

TMACOG Transportation Planning Committee

Tuesday, December 18, 2012 – 1:30 p.m.
TMACOG Boardroom

NOTES

1. Convene meeting / introductions / review August notes and Agenda --Ed Ciecka, Chair

In attendance: 15 members and 5 staff. Last meeting's notes were approved by consensus.

2. Getting Support for our Projects: draft Legislative Agenda--Christine Drennen, TMACOG

What's in the draft L.A.? Does it tell the right story to our state/federal electeds? *Presentation & discussion.*

Christine presented **slides** summarizing the purpose and content of the **draft 2013-2014 Legislative Agenda** (LA). We did the first LA in 2001; the greater NW Ohio coalition (primarily regional agencies) that does the LA has since grown to 17 members. The LA supports the work of the regional transportation plan, listing several needed projects from the plan. The LA lets legislators know their support is needed to implement projects of regional importance in all modes of transportation. This year's document also highlights the funding gap and suggests solutions.

Working together, regional partners have had many successes, such as the new TARPS headquarters, Ironville docks, Westside corridor purchase, and expanded intermodal rail facilities.

Comments are needed soon; LA to be finalized by early February. Committee suggestions: note importance of having sufficient resources for the local road network; note issue of state routes through municipalities (review study done a few years ago); possibly use wording from 2035 Plan re importance of maintaining system.

3. Land Use Initiative: Progress Report --Ed Ciecka, staff, and Land Use Steering members

- a. Draft Land Use Map and possible future changes: staff presented the current land use map (data is from county auditor records). The Land Use Steering Committee is providing input on how this may change, to create a future land use map.
- b. Demographics maps & tables: Dave Gedeon reviewed the median age, median income, and population density maps, which shed light on regional changes. The population is aging; the number of people in poverty is increasing, especially in central Toledo; and population density is increasing in suburbs and decreasing in Toledo.
- c. What happens next? The steering committee will meet again in February to continue work on understanding regional trends and their implications for our future, including transportation needs. A regional forum may be held for community leaders in the spring.

4. Funding under MAP 21

--Warren Henry, David Gedeon

How much money, for what? The latest on our region's federal transportation funding.

Warren reported that we have our region's projections from ODOT through 2019. With ODOT's help, TMACOG's annual funding for transportation projects will be held at around the current level, about \$12 million per year. Transportation enhancement (now "alternatives") funds will NOT decrease by 30% as feared, again thanks to ODOT filling the gap created by the new law.

5. Major Project Updates

--Mike Stormer, ODOT; others

Warren and others reported (Mike not able to attend). ODOT District 2 office secured some available safety funds: Corey and Talmadge road exits from I-475 will be improved to reduce traffic backups, and they will get rid of the weave at I-475/US 23 interchange. Other major upcoming projects include AW (high level) bridge rehab starting in January (1-2 years in duration), and I-75 through downtown Toledo (project is about 2 years out). The announcement about the Turnpike creates a whole new dynamic. There are many questions about

how the governor's recommendations will be implemented; answers need to be in the forthcoming legislation. Discussion: Will this Planning Committee have input into TMACOG's position on the legislation? Answer: yes, although that will need to happen in January. (Special Planning Committee meeting?) Peter Ujvagi, Lucas County, said Lucas Co. Commissioners have concerns: possible use of turnpike bond funds INSTEAD OF, rather than in addition to, existing funding; and what will be the ongoing formula for distributing the funds. Use of US Route 30 as a dividing line for northern Ohio was questioned (rather far south).

Other project updates:

City of Toledo– Secor Road and Collingwood Blvd improvements are next year. Synergy between University of Toledo and City projects: road, bike and ped projects in the UT area are to be coordinated. Includes UT-funded ped bridge over Douglas and UT paving their section of the Westside Corridor trail.

Lucas County Engineer–partnered with City of Toledo to do safety study that led to safety funding for the Corey Rd interchange improvements noted above.

Wood County Engineer–Reopened three bridges in one week, including Dunbridge Rd (closed for three years). Upcoming is a City of Rossford joint project to build a bridge and add sidewalks; collaboration includes Safe Routes to School funds. Would like to see big need for bridge funding noted in Legislative Agenda; difficult for county engineers to keep up on limited budgets, and when a bridge must be closed, it closes the road.

TMACOG: posting a **2013 projects map** and **table**.

6. Upcoming Events and Other Business

a. FY 2014 Work Program: *for review*– staff presented the draft work program for long range planning for FY 2014 (starting July 1, 2013). A big focus will be the 2045 Transportation Plan preparation.

b. Transportation Summit, Friday, March 22 (8am-2 pm), Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg: *Discussion--suggestions for program*. The intended audience includes transportation practitioners, elected officials, and all modes.

Suggestions: big name like US Secretary of Transportation; addressing public transit challenges (it's harder and harder to provide); Ohio Higher Education Rail Network concept; pavement management; full depth pavement reclamation (previously on Summit agenda, and Toledo and Lucas County are doing it successfully); what is sustainable transportation?

c. National Train Day Toledo, Saturday, May 4

d. Member roundtable: Year-end thoughts. Plans for 2013?

What is happening with CMAQ funding? ODOT has directed the MPOs (metropolitan area planning agencies like TMACOG) to form a committee to administer Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality federal transportation funding on a statewide basis. Possible approach: metro areas get their normal allocation of CMAQ *unless* they can't spend it on time, then can go to others to use.

Lucas County: in 2013 doing roundabout at Sylvania/Mitchaw Rds with OPWC, Sylvania City Schools, and LCEO funds in relation to a new elementary school. Also University/Parks Trail rehab project is next year. Lots of roundabout projects upcoming, including one that is multi-lane (McCord Rd).

Lessons learned so far re roundabouts? There is less opposition now that some are in place. Need to continue educating public about benefits (cost, safety, capacity). There is data regarding impacts on ped-bike safety – Ron Myers will forward to TMACOG. In City of Toledo discussions about improving the Phillips/Willys area, roundabouts keep coming up.

Gas tax issues need to be addressed. VMT (vehicle miles traveled) is being considered.

Ohio River bridge, Cincinnati to KY? OH governor says if built, it WILL be a toll bridge (KY objects).

Planning Committee—3 rd Tues, 1:30 p.m—2013: <i>Feb 19</i> , April 16, June 18, Aug 20, Oct 15, Dec 17
