



TMACOG Transportation Planning Committee

Tuesday, December 17, 2013 – 1:30 p.m.

TMACOG Boardroom

Meeting Notes

1. Convene meeting / introductions / review Agenda and October notes --Ron Myers, Chair

A correction to the October notes: under agenda item 5, it should state third roundabout, not fourth. **Pat Etchie moved approval of notes as corrected, Russ Mills seconded, approved by motion.**

2. 2045 Transportation Plan goals --Don O'Connor, Steering Committee

For review and approval (see reverse side for draft goals as revised)

Ron noted the committee reviewed and commented at last meeting; Steering Committee has re-reviewed. Don noted there are some differences between ours and the national goals, such as we broaden beyond highways to include multiple modes, and our freight goal is broadened beyond connectivity to rural areas only. Personal mobility: we added, national goals did not have; intended to encompass all nonmotorized modes. **Ken Fallows moved approval, Ray Luk seconded, motion passed.**

3. 2045 Plan: Understanding our current transportation system --Staff & steering committee

a. Overview: Traffic flow map; new draft Functional Class map – Lisa Householder:

Traffic Flow maps: in red text, the maps show traffic volume and year through 2012; for the most up-to-date counts, see TMACOG website. Printed versions are available, also the pdf can be e-mailed; contact TMACOG to request. Comment: SEMCOG website shows traffic counts.

Functional Class map: have received and are reviewing draft 2010 map from ODOT. Five different road segments are proposed for change. Local review has produced a list of possible additional changes; meeting to discuss is this Friday at 1:30; TMACOG System Performance and Monitoring Committee will then review and present any suggestions for change.

b. Bike/Ped transportation: sidewalk maps; bicycle facilities; ped & bike crash maps -- Lance Dasher

Sidewalk Maps: There are four maps, developed over 3-4 years; inventory is based on review of aerials, most up-to-date is 2011 aerials. GIS shapefiles are available on request. Don noted City of Toledo uses this in planning and public meetings. Warren noted it gives indication of how region has developed (including annexation of townships).

Bicycle facilities: it was a joint effort with Metroparks, TMACOG, and City of Toledo to come up with nomenclature for different types of bike facilities. Ken Fallows noted City of Toledo sharrows are insufficient. Ron Myers noted large sharrows on Monclova Rd are part of a system of trails.

Q: how did “committed” projects get identified? Is BG system for real?

Addition: Transportation Alternatives projects on Kilburn and Sylvania-Met roads should be on map.

Don: it's a debate on where sharrows should be, what road speed. Ken: people using streets for transportation are on the increase. Need to decide where the most effective place to put sharrows is. Toledo isn't paying attention enough yet. More sharrows are needed.

Don noted a City of Toledo bike plan is in the offing. Warren noted Christine Drennen is leading an extensive review of bikeway plans.

Ped and Bike Crash maps: 2009-2011 data/maps. TMACOG and other committees are analyzing data. Some corridors like Alexis and Monroe jump out with their number of bike/ped crashes and will be evaluated. Russ noted education of cyclists is part of the need.

- c. Public transportation: transit map; passenger rail map -- *Diane Reamer-Evans*
 Transit Map: shows service areas for four public transit services in our region. Table shows annual ridership.
 Passenger Rail Map: indicates current and planned intercity routes and volumes.
- d. Infrastructure condition: bridge condition – *Lisa Householder*
 The list of bridges in poorer condition includes about 40 bridges; several of these have funding for improvements. Based on 2012 rating information; 2013 should be available soon.
- e. Other

4. 2045 Plan: Miscellaneous

-- *Diane Reamer-Evans*

- a. Alternative scenarios: The MAP 21 federal transportation law says we may look at alternative futures in doing our plan. TMACOG staff and the 2045 Steering Committee have looked at this option and are not in favor.
 Russ Mills: what are concerns with scenario planning? Warren: Ohio is a home rule state, and as a regional agency, we have no power to effect land use change. State gives us population forecast caps. If there were major competing issues, looking at alternatives would make more sense.
 Ken Fallows: Austin has grown significantly, but they haven't planned for traffic.
 Don O'Connor noted that the plan is updated every four years, so if we see changing trends of any sort, we can adjust the plan.
 Russ: could use it for forward thinking.
 Ron: If we got public input supporting a look at alternatives, we could reconsider.
- b. Performance based plans: We expect the feds to come up with their targets in February. This (and the state targets that will follow) will help inform our regional target development.
- c. Russ Mills: his master of public administration students will do BG area public involvement for the 2045 Plan (public meeting, focus groups, surveys). Is there a similar MPA class at UT?

