



Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments
Serving the region since 1968

2022 Annual Report

2022 Officers & Executive Committee Members

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Chair: Mike Aspacher – Mayor, City of Bowling Green

Vice Chair: Tom Mackin – Mayor, City of Perrysburg

COUNCIL & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Water Quality Council

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

Vice Chair: Melissa Hopfer – Program Coordinator, BGSU Center for Regional Development

Transportation Council

Chair: Joe Shaw, PE, PS – Deputy Public Service Director, City of Sylvania

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

Finance, Audit & Administration Committee

Chair: Vacant

Vice Chair: Matt Oestreich – Auditor, Wood County

Leadership Development Committee

Chair: Mike Aspacher – Mayor, City of Bowling Green

Vice Chair: Tom Mackin – Mayor, City of Perrysburg

Membership Committee

Chair: Ed Schimmel – Mayor, City of Northwood

Vice Chair: Vacant

At-Large Members

Doris I. Herringshaw, Ed.D. – Commissioner, Wood County

Bob Mack – Trustee, Township of Perrysburg

Pat McColley, PE, SI – Deputy Director, Ohio Department of Transportation District 2

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

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

Ed Snyder – President, Northwestern Ohio Rails-to-Trails Association Inc.

Mark Stahl – Commissioner, Ottawa County & Immediate Past Chair, TMACOG

Craig Stough – Mayor, City of Sylvania



Chair: Mike Aspacher – Mayor, City of Bowling Green

TMACOG President Tim W. Brown

Vice Chair: Tom Mackin – Mayor, City of Perrysburg



www.tmacog.org





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Letter from the President and the Chair

TMACOG's members have long advocated for a substantial investment of federal dollars in our nation's aging and deteriorating infrastructure, including this as a top priority in our Transportation Legislative Agenda for decades. After years of discussions, negotiations, and failed attempts in Washington, President Joe Biden was successful in leading a bipartisan effort. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law formalizes \$1.2 trillion to be spread over a wide range of programs and priorities, including \$550 billion in new spending for investment in our nation's transportation and water infrastructure, as well as programs that aim to address climate change and inequity in our society.

Local governments and planning organizations like TMACOG have needed some time to assess the full range of funding assistance that will continue to unfold over the next four years. Over the last 14 months, we've learned not just about the bill's priorities, but about the deeper details, such as the specific programs, application cycles, and new funding formulas that have become the roadmap for accessing this money. While we've shared information as we've learned it, we simply know more than we did a year ago.

The infrastructure bill isn't just a long-fought win – it's a challenge, and a call for TMACOG and its members to make the most of this generational but quite possibly temporary investment. We've created a webpage (<https://bit.ly/3HNmfWo>) to compile information from various sources and departments that are accepting funding applications. This page is a great way to connect with resources others are providing to access and maximize these funding opportunities.

At the same time, TMACOG's leadership and members throughout the region have spoken out about the importance of a more streamlined connection from northwest Ohio to Columbus, and the increasing number of traffic impediments in the Delaware, Ohio region north of Columbus. As populations and businesses swell along U.S. 23, so do the dozens of traffic lights and heavy congestion that stand in the way of transportation and commerce between the capital and northwest Ohio. Our region became more vocal and unified following the state's determination that no feasible project could solve this issue, and we continue to advocate with Gov. Mike DeWine for a new bypass to remove this problem from the increasingly constricted freight corridor between the eastern United States and Canada. You can learn more and see what our region's leaders are saying about this on our website: <https://bit.ly/3v3Co2u>

Our Annual Report that follows offers a snapshot of some of the transportation and water quality initiatives that kept us busy during 2022. We look forward to continuing to work together on behalf of the region we share in 2023.

Mike Aspacher
Chair, TMACOG
Mayor, City of Bowling Green

Tim W. Brown
President, TMACOG



Transportation Planning



Safe and efficient transportation that serves everyone is the product of planning. TMACOG's members, staff, and partners count the traffic, make 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. 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.

