



LIMA-ALLEN COUNTY
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Network News

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WELCOME

Welcome to the fourth quarterly newsletter of FY 2020. This newsletter is published by the Planning Commission and is intended to provide timely updates on local transportation projects, area (re)development initiatives, transit and paratransit related news, highway safety and other activities undertaken by the Planning Commission as well as other area organizations. The newsletter is supported in part with funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and member political subdivisions of the Planning Commission.

Shane Coleman
Executive Director

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Shane Coleman Takes the Helm

A face familiar to the Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission (LACRPC) was recently named to lead the organization. Shane Coleman assumed the position of Executive Director on May 18, 2020, following the retirement of longtime executive director, Thomas Mazur. Shane has extensive experience at the Planning Commission, serving as President of the Board of Directors for three years as well as on various RPC committees.

Originally from Van Wert, Ohio, Coleman worked for the City of Van Wert Parks and Recreation Department for over 23 years, and earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Northwestern Ohio. He went on to receive a Master of Business Administration from the University of Findlay with emphasis in public administration and human resources. The past six years he served as the Safety Service Director for the City of Delphos. As Delphos' chief executive officer, he developed and directed the City's plans, policies, programs, and operations, as well as prepared and implemented the City's budget and financial strategies.



During his tenure with Delphos, Shane developed a citywide infrastructure improvement plan. The Fifth Street project, slated for construction in 2021, includes the implementation of a road diet, additional bike and pedestrian facilities, as well as upgraded signage and signalization along the corridor. This plan also includes the South Main Street reconstruction scheduled for 2023, and a Safe Routes to School project recently awarded to the City. He also secured funding for other projects from upgrades of the wastewater treatment facility, to the construction of a reservoir walking trail, and an electric vehicle charging station.

Shane is proud to be a consensus builder. It is important to Shane to acknowledge that none of these Delphos projects would have been possible without the collective efforts of stakeholders across the City, including community members, City employees, and the various agencies working together to plan, develop, and fund such endeavors.

On a personal note, Shane enjoys baseball, spending time with family and friends, travelling, and teaching. In his "spare" time, he teaches classes at Rhodes State College and Bluffton University. In his new role as LACRPC Executive Director, Shane says, "I look forward to the opportunity to build consensus among community stakeholders, addressing a wide range of issues to improve the everyday lives of all Allen County residents."

22nd Annual Safe Community FOPA/FOP Awards

Do you know a person or group who has done something to help make Lima-Allen County a safe community? If so, nominations are now open for the 22nd Annual Safe Community/FOPA/FOP Awards. Winning nominees will be recognized at the Safe Community/FOPA/FOP Award Luncheon on Thursday, September 17, at the FOP Hall. Awards are given in the following categories to a worthy person or group: Emergency Medical Services, Fire Safety, Engineering, Traffic Safety, Children Safety (0-15 years), Youth Safety (16-25 years), and Outstanding Citizen. A nomination form is available at www.lacrpc.com, follow the link on the LACRPC homepage - What's New. Send completed forms to esmith@lacrpc.com or mail to the Commission office at 130 W. North Street, Lima, Ohio 45801. Alternatively, a nomination form can be completed at Survey Monkey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020SafeCommunity-FOPA-Awards>.



CDBG Allocation Grant



Allen County applied to the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) for funding under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Small Cities, Allocation Grant program; a federally funded program administered by the State of Ohio. The County is eligible for \$220,000 of Program Year (PY) 2020 CDBG Allocation Funding, provided the County meets applicable program requirements. Two "virtual" public hearings were held - one on May 14, the second on June 11. The meetings provided citizens an opportunity to review and comment on the County's application, before the County submitted the application. The County applied for funding to support: 1) Fair Housing Outreach & Education, Allocation - \$7,000; 2) Administration & Environmental Services, Allocation - \$37,000; and 3) Village of LaFayette, Sewer Facility Improvements, National Objective LMI Area Benefit, Allocation - \$176,000. For more information contact Marlene Schumaker, mschumaker@lacrpc.com, or call 419.228.1836.

