



## WELCOME

Welcome to the second 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

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Transit Services Return	1
In The News	2
Draft TIP	3
Performance Measures	3
Active Transportation	4
Safe Winter Driving	5
Upcoming Meetings	6

## Transit Services Slowly Returning

Thanks to voters, in May of 2019, a tax levy was successfully passed to provide desperately needed fiscal support for the public transportation services provided by the Regional Transit Authority (RTA). Based on a strategic plan and demands from passengers, services eliminated in 2017 and 2018 are being restored. But they must be restored in a balanced and calculated approach given that new and additional services mean more miles, more hours, more vehicles, and more drivers.



In the past, RTA operated nine fixed routes; but, the lack of local match funds resulted in the elimination of three routes, leaving some residents without much needed transportation. However, with the levy passage, new bus routes either are, or will soon be, initiated. The routes eliminated will be reinstated with some changes, including the consolidation of two routes and other less significant route tweaks; however, the former service area will be entirely covered.

- **Eastgate—Route #2** has regular stops Monday through Friday at Lima Memorial Hospital, Sam’s Club, Walmart, and OSU/Rhodes State. In the future, there will be limited Saturday service to Nelson’s Packaging and P&G.
- **Northeast**—(old Route #7) restarted in mid-November 2019 with stops at Nickle’s Bakery, Nelson’s Packaging, and Lima Pallet. There will be no Saturday service.
- **South Metcalf/Shawnee—Route #8** (old routes 8 & 9) began December 23, 2019, servicing the Shawnee business district, OIO, and JFS. There will be no Saturday service.
- **Saturday Service** will begin January 11, 2020, and includes all fixed routes with the following exceptions: (1) the Eastgate Route will have limited service to major Reservoir Road employers; and, (2) no Saturday service for Northeast and South Metcalf/Shawnee routes. UPLIFT service will also be available on Saturdays.

A Transit Development Plan (TDP) is currently being prepared by the RTA and RPC to ensure transit services are restored in compliance with federal requirements. The TDP provides the rationale and justification for the use of federal and state funding and optimizes the amount of operational monies available to the Transit Authority. To compile the FY 2020-2024 TDP, both staffs are currently collecting 2019 year-end data, to analyze ridership, hours of service, miles of service, costs per mile, costs per hour, etc. An examination of these metrics will establish a system-wide baseline, assessing current RTA services and supporting improved services into the future. For more information about route schedules and times of bus departures from the Terminal, visit the RTA website at [www.acrta.com](http://www.acrta.com); click on “Schedule & Routes” at the top of the home page.

## In The News...

### CDBG Allocation

As part of the FY 2018 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Allocation, sealed bids for completing the Lafayette Mail Access Improvements and the Delphos Pierce Street Pavement Improvements were received, opened, and publicly read at the offices of the Board of Allen County Commissioners, 204 N. Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Lima, Ohio at 11:00 a.m., January 9, 2020. The proposed Lafayette project consists of paving 8,500 square feet of public access and parking with a roof structure over the existing village mail cluster boxes. The engineer's estimate for construction is \$85,000. The Delphos project consists of spot pavement repair, pavement milling, pavement resurfacing, concrete curbing, and concrete sidewalk over 1,500 lineal feet of pavement. The engineer's estimate for construction is \$175,000. Copies of the specifications and contract documents may be obtained or examined at the office of Access Engineering Solutions, 1200 Irmscher Boulevard, Celina, Ohio 45822. All work shall be completed by August 31, 2020.



### Community Assessment

West Ohio Community Action Partnership (WOCAP) recently completed a 5-year Community Assessment that will be used by the Board of Directors and staff to implement warranted types of programming and services using Community Services Block Grant and Head Start funds. Federal planning guidelines require community assessments to be completed every five years as well as reviewed annually for needed updates. The overall goal of the assessment was to capture the state of well-being of people in the service area, as well as to identify the vulnerable populations within the community, specifically targeting the inclusion of low-income, elderly, young children, expectant women, minority, and disabled residents. The intention was to develop a comprehensive overview of the community as well as to compile and analyze community data to identify community weaknesses to build on local strengths and identify resources to close the gap between the needs of the community and available services.



