



@LACRPC



Like us on Facebook

## WELCOME

This is the second quarterly FY 2021 newsletter published by the Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission. It is intended to provide timely updates on local transportation projects, area (re) development initiatives, as well as transit and paratransit related news, highway safety, and other activities undertaken by the Planning Commission and our partners. 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 Planning Commission member political subdivisions.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- LACRPC Logo
- Access Ohio 2045
- 2020 Bicycle Friendly Community Bronze Award
- Winter Energy Programs
- Evelyn Smith - Retirement
- Traffic Counts of the Future
- Ohio's Strategic Highway Safety Plan
- Upcoming Meetings



## LACRPC LOGO

With the arrival of 2021, the Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission (LACRPC) unveils yet another new beginning. The logo that pointed people to the LACRPC mission for nearly 30 years, designed by staff member Ron Oder, has been replaced. The new logo, depicted in the newsletter banner above, complements the Lima-Allen County community motto, “Real American Strength”, denoting the cogs of community strength, representing a combination of it’s peo-

ple, place, and partnerships. The new logo focuses on one of the primary transportation functions of the RPC as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Lima - Allen County. The new logo depicts a highway leading to infinite community possibilities far into the future. Beginning immediately, the new logo will be in regular use on all LACRPC correspondence, reports, social media, etc. If you have questions about the new logo, contact Shane Coleman - [scoleman@lacrpc.com](mailto:scoleman@lacrpc.com).

---

## ACCESS OHIO 2045

From connected and self-driving vehicles to shared mobility services for those who cannot or do not want to drive, the year 2045 will look much different than 2020. Ohio's long-range transportation plan, called [Access Ohio 2045](#), prepares for that

rapid transformation in travel. ODOT, local governments, associations, private businesses and residents across the state partnered to produce the Plan. Its vision is that all Ohio will be connected by a safe, smart and collaborative transpor-

tation system that moves people and freight efficiently and reliably and supports community visions. Expect to hear more about Access Ohio 2045 as we begin implementing the thirteen strategies and related initiatives locally.



---

## 2020 BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY BRONZE AWARD

The City of Lima recently received a Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) Award from the League of American Bicyclists; the second such award since 2016. The City joined 51 other communities for a total of 485 BFCs in a movement to build a Bicycle Friendly America for everyone, where people of all ages and abilities have access to safe street networks and local culture is fostered that encourages bicycling for everyone. No communities in Ohio have received a higher designation than the Bronze Award.

A Bicycle Friendly Community award is the culmination of years of work to make biking better by community leaders and local bicycling advocates. Applying for a BFC designation



required a tremendous effort and a team composed of the right people. Gathering the information required for the application took the efforts of the Allen County Bike and Pedestrian Task Force, Allen County Public Health, Activate Allen County, the City of Lima, and the LACRPC. The Team identified several community factors that worked together resulting in the Bronze Award, including: the Ottawa River Bikepath, shared bicycles lanes on several Lima streets, safety education efforts such as bike rodeos, and education provided at Safety City.

---

## WINTER ENERGY PROGRAMS

Ohio's Energy Assistance Programs can help income eligible Ohioans manage their utility bills. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) and emergency HEAP provide the benefit directly to a customer's utility bill. The Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus (PIPP) is an extended payment plan in which customers pay a percentage of their income toward their utility

bill each month. If you are looking to improve the energy efficiency of your home, the Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) or Electric Partnership Program (EPP) can help. For more information about HWAP and EPP visit [energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://energyhelp.ohio.gov). To complete an application, you will need: 1) proof of citizenship for each household member; 2) proof of income for

each household member; 3) copies of most recent utility bills; and disability verification if appropriate. If eligible, the HEAP benefit amount will depend on federal funding levels, how many people live with you, total household income, and the main fuel used. For more information visit [www.energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://www.energyhelp.ohio.gov), or contact the West Ohio Community Action Partnership, 540 S. Central Avenue, Lima, 419.227.2586.

---

---

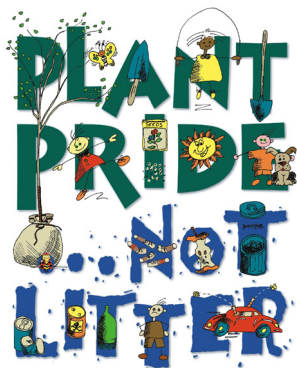
## EVELYN SMITH - RETIREMENT

This has been a year of change at LACRPC, and that change continues this month.



Evelyn Smith, Senior Planner, has announced she is retiring at the end of January, 2021. Evelyn started her career at LACRPC as a temporary secretary in 1993, and almost immediately, became a valued and respected employee. She has been a steadfast source of professionalism, wisdom, and insight throughout the years.

