



## 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: TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Mr. Sean Chapman            Mr. Eric Davis  
Mr. Mark Droll                Ms. Shelia Haney  
Mr. Daniel Hoying            Mr. Steve Kayatin  
Mr. Mike Leis                 Mr. Sam McLean  
Mr. Shawn McPheron        Mr. Noel Mehlo  
Mr. Dave Metzger             Mr. Jed Metzger  
Mr. Ron Meyer                Mr. Charles Schreck

FROM: Mr. Kirk Niemeyer, Chairman

DATE: October 16, 2019

RE: TAC Meeting

There will be a **Transportation Advisory Committee** meeting of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission held on **Tuesday, October 22, 2019**, at **1:30 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 & Introductions
2. Approval of TAC minutes – August 20, 2019
3. RTA Report
4. DRAFT Public Participation Plan
5. Update: Safe Routes to School & ADA Transition Plans
6. Update: 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

c: Mr. Chris Hughes, ODOT

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





## 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: TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Mr. Sean Chapman                      Mr. Eric Davis  
Mr. Mark Droll                              Ms. Shelia Haney  
Mr. Daniel Hoying                        Mr. Steve Kayatin  
Mr. Mike Leis                                Mr. Sam McLean  
Mr. Shawn McPheron                      Mr. Noel Mehlo  
Mr. Dave Metzger                         Mr. Jed Metzger  
Mr. Ron Meyer                                Mr. Charles Schreck

FROM: Mr. Kirk Niemeyer, Chairman

DATE: October 16, 2019

RE: TAC Meeting

There will be a **Transportation Advisory Committee** meeting of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission held on **Tuesday, October 22, 2019**, at **1:30 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 & Introductions
2. Approval of TAC minutes – August 20, 2019
3. RTA Report
4. DRAFT Public Participation Plan
5. Update: Safe Routes to School & ADA Transition Plans
6. Update: 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. 2018 Allen County Air Quality Report
12. Feedback RE: ODOT 2045 Public Input/MORPC RSTI Meetings
13. Other
14. Adjournment

c: Mr. Chris Hughes, ODOT

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



# TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 22, 2019

There was a **Transportation Advisory Committee** meeting of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission held on **Tuesday, October 22, 2019**, at **1:30 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 & Introductions
2. Approval of TAC minutes – August 20, 2019
3. RTA Report
4. DRAFT Public Participation Plan
5. Update: Safe Routes to School & ADA Transition Plans
6. Update: 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. 2018 Allen County Air Quality Report
12. Feedback RE: ODOT 2045 Public Input/MORPC RTSI Meetings
13. Other
14. Adjournment

A quorum being present, Kirk Niemeyer brought the meeting to order and proceeded with the agenda.

## 1. **ROLL CALL**

Mr. Sean Chapman	Village of Spencerville
Mr. Eric Davis	Interested Citizen
Mr. Mark Droll	Kohli & Kaliher
Ms. Shelia Haney	Allen County Regional Transit Authority
Mr. David Metzger	Village of Elida
Mr. Jed Metzger	Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Ron Meyer	Allen County Engineer's Office
Mr. Charles Schreck	Ohio Department of Transportation District 1

## **STAFF**

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

## 2. **APPROVAL OF TAC MINUTES – August 20, 2019**

### **Motion 41 (10-22-19) TAC**

Ron Meyer made the motion that the TAC minutes of August 22, 2019 be approved. Seconded by Sean Chapman; motion carried.

## 3. **RTA REPORT**

Shelia Haney reported that a copy of the handout is included in each Committee member's packet. The Allen County Regional Transit Authority (ACRTA) has been using the trolley all summer and just finished the Lantern Tour. The trolley will now be placed in RTA's garage for service as there are several things that need addressed. Within the RTA report are some

3. **RTA REPORT** (Continued)

