



LIMA-ALLEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

130 West North Street Lima, Ohio 45801-4311
Telephone: 419-228-1836 FAX: 419-228-3891
www.lacrpc.com

Doug Post
President

Brion Rhodes
President-Elect

Jay Begg
Treasurer

Chris Seddelmeyer
Secretary

Thomas M. Mazur
Executive Director

TO: CITIZENS ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Sarah Beery Alice Curth
Joan Davis Carole Enneking
Karen Garland Shelia Haney
Michael Hensley Kylie Jenkins
Jacob King Margaret Lawrence
Nell Lester Joe Lewis
Jodi Owens Elisha Reinecke
Holly Rex Beca Sheidler
Charles Schreck Josh Unterbrink

FROM: Thomas Mazur

DATE: February 7, 2020

RE: CAAC Meeting

There will be a meeting of the **Citizens Accessibility Advisory Committee** of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission held on **Thursday, February 13, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.** in the Conference Room of the Commission office located at 130 West North Street, Lima, Ohio.

The agenda will be as follows:

1. Roll Call/Introduction
2. Approval of CAAC Minutes – December 5, 2019
3. RTA Report
4. ODOT 5310 Program Announcements + LOI
5. Regional Coordination Plan
6. Safe Routes to School Travel Plans
7. FY 2021-2024 Transportation improvement Program
8. Other
9. Adjournment

NOTE: PLEASE CALL THE LACRPC WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.



CITIZENS ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 13, 2020

There was a meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission on **Tuesday, February 13, 2020**, at 10:00 a.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/Introduction
2. Approval of CAAC Minutes – December 5, 2019
3. RTA Report
4. ODOT 5310 Program Announcements + LOI
5. Regional Coordination Plan
6. Safe Routes to School Travel Plans
7. FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program
8. Other
9. Adjournment

A quorum being present, Thomas Mazur brought the meeting to order, requested introductions and proceeded with the agenda.

1. **ROLL CALL**

Ms. Alice Curth	Delphos Senior Citizens
Ms. Carole Enneking	Family & Children First Council
Ms. Karen Garland	Allen County Regional Transit Authority
Mr. Jacob King	Rhodes State College
Mr. Joe Lewis	Marimor Industries
Ms. Holly Rex	West Ohio Community Action Partnership
Mr. Charles Schreck	Ohio Department of Transportation District 1

GUESTS

Ms. Shannon Hadding	Area Agency on Aging ³ (for Beca Sheidler)
---------------------	---

STAFF

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

2. **APPROVAL OF CAAC MINUTES – DECEMBER 5, 2019**

Thomas Mazur reported to Committee members that copies of the December 5, 2019 minutes were emailed and/or mailed to Committee members and asked if there were any comments or corrections. The Committee accepted the minutes as presented.

3. **RTA REPORT**

Karen Garland stated that a copy of the January ridership stats is included in each Committee members packet. The Allen County Regional Transit Authority (ACRTA) started 2 former routes back up in November and December. Saturday services began on January 11th. Ridership has increased by 184 passengers in January but RTA anticipates ridership numbers to show a marked increase for February. Uplift ridership also increased due to the reinstatement of the 2 former routes because of the ¾ mile rule. The ¾ mile rule means that for those that cannot ride the fixed route (FR) buses, they qualify for Uplift services. Karen

3. RTA REPORT (Continued)

Garland reported that this week is Ohio Loves Transit week and Friday is Ohio Loves Transit Day. RTA staff will be passing out lollipops at the transit station all day Friday to all passengers. Karen Garland reported that RTA has 2 non-CDL vehicles that are due to arrive soon. RTA was requested by the OPTA Conference sponsors to allow one of the new non-CDL buses to be on display at the Conference; RTA has agreed. Karen Garland stated that the funds from the sales tax levy that was passed in November of 2019 is now coming in steadily and this is the first time that RTA has actually been “in the black” for a long time.

