



# Summer Caucuses & Forum with State Lawmakers Special Districts & Authorities Summer Caucus Notes

Thursday, August 4, 2016 – 9 a.m.

Penta Career Center Culinary (Room 1307), 9301 Buck Rd. in Perrysburg

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**Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions** – The Special Districts & Authorities Caucus met on August 4, 2016 at 9 a.m. at Penta Career Center (Room 1307), 9301 Buck Road in Perrysburg, Ohio.

Scott Carpenter, director of public relations with Metroparks of the Toledo Area and caucus facilitator, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Introductions were made by everyone present.

### **TMACOG members who were present included:**

- Scott Carpenter – Director of Public Relations, Metroparks of the Toledo Area
- LuAnne Cooke – Northwest Ohio Regional Liaison, Governor’s Office, Northwest Region, Toledo
- Rex Huffman – Legal Counsel, Wood County Port Authority
- Cheryl Johnson – Board Chair, Wood County Port Authority
- Leonard Michaels – Board Member, Northwestern Water & Sewer District
- David Topoleski – Manager, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library
- Mark Sheffer – Chair of Trustees, Northwestern Water & Sewer District

### **TMACOG support staff that was present included:**

- Christine Connell – Transportation Public Administration Specialist
- Marc VonDeylen – Transportation Technician

**Introduction of Discussion Topics** – The topics that were discussed during the caucus roundtable include the following.

- Chessie Circle Trail – will connect North and South Toledo
  - The bridge over the Maumee will come down next year.
  - Until new bridge is built the trail will follow river road into Maumee and cross the Maumee-Perrysburg bridge and then follow SR 65 to join back up with the trail
  - This trail has been a great model for collaboration
- There is a great start to a regional bike network throughout the region that include trails that connect in Michigan and to the East/West/South of the TMACOG region.
  - Hoping the influx of more biking to the region will result in year round biking like in Portland and Minneapolis.
  - Also hopeful that it may lead to some bike sharing as well
  - There is a big economic benefit to having bike trails

- There is a perception problem in the region that people from here fail to notice the good things about the region.
  - It usually takes someone from outside of the region to point out what great benefits we have.
  - Having the river and the lake right in the middle of the region is a huge advantage for us
  - Almost all of the communities in the region are doing well for themselves, why is the region always seem to be down on itself?
  - Downtown is being revitalized well.
  - Having ProMedica move downtown could prove to be a huge benefit
  - Many people are moving downtown especially millennials
  - Millennials reject traditional ways and prefer to live downtown; they reject long commutes, look for alternative means of transportation, etc.
  - Millennials have no problem with picking up and moving if moving improves their quality of life.
  - Many people complain that the Toledo area is not like the Columbus's and Cleveland's, but what is the right size for our community? Maybe we don't have to be like those cities.

**Generate Questions for the Forum with State Lawmakers** – The Special Districts & Authorities Caucus focused mostly on the questions they wanted to ask lawmakers during their session. Below are the topics they focused on:

1. How can we develop a louder, stronger voice in terms of regional image?
2. How are you going to work together to be proactive in promoting our region, setting aside party affiliations?
3. How can we as a region be more proactive rather than reactive?

**Next Steps** – There were no requested actions from the caucus.

**Adjourn** – Scott Carpenter thanked the attendees for their participation and adjourned the meeting.