



## LIMA-ALLEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

130 West North Street Lima, Ohio 45801-4311  
Telephone: 419-228-1836 FAX: 419-228-3891  
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Doug Post  
President

Brion Rhodes  
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Jay Begg  
Treasurer

Chris Seddelmeyer  
Secretary

Thomas M. Mazur  
Executive Director

TO: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
Mr. Randy Ackerman Mr. Jon Basinger  
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: October 10, 2019

RE: CDC Meeting

There will be a meeting of the **Community Development Committee** of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission held on **Thursday, October 17, 2019**, 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 – June 20, 2019
3. WOCAP Community Assessment
4. DRAFT: Public Participation Plan Update
5. Update: Rapid Speed Transportation Initiative
6. ODOT 2040 Transportation Plan Update
7. Draft Ohio Rail Plan
8. Other
9. Adjournment

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





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8. Update: FY 2021-2024 TIP/STIP Development Process
9. US 30 Corridor Study
10. Thayer Road Safety Study
11. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
12. 2018 Allen County Air Quality Report
13. Other
14. Adjournment

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## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

October 17, 2019

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11. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
12. 2018 Allen County Air Quality Report
13. Other
14. Adjournment

A quorum being present, Mitchell Kingsley brought the meeting to order and proceeded with the agenda.

### 1. **ROLL CALL**

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Ms. Susan Crotty      | City of Lima        |
| Mr. Steve Ewing       | Auglaize Township   |
| Mr. Drew Fields       | City of Lima        |
| Mr. Todd Gordon       | City of Lima        |
| Mr. Mitchell Kingsley | Village of Bluffton |
| Mr. Sam McLean        | City of Lima        |

### **STAFF**

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

### 2. **APPROVAL OF CDC MINUTES – June 20, 2019**

#### **Motion 18 (10-17-19) CDC**

Sam McLean made the motion to approve the CDC minutes of June 20, 2019. Seconded by Todd Gordon; motion carried.

### 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 reflect 2017

data.

**3. WOCAP COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT (Continued)**

Section 3 contains housing information. The property grade information is new. Section 4 contains the educational data and the school data has changed again as the state has changes how it grades schools. The KRA-L data is located on pages 4-12 through 4-14 and Table 4-5 on page 4-15 contains the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 that go by school buildings or under school buildings, etc. are reviewed as many of the social service agencies tend to not think about people not physical issues. 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. 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 poverty data has changed. The report is about 99% complete; staff is just waiting for the final bits 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.

**Motion 19 (10-17-19) CDC**

Todd Gordon made the motion to accept the Draft WOCAP Community Assessment. Seconded by Steve Ewing; motion carried.

**4. DRAFT: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN UPDATE**

Thomas Mazur reported that a copy of the Draft Public Participation Plan (PPP) is included in each packet. Any proposed changes have been identified by the red text throughout the document. The first 3 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21) Act. Thomas Mazur reported that several of the proposed changes begin in Section 4 and relate to the traditional and social media tasks. 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 as it was reported. Bots and spam posting website comments and how to deal with them are also addressed.

**Motion 20 (10-17-19) CDC**

Sam McLean made the motion to accept the DRAFT Public Participation Plan Update. Seconded by Todd Gordon; motion carried.

**5. UPDATE: RAPID SPEED TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE**

Thomas Mazur reported that each packet contains information that was presented by MORPC to the City of Lima Council and County Officials pertaining to the Rapid Speed Transit Initiative (RSTI) and the Hyperloop. Representatives from MORPC will make a presentation to the TCC next Thursday October 24th. Thomas Mazur reported that the presentation looks at the results of the feasibility study and environmental study and what high speed rail and the Hyperloop could mean to Allen County. If high speed rail does come to Allen County, it will be transformative. A person could work in Chicago and live in Lima. Steve Ewing asked if the Hyperloop will go along the railroad tracks or above the tracks. Thomas Mazur replied that the Hyperloop is sensitive to change in elevation or curvature and that the Hyperloop and/or high speed passenger rail would require significant upgrades to the current tracks and crossings.

The

**5. UPDATE: RAPID SPEED TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE (Continued)**

next jump up in speed would be to 117 mph and would require crossings to have quad-gates installed which are built to a much higher standard than current crossings and would require integrated circuitry. No action required.

**6. ODOT 2040 TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE**

Thomas Mazur reported that representatives from ODOT were at the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission (LACRPC) office Wednesday afternoon for an Open House for its 2040 Transportation Plan update. About 20 persons from the general public attended the Open House. ODOT was gathering comments from the public to assist them in prioritizing projects. There was some contention. Susan Crotty asked what the issue was. Thomas Mazur replied that it related to the “road diet” project in the City of Delphos. The feedback will be taken back to Columbus. Staff will email a link to the Committee members in order for the Committee members to take the survey and make comments. No action required.

