

Resolution Approving the Lake Erie West Region 2026-2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wood Counties - **STAFF REPORT**

TOLEDO METROPOLITAN AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING AGENDA
DECEMBER 5, 2025

This resolution approves the Lake Erie West Region 2026-2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wood Counties. The CEDS is a five-year strategic plan that guides and prioritizes the region's economic development efforts and provides a roadmap for federal, state, and private investment in the region. It focuses on strategic goals that expand and diversify the economy, enhance workforce development and retention, address housing affordability and access, improve infrastructure and connectivity, and strengthen quality of life, regional identity, and community resilience.

The Lake Erie West Region CEDS represents the consensus of diverse stakeholders including local governments, business and community leaders, economic development agencies, and higher education representatives. The stakeholders are unified in their desire to develop a regional economic development strategy

TMACOG worked closely with partners including Lucas County Economic Development, Ottawa County Community Improvement Corporation, Sandusky County Economic Development Corporation, The Seneca County Collaborative, Wood County Economic Development Commission, Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, Owens Community College, Terra State Community College, Tiffin University, Bowling Green State University, the University of Toledo, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and other local economic development practitioners.

Approval is requested for the Lake Erie West Region 2026-2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wood Counties. An approving resolution is attached. Once the CEDS is approved, it will be submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration Chicago Regional Office. Submitting the CEDS is a crucial step toward creating a federally designated Economic Development District (EDD) for the five-county region, which will open new avenues for funding through the U.S. Economic Development Administration (USEDA).

**A RESOLUTION OF THE
APPROVING THE LAKE ERIE WEST REGION
2026-2030 COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
FOR LUCAS, OTTAWA, SANDUSKY, SENECA, AND WOOD COUNTIES**

WHEREAS, the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) is a voluntary association of local governments in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, organized on May 31, 1968, and established under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Michigan Public Act No. 7 (EX-SESS); and

WHEREAS, TMACOG was designated to coordinate, update and merge into one document, the Toledo Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and The Sandusky and Seneca County CEDS; and

WHEREAS, the CEDS is a five-year strategic plan that guides and prioritizes the region's economic development efforts and provides a roadmap for federal, state, and private investment in the region. The plan examines economic factors including workforce, education, infrastructure, transportation, business climate, quality of life, industry and innovation, and demographics and population trends; and

WHEREAS, the Toledo Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) was first completed in 2019 and included Lucas, Ottawa, and Wood counties. The Seneca/Sandusky CEDS was completed in 2024; and

WHEREAS, the update to the regional CEDS, now includes five counties--Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wood counties and is now called the Lake Erie West Region CEDS; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Erie West Region CEDS represents the consensus of diverse stakeholders Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wood counties including local governments, business and community leaders, economic development agencies, and colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, the 2026-2030 Lake Erie West Region CEDS was reviewed and recommended by the CEDS Strategy Committee for submittal to the U.S. Economic Development Administration Chicago Regional Office after the approval of the CEDS by the Governing Board and each Board of County Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOLEDO METROPOLITAN AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

Section 1: The Lake Erie West Region 2026-2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (**attached hereto as Exhibit A**) be adopted.

Section 2: The Governing Board hereby approves the Lake Erie West Region 2026-2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wood Counties, and

Section 3: That the Executive Director of TMACOG is hereby authorized to submit a copy of this resolution to the U.S. Economic Development Administration Chicago Regional Office, along with the completed CEDS.

Yea _____, Nay _____, Abstain _____

Date of Adoption: _____

Edward L. Schimmel, Chair
Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG)

Attest:

I, **Sandy Spang**, TMACOG Executive Director, do hereby certify that this is a true and accurate account of **Resolution No. 2025-23**, adopted on _____.

Sandy Spang, Executive Director

Operating Procedures Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments Economic Development Policy Board

Article I. Board Authorization

The Economic Development Policy Board (ED Policy Board) is established in Article V of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments' Bylaws.

Article II. Purpose

The ED Policy Board is a decision-making body within TMACOG's General Assembly.

The ED Policy Board oversees and manages the comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS) process and implementation and other functions of the Economic Development District (EDD).

Article III. Duties and Responsibilities

The ED Policy Board is responsible for and has authority to make decisions on programs and policies that will support economic development in the Lake Erie West Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy planning area.

The ED Policy Board has the following responsibilities.

- Approves the economic development Annual Work Programs (80000), including the CEDS and EDD and appropriate assessments.
- Coordinate and implement economic development activities in Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wood counties (the Region), adhering to state and federal requirements.
- Approves the CEDS document and annual updates.
- Provides oversight for economic development research, planning, implementation, and advisory functions as identified in the CEDS.

The ED Policy Board shall meet at least four (4) times during the year to undertake its regular business.

Members of the ED Policy Board will annually review the board's purpose statement and its achievements, and report to the Governing Board regarding its progress and accomplishments.

Article IV. Composition of the Board

Members of the ED Policy Board shall be appointed by the Governing Board. Membership on the policy board shall be constructed to provide a definitive opportunity for elected and appointed individuals, as well as private sector partners, within the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy planning area to participate and provide input on topics related to the purpose of the ED Policy Board.

The policy board membership shall consist of the following.

1. County Commissioner from each of the five counties
2. Mayor from one municipality per county
3. Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority
4. Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
5. Regional Growth Partnership
6. 5-7 higher education institutions
7. 5-7 businesses in the identified Regional Growth Partnership key industries
8. Director of each County Economic Development organization
9. 1-2 financial institutions serving throughout the region
10. Philanthropic organization serving throughout the region
11. Commercial Realtor serving throughout the region

All entities may appoint an alternate representative to serve as an elector when the ED Policy Board representative is not available to attend a meeting of the ED Policy Board.

Article V. Members Term of Office

The term for each member and alternate of the ED Policy Board will begin upon appointment by the TMACOG Governing Board at their first meeting of the calendar year and will conclude at the first Governing Board meeting of the next calendar year.

In the event a vacancy occurs, the ED Policy Board will nominate a replacement for approval by the Governing Board.

Article VI. Quorum

Fifty (50) percent of the ED Policy Board shall constitute a quorum required to conduct the business of the ED Policy Board. A motion shall be considered to have passed upon affirmative vote of a simple majority of members present at any duly called and scheduled meeting of the ED Policy Board.

Article VII. Board Officers

The chair and vice chair of the ED Policy Board will be selected from the ED Policy Board members by the vote of the ED Policy Board.

Article VIII. Duration of Board

The ED Policy Board is a standing board of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of

Governments.

Article IX. Accountability

The ED Policy Board is responsible to the TMACOG Governing Board.

Article X. Functional Responsibilities

The ED Policy Board shall be advised primarily by TMACOG staff within the administration and economic development departments.

There shall be standing advisory groups of the ED Policy Board. Current standing advisory groups include:

- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: Advisory Group

The chair of the ED Policy Board is hereby authorized to appoint task forces on an ad hoc basis as may be desirable to carry out the purpose of the ED Policy Board. Such task forces shall have a discrete, defined objective and shall cease to exist upon completion of that objective or at the pleasure of the chair of the ED Policy Board and must operate within the overall policies of TMACOG.

Article XI. Parliamentary Authority

Except where otherwise specified in these procedures or agreed to by a unanimous vote of the ED Policy Board members present at a meeting, the rules contained in the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern ED Policy Board proceedings in all cases where they are applicable and not inconsistent with the TMACOG Bylaws.

Article XII. Amendments

These procedures may be amended by a majority vote of the ED Policy Board at a regular meeting or at a meeting specifically called for this purpose. Any such amendments shall become effective only after ratification by the Governing Board.

TMACOG Chair

TMACOG Executive Director