She has developed and successfully administered several grant opportunities and programs during her time at LACRPC. During the 1990s and into the early 2000s, she managed an Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) grant focusing on litter control and recycling. She brought each of these activities into area schools and helped to



develop township collection sites. Volunteer groups were created to pick up litter in alleys and along roadways in an effort to enhance aesthetics and beautify Allen County. It was these efforts that prompted the creation of Keep Allen County Beautiful. A program Evelyn has been involved in since its inception. Her retirement brings with it some uncertainty to the future of KACB. While the 501c3 is being dissolved, it is hoped the mission of KACB can continue with a new group of leaders and volunteers.



One of Evelyn's greatest accomplishments, and one she is most certainly proud of, is the traffic safety programming which has been funded since the early 1990s by a grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety. She has built a coalition of local safety professionals comprised of hospital officials, law enforcement, and emergency medical personnel along with members of the Allen County Public Health and the Allen County Coroner. Additionally, staff from the Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Public Safety, and the Commission join this group in promoting traffic safety

in Allen County. The mission is to reduce the incidence of traffic crashes, especially those resulting in fatal and serious injuries. Coalition members analyze crash data, identify problems, and implement countermeasures that include the 4-Es: education, engineering, enforcement, and emergency medical services. As a result, Evelyn has spearheaded a myriad of events, including those raising awareness about seatbelt use and the risks of distracted driving. She partners with Mothers Against Drunk Driving and continuously works to remind the public of the dangers of impaired driving.

Evelyn has spent countless hours interacting with the community through each of these, and the many other, programs and projects in which she has been an integral player. The impact of Evelyn's work will be felt for years to come. She has been a driving force behind public safety for many years. While all of us will certainly miss her important contributions to the work of the LACRPC, we wish her well in her retirement.

**Lima-Allen County  
Safe Community  
Coalition**



---

## TRAFFIC COUNTS OF THE FUTURE

Collecting information about the way local roadways are currently used is critical to successful transportation planning. For decades, the method used to sample traffic was almost exclusively obtained from intersection, midblock, or railroad settings, using models from MH Corbin.

From those samples, the models were used to normalize a three-year volume of traffic at a given location, thus developing a traffic-count product known as the Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT). That AADT was recorded and stored as part of a location-specific database to answer traffic related questions posed by engineers, planners, those in economic development, as well as many others. After three years, the count expired and was recollected as part of a three-year rotation.

Traffic volumes have always been fluid; governed by the whims of economic downturn, crude oil market fluctuations, and a host of other

*StreetLight Data  
applies proprietary  
machine-learning  
algorithms to measure  
travel patterns, and  
make them available  
on-demand.*

drivers. This year was further complicated by the global pandemic. Government restrictions and public efforts to deal with the spread of COVID-19 led to greatly reduced traffic volumes. Transportation planners nationwide were forced to confront questions that determined the validity of traffic count data, the backbone of the industry.

This spring, Regional Planning had an opportunity to purchase a multi-agency subscription to a new web-based application. Planners eagerly anticipated setting aside old dangerous methods of

collecting traffic data with roadside equipment, for a revolutionary program that harnesses the power of Big Data. Streetlight Data employs location data from mobile devices.

Streetlight Data not only has the ability to provide the same traffic count data, but also new information that in the past was based on a degree of guesswork. Streetlight can find answers to questions such as origin and destination, routing, trip lengths, and answers to other questions end-users have been asking since the inception of the industry.

The Planning Commission hopes to replace the current roadside traffic count program entirely with Streetlight Data. Instead of collecting traffic counts the old way, the end-users of traffic data could soon shift to an as-needed model, that reports multiple years of traffic data, retrievable in moments. To learn more, email Shane Coleman at [scoleman@lacrpc.com](mailto:scoleman@lacrpc.com) or call the Commission at 419.228.1836.



# STREETLIGHT DATA



---

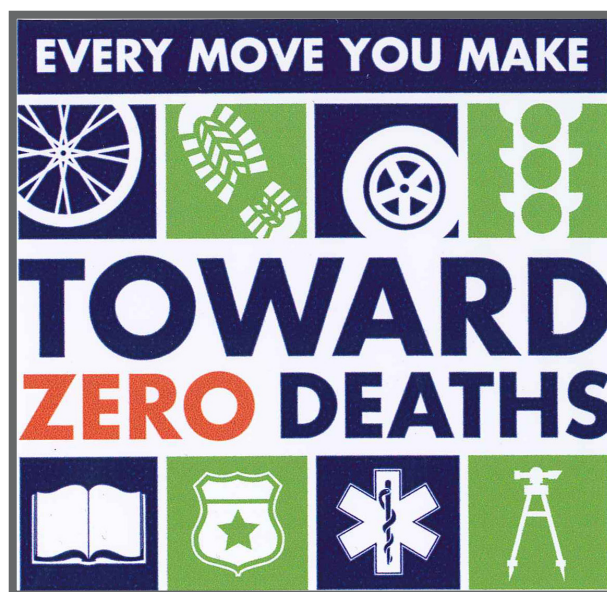
## OHIO'S STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN

Ohio's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) is a comprehensive statewide plan that addresses the most prevalent causes of roadway deaths and serious injuries in Ohio. The U. S. Congress manages surface transportation nationally via the passage of federal transportation bills. Over the past several decades, these bills have required states to develop comprehensive plans to address identified problems as well as to prioritize goals and maximize resources.

The data-driven Plan was developed in collaboration and coordination with local, state, federal, and private sector organizations from a variety of traffic safety disciplines, including engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency response. The team that developed the 2020 Plan included multi-disciplinary stakeholders who focused on safety for all road users, including cars, trucks, trains, motorcycles, bicycles, and pedestrians.

The most recent federal transportation bill passed in 2015, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, established five safety performance measures. States were required to set targets for those measures to demonstrate progress toward reducing crashes, including: number of fatalities, numbers of serious injuries, fatality rate, serious injury rate, as well as number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries.

Ohio has adopted a 2% reduction target across all five measures.



Together, these performance measures are required to foster transparency and accountability, and help track safety progress. A five-year rolling average enables stakeholders to better calculate historical crash trends and set new targets. Five-year rolling averages also better predict long-term crash trends by smoothing out short-term, year-to-year fluctuations.

Toward Zero Deaths is Ohio's transportation safety focus. Reaching this goal requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach among all of Ohio's safety partners. Ohio's SHSP will maximize resources and enable stakeholders to work together to prevent injuries and save lives on all public roads, by working together and making investments that focus on data driven strategies:

- Reduce the occurrence and severity of roadway departure, intersection, and highway/railroad crossing crashes;
- Address high-risk drivers and behaviors, such as young drivers, impaired driving, low seat belt use, distracted driving, older drivers, and excessive speed;
- Target vulnerable roadway users such as - pedestrians, motorcycle and bicycle riders, as well as commercial vehicles, which are more likely to be involved in serious crashes;
- Increase understanding of how connected and automated vehicles can improve safety; and
- Improve the quality, accuracy, timeliness, and availability of data such as - crash, driver, roadway, and emergency care data.

Focusing on these traffic safety issues provides the greatest opportunities for Ohio to move toward zero deaths and reduce serious injuries over the five-year life of this plan. For more information, email Shane Coleman at [scoleman@lacrpc.com](mailto:scoleman@lacrpc.com).

---

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

The following is a list of standing committee meeting dates and times. Planning Commission meetings are open to the public. Typically, meetings are held in the Conference Room of the Commission, at 130 W. North Street, Lima; however, during COVID-19, virtual meetings can be attended online. For details, call 419.228.1836 or attend meetings via Facebook Live.

### COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

January 2021				February 2021				March 2021			
Committee	Day	Date	Time	Committee	Day	Date	Time	Committee	Day	Date	Time
DCC	TUE	1/5	3:00 pm	DCC	TUE	2/2	3:00 pm	DCC	TUE	3/2	3:00 pm
CAAC	THU	1/7	3:00 pm	CAAC	THU	2/11	3:00 pm	CAAC	THU	3/11	3:00 pm
CDC	THU	1/14	3:30 pm	DCC	TUE	2/16	3:00 pm	DCC	TUE	3/16	3:00 pm
CAC	TUE	1/19	10:00 am	CDC	THU	2/18	3:30 pm	CDC	THU	3/18	3:30 am
TAC	TUE	1/19	1:30 pm	CAC	TUE	2/23	10:00 am	CAC	TUE	3/23	10:00 am
DCC	TUE	1/19	3:00 pm	TAC	TUE	2/23	1:30 pm	TAC	TUE	3/23	1:30 pm
AAC	WED	1/20	4:00 pm	AAC	WED	2/24	6:00 pm	AAC	WED	3/24	4:00 pm
TCC	THU	1/21	3:00 pm	TCC	THU	2/25	3:00 pm	TCC	THU	3/25	3:00 pm
EC	THU	1/21	4:00 pm	EC	THU	2/25	4:00 pm	EC	THU	3/25	4:00 pm
								DCC	TUE	3/30	3:00 pm

*Lima Allen County  
Regional Planning Commission  
130 W. North Street  
Lima OH 45801*