



Lima/Allen County
**REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION**

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Shane A. Coleman
Executive Director

TO: CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FROM: Shane A. Coleman, Executive Director
Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission

DATE: July 13, 2021

RE: CAC Meeting

There will be a meeting of the **Citizens Advisory Committee** of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission on **Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Conference Room of the Commission office located at 130 W. North Street, Lima, Ohio.

The agenda will be as follows:

1. Roll Call
2. DRAFT Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
3. Thayer Road Classification Revision
4. Bike/Pedestrian Update
 - a. Bike/Ped Count Review
 - b. Walk.Bike.Ohio Plan Release
 - c. ADA Transition Plans/ODOT Webinar
 - d. Ohio Trails DETOUR App
5. Alternative Energy Update
6. HB168 – Water and Sewer Quality Grant Program
7. Township Funding Opportunity
8. Other
9. Adjournment

Beginning this month (July), all Committee meetings will be in-person as per Ohio Sunshine Laws. Meeting agendas/minutes are published on the LACRPC website; click on the “Committees” tab on the left for more information. Any questions, please feel free to contact the Commission Office at 419-228-3196.

NOTE: PLEASE CALL THE LACRPC WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 20, 2021

There was a meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission on **Tuesday, July 20, 2021**, at 10:00 a.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
2. DRAFT Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
3. Thayer Road Classification Revision
4. Bike/Pedestrian Update
 - a. Bike/Ped Count Review
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A quorum being present, Shane Coleman brought the meeting to order and proceeded with the agenda.

1. **ROLL CALL**

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|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mr. Mark Bishop | Shawnee Township |
| Mr. Tyler Black | JAMPD |
| Mr. Norm Capps | Perry Township |
| Ms. Alice Curth | Delphos Senior Citizens |
| Mr. Matt Graff | West Central Ohio Land Conservancy |
| M. Michael Hensley | Allen County Council on Aging |
| Mr. Patrick Maloney | Legal Aid |

STAFF

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Mr. Shane Coleman | Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission |
| Ms. Marlene Schumaker | Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission |
| Mr. Cody Doyle | Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission |
| Mr. Adam Haunhorst | Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission |

2. **DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)**

Shane Coleman reported the Committee received an update of the document at the last meeting. At this time, there is no draft document ready for review as staff is still working on the report. The first CEDS for Allen County was written in 2005. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) requires an update every five years. The last update to the CEDS was in 2015. Shane Coleman reported that staff was going to wait until the recent Census data was released but at this time the Census data is set to be released in August. Section 4 of the CEDS focuses on population statistics and data of that nature. In the meantime, a couple of county entities (Allen County Sanitary Engineer's Office (ACSEO) and the Allen

Water District) were interested in pursuing EDA funding for projects. Shane Coleman reported that in order to be eligible for EDA funding, the CEDS required updating at this time. There are numerous EDA funding opportunities that require an up-to-date CEDS. Staff met with EDA representatives three weeks ago and a meeting is scheduled for today. Shane Coleman reported Sections 1, 2 and 3 are basically completed. Staff is hoping to pass the CEDS without the updated Section 4 population data and wait until the Census Bureau releases the data. Sections 2 and 8 are the two largest sections and discuss the goals, strategies, and projects. Staff is relying on the Allen Economic Development Group (AEDG) for information pertaining to local economic development projects. Shane Coleman stated that he met with Dave Stratton of AEDG to formulate a strategic plan. AEDG used a survey developed by the Allen Lima Leadership Group which received 850 responses. The AEDG also completed an internal analysis to survey its staff and partners. The information from both surveys was used to develop the strategic plan which identified three primary goals and four secondary goals. Shane Coleman stated that staff will incorporate the AEDG strategic plan document into the CEDS. Next week, staff will send a copy of Sections 2 and 8 to AEDG and Allen Lima Leadership for review and comment. Section 7 is still in the works and deals with the economy, business statistics, agriculture, etc. Shane Coleman reported once a final draft of the CEDS is completed, a copy will be forwarded to all of the internal committee structure for review and comment. Staff is hoping to pass the final at the next round of meetings which would allow local entities to apply for EDA funds for their projects.