**7. DRAFT OHIO RAIL PLAN**

Thomas Mazur presented copies of the Executive Summary of the Draft Ohio Rail Plan to each Committee member. Older technology and business plans are going by the wayside as it is no longer cost effective. The number of trains that used to travel through Lima has declined due to the cost of rail crews. CSX and NS have a new business model that looks to lengthen trains making the line of rail cars approximately 8,000 feet long. Thomas Mazur stated that in the past, a train could go onto a secondary track to allow high priority trains pass through. Trains are now so long due that they can no longer divert to a side track. Local manufacturing such as P&G and Husky are having a difficult time getting quality rail service especially from CSX which basically controls most of the rail traffic through Lima/Allen County since they own the main line rail. Thomas Mazur stated that he has not seen any trains on the Spencerville-Elgin (SPEG) line for around 18 months and reported that Van Wert County has vacated the SPEG. Thomas Mazur reported that Lima is mentioned numerous times in this document as relates to high speed passenger rail and/or Hyperloop. Lima is considered a link to Chicago and Pittsburgh. The document also discusses the fluctuations in the agricultural markets and impacts to rail. The document also discusses a 30% decline in steel and a 50% decline in coal being shipped by rail. Staff will email the link to the Draft Ohio Rail Plan to Committee members. No action required.

**8. 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 red text are the projects and those 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 get projects built. Thomas Mazur reported that FY 2020 projects are underway and tied down. FY 2021 is still in the current TIP and these are the projects currently committed to. The Delphos 5<sup>th</sup> Street Resurfacing Project (PID 108373) began as an \$11 million project but the MPO costs pale to that of others. 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 lanes with bike/ped facilities along both sides of the roadway. Thomas Mazur reported that the 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 quickly dropped down to FY 2023. Charles Schreck stated that the Lima-Spencerville Road Sidewalk Project should be moved down to FY 2023. The Gomer Road Enhancement Project is likely a placeholder

project. Thomas Mazur stated that the Gant chart on the back of the handout represents the PPP



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

calendar. Thomas Mazur stated that he has been going to meetings with the local political subdivisions to go over the Draft TIP Table. No action required.

**Motion 21 (10-17-19) CDC**

Todd Gordon made the motion to accept the Draft Update: FY 2021-2024 TIP/STIP Development Process. Seconded by Susan Crotty; motion carried.

**9. 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 in mid-September. 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. 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 movements at an intersection, cul-de-sacs, an R-cut, an overpass or a full interchange, etc. ODOT is 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. No action required.

**10. 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 on both sides of the road. Thomas Mazur reported that staff facilitated a meeting with ODOT, local fire departments, local emergency management services (EMS), an engineering consultant, 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 were from 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. 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. 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. Kirk Niemeyer stated that there is not much right-of-way (ROW) at Thayer Road and will have to be addressed. No action required.

**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 in September and it was decided that the RPC was not going to write the updated Plan but instead the county will hire a consultant. The Plan will be used as a planning document like a TIP 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” for

**11. NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN** (Continued)

stormwater.

**Motion 22 (10-17-19) CDC**

Todd Gordon made the motion to accept the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan report. Seconded by Sam McLean; motion carried.

**12. 2018 ALLEN COUNTY AIR QUALITY REPORT**

Thomas Mazur reported that a copy of the 2018 Allen County Air Quality Report released by the Ohio EPA is included in each packet. The first Clean Air Act was passed in 1970. The Act is amended regularly. Air quality has major impacts on the environment, human health and the economy. The last amendment was this year and is now being fought in the courts. Thomas Mazur reported that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) tracks 68 different toxic compounds. This report is specific to Allen County. A list of the 68 toxins is listed on pages 1 and 2 of the report. The pollutant monitoring refers to PM<sub>2.5</sub> which are the fine particulates in the air which really affect those with asthma, bronchial issues, COPD and/or lung infections, SO<sub>2</sub> (sulphur dioxide) and Ozone. Thomas Mazur stated that the top 5 polluters are documented within the report. Page 6 of 18 contains the monitoring results for Allen County and is the data the MPO must track for the air quality modeling. The toxins are trending downward. Table 5 on page 9 of 18 reveal that there were no violations from any of the industries. Overall, the report states that Allen County is in Air Quality Attainment.

**Motion 23 (10-17-19) CDC**

Susan Crotty made the motion to accept the 2018 Allen County Air Quality Report. Seconded by Todd Gordon; motion carried.

**13. OTHER**

a. Proposed 2020 CDC Meeting Dates

Thomas Mazur stated that a copy of the proposed 2020 CDC Meeting Dates are included in the packet.

**Motion 24 (10-17-19) CDC**

Susan Crotty made the motion to accept the Proposed 2020 CDC Meeting Dates. Seconded by Steve Ewing; motion carried.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion 25 (10-17-19) CDC**

Steve Ewing made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Sam McLean; motion carried.