Still Time to be Counted in Census 2020

There is still time to be counted in the 2020 Census. Because of COVID-19, Census officials pushed back the Census deadline from late-July to mid-August. Just go online to <https://my2020census.gov> and follow the instructions - it will only take about 10 minutes. Getting an accurate census count is very important to our community. The results will shape the future of not only this community, but the entire United States for the next decade. The Census counts every person living in the United States and five territories, and is used to determine the number of seats each state will have in the U. S. House of Representatives; results are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. The Census provides critical data to all levels of government, as well as lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others. Every year, based on Census data, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources. So, it is important that every person be counted.



Thomas M. Mazur - Retired

Thomas M. Mazur recently retired as executive director of the Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission. Thom served for nearly 30 years at the Planning Commission, fostering cooperation and collaboration among Allen County's political subdivisions, securing and coordinating millions of dollars in State and Federal funding resources. In addition to serving as Executive Director, he served on the boards of United Way, Red Cross, Activate Allen County, Ottawa River Coalition, Allen County Regional Airport Authority, Allen County Environmental Committee, Allen County Housing Consortium, District 13 Natural Resource Advisory Board, Ohio Department of Agriculture - Farmland Preservation Advisory Board, West Central Ohio Land Conservancy, Ohio Association of Regional Councils, and All Aboard Ohio, as well as worked closely with the Allen County Regional Transit Authority, Ohio Department of Transportation, and all Allen County townships, cities, and villages. From the staff at LACRPC, "Have a great retirement!"



An Allen County Conservation Partnership

Did you know that for over five years the West Central Ohio Land Conservancy (WCOLC), the Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission (LACRPC), and other Allen County partners, have worked together to preserve Allen County agricultural land? These land preservation endeavors will ultimately bring almost \$2M to the County.

Agriculture is a vital piece of the everchanging economic development puzzle in Lima-Allen County. While Ohio is losing prime agricultural land to development every day, agriculture remains the #1 industry in the State. So, it should not be a surprise that ensuring the availability of sufficient productive land, as a viable economic strategy, is crucial to the County. To that end WCOLC, along with many Allen County stakeholders, such as the LACRPC, the Auditor's Office, the Recorder's Office, the County Commissioners, and township Boards of Trustees, has worked to place land preservation easements on a number of properties in close proximity to one another. Included among these properties are two Century Farms, an organic farm that is home to a community supported agriculture (CSA) program, and certain lands adjacent to the Auglaize River - that due to using best management practices (BMP) called for in the easement, will help protect the River's water quality. At this time, there are nearly 1,300 acres of farmland in Allen County under a farmland preservation easement or in process of being so designated.

The WCOLC is a Lima-based all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization boasting members from many northwest and west central Ohio counties, including Allen County. WCOLC works with interested landowners to fulfill that landowner's land preservation vision for their land, primarily through the vehicle of placing a land preservation easement on the property. The easement provides a legal mechanism for ensuring the land owners' vision is implemented. Once the easement is established, WCOLC annually monitors the property to ensure the terms of the easement are being observed, and may take steps to correct violations, including as a last resort, legal action.

While the information provided by the County and townships is crucial to completing the rigorous easement application process, the efforts just described would not be possible without the funding provided, primarily by the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP), administered by the Ohio Department of Agriculture - Office of Farmland Preservation. Thomas Mazur, recently retired executive director of the LACRPC, has been a long-time member of the Advisory Board for the Office of Farmland Preservation. If you want to learn more about WCOLC, also authorized to work with landowners in Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, Van Wert, Mercer, and Auglaize counties, please email info@wcolc.org, or call 567.204.9126.

2019 Allen County Crash Summary Report

The Planning Commission recently released the [2019 Allen County Traffic Crash Summary Report](#) highlighting last year's motor vehicle crash data. Crash trends were also analyzed by examining the cumulative crash data for a decade long study period - 2010 through 2019. The goal is to provide insight into the general state of local roadway safety, to identify high hazard crash locations as well as systemic contributing causes of crash incidents, and to support high profile safety programs. The Report is compiled annually to help local law enforcement agencies, traffic professionals, engineering, and safety advocates target specific locations and/or actions with effective programming.

