

CITIZENS ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 14, 2017

There was a meeting of the **Citizens Accessibility Advisory Committee (CAAC)** of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission on **Thursday, September 14, 2017**, at **3:00 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 CAAC Minutes – August 10, 2017
3. Review of Demographic Attributes
4. Dependent Populations
5. Survey Data
6. LOS Analysis
7. Gaps in Service
8. Goals & Objectives
9. Other
10. Adjournment

A quorum being present, Thomas Mazur brought the meeting to order and proceeded with the agenda. Introductions were requested due to a number of new persons in attendance.

1. **ROLL CALL**

Mr. Jay Begg	Allen County
Ms. Kim Bruns	Liberty Mobility
Ms. Joan Davis	Allen County Regional Transit Authority
Ms. Shelia Haney	Allen County Regional Transit Authority
Ms. Marilyn Horstman	Allen County Job & Family Services
Ms. Kylie Jenkins	Allen Metropolitan Housing Authority
Ms. Margaret Lawrence	Coleman Professional Services
Ms. Nell Lester	West Central Ohio Health Ministries
Ms. Amber Martin	Family & Children First Council
Mr. Kevin Matthews	Van Wert County Council on Aging
Ms. Erica Petrie	Area Agency on Aging ³
Mr. Charles Schreck	Ohio Department of Transportation District 1
Ms. Patricia Stein	Allen County Regional Transit Authority
Mr. Robert Warren	Auglaize County Council on Aging

STAFF

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

2. **APPROVAL OF CAAC MINUTES – August 10, 2017**

Thomas Mazur reported to Committee members that copies of the August 10, 2017 minutes were emailed or mailed to Committee members and asked if there were any comments or corrections. The Committee accepted the minutes as presented.

3. REVIEW OF GEOGRAPHIC ATTRIBUTES

Thomas Mazur reported that there are certain requirements for the Regional Coordination Plan including those community stakeholders that are mandated to be invited to participate. The first handout within the packet depicts the Planning Committee Required Stakeholders. The red check mark reveals the stakeholders that have become integral to the Planning Committee since the meeting in August. Staff is still having difficulty finding an independent living center in Allen County. Erica Petrie reported that none exist in the region. Thomas Mazur reported that the Planning Committee will be making the decision as to how the Plan will “roll-out”. There are 3 smaller committees that meet within the 4-county region. Thomas Mazur reported that the next handout reveals the demographic pieces that the Plan must address. The red check marks depict accomplishments by staff over the past month. For the non-traditional transportation programs, staff has reviewed and documented bike-share programs. Staff has reviewed rideshare including vanpooling programs. The Gohio Program has been supported. Thomas Mazur reported that the Uber/Lyft/type service under Liberty Mobility Now programming is already functioning in Van Wert County. Liberty Mobility Now will soon have a presence in Allen County and Kim Bruns stated that the agency anticipates accepting requests for trips by the end of October. Thomas Mazur reported that staff is unsure about a volunteer driver program in Allen County. Erica Petrie reported that the American Cancer Society provides volunteer driver trips in Allen, Auglaize and Mercer counties. There are no actual volunteer drivers in Van Wert County but drivers from the other counties do provide trips for Van Wert County. Thomas Mazur reported that volunteer driver programs from faith based organizations and neighborhood associations are difficult to track. The Plan is also to address Community Health Assessments. In the past, transportation was the number 1 issue for the Assessment. In recent years, transportation has moved down in the list of priorities due to the increase of transportation services provided. Staff has the information for Allen County but requests if Committee members have access to the information for Auglaize, Mercer and Van Wert counties to please forward it on to staff. Thomas Mazur reported that staff has been unable to locate Workforce Development Plans for Auglaize, Mercer and Van Wert counties. Staff has also been unable to locate Education Transportation Plans for all 4 counties. Jay Begg asked the reason that the Coordination Plan requires access to information from an Education Transportation Plan. Thomas Mazur replied that there might be items within an Education Transportation Plan that can be incorporated into the Coordination Plan. The next set of handouts contains maps that depict requirements for the 4-county planning area. The Plan appendices will reflect individual counties. The information is gathered from several different secondary data sets. The first packet of maps depicts the government buildings, schools, entertainment shopping centers and parks by location. Thomas Mazur reported that the next packet of maps depicts the hospitals, dialysis clinics, adult day programs, nursing homes, and out-patient drug treatment facilities by location. The next packet of maps reveals the social service agencies by location. Turning to target populations, the following map in the packet reviews the percent of the population in the 4-county area age 65 or older. The next map reviews the percent of the population in the 4-county area age 60 or older. The next map depicts the households with no vehicle. The Plan targets also include the transportationally dependent, poverty stricken, the mobility challenged and those without vehicles. The last map in this packet depicts the English proficiency for the 4-county region in 2015. Thomas Mazur reported that depending on the funding sources agencies draw down, whenever the numbers begin to rise above 3%, the public participation rules change, translation services required, etc. In the past, staff has worked closely with the local school districts pertaining to those populations with limited English proficiency (LEP) to assist with documenting those LEP households within a particular school district. Thomas Mazur reported that one of the big issues for the Plan was identifying the major employers; the first map of the next packet depicts the employers by size of employment and a list by county. The employers were also broken down by employment classification. The next map depicts the business and

3. REVIEW OF GEOGRAPHIC ATTRIBUTES (Continued)

economic support agencies which includes the chambers of commerce, temporary employment agencies, Job & Family Services (JFS), unemployment offices, etc.

