



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 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FROM: Thomas M. Mazur, Executive Director
Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission

DATE: October 16, 2019

RE: CAC Meeting

There will be a meeting of the **Citizens Advisory Committee** of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission on **Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at 10:00 a.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
2. RTA Report
3. WOCAP Community Assessment
4. DRAFT Public Participation Plan
5. Update: Safe Routes to School & ADA Transition Plans
6. Westminster Project (PID 109435) Safety Program Funding
7. Update: FY 2021-2024 TIP/STIP Development Process
8. US 30 Corridor Study
9. Thayer Road Safety Study
10. Ohio Rail Plan
11. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
12. 2018 Allen County Air Quality Report
13. Feedback Re: ODOT 2045 Public Input/MORPC RSTI Meetings
14. Other
15. Adjournment

NOTE: PLEASE CALL THE COMMISSION OFFICE AND CONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT YOU WILL ATTEND.



CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 22, 2019

There was a meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission on **Tuesday, October 22, 2019**, 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
2. RTA Report
3. WOCAP Community Assessment
4. DRAFT Public Participation Plan
5. Update: Safe Routes to School & ADA Transition Plans
6. Westminster Project (PID 109435) Safety Program Funding
7. Update: FY 2021-2024 TIP/STIP Development Process
8. US 30 Corridor Study
9. Thayer Road Safety Study
10. Ohio Rail Plan
11. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
12. 2018 Allen County Air Quality Report
13. Feedback RE: ODOT 2045 Public Input/MORPC RSTI Meetings
14. Other
15. Adjournment

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

1. **ROLL CALL**

Ms. Carol Bertrand	Audubon Society
Ms. Alice Curth	Delphos Senior Citizens
Ms. Shelia Haney	Allen County Regional Transit Authority
Ms. Casey Heilman	Allen Soil & Water Conservation District
Mr. Michael Hensley	Allen County Council on Aging
Ms. Kathy Luhn	Allen County Health Department
Mr. Patrick Maloney	Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc.
Mr. Chuck Schierloh	City of Lima

STAFF

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

2. **RTA REPORT**

Shelia Haney reported that a copy of the handout is at each place for Committee members. Ridership has remained fairly steady since routes were shut down in 2018. The Allen County Regional Transit Authority (ACRTA) has received the 3 35' Gillig buses that were ordered 2 years ago utilizing grant monies at 100%, no local match required. Now the fixed route (FR) fleet is all within their useful life which should help on-time performance, reduce the number of breakdowns which helps reduce maintenance costs. RTA still has 6 Uplift vans that are past their useful life. RTA has begun to look for grants to purchase new Uplift vans. Shelia Haney reported that the Ohio Department of Transportation released a couple of capital grant applications utilizing gas tax funds. The grants are competitive grants and

