

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

February 17, 2011

There was a meeting of the **Community Development Committee** of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission held on **Thursday, February 17, 2011**, at **4:00 p.m.** in the Conference Room of the Commission office located at 130 West North Street, Lima, Ohio.

The agenda was as follows:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of CDC Minutes – January 20, 2011
3. Safe Community Update
4. FEMA Floodplain Map Modernization Program - Update
5. Allen County CDBG Program - Update
6. Final 2010 Allen County Fatal Crash Report
7. 2nd Draft FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program
8. Title VI - Update
9. Other
10. Adjournment

A quorum being present, Kevin Cox brought the meeting to order and proceeded with the agenda.

1. **ROLL CALL**

Ms. Teresa Adams	City of Lima
Mr. Sean Chapman	Village of Spencerville
Mr. Kevin Cox	Perry Township
Mr. Michael Cribblez	Jackson Township
Mr. Mitchell Kingsley	Village of Bluffton
Ms. Jennifer Palmer	Village of Lafayette
Mr. Dan Reiff	Allen County
Ms. Chris Seddelmeyer	Shawnee Township

GUESTS

Officer Justin Wireman	Village of Ft. Shawnee (attended meeting for Chief Ben Kehres)
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STAFF

Mr. Thomas Mazur	Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission
Ms. LeeAnn Sypherd	Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission

2. **APPROVAL OF CDC MINUTES – January 20, 2011**

Motion 05 (02-17-11) CDC

Chris Seddelmeyer made the motion to approve the CDC minutes of January 20, 2011. Seconded by Dan Reiff; motion carried.

3. **SAFE COMMUNITY UPDATE**

Thomas Mazur reported that Evelyn Smith has been sick and will submit her Safe Community update at the next scheduled CDC meeting. Thomas Mazur reported that staff has received notification of the availability of a grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The NHTSA is looking for local, community based activities similar to Allen County's Safe Community Coalition. The committee would work with two different organizations within

3. SAFE COMMUNITY UPDATE (Continued)

their community developing complementary strategies. One of the strategies would involve high visibility enforcement and the second would be for source investigation. These strategies would entail education within the local schools and law enforcement would be targeting retail establishments as to whether alcohol is being sold to under-age persons. Thomas Mazur reported that in the past, law enforcement completes a target enforcement of sales of alcohol to under-age persons twice a year. This type of enforcement has not typically been paired with alcohol awareness within the schools. The NHTSA is looking for organizations that will coordinate both strategies; complete alcohol awareness education within the schools and work closely with law enforcement to complement the alcohol awareness programs. Thomas Mazur reported that the Elida schools were approached to implement this program but the American Township police department does not have the man-power to implement the program. Thomas Mazur reported that Evelyn Smith has approached Chief Garlock of the Lima Police Department (LPD) and presented the idea of working with the American Township Police Department in implementing the program. The difficulty with the LPD becoming involved is that many of the retail establishments that would be a part of the target enforcement are outside of the LPD's jurisdiction; also, there would not be any administration time included within the grant. The Allen County Sheriff's Office may be able to assist with the program. Staff will continue to work on this particular grant as well as a few other grants. Chris Seddelmeyer asked if Apollo might be a possibility. Thomas Mazur responded that it might be. Jennifer Palmer asked what the size of the grant might be. Thomas Mazur replied that there really is no size; the grant is competitive. Dan Reiff stated that the grant application must include the justification for the grant as well as a plan of action. Thomas Mazur concurred and reported that the NHTSA is soliciting good projects that have good data. The number of fatal crashes that have involved young people within the past few years is also a good "selling point". Thomas Mazur stated that no action is required at this time.

4. FEMA FLOODPLAIN MAP MODERNIZATION PROGRAM - UPDATE

Thomas Mazur reported that the Committee received an update at the January meeting as to the status of the FEMA Floodplain Map Modernization Program. This past Tuesday, February 15, 2011, staff held an open house for the general public to be able to review the results of the five year study. The study was funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the Allen County Commissioners, the Allen County Auditor and the Allen County Engineer's Office (ACEO). Thomas Mazur reported that there were approximately 220 persons that attended the open house for the general public. Staff had five different computers running for people to be able to access information pertaining to their properties and whether the property was located within a floodplain. Sean Chapman asked how many letters/postcards were mailed to property owners. Thomas Mazur responded that staff was not sure. Staff has been receiving calls as to why they did not receive a notification of the meeting as well as fielding questions from people that were unable to attend the open house. Thomas Mazur reported that approximately 85% of the attendees left the open house in a positive frame of mind, others felt better having more up to date information and there were a few that were upset that their property was now located within the floodplain. Thomas Mazur reported that there was also a meeting at 2:00 PM for the elected officials with 47 persons in attendance. Kevin Cox stated that he was concerned about the data that has not yet been released pertaining to the Auglaize River. Dan Reiff replied that the data on the Auglaize River is to be released later in the year. Thomas Mazur reported that the local political subdivisions will have their own requirements pertaining to building within the floodplain will have to adopt new regulations within six months of the adoption of the new floodplain maps. Thomas Mazur reported that the results of the new mapping are striking in the townships due to the use of the new LIDAR data and the one foot topographic measurements. The old topographic measurements were based at five feet. The City of Lima and the City of Delphos