4. ODOT 5310 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS + LOI

Thomas Mazur reported that ODOT has posted formal public notice of the availability of certain federal funds being awarded under the auspices of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) programming. In your packet is ODOT's official notice of funding for local governments operating transit systems (FTA 5310 Program), regional transit authorities (Ohio Transit Preservation Partnership Program (OTPPP), rural transportation (FTA 5311), and FTA 5339 Program funds for equipment and maintenance for providers and non-profit agencies. ODOT is formalizing a tiered application process whereby, potential applicants are screened before they actually apply for federal funds. Thomas Mazur reported that the process requires a letter of intent specifying the program an applicant is interested in applying for. Interested applicants must select which program(s) and project(s) they intend to apply for and provide an estimated amount of funding needed to complete the project(s). Eligible Applicants will be able to modify and finalize the project and funding requests at the time of the application, however applicants will not be able to apply for a different program that was not approved at the time of the Letter of Intent process. Letters of intent must be submitted by Monday, February 17, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. in order to be considered for funding. Thomas Mazur reported that several programs are of local interest include the 5310 Program, OTP2 Program, 5339 Discretionary Fund, Rural Transit Program 5311 and Mobility Management Program. Thomas Mazur reported that the Specialized Transportation Program (FTA 5310) is intended to enhance mobility for seniors and persons with disabilities by providing Federal Transit Administration funds for programs in small urbanized and rural areas that serve the special needs of transit-dependent populations beyond traditional public transportation services and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit services. The program provides 80% of the cost of capital projects; the remaining 20% must be provided by local funding, which may be derived from other federal (non-U.S. DOT) transportation sources. Thomas Mazur reported that nonprofit (501(c)(3)) organizations can apply for these funds. Thomas Mazur reported that ODOT instituted the Ohio Transit Partnership Program (OTP2) to provide state funds to the rural and urban transit systems in Ohio beginning in state fiscal year 2020. This replaces the Ohio Transit Preservation Partnership Program (OTPPP) which had provided federal funds to urban systems since 2012. The OTP2 is a discretionary program and projects are selected on a competitive basis with an emphasis on preservation in Tier I with preservation defined as the process of working to maintain, sustain, or keep in a good sound state the transit systems in Ohio. Tier II projects are focused on regionalization, coordination, technology, service expansion, workforce initiatives, and healthcare initiatives. Thomas Mazur reported that those that can apply are Regional Transit Authorities, County Transit Boards, municipalities, or counties that own or operate public transportation systems. Transit systems must be recipients of FTA Section 5307 or 5311 funds in order to apply for OTP2 funds. Thomas Mazur stated that ODOT has allocated \$31 million for Tier I projects and \$13 million for Tier II projects for state fiscal year 2020. The sources of funds for this program are from Ohio's General Revenue Funds for the 2020-2021 biennium. Thomas Mazur reported that the program application schedule for SFY2021 is identified below. See the Program Criteria and Application from the SFY2020 OTP2 under the Program Guide

4. ODOT 5310 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS + LOI (Continued)

and Documents section for more details on the types of funding assistance available and program requirements. SFY2021 Ohio Transit Partnership Program Schedule is as follows: Letter of Intent: Announced January 29, 2020, Letter of Intent: Due February 14, 2020, Application Workshops: Late February and March 2020, Applications: Due May 6, 2020 and Awards: Announced June 2, 2020. Thomas Mazur reported that the bus and bus facilities program (BABF) Section 5339 program is designed to provide federal funds to assist with the purchase of capital assets for public transit systems in rural portions of the state in order to help meet the program goals. The goals of the Bus and Bus Facilities Program are: to assist eligible recipients in replacing, rehabilitating, and purchasing buses and bus-related equipment, to renovate and construct bus-related facilities, to overall ensure that public transit systems in Ohio have vehicles, equipment, and facilities of sufficient quality and quantity and to ensure that public transit systems can provide safe, efficient, and effective public transportation to the people of the state. Thomas Mazur reported that those that can apply include Counties, Municipalities, Villages, Regional Transit Authorities, County Transit Boards, Private Nonprofit Corporations designated by a county or municipality and a County or Municipal department on behalf of a county, municipality or village. Thomas Mazur reported that Rural Transit Program Section 5311 consists of Federal and State funds used to assist with operating and capital expenses in the provision of general public transportation services in rural and small urban areas. Section 5311 funds can be used for up to 50% of the net project cost of operating expenses and up to 80% of the cost of capital projects. Thomas Mazur stated that existing grantees submit an annual proposal to request Federal and State operating funds, which are based on the transit systems needs which are evaluated in relation to state performance standards for Percent of General Public Ridership, Passenger Trips per hour, Cost Per Vehicle Mile and Cost Per Passenger Trip. Capital funds are discretionary and are approved based on a system's Four-Year Capital and Operating Plan Proposals are due each September for the following calendar year. A combined proposal can be submitted for capital and operating assistance. Thomas Mazur reported that the Ohio Mobility Manager Program increases access to mobility for Ohioans by increasing understanding and awareness of transportation needs, coordination of transportation options to meet needs, and building sustainable and healthy communities by integrating transportation into planning and programs. Thomas Mazur reported that Program goals include increasing understanding and awareness of community transportation needs, increasing awareness of current community transportation options and programs, ensuring that transportation consideration is included in local and regional planning activities, increasing local capacity for transportation services and assisting individuals with accessing all community transportation options. Thomas Mazur stated that mobility management activities are eligible for funding through the Elderly Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Program. All projects must be derived from a coordinated transportation plan and be competitively selected. All Ohio Mobility Management Projects are funded with ODOT Administered 5310 & 5311 program funds. This program only applies to entities located in rural or small urban areas. Holly Rex stated that the West Ohio Community Action Partnership (WOCAP) vehicles should be removed from the table as WOCAP no longer provides transportation services.