pages from RTA's Face Book (FB) page that will reveal some of the posts from the past month. There was a video posted about the 3 new 35' Gillig buses that RTA received a post about MakerFest, information about the various detours, surveys, information about transit and posts about RTA hiring drivers. RTA held an Open House for hiring drivers. Shelia Haney reported that the RTA Board has a new member, Doug Olsson, who is in charge of MakerFest. Doug Olsson reached out to RTA about possibly providing shuttle service since MakerFest was moved from the Civic Center to the Allen County Fairgrounds this year. RTA placed some stops at the Civic Center, University of Northwestern Ohio (UNOH) and Ohio State (OSU)/Rhodes State in an effort to encourage students to attend the event. RTA was the only one that advertised the shuttle service. Shelia Haney reported that within the report there are maps and information pertaining to Route 2 and Route 7. Route 7 was one of the routes shut down in 2018 and was the route that went out to P&G on Cool Road as well as going by Nickles Bakery, Lima Pallet, etc. RTA has received numerous calls pertaining to when the discontinued services would be back up and running. The sales tax levy funds did not begin until October 1 and RTA will not see any of the funds until the end of January. Shelia Haney reported that she had a meeting with P&G yesterday and the temporary service agencies which are not happy that they have to pay Black & white Cab \$15 per trip for their employees. Route 7 will run for 4 hours in the morning and 4 hours in the afternoon. Jed Metzger asked about the "tentative" agreement that P&G would reimburse for transporting the temporary employees. Shelia Haney replied that at this time, P&G has stepped back from the "agreement". The temporary agencies would like to work with RTA. RTA explained what they do to help Nelson Packaging employees get to work. Nelson Packaging had conducted a survey of its employees to determine who would use the transit services and after the survey results were tallied, decided to sign a contract with RTA for door-to-door service. Nelson has just renewed its contract. Shelia Haney reported that when Route 7 was shut down, Route 2 had a loop added to take a bus out to Nickles Bakery, Lima Pallet, etc. With Route 7 going to be up and running beginning in November, the loop will be removed. Hopefully Saturday service will begin in January if there are enough drivers and the evening service the next quarter. Jed Metzger asked what the issue was with getting drivers. Shelia Haney replied that it is tough to get drivers that have clean drug and alcohol records and have a CDL certificate. Shelia Haney reported that RTA applied for a couple of Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) capital grants. RTA has not applied for ODOT capital grants for a number of years. These grants are from the gas tax funds and are supposed to be very competitive and are at a 70/30 split. RTA just received the 3 35' Gillig buses that the Agency ordered 2 years ago which now makes RTA's fixed route have no buses beyond their useful life which helps on-time performance, break downs and parts. RTA's Uplift service has grown and has 6 vans that are beyond their useful life. Shelia Haney reported that RTA has ordered some lifts for the garage using a grant at 100%. The maintenance department has asked for RTA to purchase some snow plow equipment to assist with snow removal in the winter. RTA will have its Triennial Audit next spring. RTA is in the final stage of its 2018 State Audit. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will be at RTA on November 11<sup>th</sup> to conduct a technical review because of the findings of the 2017 State Audit. The finding addressed RTA's use of grant funds to reimburse transportation services provided for Jobs & Family Services (JFS) and the Area Agency on Aging<sup>3</sup> (AAA<sup>3</sup>). RTA no longer provides transportation services for either of those agencies. Shelia Haney reported that RTA had no accidents in August and September. RTA has a Safety Plan that is due next July. RTA had a lawsuit 6 years ago filed by a driver that was terminated for cause. At that time, RTA did not have a union. The case went to court and was thrown out. This former driver has come back and is trying to sue RTA again 5 years later. This time the former driver is suing Shelia Haney personally and the Allen County Commissioners. The case has been sent to the attorney who handled the case 5 years ago.

3. **RTA REPORT** (Continued)

**Motion 42 (10-22-19) TAC**

Eric Davis made the motion to accept the RTA Report. Seconded by Jed Metzger; motion carried.

4. **DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

Thomas Mazur reported that a copy of the Draft Public Participation Plan (PPP) is included in each packet. Any proposed changes can be 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. Bots and spam posting website comments and how to deal with them are also addressed.

**Motion 43 (10-22-19) TAC**

Ron Meyer made the motion to accept the Draft Public Participation Plan and forward the recommendation on to the TCC for approval. Seconded by Mark Droll; motion carried.

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) funds including the City of Delphos Local Schools, Delphos St. John's, Shawnee Schools and the Elida Local School District. Staff has completed the sidewalk inventory, assessed parent surveys, conducted student walking audits, mapped out the logical improvements out to ¼ mile and reviewed alternatives in the City of Delphos. Staff also focused on the functional classification system working to ensure that the roadways with the heaviest traffic could also support the students. Staff was looking to develop a safe route to get to school no matter which neighborhood students lived in. Staff hopes to have the Delphos SRTS plan completed by the end of next week. Staff has a meeting set with the school administrators on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Thomas Mazur reported that Shawnee Schools has decided not to participate in SRTS. The Village of Elida already has an ADA Transition Plan, Comprehensive Plan, an outdated SRTS Plan and an Active Transportation Plan. Staff is looking to work with ODOT, village and school officials to update the expired plan under an abbreviated process/timeline. The village also has a very aggressive sidewalk policy. Staff has a meeting with the school superintendent and the treasurer on Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. No action required.

