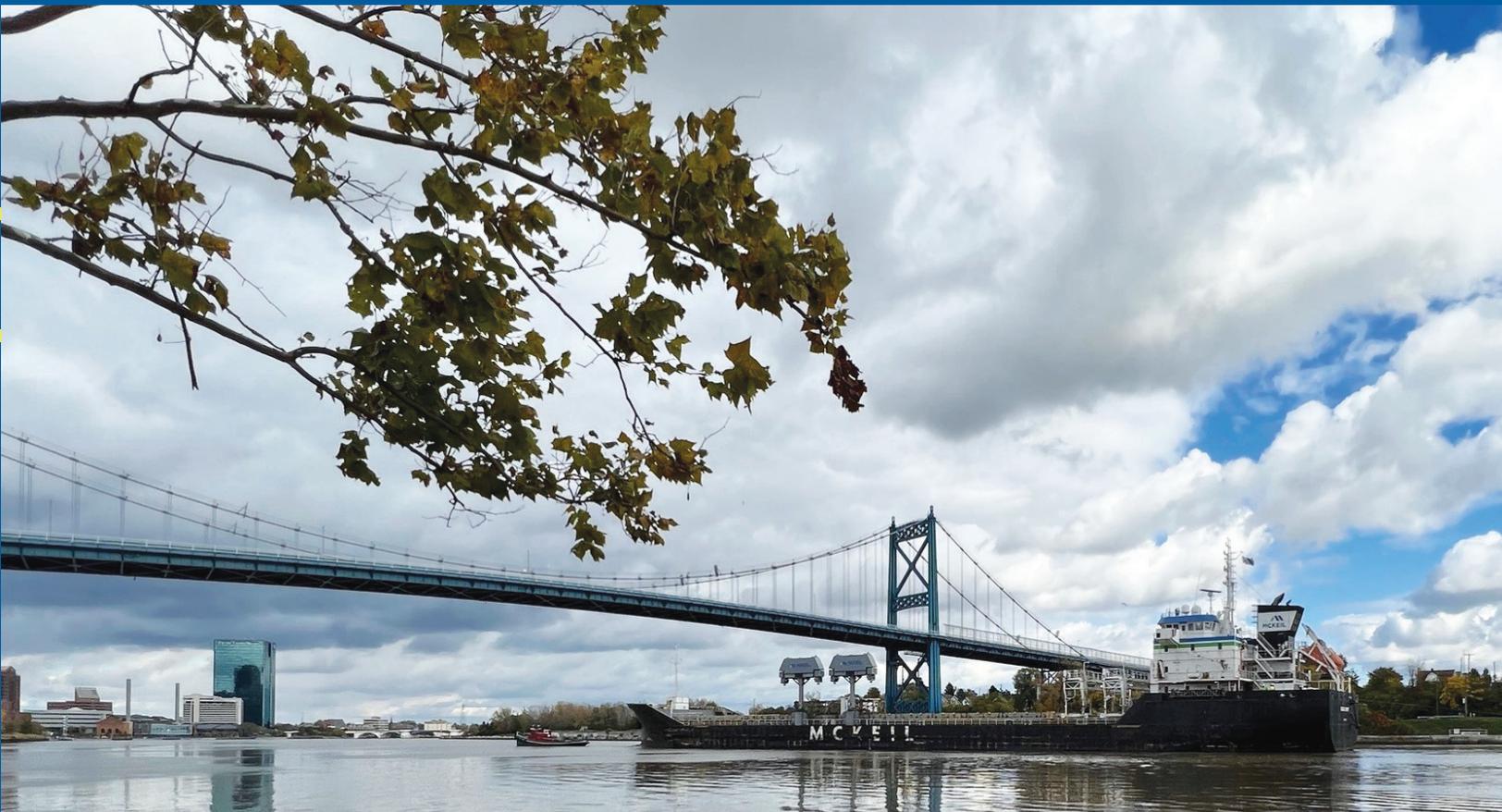




# Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments



## 2021 Annual Report



# 2021 Officers & Executive Committee Members

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

**Chair: Mark W. Stahl** – Commissioner, Ottawa County

**Vice Chair: Michael Aspacher**  
Mayor, City of Bowling Green

## COUNCILS

### Water Quality Council

**Chair: Jon G. Eckel** – Former Director of Public Service, City of Perrysburg

**Vice Chair: Melissa Greene-Hopfer** – Sustainability Coordinator, Lucas County

### Transportation Council

**Chair: Joseph E. Shaw, PE, PS** – Deputy Public Service Director, City of Sylvania

**Vice Chair: Michael D. Pniewski, PE, PS** – County Engineer, Lucas County

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

### Communications Committee

**Chair: Theresa Pollick** – Public Information Officer, Northwestern Water and Sewer District

**Vice Chair: Sheri L. Bokros** – Principle/Vice President, The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc.

### Finance, Audit & Administration Committee

**Chair: Rosanna Hoelzle** – Administrator, Village of Swanton

**Vice Chair: Matthew Oestreich** – Auditor, Wood County

### Leadership Development Committee

**Chair: Mark W. Stahl** – Commissioner, Ottawa County

**Vice Chair: Michael Aspacher** – Mayor, City of Bowling Green

### Membership Committee

**Chair: Edward Schimmel** – Mayor, City of Northwood

**Vice Chair: Jennifer Fehrich** – Client Relations Representative, Poggemeyer Design Group

## At-Large Members

**Doris I. Herringshaw, Ed.D.** – Commissioner, Wood County & Immediate Past TMACOG Chair

**Robert P. Mack** – Trustee, Township of Perrysburg

**Thomas G. Mackin** – Mayor, City of Perrysburg & Chief Legal Officer, Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority

**Patrick McColley, PE, SI** – Deputy Director, ODOT District 2 (ex-officio member)

**Rachel Phipps** – Council Member, Third Ward, City of Bowling Green

**Angie Ruiz** – Council Member, Third Ward, City of Fremont

**Edward L. Snyder** – Trustee, Northwestern Ohio Rails-to Trails Association Inc.

**Craig A. Stough** – Mayor, City of Sylvania



## our vision

Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments will be the governmental partner of choice to coordinate regional assets, opportunities, and challenges.

[www.tmacog.org](http://www.tmacog.org)





## Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments

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Phone 419.241.9155 Fax 419.241.9116 www.tmacog.org

### **Letter from the President and the Chair**

January, 2022

As our nation continues to rebuild and rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic, we're in the midst of a transformation. Historic innovations in our infrastructure are coming down the pike. We are thankful for the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, a bipartisan solution to many overdue needs in our communities.