4. FEMA FLOODPLAIN MAP MODERNIZATION PROGRAM - UPDATE (Continued)

chose not to participate in the map modernization program. The City of Lima received re-digitized maps by re-running the model outside of the urbanized and rural areas. Thomas Mazur directed Committee members to two floodplain maps on the wall that depict the old floodplains with solid blue lines and the new floodplains depicted in a peach color. One of the maps depicts the Fifth Ward within the City of Lima. Along Fourth Street, there are more residents that are now within the floodplain as well as along the Hog Creek. Thomas Mazur reviewed the map of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. neighborhood and reported that the floodplain has increased tremendously, affecting many more residents than previously. Staff has also reviewed some of the floodplain data along Sugar Creek with township trustees and the floodplain has increased to affect many more hundreds of acres than previously. Chris Seddelmeyer asked that since the City of Lima chose not to participate in the map modernization program, will the city have to pay any increases in the participation of the National Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP); if there is an occurrence and FEMA is called in, will the city have access to any FEMA funds for the occurrence. Thomas Mazur responded that the PowerPoint handout that the Committee received presents a brief overview of the presentation that the elected officials received at the first meeting in Tuesday. Thomas Mazur reported that FEMA realizes that the mapping process has and will cause issues; some properties will move out of the floodplain and some properties will move into the floodplain. FEMA has decided to provide some relief by “grandfathering” some properties if the property owners purchase flood insurance within the first two years after the new maps become effective. Flood insurance is not required if a property has no mortgage or if the mortgage is not held by a federally insured lending institution. Kevin Cox asked what would happen if a property owner did not have flood insurance on their property and the property is flooded. Thomas Mazur replied that the property owner would have no coverage and would receive no settlement. Dan Reiff reported that some property owners had stated that they were glad that they were now able to obtain flood insurance; one property owner stated that the property does flood and because it was not considered to be in the floodplain, flood insurance could not be obtained. Thomas Mazur reported that FEMA does have programs where communities can go to FEMA and request that a property that has flooded numerous times be moved from the floodplain to another area outside of the floodplain or be demolished and another home built outside of the floodplain. FEMA will provide a portion of funds for these scenarios. Teresa Adams requested clarification pertaining to the City of Lima’s decision to not participate in the map modernization program. Mitchell Kingsley replied that the difference is in how the maps are constructed. Chris Seddelmeyer asked how the representation maps on the conference wall were generated if the city did not participate. Thomas Mazur responded that the city did not participate in the LIDAR data. USGS and CDR still ran the models for the city using the old data. Chris Seddelmeyer replied that these maps are the new maps that the city will have to adhere to once accepted. Thomas Mazur responded in the affirmative and reported that the data was forwarded on to the City of Lima. Chris Seddelmeyer stated that there will be an amount of education that will be required with the new maps and how they were generated as well as how FEMA plans to handle the “grandfathering” of properties. Thomas Mazur reported that FEMA is allowing reduced costs during the two year “grandfather” period. After the two year period, property owners that choose to purchase flood insurance will pay the full cost of the flood insurance. Certain communities can minimize the cost of flood insurance to property owners whose property is located within the floodplain if the community adopts tougher standards. The tougher standards fall under the Community Rating System (CRS) and communities that adopt these standards assist residents in lowering their flood insurance premiums. These standards also move homes and buildings farther away from the high hazard areas where flooding may occur. Dan Reiff reported that by not allowing buildings to be built in or close by the floodplain areas, the floodplain area(s) are reduced because the water is not pushed off to other areas. Chris Seddelmeyer stated that there is still the concern that the City of Lima did not participate in the map modernization program and utilize the LIDAR one foot topographic measurements. If the city had participated, areas that are now going to be