During 2022, the Transportation Department:

- Responded to the premature conclusion of the state's Route 23 Connect study, which determined in the spring of 2022 that none of the long-term options for improving the Toledo-Columbus highway connection could be reasonably implemented. Having long identified the increasing logjams north of Columbus as a major issue, TMACOG contributed \$250,000 to the \$1 million study.
- Looked for ways to promote new funding opportunities available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which provides billions in overdue investment in our nation's roads, bridges, and a wealth of other programs. Now gearing up for the second cycle of the five-year bill, we know more about the programs through which this funding is available, including project types, timelines, and applications that are more likely to be successful. If your community has a project in mind for which it would like to seek funding, start by going to <https://tmacog.org/transportation> and then ask the Transportation Department how we might be able to help with data, maps, other information, and letters of support.

Following the study announcement, the state committed to some intersection improvements that will help, but a bypass is still needed to connect northwest Ohio with Interstate 270 and the capital. Failing to do so hinders not only travelers, but the larger economic chain that is developing between Canada and the East Coast. TMACOG and its partners, including the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Transportation Advocacy Group of Northwest Ohio, spent the second half of 2022 gathering support from lawmakers and communities in our region that joined the call for a permanent solution. Visit our website at <https://tmacog.org/transportation/connecting-to-columbus> to learn more and add your voice to the conversation.



38 traffic lights between Northwest Ohio and Columbus

2022 Highlights (cont.)



- Created a new, two-year Transportation Legislative Agenda that reflects updated funding and policy recommendations for the TMACOG region. Crafted by staff in close coordination with the Transportation Council, related committees, and public and private stakeholders, the agenda covers all modes of transportation, from roads and bridges to freight, air, rail, and transit. There is a new policy brief on transportation safety, and other new recommendations for emerging technology, such as electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Learn more and read the updated Transportation Legislative Agenda at <https://tmacog.org/transportation/legislative-agenda>
- Kicked off in June the construction of a new interchange at Interstate 475 and U.S. 20A, giving remarks at the groundbreaking ceremony alongside Ohio Department of Transportation Director Jack Marchbanks, ODOT District 2 Deputy Director Pat McColley, Lucas County Engineer Mike Pniewski, and other local officials. In addition to providing improved access to Toledo Express Airport, the project will expand I-475 to three lanes between Airport Highway and U.S. 24. TMACOG provided \$4 million in Surface Transportation Block Grant funding for the interchange.

In 2023, the Transportation Department will begin updating its Long-Range Transportation Plan, which looks forward several decades with a prioritized list of projects, initiatives, and policies that guide transportation investments in Lucas and Wood counties in Ohio and part of Monroe County in Michigan. The plan is not a wish list; rather, it is a carefully weighed, fiscally balanced plan based on dollars that TMACOG expects to be available. For questions and more information, contact David Gedeon, vice president of transportation: 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, conservationists who preserve and restore waterways, and researchers who are learning more every day about surface water, stormwater, and wastewater 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.

During 2022, the Water Quality staff and committee members:

- Launched a new water workforce collaborative aimed at creating a steady, long-term stream of qualified workers to fill the need for utility employees throughout the region. Facing staffing needs in this critical workforce, TMACOG joined with Owens Community College and the City of Toledo to seek and ultimately receive roughly \$500,000 in grant funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in late 2021.

Now, plans are well underway to begin offering classes at Owens in the fall of 2023 for a water-wastewater certificate program, and to begin marketing these rewarding careers to potential students. Once proven successful, this program will become an ongoing resource for communities and a workforce development model for other regions.

- Began studying practical ways to reduce the impact of road de-icing salt on water quality. While critically important to keeping roadways safe and passable during winter, road salts dissolve and lead to increased salinity in waterways and Lake Erie, where they are harmful to fish. TMACOG, Partners for Clean Streams, and the University of Toledo hosted an event with public works and road maintenance professionals in the fall of 2022, looking for ways to work together on best practices for using salt effectively to lessen its impact on the environment.

