

TMACOG Transportation Planning Committee

Tuesday, February 21, 2012 – 1:30 p.m.
TMACOG Boardroom

NOTES

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

Mr. Ciecka convened the meetings and attendees introduced themselves. The November meeting notes were accepted.

2. Election of committee officers for 2012 --Chair

Ray Huber moved and Ron Myers seconded a motion to elect the following as officers for calendar year 2012: Ed Ciecka, chair, and Ron Myers, vice chair. The motion was approved by voice vote.

3. 2035 Plan Goals: Report Card Grades --Staff

How well is our region implementing 2035 Plan goals?

Staff presented a draft report card, reviewing data that was presented at the last two meetings. The committee assigned grades for each goal. See attached Report Card as approved.

Discussion included:

Environment & Passenger:

- More investment is needed in urban areas because of older infrastructure
- Consider in future evaluating local public transit separately from intercity passenger modes (rail, Greyhound, Megabus)
- Loss of TARTA ridership is significant, even if most loss is Toledo Public Schools students.
- Passage of state bill allowing TARTA opt-out was a blow to transit; if any communities do opt out, it will be a major blow.
- Increase in gas prices could drive transit ridership up.

Freight:

- We're doing great at freight transportation!
 - New FedEx facility to be built in Northwood.
 - Trucking facility at airport, where BAX used to be, is doing well.
- Will truck crashes increase as economy gets better? Grade of A minus rather than A, since crashes rose slightly from 2009 to 2010.

System Preservation:

- Pavement condition and bridge condition down = lower grade.

Funding:

- Noted that "significant progress on 30% of Plan Projects" refers to BEFORE the Ohio TRAC proposed a major delay for the McCord Rd. grade separation.

4. Linking Transportation Planning to Land Use in the TMACOG Region --Diane Reamer-Evans

Update on this new process: meetings with local governments; first steps on gathering data.

Staff have met with most area cities and both county planning staff; all are supportive of doing a land use mapping initiative for the region. Staff are investigating availability of data. The initiative is scheduled for FY 2013 (starting July 1, 2012), with some work expected prior to that. Noted that some Planning Committee members (Mike, Heather, Ken) have volunteered to help guide this.

5. Major Projects and Legislative Update

-- Christine Drennen, TMACOG; others

-TRAC status (see [web](#) for 2013-2016 Draft TRAC Major New Project List): significant delays are proposed for major projects in our region.

-Federal transportation bill progress: Voting on the five-year US House bill has been postponed (likely insufficient votes to pass; and they also are dealing with hundreds of amendments plus much opposition to eliminating transit funding). The two-year Senate bill is progressing. If both bills pass, a major undertaking to mesh them. Possibly there will be no law passed till post-elections.

-Turnpike study: the Ohio Controlling Board has okayed expenditure of funds, so the analysis of options can proceed.

6. Upcoming Events and Other Business

- a. **TMACOG Tech: Ohio's Sunshine Law Training:** Friday, March 9, 9 a.m. – noon, Owens Community College [Audio/Visual Classroom Center](#), Perrysburg. There is no charge. Registration is online through the Ohio Attorney General's office
- b. **Transportation Summit:** committee urged to attend, March 30 --Christine Drennen
- c. **National Train Day Toledo,** Saturday, May 5, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Dr. MLK Jr. Plaza (*volunteers needed*)
- d. **Member roundtable:** what are your current transportation issues / projects?

Ron Myers, Lucas County Engineer's office: TRAC postponement of funding for McCord Road underpass is devastating. Roundabouts: 13 in various stages. Bridges: posting weight limit signs to reflect updated standards.

Ray Huber, Wood County Engineer: Federal rule says every bridge (20-foot or more clear span) must be load rated. Have to dig up old records regarding bridge structure to determine rating. 313 of his are "federal" bridges (state of Ohio definition is 10-foot or more clear span). Question is, what to do with the rest of the bridges that aren't federally defined as bridges? As they put up the newly required signage, you will see large placards with depiction of types of trucks and tonnage. Failure to load-rate = loss of federal funds. Never-ending battle to keep bridges in repair.

Ron Myers: there is a _____ near Spring Meadows, just south of Airport Hwy on Holland Road.

Brian Craft, City of Bowling Green: North Main improvement project is the current focus. Mild winter has allowed utility work to proceed. Bid on the project was lower than expected.

Ryan Simmons, Monroe County: MI Governor Snyder signed law to allow counties to dissolve road commissions and place the county road staff directly under the county commissioners. Not sure what will happen in Monroe County.

Don O'Connor, City of Toledo: have hired a consultant to study Douglas/Laskey/Tremainsville intersection. Dorr St from Secor to Byrne adjoining UT—have ODOT safety funding for 2014; Mannik & Smith doing design work. Developing pavement monitoring system, GIS-based, should allow better tracking of road condition; will enter all old plans into system. Extremely busy construction season ahead, including Sylvania, Monroe, Summit/Broadway, Woodville, Collingwood, Heatherdowns, Glendale. 2013 also looks good for TIP and OPWC funding.

Gordon Bowman: difficult to navigate around 75/475 project-related ramp closures.

7. Adjourn

Next Meetings: ~~April 17~~, June 19, August 21, October 16, December 18

Transportation Summit: March 30, 8 a.m.–2 p.m., Grand Lobby, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza
