



## TMACOG Freight Advisory Committee Agenda & Notes – January 2020

Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 11:30 a.m.

**Welcome and introductions** – Ray Huber, Committee Chair

1. **Committee Leadership & Membership** – *Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and members for 2020* – Roger Streiffert, TMACOG/Ray Huber, Committee Chair

The committee approved Ray Huber as Chair and Jim Jacobs as Vice Chair for 2020.

2. **TMACOG Freight Planning AWP** – *Review and approve the freight planning annual work program for fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020)* – Roger Streiffert/All Attendees

The committee approved the TMACOG freight planning annual work plan for fiscal year 2021 (beginning July 1, 2020). AWP products for FY 2021 include among others: maintain and update as needed the TMACOG freight network and map; plan visits to freight facilities to learn of their operations and transportation needs; evaluate the Detroit-Toledo corridor and identify any needs in preparation for the opening of the Gordie Howe Bridge in 2024.

3. **TMACOG Website Update** – *Revamping the freight planning/committee web pages* – All Attendees

TMACOG will be completely revamping the organization's website this year. As a part of that effort, the freight planning and freight committee web pages will also be updated and possibly combined into one freight transportation page. If you have suggestions on what should be included on that page, please let staff know your ideas at [streiffert@tmacog.org](mailto:streiffert@tmacog.org).

4. **Committee Goals/Plans/Projects for 2020** – *What does the committee want to accomplish this year?* – Ray Huber/Roger Streiffert

Ray Huber talked about the importance of the committee acting on transportation issues and being able to show real accomplishments. Committee accomplishments help keep an interest in the committee and can attract new members. Ray also stressed the importance of getting information from regional freight stakeholders, with questions focused on specific problems instead of being too general. An example of a specific problem is a facility not having a good truck connector route to a major highway.

Rob Hammer talked about this problem as it relates to Mennel's Martel, Ohio facility, and the effort to keep trucks on safe truck routes and be a *good neighbor* to the community. Gary Stookey spoke of the related issue of routing trucks safely through downtown Toledo. A common problem is inexperienced truck drivers using



a GPS not designed for trucking that often errantly guide them to residential streets as the shortest route instead of keeping them on safe truck routes.

Staff listed some possible projects for 2020:

- Identify transportation issues and possible solutions on truck connector routes.
- Organize site visits with area freight facilities and identify their transportation needs and what TMACOG may be able to do to help.
- Revisit the truck parking issue and focus on statewide efforts and on what can be done locally.
- Research what can be done about blocked rail crossings that cause significant delays and identify problem crossings in the area where delays are frequent.
- Continue the dialog with the railroads, jurisdictions, private sector, ORDC, and other MPOs on railroads providing adequate track time for construction projects.

We will continue to discuss plans and projects at future meetings this year.

**5. Gordie Howe International Bridge – 2024 – *Preparing for the bridge opening and what to expect* – Roger Streiffert/All Attendees**

Staff shared some facts on the bridge and the committee discussed to what degree truck traffic could increase in the Detroit to Toledo corridor. Opinions ranged from no immediate increase to a significant increase from Toronto traffic using the new bridge instead of entering the US at Buffalo, NY. Staff will continue to research possible effects from the bridge opening on our region and will report to the committee.

TMACOG is hosting an informational presentation from Canadian Consulate General Joe Comartin in the Grand Lobby of Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 15. ODOT Director Jack Marchbanks will also speak. Watch for an email with further details and registration info.

**6. Roundtable Discussion or Announcements – All Attendees**

With several Monroe County residents in attendance, the committee discussed the 2045 Plan project of building an efficient truck connector between US 23 and I-75. We learned from the conversation that the current connector using St. Anthony, Samaria, Lakeside, and Luna Pier roads is adequate if a bit slow because of two rail crossings, several stop lights, and residential areas. Trucks needing a faster connection can use I-94 to the north or I-475 to the south. Alexis Rd in Toledo is often used but also has many stop lights. In the end the committee questioned whether this project is needed. Staff will review the project and revise as needed.

**Meeting Adjourned**



**Schedule of 2020 Freight Advisory Committee Meetings:**

(schedule may change as necessary)

Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 25, 2020, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 27, 2020, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, July 22, 2020, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 23, 2020, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 11:30 a.m.