



LIMA/ALLEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Winter 2024 • Volume 27 • Issue 2



WELCOME

This newsletter is intended to provide timely updates on local transportation projects, area (re)development initiatives, as well as transit and paratransit related news, highway safety, and other activities undertaken by the Planning Commission and our partners. The newsletter is supported in part with funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FTA), the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and the Planning Commission member political subdivisions.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Home Weatherization • P. 2

Developmental Controls • P. 3

Safety Performance Measures • P. 4

Safe Community Coalition • P. 5

LACRPC in the Community • P. 6

Upcoming Meetings • P. 7

Like us on
Facebook!



HOME WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This winter's cold weather is here, and forecasts for colder temperatures ahead may mean that some residents will need help to stay warm this winter. The Ohio Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) is a no-cost energy assistance program designed to increase the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by income-eligible Ohioans, reduce participants' household energy expenditures, and improve participants' health and safety. HWAP is federally funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and provided Ohioans at no cost for customers whose annual household income



is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Ohio's HWAP is administered through the Ohio Development Services Agency's Community Service Division (CDS) and its Office of Community Assistance.

After weatherization, households that heat with natural gas reduce space heating consumption by an average of 29 percent, and electrically heated homes reduce usage an average of 15 percent. Because of the weatherization installed in participants' homes, the percentage of utility bills paid was increased with the net result being the rate of utility service disconnections for this group decreased significantly.

Any individual, homeowner, or renter with an income at or below 200 percent of federal government poverty guidelines can apply for services under the HWAP. As required by the federal government, HWAP providers give priority to people over the age of 60, those with disabilities, those with children in the home, and households with high energy usage and/or burden. The local agency's review of your application will determine your eligibility for services. All families who have received assistance at any time during the last 12 months under the Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or Home Energy Assistance (HEAP) (does not include Emergency HEAP) are automatically eligible for weatherization services.

Selected weatherization measures may be done to a home if one is determined eligible for services. A home inspection is completed to determine the most cost-effective weatherization services for each home. The services may include safety inspection, tune-up/repair, and if necessary, installation of heating units. In addition, projects may reduce air leakage from major sources and insulation may be added to attics, sidewalls, heating ducts, floors, and water tanks.

Ohio's HWAP is carried out by community action agencies. In Allen County, participation in the program is administered by the Hancock Hardin Wyandot Putnam (HHWP) Community Action Commission. For more information, please contact them directly by mail at P.O. Box 179, Findlay, OH, 45839, or by phone at 419-423-3755 and ask for Janelle in the weatherization department to obtain an application. The completed application can be mailed to the HHWP Community Action Commission. Visit the Ohio Development Services Agency website for more information http://www.development.ohio.gov/is/is_hwap.htm.

Heat Loss

This thermal photograph shows heat leaking from a house during winter heating months. The white, yellow, and red colors show heat escaping with the red representing the greatest heat loss.



OHIO SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

The Ohio Senate has formed a new select committee on housing that plans to address Ohio’s housing crisis. The committee has been meeting since late August to determine what additional steps the state needs to take to encourage home ownership. The committee held several meetings in Columbus before beginning a statewide tour of both rural and urban communities with the most recent meeting being December 11th in Lima. Testimony was made by the following agencies:

- Mayor Sharetta Smith, City of Lima
- Jed Metzger, Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce
- Tara Reynolds Bales, LACRPC
- Dave Stratton, Allen Economic Development Group
- Gary McPheron, Lima Community Improvement Corporation
- Phil Buell, Superior Credit Union
- Kurt Neeper, Superior Financial Solutions, LLC
- Brandon Fischer, Allen County Health Department
- Tammie Colon, The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties
- Bobbie Navarez, Restoration House of Lima, Inc.

Common themes found throughout testimony given by Allen County representatives include rising rents, infrastructure gaps for new development, aging housing stock, and lack of new development including single and multi-family homes and other high-density housing across all price points.

Recommendations made by Allen County representatives included:

- Incentives for Housing Rehabilitation
- Gap financing for developers and neighborhood infrastructure grants
- Increased funding for affordable housing initiatives and down payment
- Support for homeless prevention programs
- Inclusive solutions that include the interests of all stakeholders.
- Reassess sales tax for building materials, introduce programs that leverage anticipated future tax revenue to make current-day improvements

The Select Committee on Housing will continue meeting through late January or early February with plans to release a report in April followed quickly with legislative action.

All testimonies in their entirety as well as more information on the Select Committee on Housing can be found at <https://www.ohiosenate.gov/committees/select-committee-on-housing>.