### US Census Bureau Releases 2014-2018 Estimates

The 2018 American Community Survey is now using a new platform for census data dissemination, as the Census Bureau moves away from the long-standing American Fact Finder website. The new platform aggregates the majority of Census products on one website (<https://data.census.gov>). The Census Bureau's most recent release, the American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-year estimates, are the first to be exclusively available on the new data platform.



### The Innovative Workforce Incentive Program Implementation Grant

Grantees must use funds under this grant to implement a program that will prepare students to earn qualifying industry-recognized credentials. Grantees must provide a plan for program sustainability. Eligible applicants are defined as city, local and exempted village school districts, community schools, STEM schools, Educational Service Centers, and joint vocational school districts. Applications and supporting documentation must be submitted through the Department's e-grant applicant system, the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan, between December 18, 2019 and March 1, 2020. Total funding amount up to \$4.5 million is available for Innovative Workforce Incentive Program Implementation Grant awards. For more information see: [http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Ohio-s-Graduation-Requirements/Industry-Recognized-Credentials/Innovative-Workforce-Incentive-Program/Implementation\\_Grant\\_RFA\\_FINAL\\_12-13-2019.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US](http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Ohio-s-Graduation-Requirements/Industry-Recognized-Credentials/Innovative-Workforce-Incentive-Program/Implementation_Grant_RFA_FINAL_12-13-2019.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US).



### Grants – ODOT Funding

ODOT Safety Funding - ODOT suggests applicants coordinate with District Safety staff no later than March 1, 2020, prior to the final April 30, 2020 deadline, to submit applications. ODOT Safe Routes to School program funding registration closes March 6, 2020. Applicants must meet with the District Safety SRTS Program Manager, Beth Clark, before submitting an application. More information is available at [http://www.dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/Planning/ProgramManagement/HighwaySafety/ActiveTransportation/Pages/Develop\\_SRTS\\_Program.aspx](http://www.dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/Planning/ProgramManagement/HighwaySafety/ActiveTransportation/Pages/Develop_SRTS_Program.aspx).



## RPC Working to Develop Draft TIP

As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Allen County, the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) is responsible for the preparation of a local Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a 4-year comprehensive listing of local capital improvement projects that, while using federal and state funding, meets the local community's transportation needs. In conjunction with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), county engineer, local cities and villages, as well as the Regional Transit Authority, the RPC works to identify eligible highway, bridge, non-motorized, and transit system improvements. Preparation of the TIP requires the collective cooperation of local area governments, elected officials, and citizen bodies. In addition, projects must also have been previously identified in local publicly adopted plans. Funding is available to local communities for eligible projects at an 80/20 federal/local match. Project sponsors must be units of government and as such responsible for project implementation. The Commission staff has met with local political subdivisions to identify eligible projects and continues to refine that list of projects. Projects submitted for consideration go through a detailed review conducted by the Commission's tiered committee structure. In partnership with ODOT District 1, solicitation of public comments will be scheduled during the first two weeks of April 2020. For more information about participating in the development of the FY 2021-2024 TIP visit the LACRPC website at [www.lacrpc.com](http://www.lacrpc.com), call the Planning Commission at 419-228-1836, or email Thomas Mazur at [tmazur@lacrpc.com](mailto:tmazur@lacrpc.com).