6. **UPDATE: 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. Westminster requested that Katrina be vacated and primarily the 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 see the drive at Katrina open and close all of the drives on SR 117 and open another drive on an improved Brentlinger Road. Brentlinger Road would also serve the gas station and the residents north. ODOT would like to use Brentlinger Road to provide for a truck and employee entrance into

**6. UPDATE: WESTMINSTER PROJECT (PID 109435) SAFETY PROGRAM FUNDING**  
(Continued)

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 sewer service to Westminster. Staff is still working with the trustees and ODOT District to develop a suitable compromise and additional ODOY Safety Program funding. No action required.

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

Thomas Mazur reported that there is an overview of the Draft FY 2021-2024 TIP included in each packet and stated that currently the MPO is in FY 2020. The TIP reflects eligible road, bridge, bike, ped and/or transit projects. The red text reflects the projects proposed to date. Those projects with a PID (Project Identification) number means that the project has gone through a lot of “hoops” to get where it is now. Typically, federally funded projects take about 3-4 years to get built. Thomas Mazur reported that FY 2020 projects are underway and tied down. FY 2021 is still in the current TIP and reflects projects the RPC committed to fund previously. 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. 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 undertaken. 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 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 remains a place holder project. Thomas Mazur stated that the Gant chart on the back of the handout represents the PPP calendar and staff activities undertaken to date. Thomas Mazur stated that he has been going to meetings with the local political subdivisions to review the TIP process and the Draft TIP Project Table. No action required.

**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 in mid-September. Allen County has a number of at-grade crossings along US 30. ODOT is thinking long-range that they need to improve safety of the 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 off of an exit, cul-de-sacs, an R-cut, overpass or 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. This suggests the corridor needs to be improved to accommodate the traffic. 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.

**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 seeing. 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 attended a

**9. THAYER ROAD SAFETY STUDY (Continued)**

meeting with ODOT, local fire departments, local emergency management services (EMS) etc. Data reveals that 36% of the crashes involved local drivers and 4 out of 5 at-fault crashes were out-of-town drivers. Those under the age of 30 are involved in a significant number of the crashes. A large proportion of the crashes occurred between the months of December, January and February which would imply poor roadway conditions. Kirk Niemeyer stated that there is not much right-of-way (ROW) at Thayer Road and will have to be addressed. 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 Thayer Road. 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. About a year ago, there was a meeting here with the Director of the ORDC about the various underpasses in Allen County. There is an underpass on Union, Elm, Collett and Metcalf streets as well as Bluelick Road. The inadequate bridges and underpasses are mentioned in the Plan but there is no mention of any funds to fix these issues. Thomas Mazur reported that staff attended the ORDC's Rail Crossing Adaptability Study meeting. Once ODOT sent its 2045 Transportation Plan to the Federal Rail Administration (FRA), FRA released its new methodologies for closing crossings. Staff is not sure that the ORDC will pay to have crossings close or if the ORDC will just close a crossing. Thomas Mazur presented a handout to the Committee containing the link to the entire Ohio Rail Plan. The Lima area figures predominantly in a number of different areas including passenger rail. No action required.

**11. 2018 ALLEN COUNTY AIR QUALITY REPORT**

Thomas Mazur reported that a copy of the 2018 Allen County Air Quality Report compiled by the Ohio Environmental Protections Agency (OEPA) is included in each packet and stated that the report was released last week at the ECAC meeting at the Allen County Health Department. A significant finding was that the amount of pollutants in Allen County is actually on a downward trend. The report reviews 68 toxic chemicals. The top 5 pollutants in Allen County were analyzed with amounts of the same 68 chemicals. Allen County is considered in compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards as established by the USEPA. Howard Elstro asked if the MPO will lose the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. Thomas Mazur stated that the community will not lose CMAQ funds at this time. No action required.

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

Thomas Mazur reported that there was an Open House by ODOT for their 2045 Transportation Plan last week. There were a lot of questions pertaining to passenger rail, the Rapid Speed Transportation Initiative (RTSI) and Hyperloop. No action required.

**13. OTHER**

a. 2020 TAC Meeting Dates

Thomas Mazur stated that a copy of the proposed CY 2020 TAC Meeting Dates is enclosed in each packet.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion 44 (10-22-19) TAC**

Charles Schreck made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mark Droll; motion carried.