

Transportation Legislative Agenda of the Toledo Region

2017-2018

Online Policy Hub: www.tmacog.org/TMACOG_Trans_Legislative_Agenda/

Federal Transportation Funding Brief

Prudent investments are needed now to prevent further deterioration of our streets, highways, bridges, rail and transit systems, pedestrian and bikeway systems, airports, ports, and waterways. The public sector has a responsibility to act to improve safety, support quality of life, increase employment opportunities, and enhance economic competitiveness. The strategies and recommendations included in the Toledo Region Transportation Legislative Agenda are the consensus view of the members of the Transportation Coalition. Consultative meetings held with coalition members between October 2016 and February 2017 produced a set of legislative policy recommendations and [modal policy briefs](#) for federal, state, and local leaders. The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments presents this agenda on behalf of the northwest Ohio region.

FEDERAL Priorities

- Ensure the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund and support the ability of state and local governments to plan, fund, and construct the projects that will rebuild our infrastructure and strengthen our economy. The longer repairs are postponed, the more they cost.
- Prefer user taxes and fees such as the motor fuel tax and other fuels taxes (aviation, etc.), a vehicle miles traveled (VMT) fee, freight waybill tax, shipping container fees, impact fees, tolling, and similar strategies. Design these fees with attention to the fee per unit, the means to adjust the fee over time (such as linking to Consumer Price Index), administrative costs, and privacy safeguards.
- Where appropriate, attract private capital via public-private partnerships that feature transparent agreements and accountability through tightly monitored performance standards.
- Support changes to federal tax law to enable private individuals and corporations to contribute to construction and maintenance of public infrastructure on a tax-deductible basis. Retain the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds (i.e., governmental bonds and private activity bonds) in order to support lower borrowing costs for locally developed infrastructure projects.
- Leverage public funds and encourage private co-investment via credit assistance programs such as infrastructure banks, the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA), the Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Financing (RRIF) program, etc. Improve and broaden the feasibility of these and other innovative financing mechanisms by streamlining application timelines and requirements.
- Support funding for intelligent transportation systems to improve the safety and efficiency of transport.
- Implement a national strategic freight plan and improve flexibility to expend funds on airport, port, rail, intermodal, and other key freight investments. Implement the 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN). Maintain a regular, biannual process of authorizing projects and activities related to the key missions of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Support Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) revenue solutions and use HMT funds for intended purposes. Provide an exemption from the HMT for domestic and U.S.—Canadian movements for non-bulk cargo within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway System.
- Equitably fund all modes of transportation including increasing the share allocated to public transportation (Mass Transit Account), passenger rail, and active transportation (the Transportation Alternatives Program).
- Appropriate passenger rail funding as authorized in the FAST Act.
- Continue subsidizing transportation out of general treasury funds until a permanent solution to the infrastructure funding gap is implemented.



Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments Board of Trustees

Chair: Craig A. Stough – Mayor, City of Sylvania

Vice Chair: Doris I. Herringshaw – President of Commissioners, Wood County

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Kirk Slusher – Acting Director, District 2

LUCAS COUNTY

Tina Skeldon Wozniak, President of Commissioners

Keith G. Earley – County Engineer

MONROE COUNTY

J. Henry Lievens – Chairman of Commissioners, District 9

OTTAWA COUNTY

James M. Sass – Commissioner

WOOD COUNTY

Doris I. Herringshaw – President of Commissioners

John Musteric – County Engineer

CITY OF TOLEDO

Paula S. Hicks-Hudson – Mayor

TOLEDO AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (TARTA)

James K. Gee – General Manager

SUBURBAN MOBILITY FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION (SMART)

Royce R. Maniko – Board Member

BOWLING GREEN (B.G.) TRANSIT

Tina Bradley – Grants Administrator

TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY

Joseph W. Cappel – Vice President of Business Development

CITY CAUCUS

Mike Aspacher – President of Council, Third Ward, City of Bowling Green

James M. Bagdonas – Municipal Administrator, City of Waterville

David Kissinger – Council Member, City of Maumee

VILLAGE CAUCUS

Gordon A. Bowman – Mayor, Village of Pemberville

Jordan Daugherty – Administrator, Village of Whitehouse

Steven L. Fought – Mayor, Village of Gibsonburg

Joseph W. Helle – Mayor, Village of Oak Harbor

Jeffery C. Rae – Mayor, Village of Berkey

TOWNSHIP CAUCUS

Andrew J. Bick – Trustee, Township of Richfield

Penelope S. Getz – Trustee, Township of Middleton

Michael Hampton – Administrator, Township of Springfield

E. Mark Hummer – Administrator & Police Chief, Township of Lake

Donald O. Sahlhoff – Trustee, Township of Whiteford

SCHOOL DISTRICT CAUCUS

Ronald W. Matter – Superintendent, Penta Career Center

Meghan Schmidbauer – Assistant Dean, Owens Community College

SPECIAL DISTRICTS AND AUTHORITIES CAUCUS

Cheryl Johnson – Chair, Wood County Port Authority

Neil A. Munger – Director, Wood County Park District

NON-GOVERNMENTAL MEMBERS

Margaret K. Adams – Area Manager, FirstEnergy/Toledo Edison

Steve Bergman – Vice President, The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc.

Brad Fisher – Board President, Eastern Maumee Bay Chamber of Commerce

Edward A. Hoeffel – Vice President, Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor, Inc.

Michael Jay – Director of Strategic Networks, Regional Growth Partnership

Thomas G. Mackin – General Counsel, Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority

Dennis W. McMickens – President and CEO, Safety Council of Northwest Ohio

David W. Nunn – Attorney, Eastman & Smith, Ltd.

Gary R. Samples – Black Swamp Conservancy

Laura Saunders-Kowalec – VP/Government Banking Relationship Manager, Huntington Bank

Scott A. Strahley – RCAP Engineer, WSOS CAC, Inc.

Joel Schlageter – Commercial Lending, First Federal Bank

Stephen M. Way, P.E. – Principal, Managing Director, DGL Consulting Engineers, LLC

Transportation Coalition

...



Regional Growth Partnership



A BETTER WAY TO GET THERE.™



Intermodal Transportation Institute & University Transportation Center
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO



Wood County
Economic Development
Commission