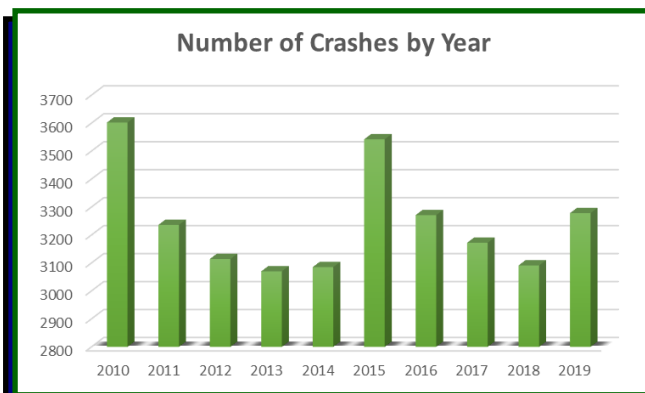


The Report identified that in Allen County during 2019:

- Total crashes numbered 3,278 - up from last year 3,091 (2018);
- 797 injury crashes resulted in 1,156 injuries;
- 45 intersections experienced 15 or more crashes over the past three years; the highest number of incidents was at Ft. Amanda and Shawnee roads with 78 collisions;
- 147 impaired driving crashes - the same number as 2018 - were down from decade long high of 171 (2017);
- Nearly 51% of all crashes involved a youthful driver between 16 and 25 years of age (involvement does not imply fault), while drivers in that age cohort account for less than 15% of Allen County licensed drivers;
- There were 45 motorcycle crashes in 2019, including one fatal crash in which 2 people died. Thirty-two (32) were injury crashes and 12 were property-damage-only crashes.

There were seven fatal crashes, resulting in nine fatalities in 2019:

- Three (3) people died in two (2) alcohol/drug related crashes;
- 33% of the those who died in fatal crashes, chose not to use seatbelts;
- Concerning vehicle types - 17 vehicles were involved, including: five SUVs, four pickup trucks, four large trucks, three passenger cars, and one motorcycle;
- Four (4) female drivers and thirteen (13) male drivers were involved in fatal crashes. Male drivers were over-represented by a factor of 3.5:1.



2019 High Crash Intersections

Local engineers, law enforcement officials, and roadway safety advocates recently reviewed the analyses of the 2019 intersection traffic crash statistics as compiled by the Regional Planning Commission. Using crash reports provided by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), preliminary findings of 2017 through 2019 data suggests that 45 intersections experienced 15 crashes or more over the three-year study period. There were 379 injury crashes at these high crash locations; while, one fatal crash occurred at the intersection of Harding Highway (SR 309) and Thayer Road.

The intersection of Ft. Amanda and Shawnee roads held the top spot on the 2019 study of high crash intersections, with 78 crashes. Also, listed among the top ten high crash intersections in the 2019 study were: Allentown & Cable (76); Allentown & Easttown (50); Easttown & Elida (50); Main & Market (47); Sugar & Findlay (44); Bellefontaine & Kibby (43); Metcalf & North (41); Cole & Robb (38); and Bellefontaine & Elm (35). The list of intersections, at which 15 or more crashes were documented over the three-year study period, appears at the right. The complete list of high crash intersections is available on the Planning Commission website inside the 2019 Allen County Traffic Crash Summary Report at <http://www.lacrpc.com>. Click on "What's New" on the home page; then scroll down to the desired report. For more information, contact Adam Haunhorst at ahaunhorst@lacrpc.com, or call 419.228.1836.