5. Project and Planning Updates -- *Warren Henry; others*

- a. Major project progress: over \$800 million to be bid over next several years including over \$400 million from Turnpike funds. Public meetings going on for I-75 updates in downtown Toledo.
- b. Other—all buildings are down except one to make way for McCord Rd rail grade separation; there is a problem with dumping on the old Wicks lumber site.
- c. Warren: TMACOG has been selected as mentor for MVPO rural planning area; there was a 95% response rate to a survey of this 5-county area. Travel patterns are interesting: majority travel to Toledo. Top needs included concerns about Lucas-Wood area: SR 2, 475, I-75, for example.

6. Member Roundtable

City of Toledo –Don: 5 multilane roundabouts are to be built in City of Toledo, including “Thousand Islands” area (Detroit, Collingwood, Cherry, etc.). City had a national expert come in to train staff. Opened eyes of engineers, turned nay-sayers into proponents. Any education options – public meetings, Summit, etc.—should be taken advantage of.

City of Toledo Bike plan: City took a blank map, identified nodes – large destination areas like mall, downtown, UT – and looked for ways to connect them via “primary routes.” Will next look for secondary routes.

City of Toledo road diet project: 2015, Summit from Manhattan to I-280 bridge. Will eliminate lane and add a sidewalk path along river. Bill Harbert: that is in line with river corridor plan.

Ken Fallows noted that Ron Myers has really promoted roundabouts for several years, led the way. Thinks roundabouts are a great solution to Thousand Island area. Would also have been good near Art Museum at Monroe/Collingwood.

Monroe County–Ryan Simmons: 5-stage project on I-75, state border to City of Luna Pier: landscaping solutions, reconstructing entire roadway. Eventually all the way to I-275 (in phases from 2014 to 2030). No widening, but complete reconstruct. Would like to see more bridges fixed, but so far, lack of funds. Want to make road into a Michigan gateway.

Warren noted proximity to Lake Erie is part of the road condition problem; may need to raise the road. The “gateway” concept relates to highlighting special areas, such as for birding, and River Raisin battlefield.

Pemberville–Gordon Bowman: Garling Rd reconstruction is now completed, north of Pemberville. Home Depot new facility (distribution, possibly manufacturing) is amazing – one wall is nearly a half mile long. Warren believes its purpose is to get product directly to customer.

7. Upcoming Events and Other Business

--Staff and Committee

- a. Wed, Dec 18, 10 a.m., TMACOG: Informational Meeting for Clean Ohio Fund Applicants (for Lucas County; for Conservation Fund only)
 - b. Wed, Jan 29 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: TMACOG General Assembly (Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg)
 - c. Fri, Apr 11: TMACOG Transportation Summit—suggestions for workshops topics: future of Toledo Express airport (Russ); Don – understanding funding available (ODOT has a new guide). Warren: this year, air traffic has increased; there are several dynamics affecting air travel; a lot to be learned about how people travel, regulatory issues. Russ: At BG, earned a grant to study small airports, including non-hubs like Toledo.
Ron: City of Toledo and Lucas County both putting in multi-lane roundabouts and in core urban areas.
Ken: topic of interest: overcoming myths about roundabout performance.
 - d. Sat, May 3rd: National Train Day Toledo
 - e. Other—Lucas County public works complex will have an open house.
NW Ohio Planning association: will host the statewide planning conference fall 2015. Pat Etchie will be forming a committee and is looking for committee members
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7. Adjourn

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS: Please mark your calendar

Planning Committee— 3rd Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.

2014: *February 18*, April 15, June 17, August 19, October 21, December 16

Agenda Item 2. **2045 Plan goals**

The steering committee drafted the following **regional goals**, working from the national goals:

1. **Safety:** Reduce traffic-*related* fatalities and serious injuries across all modes.
2. **Infrastructure condition:** Maintain and improve the transportation system to a state of good repair.
3. **Congestion reduction:** Reduce congestion on the National Highway System (NHS)*
4. **System reliability:** Improve the efficiency of the surface transportation system
5. **Freight movement:** Strengthen freight access to national and international trade markets to support economic development
6. **Environmental sustainability:** Protect and enhance the community and natural environments.
7. **Project delivery:** Expedite project delivery to maximize effective use of public funds.
8. **Personal mobility:** Improve the quality, accessibility, and efficiency of the multimodal personal transportation system.

**NHS: (see map) the National Highway System consists of roadways important to the nation's economy, defense, and mobility. It includes interstates, other principal arterials, and intermodal connectors.*