We don't take this investment lightly, and we know that TMACOG and its members will have tremendous opportunity and responsibility in helping this money be used to its greatest potential.

This is a chance for us to reinvigorate our transportation network and continue the momentum we've built together. By 2024, our region will boast an enhanced system of highways that will benefit our residents and businesses. State-of-the-art upgrades to our roads, bridges, and transit systems will make it easier for our friends and families to get to work, and will make northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan even more attractive to people who want to visit or do business here.

Improving transportation also comes with the economic benefit of facilitating interstate and international commerce. With the new Gordie Howe International Bridge, the enhancement of Interstate 75 throughout downtown Toledo and into Michigan, and ODOT's commitment to improving our region's access to Columbus, we are poised to become a crucial hub on commercial routes to and from Canada.

At the same time, we're working to expand the ways we protect the natural resources we're known for. Conserving green spaces and waterways, protecting our drinking water, and improving our air quality aren't just the right things to do - these projects improve our individual quality of life and make our region more attractive to people seeking new places to live and businesses looking for their next step.

You can learn more about our projects and initiatives that help support these endeavors by reading this report. You can get to know our mission and our priorities even better by talking to our staff or our members, or even getting involved in TMACOG's many councils and committees. We are proud of the work we're doing together and look forward to continuing our partnership with you in 2022.

Tim W. Brown  
President, TMACOG

Mark W. Stahl  
Chair, TMACOG  
Ottawa County Commissioner

# Transportation planning

Safe and efficient transportation that serves everyone is the product of planning. TMACOG's members, staff, and partners count the traffic, run the models, learn about the new technology, and listen to local governments. We maintain a long-range plan that looks out 20 years or more. We schedule and monitor short-term plans that will happen in the next five years or so. We actively seek new information, like autonomous vehicles and intelligent transportation systems, to be ready for the future of moving people and goods in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan.

TMACOG's Transportation Department works with the Transportation Council, associated committees, members, and partners to decide how to invest in our transportation system to ensure that we can move people and goods safely and efficiently.

