: it goes back to needing support of state legislature, and it appears there are significant budget shortfalls.
    - Gov. Snyder is cooperative in terms of supporting Amtrak
    - Michigan does much better than OH; in OS, transit funds go to rural communities
  
4. **Rail Updates** - *Various*
  - a. Train Day: Bill Gill—7,000-9,000 attendees. Thanks to TMAOG, Port Authority, Amtrak, etc. Other communities across the country hold Train Day; Toledo is one of few that involves freight. Karen Hedlund, FRA, good presentation.
  - b. Lakeshore Initiative: Tim Porter—working with MHSRA to push for 4-5 round trips/day incl. daytime trains; raising funds locally. NOACA initiative to upgrade stations. Chic-Ft. Wayne-Columbus initiative.

**5. Other Business, Announcements, etc.**

- Non-licensed "taxi" services --*Scott Potter*-- Lyft is here and Uber. Good website maintained by the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association, [www.whosdrivingyou.org](http://www.whosdrivingyou.org).
- Toledo is open system unlike other cities
- These services not licensed; no screening and training of drivers; no taxi insurance (expensive)
- Uber is in partnership with Google--millions invested.
- Scott will meet with City of Toledo mayor next week; also with U.T.
- Kathy: saw call for drivers at U.T.
- Ron: county licensing? No. B&W can operate in State; have to pay sales ta.
- Surge pricing--based on supply & demand

**Adjourn**

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

**Agenda Item 2b. & 2c.: Notes from table discussion groups**

Table 1.

- 1) Encourage use of public transit – remove stigma / stereotype
- 2) Geographic reach of transit –needs to be regional. At minimum should be county-wide.
  - Change funding mechanism
  - Hire facilitator
  - Research how can get around legal/financial roadblocks (Maumee)
- 3) Regionalism and connectivity –multimodal connectivity
  - beyond immediate region
  - Opportunities to cross state lines
- 4) Enhancing transit and promoting
  - Benches, shelters – lack of
  - Promoting TARTA Tracker
  - More frequent trips / on-time performance
  - More state funding

Table 2.

- 1) BRT or Streetcar (on a major corridor, ex. Dorr, Monroe)
- 2) Regional Rail (inter- and intra-state)
  - Convenient
  - Reliable
- 3) Broader regional transit

Table 3.

- 1) Involve legislators – get them to respond to needs, allocate funds
  - planners are aware and putting issues out
  - there are some rail transit advocates in Statehouse, but this is a minority of legislators
  - get local leaders (e.g. County commissioners) to lean on state legislature
  - show evidence of need

-build it and they will come: will generate jobs. \$9 million/yr focus

-back light rail only due to federal funds available; not all agree

2) Capitalize on the youth interest

3) Aging of the baby boomers: need transportation, health reasons, no longer drive

4) Need region-wide funding for transit (TARTA) (change legislation?)

5) Who can lobby on behalf of TMACOG?

-Info Packets – TMACOG put together so groups can go to meet with legislators

-the majority of OH state legislators from rural areas – not familiar with urban needs

-Get on the agenda of the Oh. House Health & Aging Committee agenda: testify when committee meets; meet with them in their office

- Link need for transit funds to need for transportation to health care and raising mortality rate

-Kasich is a maverick re expanding Medicare, and Ohio has a high infant mortality rate

-Who supports our efforts? State Rep. Teresa Fedor; Lucas Co Commissioner Tina Wozniak (and county staff /former Rep. Peter Ujvagi, who could lobby)

-Identify moderates: Barbara Sears, Speaker of House from Sylvania)

-Invite legislators – tell our story