2. RTA REPORT (Continued)

are at a 70/30 split. RTA has applied for some of the funds which are unusual as the Agency tends to look for grants at 100%. The funds, if awarded, will be used to purchase Uplift vans. RTA is supposed to hear by the end of the month if they have been awarded any funds. ODOT is in the process of reviewing all of the applications as ODOT received more applications than they have funds. Shelia Haney reported that RTA has been running a hiring campaign as the Agency is trying to gear up for when RTA brings back the routes that were shut down as well as Saturday service. RTA has been having a difficult time hiring drivers. RTA has put applications on Face Book (FB) as well as hosting an Open House. The Open House was well attended. RTA has been receiving about 3 applications per week but many applicants either cannot pass a drug or alcohol test or cannot get their CDL permit. RTA will train them for their CDL license. RTA's intent is to begin Saturday the 1st of January and then 3-4 months down the road, begin the night service. Shelia Haney reported that RTA has not been involved in any accidents the past several months. RTA is in the final stages of its 2018 State Audit. The Federal Transit Administrative (FTA) will be at RTA in November to conduct some reviews due to one of the State audits. Next year, RTA will have its Triennial Audit. Shelia Haney reported that as for Policies & Procedures, RTA has a Safety Certification due next July. RTA has asked ODOT to allow it to "piggyback" onto ODOT's Safety Plan. Shelia Haney reported that there are maps of Route 7 and Route 2 included in the handout. Route 7 was the route that went to P&G on Cool Road and was one of the routes that were shut down. Sheila Haney stated that she has been meeting with P&G, Spherion and other temp agencies. Many of the businesses along Route 7 have been asking for the return of the route as Nickles Bakery, Lima Pallet, P&G, Nelsons Packaging, etc. are along Route 7. Route 7 will begin again in November. The route will only run 4 hours in the morning and 4 hours in the afternoon which will help keep costs down as RTA will only use 1 driver for the route. Any P&G employee that gets off between the routes times will need to either wait for the bus or find another way. Black & White Cab has been charging the temporary employees \$15 per trip (\$30 per day) and taking it out of their pay check. Shelia Haney reported that Route 2 will change when Route 7 is back up as Route 2 had a loop added to help hit Nelson's Packaging and P&G on Reservoir Road. By adding the loop, Route 2 runs behind every day. The loop will be removed when Route 7 goes back into service. Shelia Haney reported that Doug Ollsom who is in charge of MakerFest and also a new RTA Board member, reached out to RTA to provide shuttle services because this is the first year that MakerFest has been held at the Allen County Fairgrounds; MakerFest has been held at the Civic Center in the past. RTA shuttled approximately 30 persons from the Civic Center to the Fairgrounds. RTA also set up shuttle service and the University of Northwestern Ohio (UNOH) and Ohio State/Rhodes State to help encourage students to attend. The shuttle service was not well utilized as MakerFest did not advertise the availability of the shuttles. Shelia Haney reported that RTA will provide transportation to persons that would like to attend the Thanksgiving Dinner at the Civic Center. The majority of the attendees that RTA transports are the elderly and disabled; RTA goes to all of the senior living facilities and transports those that want to partake of the Thanksgiving Dinner. Shelia Haney reported that there are some "screen grabs" of comments, posts, job postings, etc. that have been on RTA's FB page. RTA received numerous job applications due to placing the jobs on the FB page. Shelia Haney reported that RTA is still working hard to get through 2019 financially as RTA will not begin receiving the levy funds until the end of January. RTA utilizing accrual accounting and beginning in October, RTA will use an estimate of the sales tax levy funds as they began at the beginning of October. Thomas Mazur asked how many miles will Route 7 add to the existing system. Shelia Haney replied Route 7 will add 14 miles 4 x per day. The route will not actually help P&G employees but will help the temporary workers. P&G was informed that if they contracted with RTA for the short term until the discontinued services were brought back, and then RTA would benefit the temporary workers even more. Shelia Haney reported that RTA still has a contract with

2. RTA REPORT (Continued)

Nelsons Packaging to provide transportation services to its employees and Nelson renewed its contract with RTA. Patrick Maloney asked about the bus stops and that the grant was no more. Shelia Haney replied that the grant no longer exists and stated that there are so many more regulations as relates to bus shelters that RTA has placed bus stops on the “back burner” for now.

3. WOCAP COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Thomas Mazur reported that a copy of the WOCAP Community Assessment is included in each packet. There are 2 operations within the West Ohio Community Action Partnership (WOCAP); the Community Action Commission and Head Start. The reporting requirements for both are slightly different. Head Start must update its plans every 3 years whereas; WOCAP only updates its plans every 5 years. Thomas Mazur reported that the Demographics in Section II reflect 2017 ACS data. Section 3 examines housing information. The property grade information is new. Section 4 contains the educational data. The school ranking data has changed again as the state has changed how and what it evaluates at the schools. The KRA-L data is located on pages 4-12 through 4-14 and Table 4-5 on page 4-15 contains the 3rd Grade Performance Measures. Table 4-1 is broken down at the census tract level. Thomas Mazur reported that Section 5 contains data on the determinants of health. Floodplains, pipelines, traffic, crash data, speeding, hazardous chemicals near school buildings or under school buildings, etc. are reviewed. The section also looks at air quality and the built environment as well as motor vehicle crashes, pedestrian crashes and the number of crashes involving children. The section contains 2016-2018 motor vehicle crashes and land use. Page 5-2 contains a map of the locations of the various pipelines throughout Allen County. Crime data is depicted on pages 5-27 through 5-30 and includes crime by type. Where there are alcohol permits and alcohol consumption, one finds more crime. Thomas Mazur reported that Section 6 reviews poverty, needs and WOCAP programming. The report is about 99% complete; staff is waiting for the final tidbits of data from WOCAP. The draft should be posted to the website by Friday. Chuck Schierloh stated that according to the map on page 6-3 reveals that the poverty rate in the City of Lima is decreasing but out in the county it is increasing. Thomas Mazur replied in the affirmative and stated that part of the increasing poverty rate in the county is the proportion of seniors and the elderly who are on fixed incomes and reside in the older community's of the county. Thomas Mazur cautioned that the data is ACS data.

4. DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Thomas Mazur reported that the public involvement process follows the Public Participation Plan (PPP) which is reviewed and updated every 2 years. Any proposed changes are in the red text. The first 2 sections reflect updates as relates to the last 2 Transportation Bills, Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act. There are very few changes to the transportation planning process. Thomas Mazur reported that the majority of the proposed changes begin in Section 4 and relate to social media. There are also some proposed changes to address conflicts with ODOT. ODOT has a 14 day public involvement process but the MPO has a 21 day public involvement process. Thomas Mazur reported that the staffing of 2 booths at the Allen County Fair was also removed as the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) auditors were not in favor of paying for the overtime that was required to address 12 hour days for 9 days.

5. UPDATE: SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL & ADA TRANSITION PLANS

Thomas Mazur reported that there are several local school districts that have inquired about the Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Program funds including the City of Delphos Local Schools, Delphos St. John's, Shawnee Schools and Elida Local School district. With respect to the districts in Delphos, the Delphos schools are all being treated as one project area due to proximity. Staff has completed the sidewalk inventory, the parent's surveys, mapped out the logical improvements out to ¼ mile and reviewed the preferred alternatives. Staff has focused on the functional classification system which includes 5th Street, 1st Street, 2nd Street and Main Street. Staff was looking to determine no matter which neighborhood students lived in there was a safe route to get to school. Staff hopes to have the Delphos SRTS plan completed by the end of next week. Thomas Mazur reported that Shawnee Township has decided not to participate in SRTS. Initially, the school district was interested but has since decided against participating. The Village of Elida has an ADA Transition Plan, Comprehensive Plan, an outdated SRTS Plan and an Active Transportation Plan. Staff is working to bring the school representatives and village officials together to discuss a new SRTS Plan. There had been some talk in Bath Township about the program but staff has not fielded any inquiries recently.

6. WESTMINSTER PROJECT (PID 109435) SAFETY PROGRAM FUNDING

Thomas Mazur reported that the Westminster Project was awarded \$1.6 million in Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds to construct curbs, gutters, sidewalks and lighting through the village from the bridge on SR 117 through the curve and up to the gas station/convenience store on Brentlinger. Rudolph Foods requested that Katrina be vacated and Township was in favor because Rudolph Foods was blocking the roadway most of the time. This vacation provided Rudolph Foods with a new driveway and a change of use which resulted in an ODOT review of that site. ODOT wants to figure out what drives could be eliminated. Thomas Mazur reported that ODOT would like to keep the drive at Katrina, close all of the other drives and open another drive on Brentlinger Road. Brentlinger Road would also serve the gas station and the residents north. ODOT would like to make Brentlinger Road a truck and employee entrance into Rudolph Foods. Thomas Mazur stated that due to these issues, ODOT mentioned the possibility of installing a traffic light at Brentlinger Road. Another related project will also add water service to the village. Michael Hensley asked if the Village of Westminster was awarded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Thomas Mazur replied that a TAP application was completed and submitted and ODOT awarded the TAP funds to the project, no CDBG funds have been awarded to date. No action is required.

7. UPDATE: FY 2021-2024 TIP/STIP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Thomas Mazur reported that there is a Draft FY 2021-2024 TIP table included in each packet and stated that currently the MPO is in FY 2020. The projects with a PID (Project Identification) number means that the project has gone through a lot of "hoops" to get where it is now which typically takes about 3-4 years to start construction. Thomas Mazur stated that some projects like the Wayne Street Conversion has been waiting to get on the TIP for a number of years due to various issues. It has taken a long time to get to the point of actually being constructed. Kathy Luhn asked if the conversion means Wayne Street will go from one-way to two-way. Thomas Mazur replied in the affirmative. Thomas Mazur reported that FY 2020 projects are underway and tied down. FY 2021 is still in the current TIP and the MPO is currently committed to the projects. The Delphos 5th Street Resurfacing Project (PID 108373) began as an \$11 million project but the cost has been reduced considerably. The MPO is contributing \$1.3 million to the project. The project goes from corp line to corp line and takes the 4 lanes and reduces it down to 3. Thomas Mazur reported that the

7. UPDATE: FY 2021-2024 TIP/STIP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS (Continued)

projects in FY 2022-2024 are for illustrative purposes only and represent projects that local political subdivisions would like to see completed. If there is no PID number, odds are the project could fall to the next year or be eliminated. The Lima-Cable Road Sidewalk Project was initially proposed for FY 2022 and has already dropped down to FY 2023. Thomas Mazur stated that the Gant chart on the back of the handout represents the PPP calendar. Thomas Mazur stated that he has been going to meetings with the local political subdivisions this month to go over the Draft TIP process/projects.

