

TMACOG
Transportation Planning Committee / 2035 Plan-Update 2011 Task Force
Tuesday, December 15, 2009 – 1:30 p.m. -- TMACOG Boardroom

Notes

- 1. Convene meeting / introductions / approve October notes** *–Jeff Ballmer, chair*
October notes for review – members asked to contact staff with any changes

2. 2035 Plan–Update 2011 Process

- a. Update purpose; Plan Vision and Goals *–Jeff Ballmer*
Jeff reviewed vision, goals, and major foci of the 2035 plan
- b. Update process and timeline *–Diane Reamer-Evans*
*Note proposed Early Input public meeting dates: T-LC Main Library--Fri, Mar 5;
Wood Co Library--Wed, Mar 24; FP Mall area (Christ Presbyterian)--Thurs, March 11 or 25*
Bulk of work, including two sets of public meetings, in 2010. Reviewed proposed meeting dates; no objections expressed.
- c. Review / approval of Committee membership *–Diane Reamer-Evans*
No objections expressed to proposed member roster.

3. The Big Issues *–Committee discussion*

Your thoughts: what are the major transportation-related challenges we're facing today?

Big issues per committee discussion:

- ❖ Decaying infrastructure and no money to fix it
 - Reduced gas tax revenue
- ❖ Need to interconnect modes – freight and passenger
- ❖ Incomplete transit systems
 - Insufficient mobility; transit affordability issue for those most in need
- ❖ Lack of funds to maintain school fleets
- ❖ With limited funds, need to prioritize where money should go:
 - New vs existing infrastructure
 - Sprawl issues
- ❖ Complete streets
- ❖ Coordinating transportation and land use to maximize resources
 - Infill more cost effective than Greenfield development
- ❖ Safety, all modes
 - Includes driver behavior issues

- 4. Population, Employment, and Impact on the 2035 Plan** *–David Gedeon*
We're updating 2010 estimates of jobs and population —how and why?

What's important to us in planning for transportation: where people are coming from and going to, and the resulting traffic flows.

TMACOG has a traffic forecasting model that we use to predict traffic flow and congestion; and we use population and employment forecasts as inputs to the model. The region is divided into "traffic analysis

zones” (TAZ map was provided); once we predict number of jobs and number of residents in each zone, the computer model “calculates” how many trips are made to and from each zone, and using which roads.

TMACOG is updating population and employment forecasts that were used in the 2035 Plan process – our forecasts are being sent to local governments for their review and comment.

-The population estimates are based on 2000 Census, with projections for 2010 and beyond based on birth, death, and migration rates.

-Employment estimates are based on jobs data from the 2000 US Economic Census (provided to us by employment classification for each TAZ). To forecast for 2010 jobs in our region, we adjusted the Economic Census numbers based on data from Ohio Jobs & Family Services (employment bureau): they provided changes in percent of workers in various job classifications (NAICS Code) from 2000 to 2006.

Staff will bring adjusted population and employment figures to the Planning Committee at a future meeting.

5. Updates (as time permits)

a. Funding and legislative updates

–*Warren Henry*

SAFETEA-LU, the current transportation law, has expired and needs another extension; passage of an entirely new bill is likely delayed until the health care reform issue is resolved. There will possibly be \$50 billion for infrastructure in the jobs bill. During calendar year 2010, we will see the biggest impact from spending and jobs as a result of stimulus-funded projects. \$11.7 million in stimulus funds came directly to TMACOG; 15 projects were selected for funding, and so far 11 projects (almost \$9 million) have been approved by Federal Highway Administration and design completed, with 4 to go.

Regarding greenhouse gas reduction, a “cap & trade” bill is pending. Warren noted it’s important for the Planning Committee to be aware of long range issues.

b. Transit and Passenger Rail

–*Diane Reamer-Evans*

Ohio, Michigan, and adjoining states are all awaiting announcement of who will receive portions of the \$8 billion in High Speed Rail stimulus funds. Announcement expected early 2010.

c. Major highway projects: update on I-75/475, I-475/US 23; I-73/74; etc. –*Warren Henry*

I-75/475 interchange project to be bid in May 2010. An application for Ohio state funding for I475/US 23 improvements has been submitted to TRAC (Transportation Review Advisory Council), one of 8 applications from our region. I-75 widening south of Perrysburg status: a TIGER (federal stimulus) application was submitted for Perrysburg-North Baltimore, and a TRAC application went in for North Baltimore-Findlay. I-73/74 (proposed new north-south corridor): Tom Kovacik noted lots of work in the Carolinas, but not in Ohio; hopes we eventually get on board (I-75 widening should have been part of the 73/74 project, since in Ohio this new corridor would actually follow US 23 and I-75). US 24 “Fort-to-Port project and I-475/Salisbury Road interchange project are both under construction.

d. Major freight and multimodal projects

–*Warren Henry*

Three primary projects:

1) Airline Junction intermodal yard extension: has ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the federal stimulus act) funds via the state of Ohio; in design; vacation process for Westwood has been completed via the Toledo-Lucas County Plan Commissions.

2) CSX intermodal yard, North Baltimore: \$175 million project with much of funding from CSX. Will change freight movement in North America – move operations from Chicago to Ohio. Completion in early 2011.

3) Port of Toledo: approved for \$35 million to improve facilities, including rail spurs and product-handling equipment

Also:

4) BAX air freight facility improvements to allow more products to move locally, into and out of our region. Improvements will help freight movement avoid Chicago O'Hare bottlenecks.

5) Noted importance of dredging to keep Maumee River open.

This region is undergoing a transition with all the transportation dollars that have been and will be spent.

6. Announcements / Other Business

7. Adjourn

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

2010 Planning Committee— 3rd Tuesdays: **February 16**, April 20, June 15, August 17, October 19,
December 21

Transportation Summit— March 19, 2010