**A well-designed transportation system serves our entire community. We need it all to work together: highways and railroads, airports and city streets, bike paths and pipelines. TMACOG planners look at connections between modes, address safety issues, consider commuters, bus riders, people who use wheelchairs, semi-truck drivers, and bicyclists.**

## **During 2021, the Transportation Department:**

- Provided funding and staff support for the U.S. 23 Connect Study, investigating an improved connection between Toledo and Columbus. On an average day, as many as 80,000 vehicles travel through the U.S. 23 corridor. Improving bottlenecks in this area will make it easier to travel to Columbus and unlock key freight connections. The need for a better connection has been in TMACOG's Transportation Legislative Agenda since 2008 and has been noted in long-range plans since at least 1996.

The ongoing study is considering options including multiple large-scale improvements to the corridor. One option would add interchanges to convert U.S. 23 into a more traditional limited-access highway. The others would expand or add to existing highways to create new connections to either the east or west of the study area. ODOT will continue the public engagement process into 2022. For updates, go to [www.https://publicinput.com/23connect](https://publicinput.com/23connect).

- Developed a map and data portal to better disseminate information to members and project partners. TMACOG's GIS Portal allows users to access and interact with our data in an interactive and clickable

## 2021 Highlights (cont.)

web-based mapping environment. Data is collected from the region or created by TMACOG staff and helps in the regional planning process.

- Solicited and awarded projects totaling approximately \$35.8 million through fiscal year 2027 for the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality, and Transportation Alternative Program.

- Hosted the 2021 Transportation Summit as a virtual event in March. The summit focused on transportation impacts due to COVID-19.

- Updated the Safety Locations Report and the Toledo Urbanized Area Coordinated Public and Human Service Transportation Plan.

- Completed an update of the regional Intelligent Transportation System architecture.

- Continued counting efforts on the regional trail system. A summary of data from 2019-2021 was created for major trail corridors and is available on TMACOG's website.

In the future, we'll be responding to implement the \$1.2-trillion federal infrastructure bill, which includes generational investments in existing and new grant programs. Details and guidelines will continue to be released, outlining how communities can access this funding. The bill contains a wide variety of infrastructure elements that will impact both transportation and water quality programs, such as roads, bridges, transit, Amtrak, electric vehicle charging stations, lead pipe removal, broadband access, and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

We're also planning an update to our Transportation Legislative Agenda, which outlines our region's perspective on federal, state, and local transportation funding, logistics, air transportation, freight rail,

marine transportation, passenger rail, pedestrian and bikeways, public transportation, and streets, highways, and bridges. We will work through our committees and partners to create an updated agenda that would be presented for approval at the 2023 TMACOG General Assembly.

For questions and more information on the Transportation Department's work, contact David Gedeon, vice president of transportation: [gedeon@tmacog.org](mailto:gedeon@tmacog.org)



# Water quality planning

TMACOG is committed to protecting our creeks, rivers, and Great Lakes by building a culture of conservation and stewardship of our natural resources. We work with local governments that provide drinking water, farmers who feed the nation, and researchers who are learning more every day about surface water, stormwater, and water treatment.

TMACOG's Water Quality Department works with the Water Quality Council, other committees, members, and partners to coordinate and recommend positions on water quality issues and policies to improve and protect water quality in our region and Lake Erie.

**Where do we invest limited resources to ensure safe, abundant water continues to be our greatest natural resource? TMACOG works with people restoring natural waterways, treating water and wastewater, and managing the infrastructure that serves homes and businesses. Careful planning and regional cooperation are powerful tools.**

## **During 2021, the Water Quality Department:**

- Continued its tradition of bringing students, teachers, and water-quality professionals together to share knowledge and stewardship with the Student Watershed Watch. Each October, students take samples from nearby water sources to learn about macroinvertebrates, nutrients, acidity, and bacteria.

In total, an estimated 550 students from 16 different schools around the region participated this year. In April, they'll gather at a summit at the Toledo Zoo to share results from their research projects and visit with professionals to learn about career paths in water and wastewater, restoration, and biology.

- Coordinated site visits so that TMACOG members could learn in person about strategies that are successfully protecting our region's watersheds. In August, the Agriculture Committee learned how farmers use soil health practices that benefit their own land, in addition to keeping nutrients out of waterways. Committee members saw up close how tactics like filter strips and drainage control structures can keep rainfall and fertilizer from entering field tile and ditches.

In September, the Water Quality Council visited Red Horse Bend, a former farm property near the Sandusky River that is being

## 2021 Highlights (cont.)

transformed into helpful wetlands, and eventually a public park. They saw how the land is being rehabilitated into natural areas that will help remove nutrients and sediment from waters on their way to Lake Erie that might otherwise contribute to harmful algal blooms.

