



Lima/Allen County
**REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION**

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TO: TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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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: August 17, 2021

RE: TAC Meeting

There will be a **Transportation Advisory Committee** meeting of the Lim-Allen County Regional Planning Commission held on **Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.** at 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 – July 20, 2021
3. RTA Report
4. Final Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
5. Thayer Road Classification Revision Update
6. Bike/Pedestrian Update
7. FY 2022 Unified Work Plan Budget Update
8. Township Funding Update
9. Other
10. Adjournment

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.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 24, 2021

There was a **Transportation Advisory Committee** meeting of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission held on **August 24, 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 – July 20, 2021
3. RTA Report
4. Final Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
5. Thayer Road Classification Revision Update
6. Bike/Pedestrian Update
7. FY 2022 Unified Work Plan Budget Update
8. Township Funding Update
9. Other
10. Adjournment

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

1. ROLL CALL

Mr. Sean Chapman	Village of Spencerville
Ms. Karen Garland	Allen County Regional Transit Authority
Mr. Dan Kaseman	Village of Elida
Mr. Steve Kayatin	Allen County Sanitary Engineer
Ms. Cindy Leis	AEDG
Mr. Jamie Mehaffie	City of Delphos
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

STAFF

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

2. APPROVAL OF TAC MINUTES – July 20, 2021

Motion 33 (08-24-21) TAC

Ron Meyer made the motion that the TAC minutes of July 20, 2021, be approved. Seconded by Jamie Mehaffie, motion carried.

3. RTA REPORT

Karen Garland reported in July, the numbers for Delphos and Bluffton did increase, and as more businesses are notified of the service, RTA expects the numbers to continue rising. A handful of older women wanted to come to Lima one day a week, and they were not aware that they could buy an all-day pass for just \$3.00. So, we anticipate that type of ridership will also increase. The community events in July were up, and that was exciting. Event ridership will go down as the weather cools off. Two brand new buses will be coming, and staff will go to California on September 7 to inspect those coming off of the production line. We want to make sure what we ordered is what we get. Then the company will drive the buses to our agency. The masking requirement on public transportation has been extended at least until January 22, 2022. RTA is required to follow that, and the riders are giving some pushback on that. RTA is also looking for drivers. Both Brian and Karen will be driving several days this week.

Motion 34 (08-24-21) TAC

Steve Kayatin made the motion to accept the ACRTA Report. Seconded by Ron Cindy Leis, motion carried.

4. FINAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDs)

Shane Coleman explained to the committee that a rough draft was brought to the committee last month, and the staff has been working on the updates since then. The new CEDs is online, and comments can be submitted until Thursday, August 26, 2021.

Mr. Coleman went over the CEDs as follows:

Section 1 is an introduction outlining the history of the economic plan, the philosophy developed by a host of individuals, and the process that has historically been undertaken as a part of the CEDs process. Mr. Coleman reminded the committee that the plan was developed in 2005, updated in 2010, 2015, and again now.

Section 2 Organization/Management: Section 2.4 talks about the chronology of events. Some of the 2015 events remain to show a basis for what is in the document. It also includes the entire AEDG Strategic Plan to give one giant look at economic development since 2015. AEDG partnered with IQ Partners for a two-day workshop in 2015 and 2017 to create the Greater Lima Region Collaborative Growth Plan. The AEDG strategic plan incorporates a survey that Lima Allen Leadership conducted last fall. More than 800 responses were used to form the strategies in this strategic plan. Staff used this plan and the Business Outlook Survey conducted by AEDG as a basis for the CEDs. Another area to highlight in section 2 is 2.6, development issues. Many of these were held over from the previous document, so please look them over, and if there are other issues because of the pandemic, let us know, and we would be happy to include those. We do not want to miss anything. The document will be up for final adoption on Thursday, August 26, 2021.

Section 3 Site and Situation: not much has changed regarding the basis of the data and types of data collected. Mr. Coleman did want to highlight a couple of things on page 24 about land used based on parcel analysis. Based on Dec 2020 auditor parcel data (land uses from 2014 thru 2021). There was a 4600-acre increase in residentially zoned parcels. The total acres dedicated to industrial use have decreased by 250 acres, down from 5600 acres to a little over 5300, and agricultural land use has dropped by over 1700 acres. The two tables on page 24 show the land use by type, number of acres, and number of parcels and will show you how each of those has changed since 2014, which was interesting and

worth noting. Then on page 25, in recent years, the agricultural ground has been used indiscriminately for development, especially family home sites. Such plan development has resulted in uncoordinated and haphazard development along once rural roadways and now results in the expansion of infrastructure for health, safety, and environmental hazards. That statement was part of the previous document. We left it in there because we discussed a much more long-term plan to develop long-range planning throughout the county, including Allen County Water and Sewer and other Allen County entities. We are looking at the land use and where it best fits the county's commercial and industrial investment. I think you will see more work committed to this as we have had some great meetings. A County Commissioner and AEDG have put together monthly meetings of local stakeholders to discuss development. It has been very beneficial. We are starting to see people come together to do some long-term planning.