5. REGIONAL COORDINATION PLAN

Thomas Mazur reported that access to Federal funds are predicated upon eligibility and needs as well as the ability to develop the rationale and justification for the use of such federal funds. This goes for all the transportation offices of DOT including FHWA, FTA, FAA & FRA. That being said all ODOT Public Transportation Projects/Programs must be derived from an existing plan e.g. a Long-Range Plan, A Transit Development Plan, or a Coordinated Transportation Plan. Staff's concern is that as there is no new Coordination

5. REGIONAL COORDINATION PLAN (Continued)

Plan and that it might be a good idea to update the only Plan we have with current information. Table 7-1 from the existing Coordination Plan is in your packet. Shannon Hadding from AAA³ stated that the Area Agency on Aging³ (AAA³) is in the process of finalizing the Regional Coordination Plan. Thomas Mazur requested that each agency review Table 7-1 from the current Regional Coordination Plan and forward any changes/vehicle requests to staff as soon as possible in order to update the table. And that if all are in agreement, we would forward same on behalf of the applicants and MPO as an updated Capital Rolling Stock Improvement Program.

6. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANS

Thomas Mazur reported that as part of each packet, Committee members will find pieces of 2 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) – School Travel Plans. A School Travel Plan is a written document that outlines a community's intentions for enabling students to engage in active transportation (i.e. walking or bicycling) as they travel to and from school. The Plan is to be created through a team-based approach that involves key community stakeholders in both identifying barriers to active transportation and using the 5 Es which include Engineering strategies; Education programs; Enforcement strategies, Encouragement activities and Evaluation to address them. Thomas Mazur stated that these "snippets" reflect an attempt to secure state monies in order to improve pedestrian accessibility to local schools. Funding is to be used to eliminate barriers to walking or biking to and from school for students K-8. The funding is 100% state monies and is therefore very competitive. Thomas Mazur reported that the first submission is an application being submitted by the Village of Elida on behalf of the Elida Local School District. The Elida Elementary School is being tore down and rebuilt. The School Travel Plan calls for sidewalks to be constructed along Sunnysdale and Pioneer adjacent to the Elida Middle School on North and Main St. from Henry to Pioneer Rd. As well as an updating of the all signage and school flasher assemblies serving Pioneer and Sunnysdale. Total estimated costs \$345,000. This application is not yet finished and is de by March 6th. Thomas Mazur reported that the second application is being submitted on behalf of the students at Delphos Jefferson Middle School, Franklin Elementary and St. Johns schools by the City of Delphos. The City of Delphos is taking the lead on several areas of the School Travel Plan including enforcement, engineering and evaluation. Collectively, the list of improvements seeking ODOT funding is estimated at \$780,000. Shelly Miller with Allen County Public Health and Shane Coleman the Safety Service Director in Delphos have spearheaded this submission. Staff anticipates the Delphos SRTS application being submitted on Monday afternoon.

