



LIMA-ALLEN COUNTY
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Network News

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WELCOME

Welcome to the third 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.

Thomas M. Mazur
Executive Director

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My Country Counts!

On April 1, the entire population of the United States will be counted. The U. S. Constitution requires that every ten years every resident in the nation should be counted. Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution of the United States requires that, "The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years . . ." The 2020 Census will mark the 24th time, since 1790, that the nation has counted its population.



Participating in the census is required by law, if you live in the 50 states, District of Columbia, or any of the five U. S. territories. Counting every person living in the United States on April 1, 2020, is a massive undertaking. Between March 12th and 20th, each home will receive an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire; responses can be made either online, by phone, or by mail. In addition, over a three-day period between March 30th and April 1st, the Census Bureau will count people who are experiencing homelessness. As a part of this process, people known as census takers will count people in shelters, soup kitchens, on the streets, and such other outdoor locations as tent encampments. Census takers will also visit college students living in dormitories, people living in senior centers, and other institutional quarters. To be sure that everyone is counted census takers, during the months of May through July, will visit the homes of those that did not respond to the census questionnaire.

A complete and accurate count is critical for you and your community. The results of the 2020 Census will affect congressional representation, community funding, and more. The primary purpose of the Census is to redraw legislative districts based on population changes and to reapportion the 435 seats in the U. S. House of Representatives. In addition, hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding will be distributed each year for the next decade, based on the census data. The results of the census will influence highway planning and construction as well as public transit. Census results also help determine how federal funds are allocated to support schools and education. The Census has an impact on funding for health clinics, fire departments, disaster response, and education programs such as Head Start, college tuition assistance, and so much more. My Country Counts! The 2020 Census is coming, and the results will shape the future of not only my community, but the entire United States, for years to come.



Ottawa River Clean-Up Scheduled

It's that time of year again, the Ottawa River clean-up will be held on Saturday, April 25 from 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Help make our community a better place to live. Bring your family and join your neighbors for a fun-filled, rewarding day along the Ottawa River. Hot dogs and chips will be provided for a light lunch following the clean-up. Join the fun! Sign-up at the Allen County Chapter of the American Red Cross at 610 S. Collett Street. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Signed permission slips are required for minors who participate. To obtain permission slips call 419-221-5177 or go online to <http://www.lacrpc.com/media/63764/2012volinfoformrevised.pdf>, or forms will be available the day of the clean-up. A certificate-of-appreciation and t-shirt will be given to all who participate. It's up to you and me to Keep Allen County Beautiful and litter free. *So come on! Get outside, get some fresh air, and get with the program—the Ottawa River Clean-Up program!*



NRAC Round 14 Recommendations



A slate of projects, submitted as part of the initial Round 14 Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Program, was accepted and recommended for funding by NRAC District 13. Those endorsed project applications were forwarded to the Ohio Public Works Commission for their review and concurrence. Recommended projects were proposed by qualified applicants within District 13, including: the villages of Ft. Jennings and Kalida, the cities of St. Mary's and Lima, as well as the Grand Lake St. Mary's Lake Facilities Authority. While District 13 had \$5.4M available for eligible projects, the funding requested amounted to only \$4.3M.

The Committee recommended funding the following projects:

