

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

October 20, 2011

There was a meeting of the **Community Development Committee** of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission held on **Thursday, October 20, 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 – August 18, 2011
3. Safe Community Update
4. Aging in Place Study
5. Proposed Revisions to Analysis of Impediments
6. CDBG Program Update
7. Census Update
8. Walkability Studies
9. Other
10. Adjournment

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

1. **ROLL CALL**

Mr. Sean Chapman	Village of Spencerville
Mr. Kevin Cox	Perry Township
Mr. Michael Criblez	Jackson Township
Ms. Jennifer Palmer	Village of Lafayette
Mr. Dan Reiff	Allen County
Ms. Amy Sackman-Odum	City of Lima
Mr. Troy Strayer	Village of Elida

STAFF

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

2. **APPROVAL OF CDC MINUTES – August 18, 2011**

Motion 18 (10-20-11) CDC

Amy Odum made the motion to approve the CDC minutes of August 18, 2011. Seconded by Sean Chapman; motion carried.

3. **SAFE COMMUNITY UPDATE**

Evelyn Smith presented a handout to the Committee members and reported that the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011 ended on September 30, 2011. The handout represents the activities that staff completed during September towards achieving the grant goals. Evelyn Smith reported that the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) set an increase seatbelt restraint usage goal for FFY 2011 of 79.6%. The observational seatbelt surveys conducted during September resulted in a use rate of 76.9%. Allen County did not achieve its seatbelt usage restraint goal but the baseline for the FFY 2011 was 72.6%; even though the county did not achieve the goal there was a marked improvement in seatbelt usage. Kevin Cox asked how the

3. SAFE COMMUNITY UPDATE (Continued)

county reaches the goal. Evelyn Smith replied that the last page of the handout details the observational survey locations and the seatbelt usage rates for the June and September observational surveys. The sites observed remain the same each year and the same direction of travel are observed each time. Several of the locations have shown a marked improvement in seatbelt usage over time and others have not. Jennifer Palmer asked if the locations will ever change. Evelyn Smith responded in the negative; the locations remain the same to maintain consistency. The locations were chosen by Miami University which is the organization that is the facilitator of the observational surveys. The sites were chosen by random computer selection. Staff reviewed the locations and requested some changes due to overlap or lack of enough traffic flow. Evelyn Smith reported that the observational surveys have been forwarded to Miami University for their review and a final calculation will be issued and forwarded on to staff. Evelyn Smith reported that the grant goals are to: (1) increase seatbelt usage, (2) reduce impaired driving and fatalities, (3) raise public awareness of impaired driving and seatbelt usage and (4) increase motorcycle safety awareness among motorcyclists and motorists. The community has experienced two motorcycle fatalities this year. Dan Reiff asked if the motorcyclist was at fault. Evelyn Smith replied that the crash that occurred at the corner of Elm Street and Central occurred due to an obstruction whereby the driver of the vehicle that hit the motorcyclist could not see the motorcyclist. The second crash occurred in a rural area; speed and impairment were determined to be the causes. Jennifer Palmer asked if these two crashes were more or less than normal. Evelyn Smith replied that it depended; some years there were more motorcycle crashes and other years were less; lately the incidents of motorcycle crashes is trending up due to the increase of persons riding. Evelyn Smith thanked any Committee members that attended the Safe Community Luncheon in September and congratulated Sean Chapman on his award. Evelyn Smith reported that the final budget numbers are included in the handout on the third page. Staff submitted for reimbursement an amount of \$12,869; approximately \$1,737.63 was unused due to the change in copiers that staff utilizes. The way that the costs are figured has changed thereby reducing costs. Jennifer Palmer asked if the FFY grant amount will remain the same amount. Evelyn Smith replied that in the affirmative but stated that there is a possibility if the FFY 2013 grant is awarded locally, there will be a new funding formula. The current grant is awarded by the Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO) which no longer exists and the FFY 2013 grant will be awarded and administered by the Bureau of Criminal Services (BCS). The award will be funded based on the number of fatalities within a community. Mike Criblez asked about seatbelt usage at the Napoleon Road and SR 309 observational survey location; was the usage rate based on arriving at school. Evelyn Smith replied that the locations are observed at different times of the day and this particular location was observed a little after the school was let out. Drivers that stop at the traffic control device are those that are observed.