7. FY 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Thomas Mazur that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a listing of proposed capital projects using federal funding appropriated by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) or the Federal transit Administration (FTA). The listing of proposed projects reflects the interests of motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, and those that use transit. These projects were identified in the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission's (RPCs) 2040 Transportation Plan and are deemed eligible for such federal funds. Thomas Mazur stated that this is the 1st draft so there are still projects and funding shifting as well as typos and data irregularities. Section 1 is boilerplate and the Committee has seen this section in previous TIP's. Section 2 looks at the Planning Process and highlights the implications of the last couple of Transportation Bills and the new performance measures. Financial information is presented in Section 3 (see page 3-1). Thomas Mazur reported that working with FHWA, FTA and ODOT, the RPC is programming some \$71.8 Million in funding – including \$22.8M for highway resurfacing and \$12.1M for Transit (see Table on page 3-3).

7. FY 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (Continued)

Below that you'll see the RPC receives \$7.6 M. The table on page 3-4 looks at the list of proposed MPO projects. That same section also looks at Environmental Justice (EJ) populations and potential project implications. Starting on page 3-13 there are several 11x17 tables identifying various bike, bridge, culvert, highway, lighting, safety, sidewalk or transit projects. Thomas Mazur reported that the TIP reflects the interests of multiple project sponsors including ODOT and the cities of Delphos and Lima and the villages of Bluffton, Beaverdam, and Lafayette. The County Engineer has some bridge projects, and the Allen Economic Development Group (AEDG) working with the County Engineer has some ODOT monies to upgrade several county roads. Thomas Mazur stated that the TIP includes the typical roadway resurfacing projects on the state route (SR) system including SR 65 north of Cairo, SR 65 south of Lima, SR 66 in Delphos and Spencerville and points in between the two, SR 112, SR 115 and SR 117 from Lima west through Spencerville. There are also 10 culvert replacements & bridge projects on the National Highway System (NHS), State & County systems. Thomas Mazur reported that locally, the big projects include the 5th Street corridor through town and S. Main St. The Delphos 5th Street Project (PID 108373) includes portions of SR 66 and SR 190 and most of 5th Street alignment from one end of Delphos to the other. The project includes a "road diet" which encompasses roadway resurfacing, striping of 2 through lanes and a 2-way left turn lane, a TWLTL, bike lanes, curbs, new catch basins and raising of some catch basins, traffic signal upgrades, new sidewalks, ADA upgrades, etc. The project begins in summer 2020 with an investment of \$4M. The project has its detractors but it has been re-engineered to minimize crashes. Thomas Mazur stated that not nearly as controversial is the Delphos's Main Street Project (PID 108644) which is a project requiring full depth reconstruction of roughly ¼ mile at a cost of \$3.6M. The project is scheduled for FY 2023. The Village of Beaverdam has a \$210,000 project to upgrade its sidewalks this year in FY 2020. And has a lighting project (PID 108975) estimated at \$300,000 in FY 2021. Lima has several projects within the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) including a single lane Roundabout project at Market & Main estimated at \$1M and the construction of the Spencerville Road Sidewalk Project from Cable Road to Pierce Street. The sidewalk project (PID 110217) reflects an investment of roughly \$850,000 in FY 2023. Thomas Mazur reported that the Village of Bluffton has 2 projects (PID 111120) is not yet included in the table or the map but will be a shared use path from SR 103 to Jefferson Street out to County Line Road for \$1M. And PID 110706 in Bluffton which is the SR 103 resurfacing project roughly \$900,000. Both of these projects are slated for FY 2023. The hamlet of Westminster (PID 109435) will see a significant investment with the resurfacing of SR 117 to also reflect new curbs and gutters, sidewalks, and lighting. The FY 2021 project is estimated at \$2.4 million. Thomas Mazur reported that the County Engineer has secured funding for the resurfacing of targeted areas on Buckeye Road and SR 65 and McLain Road (PID 110929). Funding allows maximum flexibility in the amount of \$1.5M. ODOT will be addressing the SR 309 and Thayer Road intersection as well as the SR 309 and Napoleon intersection (PID 110428) by constructing round-a-bouts. Total estimated costs for both roundabouts most likely will be \$6.1M. There is another Thayer Road Project (PID 111375) to address the intersection with US 30 using an RCUT. This preferred alternative to date reflects the construction of cul-de-sacs on Cool and Mulberry roads at a cost of \$2.6M in FY 2022. Thomas Mazur presented a copy of the TIP Public Involvement calendar FY 2020-2021 TIP Table update and a proposed FY 2021-2024 TIP Table. Remember the RPC and RTA are just rolling this 1st Formal DRAFT out to the public and soliciting comments.

8. OTHER

None.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 P.M.