- Offered training for professionals who work in fields that intersect with TMACOG's mission, such as water, wastewater, and stormwater. Through workshops, presentations, in-person meetings and webinars, people who work in these critical areas were able to get valuable continuing education and professional development credits.
- Advocated for legislation and policy changes that will protect and improve our region's water resources. The past year was a busy one, with many proposed and enacted changes to environmental issues. TMACOG's members and staff track changes in administrative policy and proposed bills to evaluate their impact. Writing letters with suggestions to improve

legislation or address undesirable environmental effects can be an effective strategy, and equipping legislators with important information, studies and statistics can make a difference.

The Water Quality Department will continue much of this work in 2022, in addition to taking on new projects and priorities. TMACOG, the City of Toledo, Owens Community College, and other partners will create an Integrated Water Workforce Collaborative using a grant of nearly \$500,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The goal is to increase awareness of water and wastewater career paths and build a pipeline of workers for public utilities. The collaborative will be a source of information on water sector careers, recruitment materials, curriculum, instructors, and employment connections.

Looking ahead, plans include a major revision of the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan, which outlines ways regional

partners are planning to meet environmental requirements. The plan is a large, comprehensive document that is updated each year. A several-year overhaul is planned to begin in 2022 to make it more accessible and practical.

Also during the next year, the department will work to update the [Agenda for Lake Erie](#), a policy document that highlights ways to best protect our regional water resources now and for future generations. Our staff will work with TMACOG's committees and leadership, as well as stakeholders and the public, to create an updated agenda that would be presented for approval in late 2022. It will be important to respond to many legislative and regulatory changes in water quality issues.

For questions and more information on the department's work, contact Kari Gerwin, director of water quality planning: [gerwin@tmacog.org](mailto:gerwin@tmacog.org) or 419-241-9155 ext. 1103.



# Governmental Members

## COUNTIES

Lucas County  
Monroe County  
Ottawa County  
Sandusky County  
Wood County

## CITIES

City of Bowling Green  
City of Fostoria  
City of Fremont  
City of Maumee  
City of Monroe  
City of Northwood  
City of Oregon  
City of Perrysburg  
City of Port Clinton  
City of Rossford  
City of Sylvania  
City of Toledo  
City of Waterville  
City of Wauseon

## VILLAGES

Village of Archbold  
Village of Bradner  
Village of Clay Center  
Village of Delta  
Village of Elmore  
Village of Fayette  
Village of Gibsonburg  
Village of Green Springs  
Village of Haskins  
Village of Holland  
Village of Hoytville  
Village of Luckey  
Village of Lyons  
Village of Metamora  
Village of Millbury  
Village of North Baltimore  
Village of Oak Harbor  
Village of Ottawa Hills  
Village of Pemberville  
Village of Portage  
Village of Put-in-Bay  
Village of Risingsun  
Village of Swanton  
Village of Tontogany  
Village of Walbridge

Village of Wayne  
Village of Weston  
Village of Whitehouse

## TOWNSHIPS

Township of Henry  
Township of Jackson  
Township of Jerusalem  
Township of Lake  
Township of Middleton  
Township of Monclova  
Township of Perrysburg  
Township of Richfield  
Township of Spencer  
Township of Springfield  
Township of Sylvania  
Township of Troy  
Township of Whiteford

## SPECIAL DISTRICTS & AUTHORITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA)  
Lucas County Land Bank  
Metroparks Toledo  
Northwestern Water & Sewer District  
Ohio Turnpike & Infrastructure Commission  
Sylvania Area Joint Recreation District  
Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA)  
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority  
Toledo Lucas County Public Library  
Wood County Park District  
Wood County Port Authority

## SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Bowling Green State University  
Lourdes University  
Maritime Academy of Toledo  
Monroe County Community College  
Northwood Local Schools  
Ottawa Hills Local Schools  
Owens Community College  
Penta Career Center  
Rossford Exempted Village Schools  
Sylvania Schools  
Toledo Public Schools  
The University of Toledo  
Wood County Educational Service Center

**S**triving to provide equal access, health, and safety isn't just an ideal at TMACOG. We're putting plans into practice that we hope will help us look at all our programs and policies with a critical eye and a goal of ensuring that everyone can be included.

A staff committee representing each of TMACOG's departments began meeting in 2021, the goal being to identify ways to incorporate equity and environmental justice into our work programs and organizational culture. We are working together to highlight these issues at the regional level.

TMACOG will work with a student intern in the first half of 2022 to research best practices, analyze data and produce a brief report and presentation.

