



## 2022 TMACOG General Assembly City Caucus Notes Monday, April 25, 2022

**Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions** – The City Caucus met on Monday, April 25, 2022, at 8:15 a.m. in Parlor A at the Hilton Garden Inn in Perrysburg, Ohio. Michael Beazley, Oregon city administrator, and Mike Aspacher, Bowling Green mayor, called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone present, and explained the purpose of the caucus for anyone new to TMACOG.

### **Caucus members in attendance included:**

- Kevin Aller, Director of Public Safety/Service, City of Sylvania
- Bob Anderson, City Administrator, City of Northwood
- Mike Aspacher, Mayor, City of Bowling Green
- Mike Beazley, City Administrator, City of Oregon
- Marcus Hansen, Council Member, City of Sylvania
- Tom Mackin, Mayor, City of Perrysburg
- Timothy Pedro, Mayor, City of Waterville
- Greg Robinette, Council Member, City of Bowling Green
- Nick Rubando, Council Member, City of Bowling Green
- Angie Ruiz, Council Member, City of Fremont
- George Sarantou, Council Member, City of Toledo
- Keith Torbet, Director of Public Services, City of Wauseon
- Vanice Williams, District 4 Council Member, City of Toledo
- Martha Woelke, Community Development Administrator, City of Bowling Green

### **Other TMACOG members and guests in attendance included:**

- Lori Brodie, Northwest Regional Liaison, Office of Ohio State Auditor Keith Faber
- Glenn Grisdale, Principal, Reveille
- Brad Lowery, President, Jones and Henry Engineers, Ltd.
- Sommer Vriezelaar, Business Development Manager, Nooter

### **TMACOG support staff in attendance included:**

- Marissa Bechstein, Transportation Planner
- David Gedeon, Vice President of Transportation

**Election of Representatives to the Board of Trustees** – The first order of business on the agenda was the election of caucus members to this year's Board of Trustees. A ***motion*** was made by Mike Aspacher and ***seconded*** by Tom Mackin to elect the following caucus representatives. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Trustees**

Tim Pedro, City of Waterville  
Nick Rubando, City of Bowling Green  
Angie Ruiz, City of Fremont  
VACANT SEAT  
VACANT SEAT

A ***motion*** was made by Kevin Aller and ***seconded*** by Nick Rubando to elect the following representatives to serve as alternates for this year's TMACOG Board of Trustees,

### **Alternates**

Ed Schimmel, City of Northwood

Craig Stough, City of Sylvania

VACANT SEAT

VACANT SEAT

VACANT SEAT

**Election of City Representative to Transportation Council** – A ***motion*** was made by Bob Anderson and ***seconded*** by Tom Mackin to elect Angie Ruiz to represent the City Caucus on the Transportation Council. The passed unanimously.

**Discussion Topics** – The following topics were discussed by the caucus:

- **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)/Local Match Issues**

- Caucus members discussed the need to identify more regional issues that may benefit from these funds. Funds will be available for water-related projects in clean water programs, lead resources, wastewater improvements, and stream restoration projects. There will also be over 50 different programs for transportation. The City of Oregon is currently working with other cities on the regional sewage issue and looking for funds that could assist them.
- Members also discussed the importance of congressionally directed spending and the need to develop a compelling narrative to present to local representatives. Additionally, members discussed the number of resources available through ODOT, FHWA, and TMACOG.
- Members also discussed the need for a regional grant writer who could be hired by an organization such as Regional Growth Partnership. This individual could assist municipalities with applying for funds. Local engineering firms are another resource. TMACOG staff informed members that they are expecting to receive an increase in the amount of TIP dollars available. TMACOG can assist with data, mapping, letters of support, and coordinating/facilitating meetings.
- Finally, members discussed the challenge of the 20 percent local match that is required by many of these programs. There has been some discussion on federal funds potentially eliminating this requirement, which would benefit municipalities.

