
The Process

Big bridges aren’t built overnight and highways do not pave themselves, but all transportation projects start somewhere. In northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, transportation plans come from the research, study and evaluation of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) and its partners. TMACOG maintains a long range plan that literally shapes our region’s future. This plan, “On the Move: 2007-2035 Transportation Plan,” took effect as our region’s long range plan on July 1, 2007.

Federal law requires that the plan be reviewed and brought up to date every four years. This report documents the process and recommendations that constitute the “On the Move: 2007-2035 Transportation Plan–Update 2011” (2035 Plan–Update 2011).

The original 2035 Plan and this update are the result of significant work by our plan task force following extensive public input. The plan was developed and evaluated with real-world consideration and technical analysis. The core of the plan is a list of projects, initiatives and policies that will change our region over the next two decades.

The 2035 Plan–Update 2011 complies with SAFETEA-LU (federal transportation act) regulations. As required, a new regional transportation plan with a new 20-year horizon will be prepared in 2015.

Projects

The plan projects were developed and selected based on seven goals (see Chapter 2.1). For the 2035 Plan–Update 2011, the list of plan projects that we aim to accomplish by 2035 was revised and reprioritized. The result is 21 committed projects that have at least some funding and 30 priority projects for which funding is expected. Both are listed in priority order. (See Chapter 6.)

Initiatives

The 2035 Plan–Update 2011 includes 12 initiatives. These are non-construction efforts that stress research, collaboration, and community education. The initiatives, listed by the goals that they serve, are aimed at solving important regional needs.

Policies

The policies established in the 2035 Plan will guide future actions in the region. The 2035 Plan–Update 2011 task force made some revisions, but most of the original policies were retained. A total of 41 are listed in the 2035 Plan–Update 2011. From support for roundabout intersections, to improving safety in construction zones, these policies establish a foundation for transportation-related work in our region. Like the projects and initiatives, they are based on accomplishing the plan’s goals.