



**TMACOG**  
**Public Transit Committee Meeting**  
Wednesday, February 27, 2019 – 2:30 p.m.  
TMACOG Boardroom

**Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Consumer – Shelley Papenfuse, Chair  
Black & White Transportation – Clark Gross  
Bowling Green Transit – Tina Bradley  
Great Lakes Community Action Partnership – Kristen Gerwin  
Hospital Council of NW Ohio – Kathy Crawford  
Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities – Michele Shepler  
Mobility Alliance of NW Ohio – Sherri McNeill, Elyse Osterday  
TARTA – Jim Gee, Connor Briggs, Daniel Hunt  
At-Large – Tim Porter  
Others Present – Sarah Abts (Consumer), Taylor Burns (ABLE), Ken Schumaker  
(Consumer), and Aaron Weisbrod (State Support Team Region 1)

**TMACOG Staff Present:** Dana Doubler, Dave Gedeon

**1. Call to Order**

Dana Doubler called the meeting to order with introductions around the table. Tim Porter made the motion to approve the November minutes, Sherri McNeill seconded to approve, and the motion passed.

**2. Renewing Chair and Vice Chair Positions**

Dana Doubler informed the Committee that both Shelley Papenfuse and Colette Cordova had nominated themselves to serve as Chair and Vice Chair for the Public Transit Committee. No one else was nominated, and Tina Bradley made a motion to approve and Jim Gee seconded and the motion passed.

**3. 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan – 2020 Update**

Dana Doubler presented on the On the Move 2015-2045 Transportation Plan, which TMACOG is currently working on updating for year 2020. She went over the goals, projects, policies, and initiatives currently in the plan relating to transit. She mentioned that the transit targets which were passed last year by the committee will be incorporated into the plan. She asked members of the committee to review the goals, projects, policies, and initiatives which are in the current plan, and to send Dana any edits or updates the committee may have for the 2020 update.

**4. Overview of Transit Authorities**

Tim Porter told the Committee that around 8 years ago, he had brought up the discussion of having a Transit Authority to unite the different organizations around the region. He provided examples of different cities and regions that have Transit Authorities which cover

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multiple agencies. He brought up the idea in order to help with regionalization, and it may be used as a way to help with some of the issues transit users have with transit between jurisdictions. Committee members discussed the logistics behind having a transit authority overlooking transit agencies in Northwest Ohio. Kristen Gerwin had mentioned the efforts ODOT is making in having 12 districts across Ohio where Mobility Managers would assist with collaboration and cooperation between agencies. She passed around the Mobility Managers districts map. The Committee decided to keep the topic of Transit Authorities on the agenda at future meetings, and to discuss progress on regionalization.

**5. Countywide Transit Efforts – Wood County**

Kristen Gerwin informed everyone that there had been a stakeholder meeting to discuss countywide transit for Wood County, and that representatives from ODOT were there and discussed where ODOT was heading in terms of transit. Wood County faces many issues with transit, being that it is very rural and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest county in the state geographically. There may be efforts to add transit coverage in the northeastern portion of Wood County, which could expand over time.

**6. Governor DeWine Gas Tax Increase Proposal**

Shelley Papenfuse informed the committee that Governor DeWine is proposing to increase the gas tax 18 cents for infrastructure. Public transit advocacy groups have seen this as an opportunity to increase funding for public transit as well. There will be a public forum at the Rossford Recreation Center about funding public transit through the gas tax on March 15<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 4 pm. The House may vote on it as early as next week, and it must be passed by the end of March. As written, the state constitution states that the gas tax may not be used for transit, but it could be argued that transit helps relieve congestion and is therefore part of the highway system. Tim Porter mentioned that the Port Authority and City of Toledo receive funding from downtown parking, and funds from that may be used for transit. Also, TARTA is currently not exempt from the 18 cent gas tax, so any benefits from flex funds would not be much benefit.

**7. Commissioner's Task Force – Update**

Shelley Papenfuse gave an update on the Commissioner's Task Force. There have been 2 meetings. They have been working with Jim Gee and have received information about TARTA's finances. So far, it appears that they are in definite support of the sales tax over the property tax. Upcoming meetings will focus on what the sales tax amount should be.

**8. Restoration of TARPS on Sunday**

Jim Gee informed everyone that TARTA has been working with Area Office on Aging, Jobs and Family Services, and the Board of Developmental Disabilities on restoring services which were cut earlier this year. Agencies have been putting up funding, and TARTA has

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been able to modify 5310 funding to pay for services. Through these efforts, TARTA has been able to restore TARPS Sunday service to the same hours as before. Tim Porter said he would check again with City Council about funding received from parking.

**9. Committee Member Updates & Roundtable**

Jim Gee informed everyone about an Economic Impact Study through the Chamber of Commerce on transit. Dana Doubler informed everyone about upcoming events.

**10. Adjourn** – Tim Porter made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Sherri McNeill seconded.

**Next Meeting:**  
Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 – 2:30 p.m.  
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