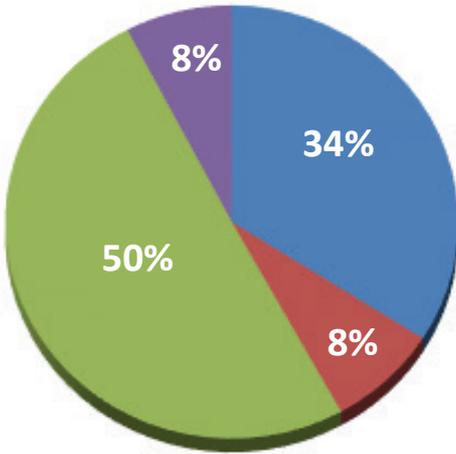
## Non-governmental Members

AAA Northwest Ohio Region/AAA Club Alliance  
A.A. Boos & Sons, Inc.  
American Rivers  
Associated General Contractors of Northwest Ohio  
AT&T Ohio  
Beckett & Raeder, Inc.  
Bergmann-Architects Engineers Planners  
Black Swamp Bird Observatory  
Black Swamp Conservancy  
BP Husky Refining, LLC  
Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.  
Columbia Gas of Ohio  
ConneCToledo  
CT Consultants, Inc.  
DGL Consulting Engineers, LLC  
DLZ Corporation  
Eastern Maumee Bay Chamber of Commerce  
Eastman & Smith, Ltd.  
Envirosafe Services of Ohio, Inc.  
E.S. Wagner Company  
Feller, Finch & Associates, Inc.  
FirstEnergy/Toledo Edison  
Genoa Bank  
Great Lakes Community Action Partnership  
Home Builders Association of Greater Toledo  
Hull & Associates, Inc.  
Huntington Bank  
Jones-Hamilton Company  
Jones & Henry Engineers, Ltd.  
Lake Erie Waterkeeper, Inc.  
Mannik & Smith Group, Inc.

Maumee Valley Adventurers, Inc.  
Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor  
Monroe County Chamber of Commerce  
National Electrical Contractors Association  
Northwest Ohio Regional Economic  
Development  
Northwestern Ohio Rails-to-Trails Association,  
Inc.  
Ohio Contractors Association  
Ohio Farm Bureau—Lucas, Wood & Ottawa  
Counties  
Oregon Economic Development Foundation  
Partners for Clean Streams, Inc.  
Poggemeyer Design Group, Inc.  
Premier Bank  
ProMedica Health System, Inc.  
Regional Growth Partnership  
Republic Services, Inc.  
Rudolph Libbe Group  
Safety Council of Northwest Ohio  
Spengler Nathanson P.L.L.  
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.  
Toledo Museum of Art  
Toledo Refining Company  
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Toledo Trucking Association  
Transportation Advocacy Group of Northwest  
Ohio  
We Are Traffic, LLC  
Woolpert, Inc.

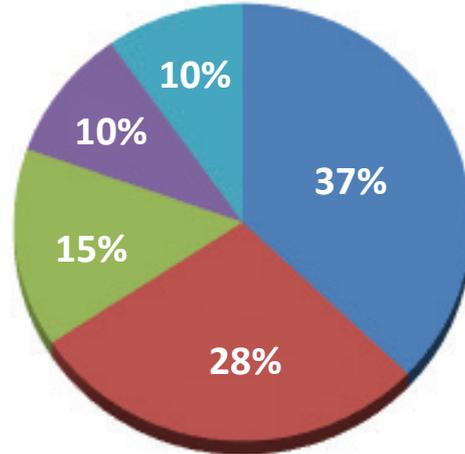
**W**e've spent too much time apart, separated by screens and virtual meetings. We applaud everyone's willingness to protect public health, and each other. TMACOG transitioned back to more in-person events in the second half of 2021. We look forward to seeing you in person soon. Meetings and events are now being held in person unless noted otherwise. If a meeting includes a virtual option, the log-in information will be posted on the meeting calendar. We will continue to monitor public health recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