4. FEMA FLOODPLAIN MAP MODERNIZATION PROGRAM - UPDATE (Continued)

considered in the floodplain may not have been because the data would have been even more accurate. Dan Reiff stated that the city still received the benefit of new digitized maps that have been modeled after the one foot topographic measurements instead of the old five foot measurements. Teresa Adams asked about the 18 months grace period. Thomas Mazur reported that communities have ninety days to appeal the maps and FEMA will answer the appeal. FEMA may not have received a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) for a property or development and once that information is received, that area can be removed from the floodplain and the map updated. Dan Reiff reported that one of the reasons for the public meetings is for property owners to be able to supply information that FEMA may not have received pertaining to a particular property or properties thereby changing the floodplain maps. Chris Seddelmeyer stated that this process is to be of help to property owners but if an area is a low income area it may be difficult for the property owners to purchase the flood insurance. Teresa Adams stated that the Lima News reported that property owners that were unable to attend the February 15, 2011 public meeting could view the maps at the City of Lima Engineering Department located within the municipal building. Thomas Mazur reported that no action is required at this time.

5. ALLEN COUNTY CDBG PROGRAM - UPDATE

Thomas Mazur reported that right before the CDC meeting, Julie Ward from WSOS held a public meeting for the CDBG Program. Ms. Ward explained the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program funding. The Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission (LACRPC) is administering the CDBG Program for the Allen County Commissioners. Thomas Mazur reported that there are two programs under the CDBG that Allen County qualifies for; the Formula Program and the Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP). The Formula Program funds are typically used for infrastructure projects such as water, sewer, sanitary, curbs, gutters sidewalks, etc. The CHIP program is utilized for housing issues. There have been two Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) meetings to determine how the funds were going to be allocated and utilized all things being equal and before any federal budget cuts. Allen County can expect to receive approximately \$570,000 over a two-year period. Thomas Mazur reported that the HAC committee has decided to target the Westminster area in Auglaize Township for funds for housing upgrades. The Luther Pines Senior Housing complex is looking at developing assisted living housing. Coleman Professional Services (associated with Lutheran Social Services) is looking at building quad-plexus within the City of Lima for their clientele. Coleman Professional Services deals with mental health issues and drug and alcohol rehabilitation services. Thomas Mazur reported that it appears that WSOS will be targeting housing issues such as housing rehabilitation, fair housing, foreclosure assistance and education, and a new unit built by Habitat for Humanity. Staff has had discussions with different townships trustees about tearing down derelict buildings and putting Habitat homes on the properties. Thomas Mazur reported that staff is still working with the HAC committee and WSOS on these programs. The Formula Program applications have been mailed out. Chris Seddelmeyer asked what the deadline for the Formula Program applications to be returned. Thomas Mazur responded that they applications are due by April 15, 2011. No action is required at this time.

6. FINAL 2010 ALLEN COUNTY FATAL CRASH REPORT

Thomas Mazur presented to committee members a copy of the Final 2010 Allen County Fatal Crash Report and reported that even though fatal crashes fell dramatically in 2010, there were some trends noted. For example, fatal crashes in the State of Ohio were up but in Allen County fatal crashes were at a 23 year low. There were four fatal crashes with four fatalities. Traffic related fatalities declined by 71% from last year. There were 12 fatal crashes in 2009. Thomas Mazur reported that all of the 2010 fatal crashes occurred on rural roadways with two occurring

6. FINAL 2010 ALLEN COUNTY FATAL CRASH REPORT (Continued)

in Marion Township, one in Monroe Township and one in Jackson Township. Of all of the crashes, 75% occurred on dark, unlit roadways while typically they occur during daylight hours on dry pavement. No fatal crashes occurred on IR-75 which is non-typical. There were also no crashes that occurred on holidays and there was only one motorcycle fatality. Thomas Mazur reported that there were no fatal crashes concerning trains, pedestrians or bicycles. Only one of the fatalities was related to an intoxicated driver and of the 13 persons involved in the fatal crashes, three were between the ages of 16 and 20 years of age. All four of the fatalities were male. Of the seven drivers involved in the fatal crashes, only one was a female and only one was under 21 years of age. Thomas Mazur reported that of the eleven people that chose to wear their seat belts, none of them died.

Motion 06 (02-17-11) CDC

Mitchell Kingsley made the motion to accept the Final 2010 Allen County Fatal Crash Report. Seconded by Teresa Adams; motion carried.