- The Lost Creek Wetlands & Trail Improvement, in the City of Lima: The project will acquire 45.4 acres of permanent green space and support the planting of 125 native trees, 350 shrubs, and an acre of forbs. The project is sited at the former Lost Creek Country Club and will also advance active transportation options, adding 1.3 miles of paths, connecting with 8 miles of existing City paths (\$1,144,250).
- Phase II of the Plum Creek Nature Area & Trail Connector, in Kalida: The project will extend the trail system roughly 2,800 linear feet (LF), construct 2 bridges, and stabilize the banks of Plum Creek over 1,800 LF (\$1,807,227).
- The Ft. Jennings' Freedom Square Restoration & Trail Connector: The project is sited at the juncture of state routes 189 and 190 atop the Auglaize River. The project was developed to improve access between the Village Park, the schools, and the existing village walkway system. The Village request will eliminate invasive species, plant mesic prairie grasses, and mitigate bank erosion along 500 feet of the Auglaize River, as well as construct 750 LF of sidewalks (\$106,569).
- The Langenkamp Nature Preserve: The project sponsored by the Grand Lake St. Mary's Lake Facility Authority requested funding for the acquisition of 88.9 acres located in Butler Township southwest of Grand Lake St. Mary's (\$1,140,932).
- The City of St. Mary's requested funds to support acquisition of 7.8 acres for the future construction of a park adjacent to the Miami & Erie Canal Towpath just south of SR 33 near Fortman Drive (\$128,390).

The NRAC Board announced plans for a future Round 15 of Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Program funds. Approximately \$3,000,000 is expected to be available to local communities and non-profit organizations to preserve natural areas, protect streams, and create outdoor recreational opportunities. A formal announcement of the next round of the Clean Ohio Greenspace Improvement Program can be expected sometime this summer. Interested parties should review the programmatic requirements of the Clean Ohio Program at the Ohio Public Works Commission website (www.pwc.state.oh.us); or, contact their county NRAC representatives. For specific program information contact NRAC District 13 Chairman, Howard Elstro at howard.elstro@cityhall.lima.oh.us.

Draft FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program

The Regional Planning Commission annually prepares a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), detailing the work it proposes to perform during the upcoming fiscal year (FY). The LACRPC uses the State fiscal year for reporting purposes; therefore, the UPWP reflects a July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, timeline. The development of the UPWP is mandated by Federal regulations, but also serves to provide benchmarks from which to assess Commission progress and accomplishments. The Draft FY 2021 UPWP identifies nearly two dozen separate work elements, as well as associated expenditures of \$923,138 necessary to support the LACRPC committee structure and staff. Fiscal support for identified work elements comes from Federal and State sources, including: the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Ohio Department of Public Safety, and Ohio Development Services Agency. In addition, 22 local political subdivisions contribute \$118,298 to support local planning services. The UPWP provides not only specific details about the LACRPC, its mission, organizational structure, and responsibilities, but also provides the rationale and justification for planned activities. The UPWP is presented to both Federal and State agencies for review prior to adoption by the LACRPC Board of Directors. The components of the UPWP include: tasks to be completed over the fiscal year; identification of all funding sources; identification of Federal and/or State funded studies; identification of significant studies not funded with Federal and/or State funds; identification of responsible Federal and/or State agencies; schedule of activities; and, identification of local stakeholders. The FY 2021 UPWP is available for comment online at the LACRPC website - www.lacrpc.com - Click on the "What's New" icon and then the link to the FY 2021 UPWP or visit the LACRPC at 130 W. North Street, Lima weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., or call 419-228-1836.



Draft FY 2021-2024 TIP

The Planning Commission has released the Draft FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a 4-year listing of transportation projects and strategies, addressing the region's transportation needs. As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Allen County, one of the Planning Commission's primary duties is preparation of the TIP. As a short range capital improvement program, the TIP details the funding for, and scheduling of, federally funded transportation projects, programs, and services within the region. The TIP is fiscally supported by the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT); it is fiscally constrained and allocated according to Federal and State regulations. This Federal regulatory framework controls development and implementation of the TIP and as such calls for the development of a transportation system that supports the equitable distribution of benefits across geographic and socio-economic lines; one that is as friendly to the natural environment as it is to commerce and industry.

The program of projects contained within the TIP represents a collaboration between the LACRPC, the Allen County Regional Transit Authority, local governments, ODOT, and the citizens of Allen County. The local TIP is a comprehensive list of all highway and transit projects that propose to use Federal funds in the development of a balanced, multimodal, transportation program for the Allen County community (see table and map on the following pages). When finalized, the local TIP becomes part of a larger Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP).