8. US 30 CORRIDOR STUDY

Thomas Mazur reported that staff worked with ODOT and invited the police, fire, EMS and elected officials to a meeting held in the Village of Cairo. Allen County has a number of at-grade crossings along US 30. ODOT is thinking long-range that they need to modify at-grade crossings to reduce the number of crashes. Thomas Mazur reported that there are a couple of suggestions for the crossings: a jersey barrier which would only allow a right in and a right out off of an exit, cul-de-sacs, an R-cut, etc. ODOT is just trying to reduce the number of serious crashes on US 30. Thomas Mazur stated that 11%-12% of the traffic on US 30 heading east gets off at Thayer Road. ODOT and locals must consider the implications of how any proposed changes will affect emergency personnel, farmers, school buses, etc. ODOT requested comments and suggestions by the first of November. Staff will meet with the TCC and the Executive Committee (EC) to discuss ways to meet with the local political subdivisions to discuss options along US 30 and Thayer Road. Sugar Creek Township responded and recommended more signage. No action required.

9. THAYER ROAD SAFETY STUDY

Thomas Mazur reported that a copy of the Thayer Road Corridor Study is included in each packet. The percent of injury crashes at Thayer Road is over 52%. The corridor is an 8.2 mile corridor and the number of injury crashes well exceeds what that corridor should be experiencing. Part of the issue is some of the speeds exceed 70 mph on a dark, narrow, rural roadway. Animal crashes are at 13% and are located mostly within a one mile section with woods and a river along both sides of the road. Thomas Mazur reported that staff attended a meeting with ODOT, local fire departments, local emergency management services (EMS), law enforcement, etc. A statement was made that the majority of the crashes were with persons from out of the area. The data reveals that 36% of the crashes involved local drivers and 4 out of 5 at-fault crashes were with out-of-town drivers. Those under the age of 30 are involved in a significant number of the crashes. Why? Possibly they are using either a GPS or a mapping app on their cell phones. A large proportion of the crashes occurred between the months of December, January and February which would imply poor roadway conditions. There was a meeting yesterday with ODOT, P&G, emergency personnel, etc. The comments and recommendations will be forwarded on to ODOT Central Office for review. No action required.

10. OHIO RAIL PLAN

Thomas Mazur reported that a copy of the Executive Summary of the Ohio Rail Plan is included in each packet. Staff lobbied the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) for passenger rail and funds for grade separations and underpass improvements. Lima, Sandusky, and other older rail communities have a number of underpasses that semi-trucks cannot use. There are no funds in the rail plan to address this issue. Thomas Mazur reported that staff was also looking for funds to establish “quiet zones” which are areas where the trains do not use their horns. Staff has been working with the City of Lima in an

10. OHIO RAIL PLAN (Continued)

effort to try to create “quiet zones” downtown as the city would like to see lofts and apartment’s downtown and these “quiet zones” would be beneficial. Each quiet zone crossing costs approximately \$400,000 and requires quad-gates that are digitally connected. When quad-gates are installed, the trains do not have to reduce speed through those crossings. The community has to come up with the funds. If the community closes crossings, the community would receive \$200,000. Closing 2 crossings would generate \$400,000 which could help pay for the quad-gate crossing. CSX controls the majority of the crossings and there are not too many crossings that CSX is interested in. There are only a couple of crossings in Lima that are worth spending that amount of funds on.

11. NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Thomas Mazur reported that a copy of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is included in each packet and stated that staff met with Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA), ODPS and EMA and it was decided that the RPC was not going to write an updated Plan but instead the county will hire a consultant. The Plan will not be used as a planning document but like a TIP would work to help identify real projects that can be funded by EMA such as storm water retention facilities. Staff is looking at having some hydraulic and hydrological (H&H) studies done as well as new topographical maps to help identify greenspace areas to be used as “holding tanks” to curb runoff and stormwater.

12. 2018 ALLEN COUNTY AIR QUALITY REPORT

Thomas Mazur reported that a copy of the 2018 Allen County Air Quality Report was released by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and is included in each packet and stated that the report was released last week at the ECAC meeting. The amount of pollutants in Allen County is actually on a downward trend. The report reviews 68 toxic chemicals. Allen County is considered in compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

13. FEEDBACK RE: ODOT 2045 PUBLIC INPUT/MORPC RSTI MEETINGS

Thomas Mazur reported that there was a meeting with the Lima City Council related to the Rapid Speed Transportation Initiative (RSTI) on October 8th. The RPC’s sister MPO, MORPC, will be here on Thursday, October 24th to make a presentation to the TCC Committee about the RSTI, passenger rail and the Hyperloop. One of the issues is who will oversee the RTSI and/or Hyperloop; the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration, the Department of Transportation (DOT) or the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). No one knows as the technology is so new.

14. OTHER

a. 2020 Meeting Dates

Thomas Mazur reported that the CY 2020 Meeting Dates are included in each packet.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:15 AM.