- Celebrated the designation of the Portage River Water Trail, following years of work with local partners to make the project a reality. The 36-mile water trail from Pemberville to Port Clinton includes 12 markers where anyone traveling the river on watercraft can stop. Brochures made to help navigate the river include important information including the distance to shore and whether facilities like restrooms, trash receptacles, or picnic tables are available. Other signs alert paddlers to upcoming hazards, such as lowhead dams and heavy boat traffic. This is the 17th water trail since the state program began in 2006, since which the number of registered non-motorized vessels like kayaks and canoes has nearly quadrupled in Ohio. A separate water trail in the TMACOG region exists along the Maumee River.



2022 Highlights (cont.)



- Created an updated Agenda for Lake Erie, a detailed policy document outlining many recommendations of ways that funding, legislation, and administration could benefit water quality in the Lake Erie region. The 2023-2024 update included major revisions that focus on aspects like Ohio's creation of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to limit nutrients in Lake Erie watersheds, regulations that TMACOG members feel should be applied to the animal production industry, and new ways of incorporating equity in wastewater treatment. Learn more and read the updated Agenda for Lake Erie at <https://tmacog.org/water/agenda-for-lake-erie>
- Returned to normal, pre-pandemic operations of the long-running Student Watershed Watch, which celebrated its 33rd year with an in-person Student Summit at the Toledo Zoo, the first since 2019. Following two years of using virtual options and video presentations to continue SWW's important work, students used the water quality data they collected in area rivers and streams to give presentations to their peers on November 4. Those present were also able to visit with and hear presentations from environmental professionals about their career paths.
- Coordinated site visits so TMACOG members could learn in person about strategies that are successfully protecting water quality:
 - The Agriculture Committee learned about restored wetlands and drainage control during a tour of the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and about biosolids processing during a trip to the New England Fertilizer Company in Detroit.
 - The Wastewater Committee participated in a detailed tour of Perrysburg's treatment plant, where its operator detailed the flow and operation of the plant, outlined upcoming improvement projects, and explained regulatory requirements.
 - The Public Water Supply Committee toured Toledo's Collins Park Water Treatment Plant, allowing drinking water plant supervisors from across the region to view its many recent capital improvements, some in response to the impact of harmful algal blooms.
 - The Water Quality Council toured the most recent phase of construction at Glass City Metropark.

In 2023, the Water Quality Department will begin to build upon its 2022 update with a major overhaul to the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan. More commonly known as the 208 Plan after a section of the Clean Water Act, the plan outlines the ways our region will meet federal requirements and goals for managing wastewater, stormwater, and sanitary sewers, as well as recent legislation and regulatory changes. While 2022 updates focused on mapping and preparing for the forthcoming overhaul, major revisions will now be made to incorporate environmental justice and climate resiliency concepts, and add new chapters on water quality policy and drinking water.

For questions and more information, contact Kari Gerwin, vice president of water quality planning: gerwin@tmacog.org



2022 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 County Land Bank
Lucas Metropolitan Housing
Metroparks Toledo
Northwestern Water & Sewer District
Ohio Turnpike & Infrastructure Commission
Park District of Ottawa County
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
The 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



