



TMACOG Passenger Rail Committee Agenda & Notes – May 2019

Thursday, May 16, 2019, 2:30 p.m.

Welcome and introductions – Tim Porter, Committee Chair

1. 2045 Plan 2020 Update Passenger Rail Projects – *Review and approve final list of projects, initiatives, policies* – Roger Streiffert, TMACOG

The committee reviewed and discussed a final list of projects and initiatives to be submitted to the 2045 Plan 2020 Update task force for possible inclusion in the plan. Attendees discussed the wording of the project descriptions and prioritized the projects based on importance to regional transportation. What will be listed as a project and what will be listed as an initiative is still to be determined. Below is a prioritized list of the projects and initiatives:

- Toledo to Detroit Metro/Detroit/Ann Arbor passenger rail connection
- Build a new Maumee River passenger and freight rail bridge (Feasibility Study)
- Toledo to Bowling Green/Findlay/Columbus connection (Feasibility Study)
- Reconnect Adrian & Blissfield RR to Norfolk Southern near Ottawa Lake, MI
- Maintain and upgrade Toledo Amtrak Station as needed
- Connect Toledo to Fort Wayne, IN via NS, IORY, NDW railroads (Feasibility Study)
- Commuter, light rail, or street car system connecting the Toledo region (Study)
- Ohio Hub/Midwest Regional Rail high-speed systems (Identified as an initiative)

The committee discussed the possibility of including feasibility studies in the plan for those projects that would have a very high cost to build. The first step would be a study to determine if the project was economically worth pursuing. Those projects may be listed as initiatives because development of a final project would depend on the outcome of the study.

The committee also briefly discussed the policies to be included in the plan. Staff will create a draft list of projects, initiatives, and policies for the committee to approve before submittal to the task force.

2. Draft Toledo-Detroit Ridership Feasibility Study – *Review and discuss document and next steps in the process* – Roger Streiffert/All Attendees

The committee briefly discussed the document and what may be next steps in the process. Gaining the support of various stakeholders in both Michigan and Ohio will be crucial for the success of the project, and that includes the private sector. The final study is available at www.tmacog.org on the opening page.

3. 2019 Toledo Rail Forum – *Ideas for possible speakers; other plans for the event* – Tim Porter, Committee Chair



Tim Porter talked about the initial planning for the forum which will be held at MLK Plaza on a Monday, October 14th or the 21st. Tim has some ideas for possible speakers and will be making calls and sending letters. More info on the forum will come as we get closer to the date.

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

There were no other topics or announcements.

Meeting Adjourned

Schedule of 2019 Passenger Rail Committee Meetings:

Thursday, August 15, 2019, 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 14, 2019, 2:30 p.m. (Revised)

Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.