Motion 19 (10-20-2011) CDC

Sean Chapman made the motion to accept the Safe Communities Update. Seconded by Jennifer Palmer; motion carried.

4. AGING IN PLACE STUDY

Thomas Mazur reported that an aging in place study was conducted and that staff forwarded a copy of the report to the Lima-Allen County Regional Transit Authority (LACRTA) board, the Mayor of the City of Lima, the United Way and some other local agencies. The study was compiled in July 2011 by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Public Health Administration, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and Transportation for America Organization. The study basically states that the population is aging and the public transportation system is not there to meet the needs of senior citizens. The study also “predicts dire consequences” to economic development and an increase in healthcare costs because

4. AGING IN PLACE STUDY (Continued)

senior citizens cannot get out of their homes. Thomas Mazur reported that the Lima community ranks 16th from the bottom in the United States for transportation accessibility out of the 400 metropolitan areas with a population of 50,000 to 250,000. Approximately 75% of the senior citizens in the Lima area lack adequate public transportation. Amy Odum asked how the rankings were arrived at. Thomas Mazur replied that they were based on density, the number and types of services, the hours of service, the miles of service, etc. The study also looked at larger populations, etc. Dan Reiff asked how the federal government knew how many senior citizens had a lack of access to public transportation as well as whether this population needed more public transportation. Thomas Mazur replied that the information is included in documents that the federal government requires the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the LACRTA, the local political subdivisions and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to submit as well as gathering data from the Census. Thomas Mazur reported that the Village of Lafayette, the Village of Harrod, the Village of Elida, the City of Delphos and the Village of Spencerville do not have access to public transportation; these areas are located in the rural areas. Dan Reiff asked if the Allen County Council on Aging (ACCOA) provided transportation services to the more rural areas of the county. Thomas Mazur replied that the agency is marketed as a full county agency but does not really provide daily service to the outlying areas such as the Village of Lafayette or the Village of Harrod and the more rural areas are not even aware that the ACCOA exists. Thomas Mazur reported that the study made recommendations that are being instituted in Allen County between LACRTA, the Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities (ACBDD) and several other local non-profit agencies such as coordination of transportation services. Thomas Mazur reported that coordination, Complete Streets (such as what the City of Lima is participating in) and sidewalks are also a part of this study. Thomas Mazur reported that there are new transit services that are sent to begin in January of 2012 utilizing Department of Education (DOE) monies to support ACBDD to meet the needs of the agencies clients but others will be able to ride the buses as well. Thomas Mazur reported that the entire document is available at: www.scribd.com/doc/60274671/Senior-Mobility-Crisis. No action is required.

5. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS

Thomas Mazur presented two handouts to Committee members and reported that the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) document as well as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is very complicated. The AI has become a housing plan for the county which was not the original intention. Thomas Mazur reported that he attended training in Columbus on Fair Housing and CDBG. The training was facilitated by Joyce Hill. Amy Odum reported that Ms. Joyce Hill is the Fair Housing “Czar” for the State of Ohio; Ms. Hill completes all reviews for the CDBG programs and federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding. Thomas Mazur reported that Ms. Hill recognizes the local AI as a complete document but would like some sections to be more “complete”; some sections do not address the minority and disabled populations enough. The Allen County Commissioners contract with LACCA to take care of the Fair Housing enforcement. Veronica McLauren made some recommendations to the AI and requested some data pertaining to minorities especially minority female heads of household. Staff compiled some tables which the Committee members have received. Thomas Mazur reported that Table 10 was an existing table that has been “upgraded” to include just the minority populations and the poverty status. Table 10 reveals the poverty status by minority of the female head of household. Within Allen County, there are 734 Black/African American female head of households living in poverty at 84.3%. Amy Odum asked if the City of Lima number is included in the Allen County figure. Thomas Mazur replied in the affirmative. Amy Odum stated that of the 734 minority female heads of household in the entire county, 663 reside within the City of Lima. Amy Odum asked if there is any data on the number of white, single mothers living in poverty within the county. Thomas Mazur responded that that information was

5. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS (Continued)

not included in the AI. The poverty level of whites within Allen County was at 12.5% of the population according to the 2000 Census and is 14.5% according to the 2010 Census. The rate for all female heads of households living in poverty within the county is 57.6% or 1,758 households. Thomas Mazur reported that Table 18 presents more detail than Table 10. The AI revisions will be presented to the internal committee structure within the next month or so. Thomas Mazur reported that staff realized that the Fair Housing Act of 1968 has been amended at least five times with the 2007 amendment being the most recent. The 2007 amendment pertained to military status and discrimination against military personnel. These amendments must be added to the AI document. The CDBG funds will become more competitive and communities will be held more accountable than in the past. Thomas Mazur reported that the 2010 Census data must also be added to the AI as it becomes available. Thomas Mazur reported that compliance with the AI and Fair Housing regulations are being tied to any federal monies that a community receives. Thomas Mazur reported that the number one factor for the AI should be disability and the senior population regardless of minority status due to the aging housing stock across the community. No action is required.

6. CDBG PROGRAM UPDATE

Thomas Mazur presented several handouts to Committee members and reported that the first handout represents the CDBG Housing Programming in Allen County. There are 24 programs under the CDBG Program. The red dots on the first map represent CDBG Housing projects ongoing within the county. The maps following break down the projects in each political subdivision that has an ongoing project by the type of project it is. There some projects that are homeless prevention whereby the recipients rent are being paid. Thomas Mazur reported that the county received approximately \$185,000 for Home Repair repairs and \$309,000 for Rehabilitation in 2011, and in 2010, the county received approximately \$258,000 in Formula Funds under the CDBG Program. Thomas Mazur reported that staff is still waiting on Weatherization Program information from LACCA. Staff will be adding information pertaining to the Revolving Loan Fund and the Sewer and Water projects to the data presented to the internal committee structure. Staff has requested more detailed documentation for these CDBG programs. Thomas Mazur reported that the second handout titled Regulatory Barriers: Secret (and Not So Secret) Weapons Against Affordable Housing details issues that the CDBG monies and the AI address. The handout reveals what suburban areas do to restrict fair housing choice and what central city areas do to address fair housing choice. The paper details some regulations put out by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Partners for Regulatory Barriers. The information is included under A National Response within the handout. The section reviews tiered standards for housing codes. For example, an older home would have different standards of bringing the home up to the current housing codes. There are suggestions of relaxing commercial building codes to allow mixed use habitations within commercial buildings. Thomas Mazur reported that the third handout is a template for the AI and CDBG annual reports. The City of Lima will also have to utilize the template for its annual AI and CDBG reports. The comprehensive plans will have to include more fair housing information when the new 2010 Census data is included. Thomas Mazur reported that the fourth handout titled Creating a Task Force on Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing will be utilized by the Housing Consortium locally. Thomas Mazur reported that the last two handouts are fliers pertaining to training for the CDBG program(s).

Motion 20 (10-20-11) TAC

Dan Reiff made the motion to accept the CDBG Program Update report and forward the recommendation on to the TCC for approval. Seconded by Michael Criblez; motion carried.

7. CENSUS UPDATE

Thomas Mazur reported that the Standard Forms 2 and 3 (SF2 & 3) should be released no later than August 2012. There has been talk of combining SF 2 with SF 3 so that the economic information can be released earlier. Jennifer Palmer asked if a person could access census information that has already been released. Thomas Mazur replied in the affirmative.

8. WALKABILITY STUDIES

Thomas Mazur presented a handout to Committee members and reported that walkability studies reveal that if a community has sidewalks the sidewalks improve the sale ability of the housing stock and increases the value of the housing stock. Of the 90 political subdivisions analyzed, in 87 of the 90 analyzed, sidewalks increased the property values. Thomas Mazur reported that a person can use online software to determine where their community or location ranks as per walkability. The software looks at restaurants, grocery stores and other amenities within walking distance. Staff has forwarded this handout to LACNIP for comment and suggestions. Thomas Mazur reported that there are funds available to construct sidewalks and bike/pedestrian pathways. Traffic calming devices such as what was constructed on University Drive can also utilize these funds.

9. OTHER

Thomas Mazur reported that staff is out in the county conducting pavement management studies. These studies help support applications for state and federal funds. The completed studies will be issued in the near future.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 21 (10-20-11) CDC

Dan Reiff made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Amy Odum; motion carried.