The Planning Commission requests public review and comment, between now and April 6, 2020, on the Draft TIP. In lieu of an in-person public meeting, the TIP is currently available online at the LACRPC website at www.lacrpc.com. On the homepage, click on "What's New" and scroll down to the Draft FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program, or use the following link - <https://www.lacrpc.com/pdfs/DRAFT%20FY%202021-2024%20TIP--February%202020.pdf>. Comments can be made by clicking on "Comments?" at the top of the page. In addition, ODOT District One is inviting review and comment on plans for similar projects being considered statewide for federal funding. The Draft FY 2021-2024 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) will be available online at <https://transportation.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odot/programs/stip/stip-landing> between March 30 and April 10, 2020.

FY 2021-2024 TIP PROJECTS BY YEAR

Fiscal Year	Location	Description	Estimated Costs
2021	US 30	From junction 5th Street/Lincoln Highway to structure number ALL-30-1328.	\$6,887,500
	SR 66 & 117	On SR 66 and SR 117 in Allen County—resurfacing.	\$2,867,434
	SR 66 & SR 190	Resurface and upgrade curb ramps, adjust catch basins/manholes/water valves and install bike friendly storm grates in the City of Delphos.	\$4,043,719
	SR 117	Resurface, add sidewalks, lighting and curb and gutter through Westminster.	\$2,803,461
	Jobs & Commerce	Widen and repair, improve intersections and replace traffic signals to the industrial corridor of Ft. Amanda, Buckeye, and McClain roads.	\$1,500,000
2022	US 30	Resurface, perform pavement repair and repair existing drainage from just east of CR 185 intersection in Van Wert County to the CR 88 intersection in Allen County.	\$4,427,791
	US 30	Mill and fill beginning at forward end of the RR bridge and end at the concrete pavement east of Napoleon Road bridges.	\$3,121,930
	SR 65	Fine graded polymer AC overlay on SR 65 from the north corporation line of the Village of Cairo to the Putnam County line.	\$827,815
	CR 84	Replace existing bridge on State Road over the Auglaize River with a new structure.	\$1,875,500
	Lighting Beaverdam	Lighting on Main Street in the Village of Beaverdam from the Norfolk Southern Railroad to Church Street.	\$302,277
	SR 309	Intersection improvement to increase safety and improve operation at the intersections of SR 309 & Thayer and Napoleon roads.	\$6,115,620
	US 30	Construct RCUT at the Thayer Road intersection with US 30. Project will also construct cul-de-sacs at the Mayberry and Cool roads intersections with US 30.	\$2,580,000
	Main & Market streets	Construct a roundabout at the intersection of Main & Market streets in the City of Lima.	\$1,075,555
2023	S. Main Street Delphos	Complete full depth reconstruction on SR 66 from the bridge over Flat Fork Creek to the CSX Railroad and from the Canal to the bridge over Flat For Creek.	\$3,641,792
	SR 65	Resurface SR 65 from the Auglaize County line to south corporate line of Lima excluding the concrete pavement at the IR 75 interchange.	\$914,748
	SR 12 / 115	Resurfacing on SR 12 and SR 115 in Allen County.	\$947,995
	Spencerville Road	Construct sidewalks along Spencerville Road from Cable Road to Pierce Street in the City of Lima.	\$851,708
	SR 103	Resurface SR 103 in the Village of Bluffton.	\$884,943
	SR 103	Construct a shared use path along the south side of SR 103/Jefferson Street from County Line Road to Wendy's. It will then cross the street and continue east on the north side of SR 103 along Commerce Lane; it will turn north and connect to the Lions' Path.	\$1,072,348
2024	SR 117	Replace structure at SR 117—3.47 and culvert at SLM 4.64.	\$310,716
	SR 501	Resurface SR 501 in Allen County.	\$1,234,994

