



LIMA-ALLEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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TO: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
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Ms. Laura Bassitt Mr. Mark Bishop
Mr. Sean Chapman Ms. Susan Crotty
Mr. Tom Ekleberry Mr. Steve Ewing
Mr. Drew Fields Mr. Todd Gordon
Mr. Sam McLean Mr. Dave Metzger

FROM: Mitchell Kingsley

DATE: February 13, 2020

RE: CDC Meeting

There will be a meeting of the **Community Development Committee** of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission held on **Thursday, February 20, 2020**, at **3:30 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
2. Approval of CDC Minutes – October 17, 2019
3. Transit Update
4. DRAFT FY 2021 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Program
5. ODOT Safety Program
6. Safe Routes to School – Student Travel Plans
7. Housing Study - Lima
8. CDBG Program Update
9. Other
10. Adjournment

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



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

February 20, 2020

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A quorum being present, Sean Chapman brought the meeting to order and proceeded with the agenda (Mitchell Kingsley was unavailable to attend the meeting).

1. **ROLL CALL**

Mr. Randy Ackerman	Jackson Township
Mr. Sean Chapman	Village of Spencerville
Ms. Susan Crotty	City of Lima
Mr. Drew Fields	City of Lima
Mr. Todd Gordon	City of Lima

GUESTS

Mr. Josh Ellerbrock	The Lima News
Mr. Russ Thomas	Housing Consortium

STAFF

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

2. **APPROVAL OF CDC MINUTES – October 17, 2019**

Motion 01 (02-20-20) CDC

Todd Gordon made the motion to approve the CDC minutes of October 17, 2019. Seconded by Randy Ackerman; motion carried.

3. **TRANSIT UPDATE**

Thomas Mazur reported that a representative from the Allen County Regional Transit Authority (ACRTA) was unavailable to attend the meeting. Thomas Mazur stated that a copy of the January ridership numbers is included in each Committee members packet. Ridership for the fixed route is up several hundred passengers in 2020 from the 2019 figures. Uplift ridership has also increased primarily due to the re-opening of the 2 routes that were discontinued in 2018. Thomas Mazur reported that RTA has 2 non-CDL vehicles on order and set to arrive soon.

3. TRANSIT UPDATE (Continued)

These vehicles were purchased at 100% from the Ohio Transit Preservation Partnership Program (OTPPP). These vehicles are a new style/type of vehicle and will be available for viewing by attendees at the annual Ohio Public Transit Authority (OPTA) Conference. The levy funds have begun to come in. Saturday service have begun and businesses and riders are requesting both earlier and later hours. Concerns stem from the additional costs associated with additional miles, additional fuel and additional hours.

Motion 02 (02-20-20) CDC

Randy Ackerman made the motion to accept the Transit Update report. Seconded by Todd Gordon; motion carried.

4. DRAFT FY 2021 – 2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Thomas Mazur reported that this document is in a state of “flux”. It is being rolled out simply to get the public talking and asking questions about what’s going on and how the MPO is spending the limited number of dollars available to the MPO. Thomas Mazur reported that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a listing of proposed capital projects using federal funding appropriated by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and 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 as such are deemed eligible for such federal funds. Thomas Mazur reported that as a 1st draft there are still projects and funding shifting; there are also some typos and data irregularities. Section 1 is boilerplate and the Committee has seen this language 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. Starting on Page 2-3 and looking specifically at the performance measures, the highway side is mixed. The MPO failed to meet the nonmotorized Fatalities & Serious Injury Crashes; just missed pavement conditions on US 30. Staff noted the transit side met most of the performance measures; but it failed to meet safety. Thomas Mazur reported that the Public Involvement Process starts on Page 2-5. Table 2-7 identifies the extent of MPO outreach by tract and target demographics through January. Financial information is presented in Section 3. Table 3-2 reveals RTAs piece and Table 3-3 that of the MPO. Working with FHWA, FTA and ODOT, the RPC is programming some \$71.8M in funding including \$22.8M for highway resurfacing and \$12.1M for Transit. 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. Thomas Mazur reported that starting on page 3-13 there are several 11x17 tables identifying various bike, bridge, culvert, highway, lighting, safety, sidewalk or transit projects. These tables provide the bulk of information on a project albeit in a somewhat cryptic manner. These projects all have sponsors and all have their advocates. The last sheet depicts the locations and PID numbers of the various proposed projects throughout Allen County. Thomas Mazur stated 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 secured ODOT monies to upgrade several county roads. Thomas Mazur reported 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, SR 112, SR 115 and, SR 117 from Lima west through Spencerville. There are also 10 culvert replacements and bridge projects on the NHS, State & County systems. Locally, the bigger projects include the 5th Street corridor through Delphos and the S. Main St. The Delphos 5th Street Project (PID 108373) includes portions of SR 66 and SR 190 and most of the 5th Street alignment from one end of Delphos to the other. The project reflects a “road diet” which

4. DRAFT FY 2021 – 2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) (Continued)

encompasses roadway resurfacing, the striping of 2 through lanes and a 2-way left turn lane, or TWLTL, bike lanes, curbs, new catch basins and raising of some catch basins, traffic signal upgrades, new sidewalks, ADA upgrades, etc. are also included. 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 the 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. The City of Lima has several projects within the 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 a shared use path from SR 103 to Jefferson Street out to County Line Road for \$1M; and, PID 110706 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, Dixie, SR 65 and McLain roads under 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 in PID 110428 by constructing roundabouts. 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.

