

# Minutes

## Pedestrian & Bikeways Steering Committee

January 17, 2017

8:00 a.m.

TMACOG Boardroom



Toledo Metropolitan Area  
Council of Governments  
300 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
Toledo, OH 43697  
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### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Ed O'Reilly called the meeting to order.

### 2. Approval of October Minutes [\[minutes\]](#)

Mike Young moved that the minutes be approved, Terry Waltzer seconded the motion. All approved.

### 3. New Business

#### a. Call for Committee Leadership Nominations/Vote

The nominee for Chair is Ed O'Reilly and Emily Ziegler is nominated for Vice Chair. Ed O'Reilly opened the floor to additional nominations and none were made. A vote was called and Ed and Emily were each unanimously elected. Steering committee members were also confirmed. They are: Howard Abts, Citizen Representative; Steve Atkinson, TARTA; Richard Currie, Friends of the WCPD; Steven Day, City of Toledo; Dick Kudner, Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor; Rodney Shultz, City of Oregon; Pat Squire, Citizen Representative ; Terry Waltzer, Maumee Valley Adventurers ; and Keith Webb, We Are Traffic.

#### b. Annual Work Plan *[Draft for Review]*

The proposed Pedestrian and Bikeways section of TMACOG's annual work plan for FY2018 (July 1 2017 to June 30, 2018) was presented for approval. An amendment to the section to develop and implement a bicycle traffic counting program and review initial data was discussed. Carol Bintz moved that the element be added, Keith Webb seconded the motion, all approved. Terry Waltzer made a motion to approve the entire section as amended, Mike Young seconded the motion, all approved. The section will be forwarded to Transportation Council.

#### c. Call for Bike Month 2017 subcommittee members

Lance Dasher announced that he will once again be heading up TMACOG's Bike Month efforts and requested volunteers to serve on a subcommittee. The committee will begin meeting soon to establish new goals and areas of focus for 2017.

#### d. Healthy Cities Challenge Award

GE is leading a new program, the HealthyCities Leadership Academy, to mentor and support leaders in their communities as they develop and support new strategies to tackle population health challenges. A coalition including the City of Toledo, TMACOG, ProMedica, Owens Corning, Fifth Third Bank, and others put together a successful application to build on the efforts of the 22nd Century Committee Master Plan; which has developed a framework to maximize downtown

Toledo's current assets, foster business growth, and attract increased downtown residential living. Toledo was one of just 9 winning communities that each will receive an initial award of \$25,000 in prize money, and will be eligible for a final prize award of \$250,000 after a year of collaborative learning and support.

#### **4. Old Business**

**a. Chessie Circle Trail Development Update**

The members of the coordinating committee are evaluating production level design specifications for kiosks and signage. The Metroparks is preparing to open its sections of the trail this May. The bridge removal over the Maumee River is now anticipated to occur in CY2018.

**b. Proposed U.S. Bicycle Routes in the Region**

The proposed routes for the US Bicycles Routes system through the TMACOG region have been finalized and are posted on the TMACOG website. ODOT has indicated a renewed focus on this and now hopes to have the projected submitted to AASHTO for certification in spring of 2017. TMACOG requested further guidance from ODOT on how the signage is to be handled. ODOT anticipates they will work with local communities to install signs approximately every 5 miles and at every intersection. The signs are estimated to cost about \$50 apiece. ODOT's goal is to pay for the initial sign and installation, just as was done for USBR 50 across central Ohio.

**c. Regional Bike Users Map Development**

Attendees were asked to write on maps and indicate routes they ride. They map tool was then discussed with several suggestions for refining the map before it is fielded in bike shops and other locations.