Line Projects

- 2018- Safety
- 2021- Safety
- 2021- Rehabilitation
- 2021- Resurfacing
- 2022- Safety
- 2022- Rehabilitation
- 2023- Rehabilitation
- 2023- Pedestrian Facilities
- 2024- Rehabilitation

Spot Projects

- 2021- Bridge Preservation
- 2022- Bridge Preservation
- 2023- Bridge Preservation
- ▲ 2023- Bridge/Culvert Maint.
- 2024- Bridge Preservation
- ★ 2021- Signal
- ◆ 2021- Resurfacing
- ✱ 2022- Signal
- 2022- Culvert
- 2024- Culvert



January 2020

2019 Allen County Fatal Crash Summary Report

The Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission recently released the 2019 Allen County Fatal Crash Summary Report highlighting 2019 motor vehicle fatal crash data. This data is designed to be used for reference and to support crash trend analyses. The goal is to provide insight into the general state of local roadway safety, to identify trends or patterns in fatal crashes, and systemic contributing causes of crash incidents as well as to support high profile safety programs. The Report is compiled annually to identify problems contributing to fatal crashes, such as specific locations and/or actions. Such problem identification enables law enforcement agencies, traffic and engineering professionals, as well as safety advocates, to target these problems with effective programming.

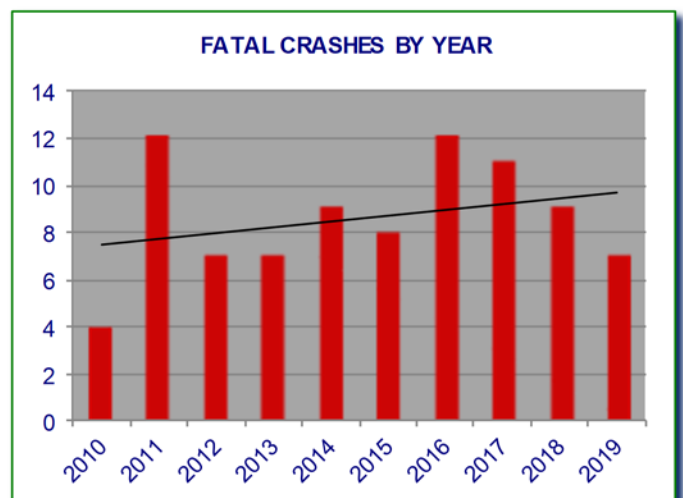


The specific objectives of this traffic crash summary report are to assess overall characteristics of motor vehicle fatal crashes, identify crash trends as well as public education measures with the potential to effect a reduction in fatal crashes, and provide a benchmark to assess effectiveness of roadway improvements or traffic safety programming.

There were seven (7) fatal crashes, resulting in nine (9) fatalities in 2019:

- Six (6) fatal crashes occurred on state or federal highways; one (1) each on SR 117 (Amanda Township), SR 309 (Bath Township), SR 115 (Sugar Creek Township), IR 75 (Richland Township), and two (2) on US 30 (Monroe Township); one (1) fatal crash occurred on county roadways - Elm Street (American Township);
- In 2019, no fatal crashes occurred during an identified holiday period. However, over the ten-year study period (2010-2019) fatal crashes over July 4th represented 50% of all holiday fatal crashes.
- 71.4% of fatal crashes occurred during daylight hours.
- All of the fatal crashes occurred on dry pavement.
- All fatal crashes occurred in clear or cloudy weather conditions.
- Seventeen (17) units were involved, including: five (5) SUVs; four (4) pickup trucks; three (3) each passenger vehicles and semi tractor/trailers; and one (1) each motorcycle and single unit truck 3-axles.
- Drug/alcohol impairment was a factor in 28.6% of fatal crashes.
- Six (6) fatal crash victims were male and three (3) were female. Of the thirteen (13) drivers involved in fatal crashes, 76.5% were male and 23.5% were female - a ratio of 3.5:1.
- Of the drivers involved in 2019 fatal crashes, none were under 21 years of age, three (3) were 21-35, three (3) were 36-50, five (5) were 51-65; and two (2) were over 65.
- Over the ten-year study period, young male drivers 16-25 years of age represented 21.2% of all drivers in fatal crashes; while, young male drivers 21-35 years of age represented 31% of all drivers involved in fatal crashes. Involvement in a fatal crash does not imply fault.
- Of the twenty-three (23) persons involved in fatal crashes, only eighteen (18) were verified to have used appropriate safety equipment; while one (1) was undetermined. Three (3) of the four (4) people that did not utilize safety equipment sustained fatal injuries. More than 39% of the people involved in fatal crashes died; 33% of those did not use safety equipment.
- With respect to helmet use, no motorcyclists who died wore a helmet.