4. DEPENDENT POPULATIONS

Thomas Mazur reported that Section 4 identifies at the dependent populations and those that are looking for transportation services because they are elderly, frail, those suffering from a physical, cognitive or emotional disability, are of a minority status, are poverty stricken, etc. Section 4 looks at the 4-county region. There will be appendices for each of the other counties at the back end of the Plan. Thomas Mazur reported that Illustration 4-3 on page 4-24 depicts the age cohort by gender in a population pyramid. The shape of this pyramid suggests that population growth is stagnant or declining. Table 4-12 on page 4-30 depicts the duplicated clients within the 4-county region with approximately 133,000 persons falling into one of the dependent population's categories. Table 4-13 on the same page depicts the transportation dependent populations within the 4-county region which amounts to approximately 71,985 persons or 33.2% of the population. Thomas Mazur reported that the last two maps in this packet depict the population density and the employment density for all 4 counties. The maps reveal how rural Auglaize and Mercer counties actually are. These counties may be interested in establishing park and ride lots or shuttle services between towns as strategies to assist transportation dependent populations.

5. SURVEY DATA

Thomas Mazur reported that the survey data gathered on Survey Monkey was presented to the Committee at last month's meeting. Staff also surveyed the local service providers which included those FTA 5310 agencies, social service providers, human service agencies and case management agencies including JFS. Staff also sent a survey to the manufacturers that employed 100+ employees. These employers were asked if they had issues with transportation for those employees that work in the entry-level positions. The employers were also asked if they would be interested in discussing transportation alternatives (van-pooling, car-sharing, etc.) with the local economic development agencies or chambers of commerce. Thomas Mazur reported that the next couple of maps came from data provided by the Allen County JFS, Auglaize County JFS and Find-a-Ride program. Staff was surprised at the number of JFS trips that were less than 2 miles. Marilyn Horstman stated that many of the trips JFS provided were medical trips. Thomas Mazur reported that the first map depicts the trips provided by JFS. The inset map depicts the trips outside of Allen County.

6. LOS ANALYSIS

Thomas Mazur apologized to the Committee as the LOS Analysis is not complete; staff is still waiting on information from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). Staff will be review all of the FTA 5310 recipients and perform a LOS analysis. Staff has received the LOS data from the Allen County Regional Transit Authority (ACRTA).

7. GAPS IN SERVICE

Thomas Mazur reported that the gaps in service chart (Chart 5-1) were presented to the Committee at last month's meeting. The chart contains the hours of service that the FTA 5310 service providers, taxis and social service agencies operate. Each of the green blocks represents a 2-hour time frame when transportation services are available. The white

7. **GAPS IN SERVICE** (Continued)

spaces represent when no transportation services are available. Thomas Mazur reported that this chart represents the temporal gaps in services and the other gaps are geographic in nature.

8. **GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

Thomas Mazur reported that the final 2 handouts pertain to the goals and objectives of the Plan. ODOT's new criteria require specific strategies to address issues. Moreover, ODOT has suggested certain criteria be used to rank all of the individual issues. The employment based transportation services chart attempts to frame the arguments staff is dealing with. The demand response concerns chart attempts to deal with seniors issues related to transportation and the costs associated with said transportation. Thomas Mazur requested committee members review the charts and make recommendations for ranking, strategies, etc. Erica stated that these charts are for employment and asked if there will be charts for medical and other issues. Thomas Mazur replied in the affirmative and stated that employment will be separate from the other issues. Erica Petrie stated that the goal statement will be based on the ranking of the problem. Thomas Mazur reported that each county's goal statements and objectives may be different. Nell Lester asked if there are bus schedules to assist the mobility challenged and if so, how can people access the schedules. Thomas Mazur replied that the bus schedules are on the RTA website as well as at the Bus Terminal. Margaret Lawrence stated the Coleman Professional provides a bus schedule to all of its clients and many other local agencies do as well. Thomas Mazur reported that staff has been working to get bus route information out to the bus shelters and the bus stops. Shelia Haney reported that RTA does not own the bus shelters. RTA has tried to work with the owner of the shelters to be allowed to place route information as well as other information at the bus shelters and they have not been allowed. RTA is looking at placing tubes on the bus stop sign poles with fixed route information.

9. **OTHER**

None.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m.