ALLEN COUNTY TESTIMONY HIGHLIGHTS

102,206 Population of Allen County
 Median Income = \$59,880
 \$5,840 less than median income statewide
 Average Rent = \$893/month

MLS Listings
 2016: 700 homes
 2023: 154 homes
 Countywide Homeownership
 68.3%

What is Affordable?: housing costs do not exceed 30% of family’s income including utility payments.

Lead Poisoning in Children
 2021: 8 cases
 2023: 25 cases

PROCESSED BY LACRPC

4TH QTR

YTD

Lot Split	41	116
Replat	0	4
Floodplain Development Permit	4 new	9 new 1 renewed

SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

In compliance with the requirements of the FAST Act, the transportation bill passed by the U. S. Congress in 2015, the LACRPC, as the local MPO, is engaged in monitoring local progress toward achieving established targets for each of five federally/state-identified safety performance measures. The safety performance measures identified in the FAST Act include:

- The number of highway fatalities
- The rate of fatalities per 100 million-vehicle-miles-traveled (MVMT)
- The number of serious injuries
- The rate of serious injuries per 100 MVMT
- The number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries.

Mirroring the statewide goal set by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the LACRPC committed to achieving a 2% reduction in CY 2024, using a 5-year rolling average (2019-2022) as a baseline in all five safety metrics. Throughout each year, the Commission closely tracks the incidence of fatal crashes as well as serious injury crashes, enabling the RPC to monitor performance measure attainment regularly. The Commission will work to achieve the new targets, continuing to partner with community stakeholders to implement crash-reducing countermeasures. Safety remains a priority! For more information contact the LACRPC office at 419-228-1836.

2024 SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURE TARGETS

Performance Measure	CY 2023 Target	CY 2023 Actual	CY 2024 Target
Number of Fatalities	12	10	12
Rate of Fatalities	0.92	0.78	0.94
Number of Serious Injuries	82	68	74
Rate of Serious Injuries	6.29	6.29	5.46
Number of non-motorized fatalities & serious injury	9	7	9

26TH ANNUAL SAFE COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Safe Community Coalition held the 26th Annual Safe Community Awards on October 25, 2023, at the FOP Hall on Robb Avenue. This yearly event recognizes the efforts and unwavering commitment of individuals and organizations in Allen County working to create a safer community. Through the tireless dedication and collaborative spirit of these individuals, we continue to make great strides in creating a safer and healthier community for all members of Allen County. The FOP generously sponsored the event again this year and provided the space to gather.

2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Grant Recker
Mercy Health Emergency Department Manager
Emergency Medical Services

Trooper Brandon P. Schreiber
Unit-230 OSHP
Traffic Safety

Chris Jackson
Bradfield Center Executive Director
Youth Safety

Denise James
President of LACNIP
Outstanding Citizen

Ptl. Justin Wireman
Lima Police Department
Traffic Safety

Chelsea Rue
Community Outreach Manager, BrightView
Outstanding Citizen

Jeff Osborne
Lima Memorial - Safe Community Coalition
Lifetime Achievement Award



DUNK: DISTRACTED DRIVING ASSEMBLY



On November 15, 2023, students from Allen East, Bath, Lima Central Catholic, Delphos Jefferson, Delphos St. John's, and Lima Senior High Schools joined students at Perry High School for an assembly focusing on Distracted Driving and good decision-making. "DUNK" combines dynamic basketball performers along with an educational and informational message on the dangers of distracted driving.

Following the 40-minute presentation students were able to visit a variety of booths including Kruising Driving School, Perry Fire Department, Perry Police Department, Crime Victim Services, Army National Guard, and The Safe Community Coalition.



On October 6, 2023, The Safe Communities Coalition teamed up with the Area Agency on Aging to bring a CarFit event to the Senior Citizen's Services' Aging 101: What You Need to Know as You Age Event. This event was free and open to the public and featured a vaccine clinic, blood pressure checks, information on fall prevention, financial scams, being a caregiver, and more.



UPCOMING CARFIT EVENT:
APRIL 17, 2024
11 AM – 2 PM
LIMA CENTRAL FIRE STATION
433 S. MAIN STREET



WHAT IS CARFIT?

CarFit is an educational program that offers older adults the opportunity to check how well their personal vehicles "fit" them. The program also provides information and materials on community-specific resources that could enhance their safety as drivers and/or increase their mobility in the community.

Those interested in becoming a trained technician/coordinator for CarFit events should email sbasinger@lacrpc.com.

BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN TASK FORCE RECOGNITION

On Wednesday, November 8, 2023, the Allen County Bicycle & Pedestrian Task Force held its 9th Annual Volunteer Recognition Program at 518 N. Main St, known to many as Louie's Bar. Josh Unterbrink of Activate Allen County congratulated the Bicycle & Pedestrian Task Force for their hard work to make Lima a Bicycle Friendly Community. Shaunna Basinger of LACRPC reviewed the various projects and improvements completed throughout Allen County in 2023. Volunteers and advocates were honored for their outstanding service to the Task Force and bicycle/pedestrian safety in Allen County, including, Jim Morrissey as Advocate of the Year, Jim Martin as Volunteer of the Year, Cranker's Cyclist as Business of the Year, and The Wheelhouse: A Christian Bicycle Cooperative as Non-Profit of the Year. LACRPC staff member Shaunna Basinger also received a Certificate of Recognition for her work with the Bike & Pedestrian Task Force.



LACRPC STAFF IN THE COMMUNITY

The Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce hosts monthly breakfast meetings to learn about what is going on within the Greater Lima Region's Communities. Held the last Friday of every month, this popular networking event is a great opportunity to learn about what's going on in the business community and connect with others in an informal environment.

The December meeting was emceed by LACRPC staff member Shaunna Basinger and featured a Small Business Panel and a celebration of Shop Small to share stories and provide support and resources for small business owners in our community, while also promoting the importance of shopping local this holiday season.



The Basics

Slow down. It’s harder to control or stop your vehicle on a slick or snow-covered surface. On the road, increase your following distance enough so that you’ll have plenty of time to stop for vehicles ahead of you.

Do not crowd a snow plow or travel beside the truck. Snow plows travel slowly, make wide turns, stop often, overlap lanes, and exit the road frequently. If you find yourself behind a snow plow, stay far enough behind it and use caution if you pass the plow.

What to Do in an Emergency

If you are stopped or stalled in wintry weather, stay focused on yourself and your passengers, your car, and your surroundings.

Stay in your car and don’t overexert yourself. Let your car be seen. Put bright markers on the antenna or windows and keep the interior dome light on.

Be mindful of carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of any snow and run your car only sporadically — just long enough to stay warm. Don’t run your car for long periods of time with the windows up or in an enclosed space.

Batteries

When the temperatures drop, so does battery power. In cold weather, gasoline and diesel engines take more battery power to start, and electric and hybrid-electric vehicles’ driving range can be reduced. Have a mechanic check your battery, charging system, belts, and any other needed repairs or replacements.

Stock Your Vehicle

Carry items in your vehicle to handle common winter driving-related tasks, and supplies you might need in an emergency, including:

- a snow shovel, broom, and ice scraper;
- abrasive material (sand or kitty litter), in case your vehicle gets stuck in the snow;
- jumper cables, flashlight, and warning devices (flares and emergency markers);
- blankets for protection from the cold; and
- a cell phone and charger, water, food, and any necessary medicine.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the specified times in the Conference Room of the Planning Commission located at 130 W. North Street, Lima, Ohio 45801. Meetings are open and the public is invited to attend.

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

CMTE	DATE	TIME	CMTE	DATE	TIME	CMTE	DATE	TIME
DCC	Tue, Jan. 2nd	3:00 pm	DCC	Tue, Feb. 13th	3:00 pm	DCC	Tue, Mar. 12th	3:00 pm
DCC	Tue, Jan. 16th	3:00 pm	TAC	Tue, Feb. 20th	1:30 pm	TAC	Tue, Mar. 19th	1:30 pm
CDC	Thu, Jan. 18th	3:30 pm	AAC	Wed, Feb. 21st	4:00 pm	AAC	Wed, Mar. 20th	4:00 pm
CAC	Tue, Jan. 23rd	10:00 am	TCC	Thu, Feb. 22nd	3:00 pm	TCC	Thu, Mar. 21st	3:00 pm
TAC	Tue, Jan. 23rd	1:30 pm	EC	Thu, Feb. 22nd	4:00 pm	EC	Thu, Mar. 21st	4:00 pm
AAC	Wed, Jan. 24th	4:00 pm	DCC	Tue, Feb. 27th	3:00 pm	DCC	Tue, Mar. 26th	3:00 pm
TCC	Thu, Jan. 25th	3:00 pm						
EC	Thu, Jan. 25th	4:00 pm						
DCC	Tue, Jan. 30th	3:00 pm						

CONTACT US
Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission
 130 W. North Street
 Lima, OH 45801
 419-228-1836