## Revenue Actual 2021



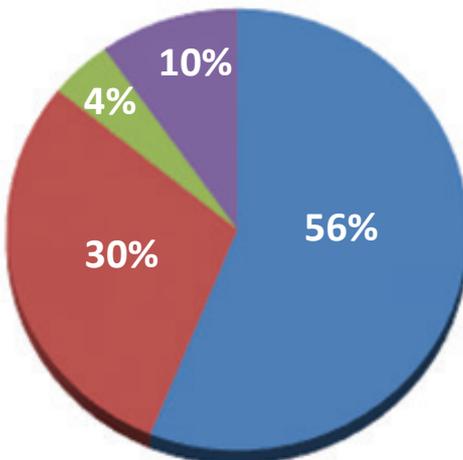
Member Dues and Assessments	\$879,088
Project Contributions & Other Local Funds	\$205,266
Federal Program Support	\$1,300,923
State Program Support	\$197,230
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$2,582,507</b>

## Expense Actual 2021



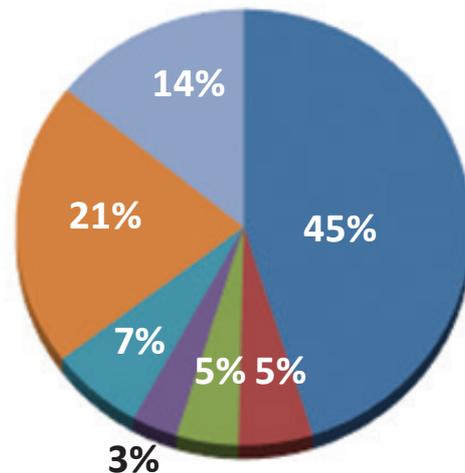
Direct Wages & Fringe Benefits	\$959,666
Administrative Wages & Fringe Benefits	\$737,229
Direct Program Costs	\$380,168
Administrative Overhead Costs	\$253,013
Contingencies & Reserves	\$252,431
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$2,582,507</b>

## Funding Distribution By Activity



Transportation	\$1,450,095
Water Quality	\$766,919
Member Services	\$113,062
Contingencies & Reserves	\$252,431
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,582,507</b>

## Funding Distribution By Source



Federal Transportation	\$1,164,626
Federal Water Quality	\$136,297
State Transportation	\$113,641
State Water Quality	\$83,589
Local Transportation	\$171,828
Local Water Quality	\$547,033
Local Member Services	\$365,493
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,582,507</b>

# TMACOG Staff During 2021

**Tim W. Brown** | President | [brown@tmacog.org](mailto:brown@tmacog.org)

**Jennifer Allen** | Executive Assistant | [allen@tmacog.org](mailto:allen@tmacog.org)

**Alex Aspacher** | Public Information Specialist | [aspacher@tmacog.org](mailto:aspacher@tmacog.org)

**Marissa Bechstein** | Transportation Planner | [bechstein@tmacog.org](mailto:bechstein@tmacog.org)

**William Best** | Vice President of Finance & Administration | [best@tmacog.org](mailto:best@tmacog.org)

**Jodi Cole** | Transportation Administrative Assistant | [cole@tmacog.org](mailto:cole@tmacog.org)

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**Michael Fuller** | Transportation Planner | [fuller@tmacog.org](mailto:fuller@tmacog.org)

**David Gedeon, AICP** | Vice President of Transportation | [gedeon@tmacog.org](mailto:gedeon@tmacog.org)

**Kari Gerwin** | Director of Water Quality Planning | [gerwin@tmacog.org](mailto:gerwin@tmacog.org)

**Sara Guiher** | Water Quality Planner | [guiher@tmacog.org](mailto:guiher@tmacog.org)

**Lisa Householder** | Transportation Planner, Database Analyst | [householder@tmacog.org](mailto:householder@tmacog.org)

**Eric Kostecky** | Water Quality Planner | [kostecky@tmacog.org](mailto:kostecky@tmacog.org)

**Matt Kennedy** | Water Quality Planner | [kennedy@tmacog.org](mailto:kennedy@tmacog.org)

**Mary Pat McCarthy** | Former Marketing & Public Information Manager

**Gilda Mitchell** | Director of Membership and Outreach | [mitchell@tmacog.org](mailto:mitchell@tmacog.org)

**Ann Nair** | Water Quality Administrative Assistant | [nair@tmacog.org](mailto:nair@tmacog.org)

**Nate Reiter** | Accountant | [reiter@tmacog.org](mailto:reiter@tmacog.org)

**Roger Streiffert** | Transportation Planner | [streiffert@tmacog.org](mailto:streiffert@tmacog.org)

**Mike Tippett** | Director of Communications | [tippett@tmacog.org](mailto:tippett@tmacog.org)

**Marc VonDeylen** | Transportation Technician | [vondeylen@tmacog.org](mailto:vondeylen@tmacog.org)

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**Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments**  
**Serving the region since 1968**