Intersection	Crashes	AADT	Crash Rates		Location Jurisdiction
			Crash (MEV)	EPDO Rate	
Ft Amanda and Shawnee	78	20634	3.45	1.23	Shawnee
Elida and Cable	76	37814	1.84	2.73	American / Lima
Allentown and Cable	63	32194	1.79	3.43	American / Lima
Allentown and Easttown	50	26350	1.73	5.85	American
Easttown and Elida	50	35778	1.28	2.09	American
Market and Main	47	11297	3.80	2.06	Lima CBD
Sugar and Findlay	44	17901	2.24	1.90	Bath / Lima
Bellefontaine and Kibby	43	12772	3.07	3.15	Lima
Metcalf and North	41	19901	1.88	2.52	Lima CBD
Cole and Robb	38	19539	1.78	2.40	American / Lima
Bellefontaine and Elm	35	14645	2.18	3.55	Lima
Central and North	35	15375	2.08	2.78	Lima CBD
Jameson and Market	33	15279	1.97	3.68	Lima
Cable and Latham	29	19062	1.39	3.43	Lima
Cole and Elida	29	20720	1.28	1.55	American
Elida and Hartzler	28	13496	1.89	1.77	American
Easttown and Elm	25	17467	1.31	3.54	American
Jameson and North	25	22147	1.03	2.54	Lima
American and Elida	25	24001	0.95	2.66	American
Shawnee and Spencerville	25	19896	1.15	3.09	Shawnee
Harding and Thayer	25	9263	2.46	12.88	Bath / Perry
Spencerville and Wapak	23	9224	2.28	8.01	Shawnee
Bellefontaine and Dana	21	19800	0.97	1.66	Lima
Bluelick and West	21	17732	1.08	3.92	American / Lima
Breese and Shawnee	21	13244	1.45	1.53	Shawnee
Cable and College	21	19306	0.99	4.09	Lima
Bower and Cole	21	15513	1.24	1.69	Lima
Jackson and North	20	17994	1.02	2.31	Lima
Buckeye and Ft. Amanda	19	9778	1.77	2.42	Shawnee
Kibby and Main	19	9384	1.85	5.06	Lima
Metcalf and Spring	19	12816	1.35	2.85	Lima CBD
Allentown and Woodlawn	18	14307	1.15	1.76	Lima
Shawnee and Zurmehly	18	13316	1.23	1.50	Shawnee
Allentown and Cornell	17	13307	1.17	2.66	Lima
Allentown and Cole	17	15649	0.99	1.65	Lima
Buckeye and Dixie	17	12325	1.26	1.65	Lima / Shawnee
Dixie and Breese	17	14792	1.05	1.61	Shawnee
Metcalf and Kibby	17	12541	1.24	5.46	Lima
American and Hartzler	16	6046	2.42	1.22	American
Main and North	16	16668	0.88	5.45	Lima
Robb and West	16	19204	0.76	2.47	Lima
Thayer and Bluelick	16	2341	6.24	7.81	Bath
Elm and Pine	15	12077	1.13	5.00	Lima
Metcalf and North Shore	15	13117	1.04	2.52	Lima
Main and Robb	15	16440	0.83	3.26	Lima

Upcoming Meetings

The following is a list of standing committee meeting dates and times. Planning Commission meetings are open to the public, and are held in the Conference Room of the Commission, at 130 W. North Street, Lima, or virtual meetings may be attended online - for details, call 419.228.1836.

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE											
July 2020				August 2020				September 2020			
Committee	Day	Date	Time	Committee	Day	Date	Time	Committee	Day	Date	Time
DCC	Tuesday	July 7	3:00 pm	DCC	Tuesday	Aug 4	3:00 pm	DCC	Tuesday	Sept 1	3:00 pm
CAAC	Thursday	July 9	3:00 pm	CAAC	Thursday	Aug 13	3:00 pm	CAAC	Thursday	Sept 10	3:00 pm
CDC	Thursday	July 16	3:30 pm	DCC	Tuesday	Aug 18	3:00 pm	DCC	Tuesday	Sept 15	3:00 pm
CAC	Tuesday	July 21	10:00 am	CDC	Thursday	Aug 20	3:30 pm	CDC	Thursday	Sept 17	3:30 pm
TAC	Tuesday	July 21	1:30 pm	CAC	Tuesday	Aug 25	10:00 am	CAC	Tuesday	Sept 22	10:00 am
DCC	Tuesday	July 21	3:00 pm	TAC	Tuesday	Aug 25	1:30 pm	TAC	Tuesday	Sept 22	1:30 pm
TCC	Thursday	July 23	3:00 pm	TCC	Thursday	Aug 27	3:00 pm	TCC	Thursday	Sept 24	3:00 pm
EC	Thursday	July 23	4:00 pm	EC	Thursday	Aug 27	4:00 pm	EC	Thursday	Sept 24	4:00 pm
								DCC	Tuesday	Sept 29	3:00 pm

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