The 2019 Allen County Fatal Crash Summary Report is available for comment online at the LACRPC website - www.lacrpc.com - Click on Reports and select the link for the 2019 Allen County Fatal Crash Summary Report or visit the LACRPC at 130 W. North Street, Lima weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., or call 419-228-1836.



It's Planting Time...Remember Sightlines!

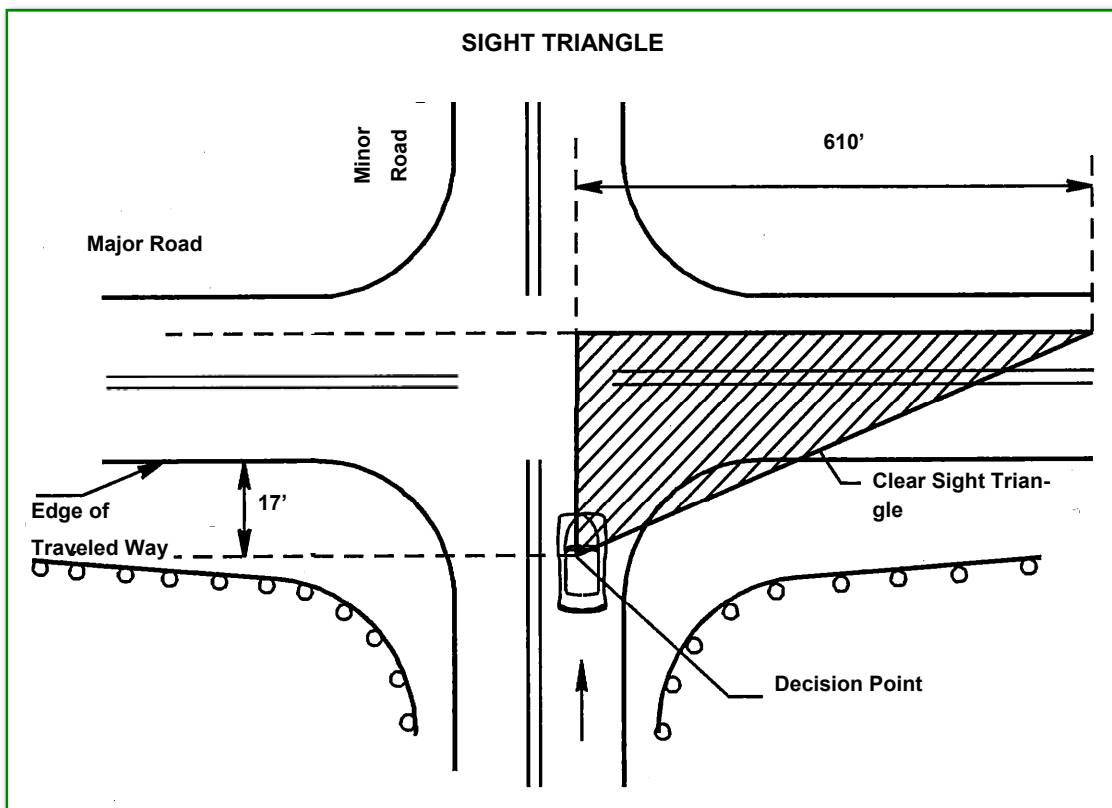
It is almost planting time again here in Allen County! With that in mind, we all need to consider what impact the things we plant may have on traffic safety at intersections. Farmers and other land owners are urged not to encroach on road rights-of-way (ROW) when planting crops, trees, or bushes. The road right-of-way includes the driving lanes (pavement), grass or stone shoulders, roadside ditches, back slopes, and portions of the sight triangles at intersections. Contrary to popular belief, private property tax is not assessed on that portion of land that is in the road ROW.