7. 2ND DRAFT FY 2012-2015 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Thomas Mazur presented to the Committee members a handout of Table 7 as well as a map and reported that staff has not received any comments on the second draft. Staff expects to receive some changes from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) due to staffing changes at the Central Office. Thomas Mazur reported that there will have to be some adjustments made in FY 2012. Staff has confirmed with the ACEO that their projects will not have any movement from FY 2012. There are approximately \$8 million in allocations contained within Table 7 with another approximately \$5-\$6 million in allocations for the Allen County Regional Transit Authority (ACRTA). Thomas Mazur reported that there is no project funding in the 2nd Draft FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) detailing capital funding for ACRTA due to the lack of local match. The local funds that are allocated to ACRTA will be used towards operations. Chris Seddelmeyer asked if this year's project(s) were SR 309/117. Thomas Mazur replied in the affirmative and reported that some of the drainage work has begun on the east side of the city. On the west side of the city, the median barriers will be installed. Thomas Mazur reported that there are real issues on Hartzler Road, American Avenue and SR 309 due to the traffic coming from the University of Northwestern Ohio (UNOH). The crash rate at the intersection of Hartzler Road and American Avenue had dropped from first to sixth or seventh but has moved back up over the past year. Staff would like to see Hartzler Road closed to American Avenue and SR 309. Dan Reiff asked how Hartzler Road can be closed. Staff hopes that some of the traffic can be alleviated once the campus is opened to Eastown Road. The majority of the crashes occur during the hours of 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM when the students leave campus to get lunch.

Motion 07 (02-17-11) CDC

Chris Seddelmeyer made the motion to accept the 2nd Draft FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program. Seconded by Sean Chapman; motion carried.

8. TITLE VI - UPDATE

Thomas Mazur reported that in order for the MPO to receive federal and state funds, ODOT requires a Title VI Program and Policy. Basically, Title VI states that "you shall not deny any people, any service based on race, color, creed, national origin, etc." The MPO does follow this policy. The MPO cannot accept federal monies until a Title VI Policy is in place. Thomas Mazur reported that Allen County has a minority population of approximately 12%. Since the LACRPC is acting as a "pass-through" for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) for the CDBG Program, a Title VI Policy and procedures

8. TITLE VI - UPDATE (Continued)

need to be reviewed and enacted. Thomas Mazur reported that staff needs to determine who is a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) within Allen County and which are minority businesses. Also, staff needs to identify businesses that are EDGE certified, as DBE's also include businesses owned by females. Thomas Mazur reported that of the 240 pre-qualified ODOT contractors, 29 are minority owned businesses. Generally, these minority contractors will subcontract under a general contractor to provide services. Kevin Cox asked what would happen if a mistake is made. Thomas Mazur reported that in the past a mistake might have been made but not intentionally and whichever agency staff is dealing with will send instructions on how to correct the error. Staff is not sure at this time what might happen. Dan Reiff stated that many times there is no one place to get the information as to how to do A, B, C, etc.; the action has to be taken and then instruction comes after the fact. More information will be presented at the March CDC meeting. No action is required at this time.

9. OTHER

a. Storm Spotter Training

Thomas Mazur presented a handout to Committee members and reported that Storm Spotter Training will be hosted by the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and instructed by the National Weather Service on February 23, 2011 at the Red Cross Building. The training is from 6:00-8:00 PM. During that same day, there will be a county-wide tornado drill. Local schools will be participating in the drill to test their disaster response plans. It would also be a good time for local businesses to test their disaster response plans as well. The drill will be at 9:50 AM; the county sirens will go off at that time.

b. Low to Moderate Income Population

Thomas Mazur presented to Committee members a handout and reported that the data contained therein is the latest census data of the low to moderate income population within Allen County and the villages. Thomas Mazur reported that this ODOD data supersedes income surveys. Sean Chapman asked if the City of Delphos can challenge this data. Thomas Mazur replied that it can be challenged but another income survey will most likely have to be completed. Thomas Mazur reported that since 1970, the census sample size was 1 in every 7; every household receives a survey but every seventh household would receive the long-form survey. Congress cut the Census Bureau's budget therefore the long form survey was eliminated and the short form was "dummied" down; there is no income questions asked. Thomas Mazur reported that the Census Bureau is using the American Community Survey to gather information. This survey is sent to residents of large cities every year; the smaller communities receive the survey every 3-5 years. The data sampling in Allen County will be approximately 1 in 300. Thomas Mazur reported that a community has to be 51% low to moderate income in order to qualify the entire community for the CDBG Program. This means that the data will have to be taken down to the block group level or complete new income surveys. Based on a number of committee member concerns over the data, Thomas Mazur suggested a follow-up email would be sent to clarify the new data set.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 08 (02-17-11) CDC

Dan Reiff made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Chris Seddelmeyer; motion carried.