**d. Ohio House Bill 154—What's Next?**

Now that the 3-foot passing distance is set to become law in March there is a push to educate motorists, bicyclists, and law enforcement officials. In addition to the 3-foot message it is important to clarify that motorists can cross a solid center line in order to give 3 feet of clearance. According to current Ohio law, you may cross a double yellow line to pass ANY slower vehicle, but only if:

- The slower vehicle is traveling at less than the posted speed limit;
- The faster vehicle is capable of passing the slower vehicle without exceeding the posted speed limit;
- There is sufficient sight distance ahead to permit the passing maneuver to be safely accomplished, taking into account the speed of the slower vehicle.

This is not specifically a "bicycle" law, but rather a law that covers passing vehicles such as slower moving tractors and Amish buggies.

#### **5. Member Initiatives Roundtable**

Emily Ziegler announced that the downtown Toledo Bikeshare will likely have 18 locations, 100 bikes and 150 racks. The right-of-way plan for this is currently being reviewed by ODOT. The vendor is expected to be SmartCycle. TARTA and DTID are expected to play major roles in marketing and maintenance. She further noted that Metroparks is applying for grant funds for a trail head on the Chessie Circle Trail near the old Beverly school site. Metroparks is exploring TAP funding for an extension of the Wabash Cannonball Trail in Fulton County.

Ron Myers provided updates on several projects. The Sylvania-Metamora facility from Kilburn to Centennial is to be constructed this summer. A grant application is being submitted to the Clean Ohio trail funding program (via Metroparks) to build the next phase of the University Parks Trail extension, from King Road to Silica Road.

John Pristash announced that the second phase of the Sylvania River Trail is expected to be constructed in 2017.

Keith Webb has been working with partners to develop a Ride of Silence in Toledo and potentially another one in Bowling Green. The date of this year's ride is May 17.

Steve Atkinson noted that TARTA is exploring getting its routes added to Google Transit.

Steve Day discussed connecting Bancroft Street to Bowman Park, part of the proposed Overland Trail by making use of existing trail through Ottawa Park.

Jenny Hansen announced that SRTS TPS will be making a new application to ODOT for various infrastructure projects near Toledo K-8 schools, and also for non-infrastructure projects. They will be doing some walking and biking counts at a few schools this spring.

Mike Young noted that the Woodlawn Cemetery path will be a great addition to the community. It complements the cemetery's location as an arboretum and birding site.

Jason Sisco recounted BG's experience of participating in with a bike ride organized by YAYBikes! and indicated that this may lead to a greater emphasis on education initiatives.

Kathy Tate explained the Toledo Rotary Club's commitment to programs and projects with a larger community benefit and pointed to Rotary's support for the Middlegrounds Park.

Tony Mariaz mentioned that there is strong interest in bike routes connecting to and near the Middlegrounds and asked about plans for lighting and wayfinding in the area.

Jim Izbinski shared that Reggie's Bike Shop is interested in supporting Bike Month.

## 6. Events & Announcements

- a. TMACOG General Assembly, January 30, 2017, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg. RSVP required.
- b. [Two recreational trail assistance programs](#), the Recreational Trails Program and the Clean Ohio Trail Fund Program, are offered annually through ODNR. Applications are due February 1, 2017.
- c. ODOT Active Transportation Forum, February 1, 2017. Registration required.
- d. The National Bike Summit has opened registration for its annual event in Washington DC, March 6-9. Check out the agenda at <https://nationalbikesummit2017.sched.com/>.
- e. TMACOG's [Transportation Summit](#), March 31, 2017, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Premier Banquet Hall, 4480 Heatherdowns Blvd, Toledo. Registration required.
- f. International Trails Symposium in Dayton, OH, May 7-10, 2017. <http://www.americantrails.org/ee/index.php/symposium/2017>

### **2017 Ped-Bike Meeting Schedules:**

**Full Ped-Bike Committee** (Quarterly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays): January 17, April 18, July 18, October 17

**Steering Ped-Bike Committee** (Quarterly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays): February 21, May 16, August 15, November 21

**Chessie Circle Coordinating Committee:** January 13, ~~March 10~~, May 12, July 14, September 8, November 10