## Performance Measures—Safety

In compliance with the requirements of the FAST Act, the transportation bill passed by the U. S. Congress in 2015, the RPC, as the local MPO, is engaged in monitoring local progress toward achieving established targets for each of five federally/state identified safety performance measures. The safety performance measures identified in the FAST Act include: (1) number of highway fatalities; (2) rate of fatalities per 100 million-vehicle-miles-traveled (MVMT); (3) number of serious injuries; (4) rate of serious injuries per 100 MVMT; and, (5) number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. Mirroring the statewide goal set by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the RPC committed to achieve a 1% reduction in CY 2019, using a 5-year rolling average (2014-2018) as baseline in all five safety metrics. Throughout each year, the Commission closely tracks the incidence of not only Allen County fatal crashes, but serious injury crashes, enabling the RPC to regularly monitor performance measure attainment. A year-end analyses of CY 2019 crash data revealed that the RPC met, or exceeded, the identified performance measure targets. Locally, the target for the number of fatalities was ten, while nine fatalities actually occurred in 2019. As for the fatality rate, the goal was 0.81 fatalities per 100 MVMT, while the actual fatality rate achieved was 0.69. The goal for the number of serious injury crashes was 158; while there were actually 71 such crashes, resulting in a rate of 5.47 crashes per 100 MVMT compared to the goal of 13.29. When considering the number of non-motorized fatalities and/or serious injuries in 2019 crashes, the MPO did not meet the established goal - the target was eight such incidences, nine actually occurred. While four of the five 2019 safety targets were achieved, new goals for CY 2020 must be established; the MPO will set as the goal a 2% reduction from baseline in all identified metrics. The table to the right depicts not only CY 2019 goals for the identified metrics; but, also the new CY 2020 targets. The Commission will work to achieve the new targets, continuing to partner with community stakeholders to implement crash reducing countermeasures. Safety remains a priority! For more information contact Evelyn Smith at 419-228-1836 or [esmith@lacrpc.com](mailto:esmith@lacrpc.com).

SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURE TARGETS					
Performance Measure	5-Year Rolling Average 2013-2017	CY 2019 Target	CY 2019 Actual	5-Year Rolling Average 2014-2018	CY 2020 Target
Number of Fatalities	9.8	10.00	9	10.8	10
Rate of Fatalities	0.82	0.81	0.69	0.90	0.77
Number of Serious Injuries	160.2	158	71	161.8	155
Rate of Serious Injuries	13.51	13.29	5.47	13.41	11.95
Number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries	8.2	8	9 <small>Y-T-D 11-2019</small>	6.8	7

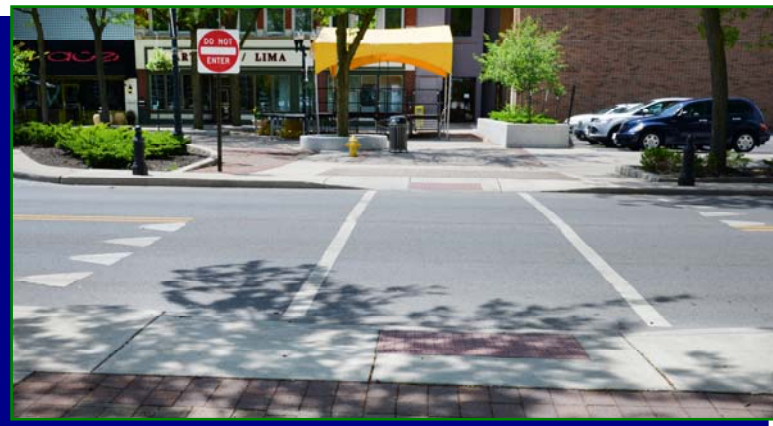
## Active Transportation Initiatives

In recent years, the Planning Commission has worked with local stakeholders to create active transportation (AT) opportunities for Allen County residents. In 2017, the Planning Commission, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Allen County, prepared the Allen County Active Transportation Plan (ATP), which serves as a countywide framework to improve infrastructure and provide the supporting policies and programs that encourage healthy lifestyles, economic growth, environmental sustainability, social equity, and safety throughout the County. To achieve these goals, AT projects have been conceptualized, designed, and funded through federal, state, and local initiatives.



The Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District (JAMPD) completed the 8-mile Miami-Erie Canal Towpath Trail project between the Village of Spencerville and the City of Delphos. Today, the Towpath Trail provides opportunities for recreation and travel, beyond Allen County, connecting to destinations across Ohio via the Buckeye Trail and the North Country National Scenic Trail. In addition, United States Bike Route (USBR) 44 intersects with the Towpath Trail in Delphos and follows Lincoln Highway across the County, intersecting with USBR 25 in Beaverdam, from there heading across the nation, to points north and south.

Three of 12 local school districts within Allen County have adopted a Safe Routes to School Travel Plan (STP) to facilitate the planning, design, and construction of AT projects/programs as well as to advocate for a safe and comfortable commute to school. Students, from the villages of Elida and Spencerville as well as the City of Lima, have new sidewalks, bike racks, traffic signs, etc., all utilizing Ohio Safe Routes to School funding. The Delphos City Schools are currently preparing a School Travel Plan to build new infrastructure, making it easier for their students to walk to school.



Access to civic life by people with disabilities is a fundamental goal of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). To ensure continued federal funding for local projects, jurisdictions must make a significant and long-term commitment to improve the accessibility of pedestrian facilities located within public rights-of-way and create reasonable, accessible paths of travel for everyone, including people with disabilities. The City of Lima as well as the villages of Beaverdam, Elida, and Lafayette have developed ADA Transition Plans to comply with the requirements of the ADA and to make active transportation easier for Allen County's residents.

AT infrastructure is growing in Allen County, but more is needed. Allen County's political subdivisions are taking advantage of available funding to enhance Active Transportation opportunities. While the pedestrian infrastructure network is better, there are still gaps and missing connections. Over 50% of roadways in the Lima Urbanized Area are missing sidewalks on at least one side of the road, including in the Delphos and Bluffton Urban Clusters, as well as the ACRTA service area. Currently there are some 13.7 miles of on-road bike facilities, including bike lanes and bike routes, as well as 63.2 miles of off-road paths for a total of 76.9 miles of bike facilities. To support countywide economic growth and recreational opportunities, AT projects have been prioritized, including such networks as those in the Lima central business district as well as regional corridors, such as USBR 40 and 25. Proposed projects, through the year 2040, include 124.6 miles of on-road bike facilities, 38.6 miles of off-road bike/pedestrian facilities, and 50.2 miles of new sidewalks. In total, project costs approach nearly \$40 million. For more information, contact Thomas Mazur at 419-228-1836 or [tmazur@lacrpc.com](mailto:tmazur@lacrpc.com).

## Safe Winter Driving

Winter driving can present troublesome challenges for even the safest of drivers. Snow and ice make driving more difficult and sometimes even dangerous. Even if you maintain control, not everyone else will. Extra caution must be used once winter has invaded the roadways. Alcohol, fatigue, and aggressive or distracted driving are often factors in crashes. When behind the wheel, make the task of driving your top priority.



### Slippery When Wet

- *Snow or Ice* - Drive well below the posted speed limit and leave plenty of room between cars.
- *Black Ice* - Take it slow when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges, or shady areas – all are hot spots for black ice.
- *Limited Visibility* - Stay attentive and reduce speed. Know what is going on around you.

### Safe Around Snowplows

- *Distance* - Give snowplows room to work. The plows are wide and can cross the centerline or shoulder. Don't tailgate and don't try to pass. If you must pass, take extreme caution and beware of the snow cloud.
- *Speed* - Snowplows travel below the posted speed limit – be patient.
- *Vision* - A snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see them, but they don't always see you. Keep your distance and watch for sudden stops and turns.

