



Lima/Allen County
**REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION**

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TO: TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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Mr. Steve Kayatin Mr. Greg Kessen
Ms. Cindy Leis Mr. Mike Leis
Mr. Jamie Mehaffie Mr. Shawn McPheron
Mr. Jed Metzger Mr. Ron Meyer
Mr. Kirk Niemeyer Mr. Charles Schreck
Mr. Tony Wilkerson

FROM: Mr. Dan Kaseman, Chair

DATE: May 18, 2021

RE: TAC Meeting

There will be a **Transportation Advisory Committee** meeting of the Lim-Allen County Regional Planning Commission held on **Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.** via teleconference from the Commission office located at 130 W. North Street, Lima, Ohio.

The agenda will be as follows:

1. Roll Call & Introductions
2. Approval of TAC minutes – April 20, 2021
3. RTA Report
4. FINAL Transit Development Plan
5. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
6. FEMA Mapping Update
7. Other
8. Adjournment

To comply with Ohio Director of Health guidelines and orders limiting/prohibiting group gatherings of more than 10 persons, no in-person attendance at LACRPC meetings by the public will be available. The public can view committee meetings via the LACRPC Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Lima-Allen-County-Regional-Planning-Commission-114563720277180/>. Anyone wanting to exercise Privilege-of-the-Floor, for a committee meeting, must contact the LACRPC at 419-228-1836. Meeting agendas/minutes are published on the LACRPC website; click on the "Committees" tab on the left for more meeting information.

c: Mr. Chris Hughes, ODOT

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

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 25, 2021

There was a **Transportation Advisory Committee** meeting of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission held on **Tuesday, May 25, 2021**, at **1:30 p.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 & Introductions
2. Approval of TAC minutes – April 20, 2021
3. RTA Report
4. FINAL Transit Development Plan
5. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
6. FEMA Mapping Update
7. Other
8. Adjournment

A quorum being present via teleconference, Dan Kaseman brought the meeting to order and proceeded with the agenda.

1. ROLL CALL

Ms. Karen Garland	Allen County Regional Transit Authority
Mr. Dan Kaseman	Village of Elida
Mr. Steve Kayatin	ACSEO
Ms. Cindy Leis	AEDG
Mr. Mike Leis	Village of Beaverdam
Mr. Jamie Mehaffie	City of Delphos
Mr. Shawn McPheron	EMH&T
Mr. Jed Metzger	Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Ron Meyer	Allen County Engineer's Office
Mr. Kirk Niemeyer	City of Lima
Mr. Charles Schreck	Ohio Department of Transportation District 1

GUESTS

Mr. Anthony Hill	Ohio Department of Transportation Central Office
Mr. Trevor Hubert	Lima News

STAFF

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

2. APPROVAL OF TAC MINUTES – April 20, 2021

Motion 24 (05-25-21) TAC

Mike Leis made the motion that the TAC minutes of April 20, 2021, be approved. Seconded by Ron Meyer; motion carried.

3. RTA REPORT

Karen Garland stated the Committee should have received the Allen County Regional Transit Authority (ACRTA) ridership information via email. March ridership numbers increased dramatically and April's ridership numbers continue to follow the upward trend. RTA has been receiving numerous calls for trips. Karen Garland reported the Bluffton and Delphos routes will begin June 7th. Both communities are extremely receptive to the routes. RTA will have buses in both communities during the day and one evening this week and next week to familiarize the residents with RTA.

Motion 25 (05-25-21) TAC

Kirk Niemeyer made the motion to accept the ACRTA Report. Seconded by Ron Meyer; motion carried.

4. FINAL TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Marlene Schumaker reported that there have been no changes to the document since last month. The RTA Board did finalize the Transit Development Plan (TDP) earlier this month.

Motion 26 (05-25-21) TAC

Jed Metzger made the motion to accept the FINAL Transit Development Plan and forward the recommendation to the TCC for approval. Seconded by Karen Garland; motion carried.

5. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)

Shane Coleman reported the Allen County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is due to be updated. The CEDS was first created in 2005 and is required to be updated every 5 years. The last update was in 2015 making Allen County a year behind. Staff is currently working on the update. Shane Coleman reported that the Current CEDS is 209 pages and is available on the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission (LACRPC) website. The CEDS is a continuous economic development planning process that addresses Allen County's economic potential as well as some of Allen County's problems. It also promotes sustainable economic development and opportunities, fosters effective transportation systems, and balances fiscal resources through sound management while enhancing and protecting the environment. Shane Coleman stated the CEDS takes a broad look at economic development and the CEDS is a countywide document. The document was created through broad-based and diverse community participation. The CEDS provides for long-range development, identifies and implements solutions to short-term problems. The reason a CEDS is important is that in order for the county to be eligible for Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding, an entity that might apply for EDA funds must be a part of the CEDS document. It is also a prerequisite for a designation by the EDA as an Economic Development District (EDD). Shane Coleman stated that he met with Dave Stratton of Allen Economic Development Group (AEDG). AEDG has been working on its own comprehensive plan and used surveys as part of its public participation process. Staff may be able to use AEDG's results as part of this process. Shane Coleman stated that some local entities applied for EDA funds last year (City of Lima and City of Delphos) and both requests for funds were not granted as priorities of the EDA were changed due to the pandemic. The Allen Water District and the Allen County Sanitary Engineer's Office (ACSEO) are both interested in applying for EDA funds for projects as the funds become available. Shane Coleman reported as there are funds being released by the federal government due to the pandemic and stated that there is a potential for funds to be

5. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) (Continued)

available for Allen County through the EDA making the update of the CEDS important. Staff is working on updating the document at this time and there are partners that have agreed to help fund the update such as the City of Lima, City of Delphos, Allen County Commissioners, and the Water and Sewer Districts. Shane Coleman reported that as part of the update process, staff had a conversation with EDA last week about possibly establishing an EDD. The conversation entailed whether an EDD would be beneficial to Allen County, the pros and cons, and is an EDD something the county would like to pursue. Establishing an EDD is a lengthy process and probably would entail “buy-in” from multiple counties in the region. The EDD would look at economic development regionally and local economic development officials would continue to do what they do. The EDD would help to “open up” the various EDA funding streams to the area, allow staff, etc. to do some long-range planning as it relates to economic development, begin looking at projects that might be able to be funded with EDA monies, and prioritize those projects in the hopes of pushing forward projects of regional significance which might score better than if they were just local projects. Steve Kayatin asked if Shane Coleman would speak to the matching funds available through the EDA and how much the shared cost of the CEDS would be for each partner as well as the timeline. Shane Coleman replied that based on his research, establishing an EDD could be up to a 2-year process based on information pertaining to other areas that are working to create an EDD. Staff will be updating the current CEDS based on the existing agreements with the partners as the document needs to be updated sooner rather than later. Steve Kayatin asked if there must be a district EDD in order to apply for match funds. Shane Coleman replied in the affirmative and stated that the EDA will not fund a single county CEDS. Cindy Leis stated the Greater Lima Region represents Lima as the center of an eight-county region. Shane Coleman stated that the Biden Administration is looking to have more districts created in “gap” areas. The biggest hold-up to RPC’s various documents is the 2020 Census data is supposed to be released in August. No action is required at this time.

6. FEMA MAPPING UPDATE

Shane Coleman reported staff is making a pointed effort to speak with all of the RPC Committees and I am out and about at the local political jurisdictions as part of the public participation process. Then Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) is in the process of updating the floodplain maps in Allen County. A local administrator’s meeting was held earlier this spring. Staff has reviewed the map updates and the next step in the process is a 90-day comment period. The comment period will commence sometime this summer. Staff anticipates the comment period to begin in June or July. Shane Coleman reported once FEMA has posted the changes to the Federal Register, FEMA will notify RPC that the comment period has begun. Residents in Allen County will have 90-days to comment on or dispute the new maps. Staff would like the Committee members to know that if you live in or near a floodplain, you know someone who lives in or near a floodplain, you have the ability to check these maps. The floodplains in Allen County have increased some with some areas increasing extensively and other areas not so much. Shane Coleman stated that the maps are on the screen for the Committee to view and stated then blue represents the existing floodplains and red are the areas being proposed. RPC does have the maps available for review. Shane Coleman stated that comments from another committee were if the comment going to mean anything and are the maps be approved either way. Staff reached out to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and asked what RPC should do during the comment period. Any person is welcome to comment but if one is going to dispute the mapping, then data to back up the dispute needs to be present. Shane Coleman reported that flood insurance rates are changing and the change is

6. FEMA MAPPING UPDATE (Continued)

set to go into effect in September. Steve Kayatin asked why some people would see a decrease in their flood insurance rates. Adam Haunhorst replied that FEMA bases its rates on geographic location as well as the number of claims. Some areas in Allen County, the floodplain is shrinking which would affect rates or a person never made a claim. Steve Kayatin asked if there are maps that show the areas where the floodplain is decreasing. Adam Haunhorst replied that he created the maps and determined that more people are interested where the floodplain is increasing thereby making the flood insurance rates increase than floodplains decreasing and people paying less for flood insurance. FEMA has put together a public mapping program and a person can enter their address to determine if they are in a floodplain and whether the update has affected their property. Adam Haunhorst stated that anyone that lives in Allen County and participates in the floodplain program is eligible for flood insurance regardless is one lives in a floodplain or not. There are a number of areas within the county that regularly flood but are not considered part of the floodplains because they have not been studied. Kirk Niemeyer asked how close RPC is to completing the updates to the floodplain regulations. Shane Coleman replied that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) is going to assist the RPC staff in the update process as well as furnishing some data. Dan Kaseman asked if the maps would be emailed to the Committee after the meeting. Adam Haunhorst replied in the affirmative. No action required at this time.

7. OTHER

a. In-Person Committee Meetings

Shane Coleman stated that it has been asked by several people as to whether there will be in-person Committee meetings now that the mandates are being relaxed or canceled. This question will be discussed at the AAC meeting tomorrow. Staff's understanding is the mandates will "expire" June 2nd and Shane Coleman stated that it is his intention to ask the AAC for their "blessing" to offer in-person or virtual attendance at Committee meetings. Whatever the decision of the AAC, staff will notify the Committee's the decision. Steve Kayatin asked if virtual attendance will be offered if a person would like to use that option. Shane Coleman replied in the affirmative and stated that as long as the State of Ohio will allow virtual attendance.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 27 (05-25-21) TAC

Mike Leis made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Steve Kayatin; motion carried.