



# Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Submitted for approval on October 18, 2023

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**Trustees and alternates present:** Meg Adams, Frank Butwin, Joe Cappel, Dan Creps, Jon Eckel, Chase Fletcher, Mike Gramza, Mike Hampton, Mark Hansen, Sarah Helbig, Doris Herringshaw, Dave Hower, Mike Jay, Cheryl Johnson, Tom Kovacik, Austin Mack, Tom Mackin, Royce Maniko, Pat McColley, Scott Miller, John Musteric, Tim Pedro, Nancy Perry, Mike Pniewski, Todd Ritzler, Angie Ruiz, Don Sahloff, Chris Smalley, Lisa Sobecki, Wade Smith, Hannah Stanbery Marozzi, Alec Thompson, Keith Webb, Martha Woelke; **Guests:** Sandra Reed, Lourdes University; Joe Shaw, City of Sylvania; **TMACOG staff present:** Jennifer Allen, Bill Best, Dave Gedeon, Rosanna Hoelzle, Matt Kennedy, Nate Reiter, Sandy Spang, Mike Tippett

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**Call to Order/Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance** – A regular meeting of the TMACOG Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 10 a.m. in the Grand Lobby of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza in Toledo. TMACOG Chair Mike Aspacher 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 Angie Ruiz and *seconded* by Tim Pedro to approve minutes from the April 19, 2023, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**Chair's Remarks** – Chair Mike Aspacher welcomed and introduced TMACOG President Sandy Spang to her first board meeting. Spang's first day on the job was May 22. He referenced the upcoming events listed on the meeting agenda, including the Summer Caucuses with State Lawmakers that is scheduled to take place on August 2 at Penta Career Center. The event is sponsored by Penta Career Center, AT&T, JobsOhio, and Destination Toledo. Registration is open and can be accessed at [www.TMACOG.org](http://www.TMACOG.org).

**Vice Chair's Report** – Vice Chair Tom Mackin reminded board members that TMACOG's Big Picture newsletter has a section dedicated to member news. Board members were encouraged to submit any news they would like to share to contact Alex Aspacher, TMACOG's public information specialist. Board members were asked to reach out to Rosanna Hoelzle, membership and outreach coordinator, if they are interested in scheduling a TMACOG member visit.

**President's Report** – President Sandy addressed board members. She gave an update on the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) conference that she attended in Detroit. Spang also attended the Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) Policy Committee meeting and will continue to do so to keep members up to date on legislation that affects them.

A map produced by the National Association of Development Associations (NADO) was displayed showing the locations of the roughly 400 economic development districts across the country. Based on the map, northwest Ohio, which is part of the USEDA's Chicago region, has very few EDDs due to the length of time it has been taking the USEDA to process applications submitted for the EDD designation. The log jam that resulted in the delay in processing applications has now been broken. It is anticipated that it will take less than one year for the USEDA to process applications.

Spang announced that TMACOG plans to apply for an EDD designation. As part of USEDA's application requirements, an applicant's bylaws must contain language that would reflect their ability to host the EDD. A resolution amending the TMACOG bylaws was presented during the Leadership Development Committee report.

President Spang gave a brief update on the call to improve Route 23. She and Tim have met with TMACOG's regional partners who also support better connectivity between northwest Ohio and Columbus on Route 23. Governor DeWine submitted language in his proposed transportation in the state budget identifying up to \$10 million to study a connection between northwest Ohio and Columbus. TMACOG will monitor the progress of the study and keep members informed of the outcomes.

**Transportation Council** – Council Chair Joseph Shaw and TMACOG Vice President of Transportation David Gedeon presented the report, which was included in the agenda packet.

David Gedeon gave a presentation on proposed amendments to Ohio's eminent domain law. A **motion** was made by Keith Webb and **seconded** by Angie Ruiz to adopt *Resolution No. 2023-07, Opposing Amendments to the Law Regarding Eminent Domain in Ohio House Bill 647*. The motion passed unanimously.

David Gedeon gave a presentation on Congestion Management Process. A **motion** was made by Mike Pniewski and **seconded** by Tom Kovacik to adopt *Resolution No. 2023-14, Approving the Congestion Management Process*. The motion passed unanimously.

**Water Quality Council** – TMACOG Water Quality Planner Matt Kennedy presented the report, which was included in the agenda packet.

**Finance, Audit, and Administration Committee** – Nate Reiter, TMACOG's deputy finance director, presented the report, which was included the agenda packet.

Mr. Reiter presented the proposed FY 2024 annual work program budget. The budget is in balance with both revenue and expenses totaling \$3,670,758. This figure represents an increase of \$534,589 from the current fiscal year budget. After the budget presentation, each TMACOG department gave a presentation on the proposed FY 2024 Consolidated Annual Work Program. A budget highlights summary, along with the FY 2024 annual work program and budget, were linked to the meeting agenda. A **motion** was made by Alec Thompson and **seconded** by Nancy Perry to approve *Resolution No. 2023-12, Adopting the FY 2024 Annual Work Program and the FY 2024 Budget and Membership Fee Schedule*. The motion passed unanimously.

**Leadership Development Committee** – Chair Aspacher presented the report, which was included in the agenda packet. Resolution No. 2024-01, Amending the Bylaws of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, was presented to board members, a copy of which was included in the agenda packet.

President Spang announced that TMACOG will be applying to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (USEDA) for an Economic Development District (EDD) designation for Lucas, Ottawa, and Wood counties. The USEDA requires that an applicant's bylaws contain language that would reflect their ability to host the EDD.

Background information was provided to explain what led to the decision by TMACOG leadership to apply for an EDD designation. Over a year ago, Dr. Millers, the former director of the Bowling Green State University Center for Regional Development, met with TMACOG's Leadership Development Committee and urged TMACOG to apply for the EDD designation. Dr. Millers and his team at BGSU facilitated the creation and development of the Toledo Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), and he felt that TMACOG's role as an MPO and COG puts the organization in a position more than other organization in the region to take on the role as an EDD. An EDD in northwest Ohio will enable our region to access state and federal funding that is currently not available to us due to the lack of an EDD.

Spang answered questions presented by board members. She stressed the fact that an EDD does not replace the work of existing county economic development organizations. Many applications for federal and state funding require a higher level of collaboration to qualify for funding. An EDD would allow TMACOG to collaborate, coordinate, and help develop projects on a regional level and help bring needed funding to our communities. If approved for the EDD designation, TMACOG would collaborate with BGSU Center for Regional Development, members of the Toledo Regional CEDS, as well as other economic development organizations to bring funding to the region.

After Spang had answered everyone's questions, a ***motion*** was made by Angie Ruiz and ***seconded*** by Tim Pedro to approve *Resolution 2024-01, Amending the Bylaws of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments* and to recommend its adoption by the General Assembly. The motion passed unanimously.

**Accept All Council and Committee Reports** – A ***motion*** was made by Angie Ruiz and ***seconded*** by Royce Maniko to approve the council and committee reports. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**Any and All Other Business** – Waterville Mayor Tim Pedro asked mayor who were present at the meeting if they would stick around for a few minutes to discuss a regional matter.

**Next Meeting/Adjournment** – The next regularly scheduled board meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 10 a.m. in the Grand Lobby of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza. A ***motion*** was made by Mike Pniewski and ***seconded*** by Royce Maniko to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

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Michael A. Aspacher, Chair  
Toledo Metropolitan Area  
Council of Governments (TMACOG)

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