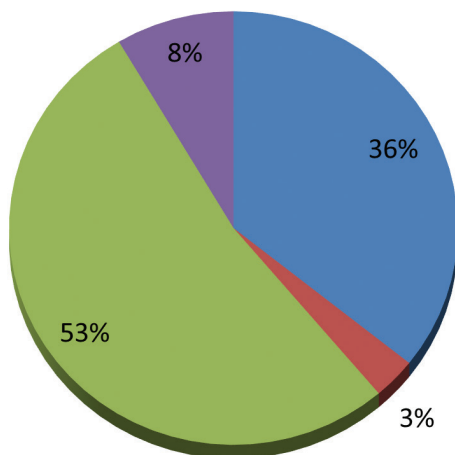
2022 Non-governmental Members

AAA Northwest Ohio Region/AAA Club Alliance
A.A. Boos & Sons, Inc.
American Rivers
Associated General Contractors of Northwest Ohio
AT&T Ohio
Black Swamp Bird Observatory
Black Swamp Conservancy
BP-Husky Refining, LLC
Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Colliers Engineering and Design
Columbia Gas of Ohio
ConnecToledo
DGL Consulting Engineers, LLC
Eastern Maumee Bay Chamber of Commerce
Eastman & Smith, Ltd.
Envirosafe Services of Ohio, Inc.
E.S. Wagner Company
FirstEnergy/Toledo Edison
Genoa Bank
Great Lakes Community Action Partnership
Home Builders Association of Greater Toledo
Huntington Bank
Jones & Henry Engineers, Ltd.
Jones-Hamilton Company
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, Ottawa, Sandusky,
and Wood counties
Oregon Economic Development Foundation
Partners for Clean Streams, Inc.
Poggemeyer Design Group, Inc.
Premier Bank
ProMedica Health System, Inc.
Regional Growth Partnership
Rudolph Libbe Group
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
Verdantas
We Are Traffic, LLC
Woolpert, Inc.

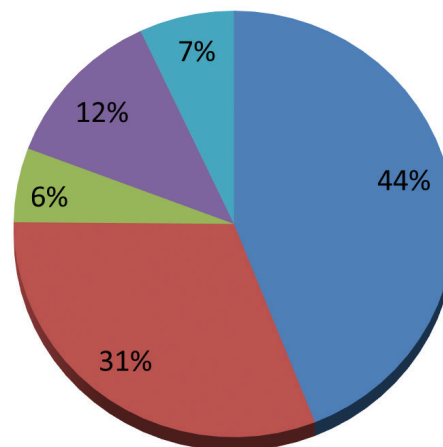


Revenue



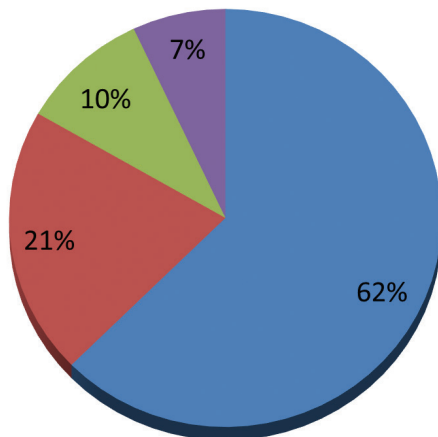
Member Dues and Assessments	\$847,764
Project Contributions & Other Local Funds	\$73,863
Federal Program Support	\$1,251,139
State Program Support	\$202,650
Total Revenues	\$2,375,416

Expenses



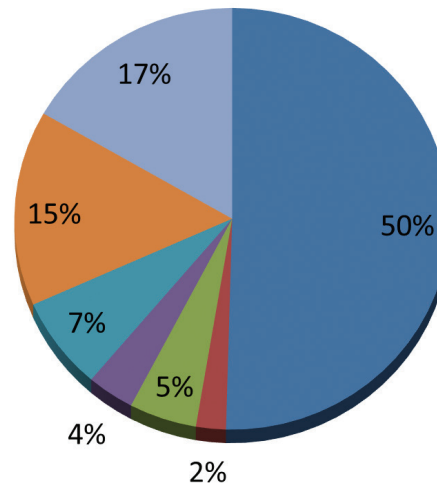
Direct Wages & Fringe Benefits	\$1,045,251
Administrative Wages & Fringe Benefits	\$739,345
Direct Program Costs	\$133,634
Administrative Overhead Costs	\$291,411
Contingencies & Reserves	\$165,775
Total Expenditures	\$2,375,416

Funding Distribution By Activity



Transportation	\$1,486,946
Water Quality	\$492,202
Member Services	\$230,493
Contingencies & Reserves	\$165,775
Total	\$2,375,416

Funding Distribution By Source



Federal Transportation	\$1,198,482
Federal Water Quality	\$52,657
State Transportation	\$119,196
State Water Quality	\$83,454
Local Transportation	\$169,268
Local Water Quality	\$356,091
Local Member Services	\$396,416
TOTAL	\$2,375,416

2022 TMACOG Staff



Not pictured: Kari Gerwin
and Marissa Bechstein

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

Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments

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