- **Workforce hiring and retention issues**

- Caucus members have been part of a study showing that for the foreseeable future, there will be more people retiring than joining the workforce. This is a hiring problem and local/regional economic development problem. Another contributing factor is young parents are working less due to the cost of childcare.
- The City of Northwood has seen that people are considering stability and the chance for promotion as a priority while job seeking. Fremont and most other cities are looking to improve benefit packages such as giving people the vacation they came with rather than starting over. Since many cities are putting together similar benefit packages, this is causing competition between cities. The City of Bowling Green is investing in placemaking and housing to encourage people to want to live/work in Bowling Green.
- Members also discussed the need to connect with all business types and focus on education. The City of Bowling Green is working with manufacturers to leverage existing relationships and extend programs into the public schools and universities to attempt to change the perception of manufacturing. The City of Perrysburg has high-level positions, but licensure requirements cause roadblocks.

- The cost of police and fire will require regional dispatch, so regional collaboration will be vital. Many cities spend a lot of money on capital like ladder trucks, but they are not frequently used. Potential regional sharing of large equipment can assist cities with saving money. The City of Oregon has been working on legislation that would fund 911 dispatch through cell phone bills, which would take the burden off local governments.
- Finally, the group discussed telework. Telework is not going anywhere, and many new hire candidates are seeking jobs that allow telework. Concerns with how to fairly incorporate telework within different city departments and how to measure productivity were discussed among members.

- **CARES Act, ARPA, H2Ohio & other available funding sources**

- Members spent 1-2 minutes discussing how they are using funding and providing updates on what is happening in their jurisdictions.
  - City of Bowling Green: Community outreach to get community members input on how to utilize ARPA funds. They will utilize ARPA funds to invest in infrastructure and safety services and in neighborhoods. City updates include building an inclusive play park and rewriting the zoning code. Finally, regarding telework, the city has been seeing large disparities between quality of internet service.
  - City of Sylvania: Many capital improvement projects are ongoing. ARPA funds will be used on some of these projects to refurbish streets and improve the look of the community. The city also would like to see more investment for regional bike trails and bike facilities. Sylvania Township provides service to nursing homes. They started charging for runs to the nursing homes and has seen a reduction in the number of calls received. The city will be utilizing safety funds for the Monroe St./Harroun Rd. project, and they have many STBG projects planned.
  - Reveille: The company has been working with communities on placemaking. Zoning codes are going to need to be changed in cities to encourage more residential and commercial development. They are seeing issues in the Village of Archbold employers looking for better pools of workers.
  - City of Northwood: The city is looking to utilize bike trails to connect communities. They are also working with neighboring communities on a potential joint fire district.
  - City of Perrysburg: Trying to improve parks. Currently just made a new inclusive ADA park that has been successful and well received.
  - City of Waterville: Entered into an agreement with Waterville Township. and the Village of Whitehouse for a fire cooperation. Also, they are looking into downtown redevelopment opportunities.
  - City of Fremont: Currently developing an inclusive ADA park. They also are creating an amphitheater. They are seeing growth in the downtown area and in the amount of new housing. Finally, they established a DORA and are trying to pass a street tax levy.
  - City of Wauseon: Has been seeing supply chain issues with projects that were bid last year. They are having to deal with cost increases on bids.

- City of Toledo: They received community input for ARPA dollars. The community identified a need to replace lead pipelines on the private side. The city is already replacing the public side. Additionally, they will be replacing and upgrading park equipment. The city is also focused on boosting public safety. They also noted the progress and future plans for the Glass City Metropark.
- State Auditor: They are continuing to audit the ARPA dollars.
- Nooter Toledo: Reminded members that the NORED annual event will be May 26 at 9:00 a.m.
- Jones and Henry Engineers: Creating specifications to help both the construction companies and project sponsors to see why price increases are happening. Like cities, they are dealing with workforce issues as well.

**Adjournment** – No other business was discussed. Mr. Beazley adjourned the meeting at 9:45 am.