



Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 9, 2025

Submitted for approval on July 11, 2025

Board members present: Quinton Babcock, Josh Bender, Bob Bethel, Joe Cappel, Jon Eckel, Joe Fawcett, Allen Gallant, Mike Hampton, Carrie Hartman, Doris Herringshaw, Cheryl Johnson, Laura Koprowski, Bob Lloyd, Joel Mazur, Scott Miller, Mike Moulton, Tim Pedro, George Sarantou, Edward Schimmel, Chris Smalley, Jon Rupp, Lisa Sobecki; **Guest(s) present:** Pete Gstalder, FocusCFO, Marcus Hansen, City of Sylvania; **TMACOG staff present:** Sandy Spang, Jennifer Allen, Alex Aspacher, Marissa Bechstein, Dave Gedeon, Annsley Mann, Amir Nur

Call to Order/Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance – The TMACOG Governing Board met on Friday, May 9, 2025, in the Grand Lobby of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza in Toledo, Ohio. Vice Chair George Sarantou called the meeting to order after noting a quorum had been reached. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes – A ***motion*** was made by **Joe Fawcett** and ***seconded*** by Mike Moulton to approve minutes from the March 14, 2025, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair's Remarks – Chair Ed Schimmel arrived and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. In the interest of time, he turned the floor over to Sandy Spang for the Executive Director's Report.

Executive Director's Report – Sandy Spang gave a brief update on the Ohio Conference on Freight, which is scheduled to take place July 29-31 at the Glass City Center. Regional stakeholders are excited that the conference has returned to northwest Ohio. The Canadian Consulate will speak at the conference regarding the new Gordie Howe International Bridge. An update was given on the Route 23 action plan. ODOT and the Ohio Turnpike Commission have been charged with identifying an alternative Toledo/Columbus route. They have identified two multi-route proposals that call for engineering designs and a tolling study. The new state transportation budget includes \$500,000 for a plan to construct a bypass aimed at alleviating congestion on Route 23 and connect northwest Ohio with the state capital.

With regards to the state budget, Mrs. Spang announced that \$5 million of the \$10 million had been restored in the budget for Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs), which will allow them to invest in projects across the state's rural counties. A controversial legislation has been introduced that could potentially shift some of the maintenance responsibilities from townships road to ODOT. Lastly, the Senate introduced SB 3, which proposes to phase down the state income tax to a flat rate of 2.75% over 2 years. The House introduced a similar bill and voted for 3,000 amendments, 1,400 of them have been given consideration.

The federal budget proposes cuts to FEMA, USDA, and Economic Development Administration. Ohio Association of Regional Councils and the National Association of Regional Councils is monitoring the budget process. TMACOG may need to engage in advocacy down the road to communicate the importance and value of these programs to our region.

Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board – David Gedeon, TMACOG's director of transportation, presented two resolutions for board approval. A ***motion*** was made by Joe Fawcett and ***seconded*** by Lisa Sobecki to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-03, Approving the Amended MPO Policy Board Operating Procedures*. The motion passed unanimously. A ***motion*** was made by Lisa Sobecki and ***seconded*** by Chris Smalley to approve the updated MPO Policy Board roster. The motion passed unanimously.

TMACOG Program Manager Melissa Bechstein gave a presentation on the Moving Forward 2055: Regional Transportation Plan for the MPO planning area, which includes Lucas and Wood counties in Ohio and the southern three townships in Monroe County, Michigan. A list of upcoming public meetings regarding the plan can be found at www.TMACOG.org.

Finance, Audit, and Administration Committee – Committee Chair Oliver Turner presented several resolutions for board approval. A ***motion*** was made by Laura Koprowski and ***seconded*** by Joel Mazur to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-07, Approving Amended Finance, Audit & Administration Operating Procedures*. The motion passed unanimously.

A ***motion*** was made by George Sarantou and ***seconded*** by Joe Fawcett to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-13, Approving and Adopting the TMACOG Calendar Year 2026 Membership Fee Schedule*. The motion passed unanimously.

A ***motion*** was made by Lisa Sobecki and ***seconded*** by Laura Koprowski to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-08, Adopting the TMACOG FY 2026 Annual Work Program and Budget*. The motion passed unanimously.

A ***motion*** was made by Joel Mazur and ***seconded*** by Timothy Pedro to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-11, Adopting the TMACOG FY 2026 Governing Board and General Assembly Weighted Vote Table of Representation*. Cheryl Johnson and Chris Smalley voted nay. The motion carried.

A ***motion*** was made by Joe Cappel and ***seconded*** by Mike Hampton to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-14, Authorizing TMACOG to Participate in the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program*. The motion passed unanimously. It was noted that Amazon's government procurement solutions offer greater cost savings.

Leadership Development Committee – Chair Ed Schimmel presented two resolutions for board approval. A ***motion*** was made by Lisa Sobecki and ***seconded*** by Doris Herringshaw to approve *Resolution No. 2025-09, Approving the Amended Leadership Development Committee Operating Procedures*. The motion passed unanimously. A ***motion*** was made by Lisa Sobecki and ***seconded*** by Carrie Hartman to approve *Resolution No. 2025-10, Amending the Employment Contract of TMACOG Executive Director Sandy Spang*. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period – There were no representatives from the public present for comments.

Any and All Other Business – TMACOG is working with Madhouse on rebranding the organization. TMACOG staff as well as the Governing Board will be invited to participate in the rebranding initiatives in the coming weeks.

Next Meeting/Adjournment – The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Governing Board will take place at TMACOG on Friday, July 11 at 9:30 a.m. A ***motion*** was made by Chris Smalley and ***seconded*** by Cheryl Johnson to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Sandy Spang, Executive Director
Toledo Metropolitan Area
Council of Governments (TMACOG)