



Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments

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May 16, 2011

Dear Neighbor,

Over the past several years, efforts have been underway to purchase a major stretch of the CSX Toledo Terminal Westside Corridor to preserve the land for future public use. Preservation of this long corridor – just over 11 miles – is a rare and exceptional opportunity to secure right-of-way for public use in an urban area.

As shown on the enclosed map, the rail corridor extends from Laskey Road to River Road in Lucas County, and from River Road (SR 65) across the Maumee River to Bates Road in Wood County. You are receiving this letter as you live either nearby or adjacent to the rail property to be acquired. As a neighbor, you have an interest in knowing what's happening to this property.

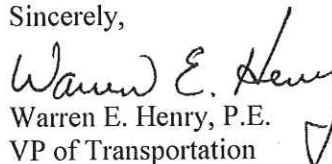
This property acquisition is the first phase of a long-term project to develop the corridor as a multi-use trail. A combination of federal and local funds has already been dedicated for the property purchase. Citizens will not be asked for money to purchase the property and other planned transportation projects in the region will not be delayed.

As future funds are secured, it is intended that the corridor will form a north/south access trail connecting parks and schools, healthcare facilities, workplaces, and commercial areas, as well as linking to other bike/hike trails (see map). Trails such as this typically improve property values, make a healthy lifestyle easier, and promote access to our extraordinary natural resources. Because the corridor goes through several fully developed neighborhoods, many people would have easy access to the trail. A landscaped, well-used trail is an asset to a community.

The effort to secure the corridor for public use is led by a broad-based group of local stakeholders including Metroparks of the Toledo Area, the Trust for Public Land, the University of Toledo, City of Toledo, Wood County Park District, Wood County Port Authority, and Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG). Preservation of the corridor for public use is identified as a regional priority in the TMACOG 2035 Transportation Plan and it is a significant milestone to make this purchase now.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this initiative, please write or e-mail TMACOG (public.info@tmacog.org) by June 6, 2011.

Sincerely,



Warren E. Henry, P.E.

VP of Transportation

Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments

WH:jr