3. THAYER ROAD CLASSIFICATION REVISION

Cody Doyle reported that a handout was included in each packet and stated that the handout relates to the Thayer Road Classification Revision. The local roadway system is called the Functional Classification of Roadways and each roadway is classified from interstates to local roadways. The MPO cannot allocate federal funds to township or local roadways, only to the higher order roadways. Shane Coleman stated that Thayer Road has had issues over the past five years. There was a Thayer Road Corridor Study that was completed about a year ago. The Study was conducted by Mott-McDonald, a consulting firm. Based upon the Study and other anecdotal evidence, the MPO will be requesting that the classification of Thayer Road be revised. Cody Doyle reported that the corridor has two different classifications US 30 to SR 117; from SR 81 to SR 117, Thayer Road is classified as one type of road and from SR 81 to US 30, Thayer Road is classified as a different type of roadway. The MPO is arguing that the roadway is now serving the same purpose and has basically become a by-pass around Lima and it is moving goods and people much more than in the past. The MPO has support from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) District 1 and the Allen County Engineer's Office (ACEO). Mr. Doyle reported that the first page is a letter drafted by Shane Coleman and Brion Rhodes, Allen County Engineer. The second and third pages contain a Statement of Justification and the last page is a map. The packet submitted also contained a copy of the corridor study. The packet was submitted to Brion Rhodes and ODOT District 1 for their review and comment. Mr. Doyle reported that once the packet has gone through the internal committee structure for approval, the packet will be submitted to ODOT Central Office for review and comment/approval. If approved for reclassification, it will recognize what the corridor is actually being used as.



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4. BIKE/PEDESTRIAN UPDATE

a. Bike/Ped Count Review

Adam Haunhorst presented a PowerPoint to the Committee. Staff partnered with Activate Allen County and the Bike/Ped Task Force to gather the bike/ped counts in May. Adam Haunhorst reported that in September and May each year, there are a number of locations are counted by staff and local volunteers. In 2021, there was a dramatic increase in pedestrian traffic. Bicycle counts remain elevated as compared to pre-COVID counts. The slides represent a single day count. Adam Haunhorst reported that the top 5 locations counted are Kendrick Woods Loop, Herman Woodlands, Market and Main, Main and Spring and Riverwalk at Heritage Park. Adam Haunhorst reported that there were 522 count locations available in 2021, 277 locations were uncounted (53%), some locations were not given on the sign-in sheets and weekend counts were the least sign-up for. The next counts will be taken in September. Adam Haunhorst reported that there were significantly more counts performed in 2021 vs. 2020 (12.8%) but slightly worse than 2019. The data gathered is used by multiple entities such as Activate Allen County, Bike/Ped Task Force, RPC, health care entities, etc.

b. Walk.Bike.Ohio Plan Release

Marlene Schumaker reported the Walk.Bike.Ohio Plan was in the material that the Committee received. This is the first time that ODOT has put together a statewide plan that truly incorporates bike and pedestrians and how this type of transportation will be included in long-range planning.

c. ADA Transition Plans/ODOT Webinar

Marlene Schumaker reported ADA rules and regulations passed in 1990. All political jurisdictions are required to have an ADA Transition Plan in place. Staff is working with the Village of Spencerville to assist them with creating a plan. The village will conduct the surveying of the village's current facilities. The ADA focus for RPC is transportation focused which includes sidewalks, curb ramps, etc. Ms. Schumaker reported that staff has committed to help Delphos finish their ADA Transition Plan as well as assist Bluffton finish their Plan. These tasks are included in the RPC's FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The City of Lima completed their own ADA Transition Plan and it is in place.

d. Ohio Trails DETOUR App

Marlene Schumaker reported that the next handout refers to the Walk.Bike.Ohio Plan Release. The handout comes directly from ODOT and provides information pertaining to the Ohio Trails DETOUR App. The App is new from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). At this time Allen County is not part of the App. Tyler Black of the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District (JAMPD) has already submitted information to ODNR. It will take some time for the information to be integrated into the App. Staff reached out to Bluffton, Lima and Delphos about providing their GPS data to ODNR to be added to the App.



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5. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY UPDATE

Marlene Schumaker reported that legislation passed at the State level as part of the budget process giving counties more input wind and solar projects. Staff is working with the Prosecutor's Office to determine what this legislation might mean. There are also multiple townships working with the Prosecutor for the same reason. Marlene Schumaker reported that because of these changes, staff believes that there may be action taken at the county level in terms of planning, land use plans, etc. Staff believes other townships will come back to the RPC to update their zoning resolutions and comprehensive plans to include alternative energy.

6. HB168 – WATER AND SEWER QUALITY GRANT PROGRAM

Marlene Schumaker reported that State of Ohio passed a program as part of the budget authorizing \$250 million to be spent on water and sewer improvements. The County Engineers are in charge of the program. Project submissions must be made to the Allen County Engineer's Office (ACEO). At this time, staff does not know any of the rules or scoring but the timeframe will be tight. .

7. TOWNSHIP FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Marlene Schumaker reported that last handout in each packet contains information pertaining to township stimulus funding. This is a one-time program that ODOT is putting out there for townships. Every township within the state is eligible to apply for funds from the \$8 million allocated for this program. There is a project cap of \$250,000 with projects eligible for 100% funding. The funds are available now and the funds must be spent by the end of 2024. Ms. Schumaker stated that staff was informed by the Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) that there are very few restrictions. The funds can be used for culverts, stone roads, etc. Staff believes that ODOT will be direct-mailing all of the townships once the rules are identified. Staff is available to assist if needed.

8. OTHER

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

