



TMACOG Passenger Rail Committee Agenda & Notes – February 2019

Thursday, February 21, 2019, 2:30 p.m.

Welcome and introductions – Tim Porter, Committee Chair

1. **Committee Leadership/Membership 2019 – *Action Item*** – *Election of Chair and Vice Chair/membership updates* – Roger Streiffert, TMACOG

Tim Porter and Roger Shope were re-elected as Chair and Vice Chair of the committee for 2019. The updated full committee list will be posted to the passenger rail committee web page on the TMACOG website: www.tmacog.org.

2. **TMACOG FY 2020 Passenger Rail AWP – *Action Item*** - *Review and approve the next annual work program* – Roger Streiffert/Tim Porter

The TMACOG annual work program (AWP) for passenger rail planning for fiscal year 2020 (July 2019 through June 2020) was approved by the committee.

3. **2045 Plan 2020 Update Passenger Rail Projects** - *Review previous projects and update as needed; begin adding new projects; review previous initiatives/policies* – Roger Streiffert/All Attendees

The committee began the process of updating the passenger rail projects for the 2045 Plan update. We reviewed the previous plan's projects and the committee recommended revisions as needed for each project. We also talked briefly about what new projects should be added for the update. We will continue updating previous projects and adding new projects through the first half of 2019. We took an initial look at the passenger rail policies from the last plan and staff will update the policies and present a draft at the next meeting. Below are some key points from the 2045 Plan update discussion:

- The Toledo to Detroit rail connection will be a separate project in the plan
- A project to increase in the number of trains serving Toledo would need to be based on data showing a projected increase in future rail ridership
- If a ped/bike facility is included with a new Maumee River rail bridge, separation from the active rails and safety would be stressed in the project description
- Include maintenance and further upgrades to the Toledo train station and the station area as a project
- Find out the extent and timeline of currently planned station upgrades
- Passenger rail connection from Toledo to Columbus as well as the Ohio Hub and Midwest Regional plans will continue to be included as projects or initiatives
- Include light rail as an option for city or intercity public transit
- Add the reconnection of the Adrian & Blissfield to Norfolk Southern as a freight as well as passenger rail project



- Possibly add a passenger rail connection project between Fort Wayne and Toledo
- As a policy, include partnering with freight railroads for mutual benefits

Staff will update the list of projects with the revisions discussed at the meeting and provide to all members. Data supporting all projects will also be gathered over the next couple of weeks. Please continue to provide input on existing and future projects to be included.

4. Other Topics or Announcements - *Other items of interest as time allows* – All Attendees

The 2019 TMACOG Transportation Summit will be held on Friday, March 29 at 8 a.m. at the Premier Banquet Complex on Heatherdowns in Toledo. Dr. Alex Metcalf will be the keynote speaker and may include some results from the Toledo-Detroit study in his remarks. Go to www.tmacog.org and look for *Transportation Summit* to register.

In conjunction with the 2045 Plan 2020 Update, there is a transportation needs survey available on line to provide valuable information for staff to use when deciding where transportation resources should be focused. Please take the time to complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FZB5B3R>.

Bill Gill provided an informational handout on the Congressional fiscal year 2019 transportation budget with key rail and transit details highlighted. If you would like a copy, please email streiffert@tmacog.org and I will provide a PDF.

Meeting Adjourned

Schedule of 2019 Passenger Rail Committee Meetings:

- Thursday, February 21, 2019, 2:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 16, 2019, 2:30 p.m.
- Thursday, August 15, 2019, 2:30 p.m.
- Thursday, November 14, 2019, 2:30 p.m. (Revised)

Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.