Motion 03 (02-20-20) CDC

Todd Gordon made the motion to accept the DRAFT FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program. Seconded by Randy Ackerman; motion carried.

5. ODOT SAFETY PROGRAM

Thomas Mazur reported that a handout is included in each packet. The handout announces that ODOT is funding safety programs at 100% which includes design, engineering and construction. There are other “problem” intersections besides Thayer and US 30, Thayer and SR 309 and Napoleon and SR 309 that may qualify for these safety funds. These safety funds at 100% are for this year; staff is unsure whether the funds will be available at 100% next year. This is for information purposes; no action is required.

6. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL – STUDENT TRAVEL PLANS

Thomas Mazur reported that 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 to enable students to engage in active transportation; walking or biking as they travel to and from school. The Plan is to be created through a team-based approach that involves key community stakeholders in identifying barriers to active transportation and then using the 5 Es which include engineering strategies; education programs; enforcement strategies; encouragement activities; and, evaluations to mitigate such obstacles and constraints. The “snippets” reflect an attempt to secure state monies in order to improve pedestrian accessibility to local schools. Thomas Mazur reported that SRTS funding is to be

6. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL – STUDENT TRAVEL PLANS (Continued)

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. The first packet reflects 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 a new building rebuilt. The School Travel Plan calls for sidewalks to be constructed along Sunnysdale and Pioneer adjacent to the Elida Middle School and on 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 due 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. The Delphos SRTS application was submitted Tuesday. No action is required.

7. HOUSING STUDY - LIMA

Susan Crotty presented a handout of the City of Lima's Housing Study that was completed at the end of 2019. The City of Lima Administration is in the process of reviewing the data in an effort to determine how to move forward. The City of Lima hired a consultant, Harsany & Associates, LLC. to conduct the housing study. During this process, Lima also had the opportunity for community input in the form of stakeholder meetings, surveys, etc. in an effort to try to improve the quality of housing in the City of Lima. The City desires to provide safe and quality housing for everyone. Susan Crotty stated that the top page of the handout contains a brief overview of the report. The City was really anticipating the recommendations and strategies for moving forward. The 8.5x14 pages contain the recommendations and strategies, what's involved and actions that can be taken. Susan Crotty stated that she was disappointed that the study did not delineate what the City is already doing to correct and/or address some of the housing issues. For example, the Study recommends using abatements for new housing and the City already provides abatements for new housing. Abatements are a great tool to encourage new housing or renovations. The program was designed to encourage rehabilitation of property. The City uses property maintenance enforcement and demolitions to help address housing issues. There are other recommendations within the Study that the City could be doing. Susan Crotty reported that the Study was referred to Committee for review by the City Council. It is up to the City Administration to implement and enforce any of the recommendations contained within the Study. The Housing Consortium is also reviewing the Study to determine how to implement recommendations, etc. Susan Crotty reported that the results from the surveys are included in the Study. The Mayor of Lima would like to see some action on the implementation of the recommendations in some form this year. Thomas Mazur asked if the City sees this Study as the basis or the foundation of the next 5-Year Consolidated Plan for the City of Lima. Susan Crotty replied in the negative and stated that the City's 5-Year Plan is going to include more items than just housing. The Study will more than likely be referenced and incorporated in the Plan. The City is already in the process of compiling it's 5-Year Consolidated Plan for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds.

Motion 04 (02-20-20) CDC

Todd Gordon made the motion to accept the Housing Study – Lima report. Seconded by Randy Ackerman; motion carried.

8. CDBG PROGRAM UPDATE

Thomas Mazur reported that the RPC assists in the operation of 2 CDBG programs; the CHIPP and the Community Allocation Program. Locally we were awarded \$450,000 for the Community Housing Improvement & Preservation Program and to date working with Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP, formerly WSOS) and West Ohio Community Action Partnership (WOCAP) have completed: 7 Private Rehabs and 17 Home repairs; Habitat also received \$20,000. WOCAP provides educational programming for home-buyers and networks to ensure LMI homeowners are aware of CDBG funding for rehab and repair of existing housing. Wocap also provides the testing for Fair Housing law compliance. Collectively, they have met or exceed the goals established and we still have another 10 months. Thomas Mazur reported that under the Community Allocation program, we received \$225,000. Funding was awarded for the Lafayette Mail Box Project to Degen Excavating for \$76,000 and the Delphos Pierce St. Improvement Project at \$165,000. Projects need to be finished by December. No action required.

9. OTHER

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 05 (02-20-20) CDC

Todd Gordon made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Randy Ackerman; motion carried.