The sight triangle portion of ROW at the intersection of two roads is especially susceptible to encroachment and visual obstruction by planted crops, especially corn. As drivers approach the intersection of two roads, the ability to see other vehicles approaching the intersection may become obscured or blocked. These unobstructed views form triangular areas known as a sight triangle. As the crop, or other plant, gets taller throughout the growing season, a serious safety hazard may be created for motorists. Rural intersection crashes account for nearly one-third of all crashes in Allen County; however, not all are related to ROW obstructions. Some of those crashes at rural intersections may be aggravated by reduced visibility, especially considering reduced reaction time as drivers travel on rural roads at speeds around 55 miles per hour. To help landowners better understand the road right-of-way, the image below depicts the sight triangle illustrating the 610 feet needed for drivers to react and stop when traveling at 55 miles per hour should a vehicle enter the roadway in front of them.

Also, it is important to consider Ohio Supreme Court decisions concerning right-of-way encroachment. The Court addressed the issue of inconsistent use of road ROW and opened up liability potential if a farmer or landowner plants in road ROW, obstructing the view of traffic. The Court stated that planting in the ROW is inconsistent with the purpose of

the road ROW. If the inconsistent use of the road ROW creates an unreasonable hazard to roadway users, then the person responsible for the planting may be liable for resulting damages. The Court made it clear that the farmer or landowner could not use as an excuse "lack of knowledge" as to the exact location of the ROW. The Court also stated that the political subdivision (township or county) having control over the road ROW may be liable in certain situations. With that in mind, plan ahead this spring! Don't plant in the road right-of-way.



Upcoming Meetings

The following table outlines upcoming meeting dates and times for the various standing committees serving the Planning Commission and the local community. Meetings are held at the specified times in the Conference Room of the Planning Commission located at 130 W. North Street, Lima, Ohio, 45801. Meetings are open and the public is invited to attend.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES											
April 2020				May 2020				June 2020			
Committee	Day	Date	Time	Committee	Day	Date	Time	Committee	Day	Date	Time
CAAC	Thursday	Apr 9	3:00 pm	DCC	Tuesday	May 12	3:00 pm	DCC	Tuesday	Jun 9	3:00 pm
DCC	Tuesday	Apr 14	3:00 pm	CAAC	Thursday	May 14	3:00 pm	CAAC	Thursday	Jun 11	3:00 pm
CDC	Thursday	Apr 16	3:30 pm	CDC	Thursday	May 21	3:30 pm	CDC	Thursday	Jun 18	3:30 pm
CAC	Tuesday	Apr 21	10:00 am	CAC	Tuesday	May 26	10:00 am	CAC	Tuesday	Jun 23	10:00 am
TAC	Tuesday	Apr 21	1:30 pm	TAC	Tuesday	May 26	1:30 pm	TAC	Tuesday	Jun 23	1:30 pm
TCC	Thursday	Apr 23	3:00 pm	DCC	Tuesday	May 26	3:00 pm	DCC	Tuesday	Jun 23	3:00 pm
EC	Thursday	Apr 23	4:00 pm	TCC	Thursday	May 28	3:00 pm	TCC	Thursday	Jun 25	3:00 pm
DCC	Tuesday	Apr 28	3:00 pm	EC	Thursday	May 28	4:00 pm	EC	Thursday	Jun 25	4:00 pm

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