### Proceed with Caution

- *Brake* - Brake early, brake slowly, brake correctly, and never slam on the brakes. If you have anti-lock brakes, press the pedal down firmly and hold it. If you don't have anti-lock brakes, gently pump the pedal. Either way, give yourself plenty of room to stop. In a skid, don't panic – take your foot off the accelerator and gently turn the wheels in the direction of the skid.
- *Control* - When driving on ice and snow, do not use cruise control and avoid abrupt steering maneuvers. When merging into traffic, take it slow. Sudden movements can cause your vehicle to slide. Use extra caution on bridges, overpasses, and low lying areas, as they tend to freeze first.
- *Speed and Distance* - The faster you're going, the longer it will take to stop. When accelerating on snow or ice, take it slow to avoid slipping and sliding. Reduce speed and increase the space between you and the car in front of you.
- *Vision* - Be aware of what is going on well ahead of you. Actions by other vehicles will alert you to problems more quickly, and give you that split second of extra time to react safely.

### Be Prepared

- *Knowledge* - Before leaving home, find out about driving conditions by logging on to [www.ohgo.com](http://www.ohgo.com). Safe drivers know the weather and their limits.
- *Clear* - Remove any snow on your vehicles windows, lights, brake lights, and signals. Make sure you can see and be seen.
- *Inspect* - Check your vehicles tires, wiper blades, fluids, lights, belts, and hoses. A breakdown is bad on a good day and dangerous on a bad weather day. If your car is in mechanical trouble, raise the hood of the car, place a bright yellow or orange rag on the antenna, and get back in the car. If the engine works, run the engine about 10 minutes every hour to replace heat. Run the heater and turn on the dome light only while the engine is running.
- *Time* - Leave plenty of time to reach your destination safely. It is not worth putting yourself and others in a dangerous situation just to be on time.
- *Supplies* - Carry a snow shovel, jumper cables, tow rope, salt or cat litter, and a basic tool kit.
- *Stay Put* - If stranded in your car during a blizzard, stay in your car. Unless you are visible for 100 yards or more, you may get lost in the snow or become disoriented in white-out conditions.
- *Fresh Air* - Periodically roll down the window and check your exhaust pipe to make sure it isn't plugged or covered.

## 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											
January 2020				February 2020				March 2020			
Committee	Day	Date	Time	Committee	Day	Date	Time	Committee	Day	Date	Time
DCC	Tuesday	Jan 7	3:00 pm	DCC	Tuesday	Feb 4	3:00 pm	DCC	Tuesday	Mar 3	3:00 pm
CDC	Thursday	Jan 16	3:30 pm	CAAC	Thursday	Feb 13	3:00 pm	CAAC	Thursday	Mar 12	3:00 pm
CAC	Tuesday	Jan 21	10:00 am	DCC	Tuesday	Feb 18	3:00 pm	DCC	Tuesday	Mar 17	3:00 pm
TAC	Tuesday	Jan 21	1:30 pm	CDC	Thursday	Feb 20	3:30 pm	CDC	Thursday	Mar 19	3:30 pm
DCC	Tuesday	Jan 21	3:00 pm	CAC	Tuesday	Feb 25	10:00 am	CAC	Tuesday	Mar 24	10:00 am
TCC	Thursday	Jan 23	3:00 pm	TAC	Tuesday	Feb 25	1:30 pm	TAC	Tuesday	Mar 24	1:30 pm
EC	Thursday	Jan 23	4:00 pm	TCC	Thursday	Feb 27	3:00 pm	TCC	Thursday	Mar 26	3:00 pm
				EC	Thursday	Feb 27	4:00 pm	EC	Thursday	Mar 26	4:00 pm
								DCC	Tuesday	Mar 31	3:00 pm

**LIMA-ALLEN COUNTY  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

130 West North Street  
 Phone: (419) 228-1836  
 Fax: (419) 228-3891  
 Email: [tmazur@lacrpc.com](mailto:tmazur@lacrpc.com)  
 Website: [www.lacrpc.com](http://www.lacrpc.com)