



TMACOG Passenger Rail Committee Agenda & Notes – November 2018

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

Welcome and introductions – Tim Porter, Committee Chair

1. Toledo-Detroit Rail Ridership Feasibility & Cost Estimate Study – *Details on the study and next steps* – Roger Streiffert, TMACOG/Tim Porter, Committee Chair

Staff gave an update on progress of the Toledo-Detroit connection study:

- Toledo City Council approved \$30,000 to go along with TMACOG's \$20,000 to pay for the cost of the initial study.
- TMACOG will transfer its share to the City of Toledo, who will handle the payment.
- Toledo is currently putting together a contract for TEMS and Alex Metcalf.
- The initial plan should be completed in the Spring of 2019.
- The results of the initial study will either justify further plan development, or not.
- Alex Metcalf submitted a detailed *Scope of Work* to Toledo and TMACOG, which includes goals, objectives, market and financial analysis, costs, and potential benefits.
- Dr. Metcalf also supplied a draft implementation process with the projected cost each additional step in the planning and implementation of the project.
- All documents related to the study will be shared with our committee members, or anyone else interested in the project.
- The initial study is supported by TMACOG, SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Governments), Toledo Mayor Kapszukiewicz, Toledo City Council, and U.S. Representative Kaptur. We will seek further support as the study progresses.
- Further meetings will take place with SEMCOG representatives to discuss possible benefits to the City of Detroit, and joint planning for future steps.
- A passenger rail connection to Detroit Metro and a shorter connection to Cleveland and east are two possible benefits for the City of Detroit.
- After the initial study is complete, Detroit Metro Airport, the City of Detroit, and MDOT will be included in the discussion and in further planning efforts.
- Dr. Metcalf will help with identifying possible sources for funding the next steps.
- The private sector could be a possible source for further funding if they deem the project to be beneficial for the region and for their business.
- The eventual completion and success of this project could spur further passenger rail development with possible connections to Fort Wayne and Columbus.

Staff will keep the committee up-to-date on the progress of the study.

2. TMACOG Transportation Legislative Agenda - *Final committee input for the document update* – Roger Streiffert, TMACOG



The Transportation Legislative Agenda is used to inform legislators and decision-makers on what are the most important transportation issues facing the region and is a way for all agencies in the region to be “on the same page” regarding these issues. TMACOG is in the process of updating the document for 2019-20. Staff will organize the Passenger Rail Committee’s final recommendations and submit them to Austin Mack, staff-member working on the document. Final recommendations will also be sent to all committee members.

3. 2045 Plan 2020 Update - *Update on progress and schedule for committee input* – Roger Streiffert, TMACOG

Staff gave a brief update on progress for TMACOG’s long range transportation plan update – 2045 Plan 2020 Update. Plan Task Force meetings are being held monthly and Tim Porter, Passenger Rail Committee Chair, is a member of the Task Force committee. Public meetings will be held at the beginning of 2019 at various locations in the region to get public input on transportation issues that need to be addressed in the plan. Most will be held at public libraries, and a schedule of the meetings will be sent to committee members when it is established. Passenger Rail Committee input will begin in early 2019 with a review of the previous plan’s projects and policies and will end mid-year with a list of updated and new projects and policies to be submitted to the Task Force. More updates to come as the process continues.

4. Other Topics - *Other items of interest as time allows* – All Attendees

It was suggested that staff and the committee look at demographic data along the various Toledo to Detroit rail corridors to have a better understanding of the socio-economic make-up of the area affected by a possible passenger rail project.

Meeting Adjourned

Schedule of 2019 Passenger Rail Committee Meetings:

- Thursday, February 21, 2019, 2:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 16, 2019, 2:30 p.m.
- Thursday, August 15, 2019, 2:30 p.m.
- Thursday, November 14, 2019, 2:30 p.m. (Revised)

Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.