Section 4 Population: we have not touched this yet because we received the population data last week. There is a pretty good portion of this section that will still need to be updated. Anything that we can't update, we will come back and visit at a later date. We are pushing to get this passed and submitted so that everyone can remain eligible for the funding. Hopefully, you have all had a chance to see the census data, just a couple of interesting things. LACRPC has been tracking population since 1960, and when we talk about how the population has changed, we use the 1980 census numbers a lot when we talk about population decline. However, if you go back to 1960, the 2010 Census still showed a 2.5 % increase in the overall population since 1960. The 2020 Census now shows the population below the 1960 numbers. Allen County is now down 1.4% from the 1960 population total.

Section 5 deals a lot with the environment, and there is nothing to highlight there. The maps have all been updated, and every piece of data we could update has been changed. So, a lot of it doesn't change over time. But, we did note the Ohio H2O program related to the environment and water quality and things of that nature.

Section 6 is the big one for us as we talk about infrastructure factors; again, this is one of the main reasons the jurisdictions in the county wanted this update to happen. This document opens up the infrastructure funding at EDA, one of the most significant pots of money they have to draw on. This section deals with water, wastewater, and items of that nature. We highlight in our summary the critical issues of concern for future development, adequacy, and cost associated with infrastructure, transportation network, water distribution, wastewater removal, land use, and typical public concerns. The importance of the I75 and US 30 corridors is discussed and the link between industrial development and transportation. There is concern about how the transportation network affects growth and how we have to work and plan together for those areas. The community must begin to recognize the capital assets already invested in and devoted to its various water and wastewater systems. In addition, the ability to financially establish and support expansion must meet primary cost-benefit analyses. Concerns regarding water and wastewater systems include the age of distribution and collection systems. This is something that our communities are dealing with right now. Water and wastewater issues have been ongoing for many years and will affect our pocketbooks and future development.

Section 7 Economic Analysis: Some of the categories have changed, but the 2019 Labor Statistics suggest that just five employment sectors comprise 77.4 percent of the employment in Allen County. Those are Manufacturing, Professional/Management/Scientific, Retail, Education, and Arts/Entertainment/ Food Service. From 2014 thru 2019 there was a 18.5% drop in retail, a 45.5% increase in professional/management/ scientific sector. The other big change was a 27.4% increase in arts, entertainment, and recreation. Page 37 begins the agricultural census data.

Section 8: Mr. Coleman requested that committee members look at this section as the action plan, and future goals are being developed and approved. Please let us know if anything needs to be included. The goals and strategies are from the goals set over the past years and from the strategic plan. Some of the goals are stand-alone, while others intertwine with the goals of the previous CEDS. From the committee's perspective, sections 2 and 8 are pretty important. We would appreciate any feedback you may have on the document. It is still a work in progress, and we can make changes until Thursday of next week.

Motion 35 (08-24-2021) TAC

Jed Metzger made a motion to accept the FINAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY. Seconded by Steve Kayatin, motion carried.

5. THAYER ROAD CLASSIFICATION REVISION UPDATE

Shane Coleman reminded the committee that last month there was a discussion on the reclassification of Thayer Road from US 30 thru SR117. The request was made to ODOT to make that section of Thayer to a major collector, the request was granted, and that entire corridor is now eligible for federal funding. In addition, the new classification more accurately depicts the usage of the road.

No motion is needed—just an update.

6. BIKE/PEDESTRIAN UPDATE

Bike and pedestrian counts will be done from September 13-19, 2021. If you have participated in the past, Thank You, and please do so again; if you have not counted in the past but would like to do so now, please let us know, and we will send you the sign-up information.

No motion needed—just an update.

7. FY 2022 UNIFIED WORK PLAN BUDGET UPDATE

Marlene Schumaker explained to the committee that in July/August, an update to the Unified Work Program budget is required. The UPWP is initially prepared in January. In January, ODOT supplies LACRPC with an estimated amount to prepare the budget for the FY that begins on July 1. In July, ODOT then adjusts the amount for the budget to an actual encumbrance amount. In FY 2022, there was a decrease in the budget amount of approximately \$10,000. Also, in July, ODOT allows LACRPC to figure the remaining amount not spent in the previous fiscal year and put that carryover into the updated budget. For FY 2022, the Consolidated Planning Grant carryover was approximately 187,800, and the STP carryover was about \$140,180.

Motion 36 (08-24-2021) TAC

Steve Kayatin made a motion to accept the FY 2022 Unified Work Plan Budget Update. Seconded by Ron Meyer, motion carried.

8. TOWNSHIP FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Last month the township funding opportunity was discussed. Currently, two townships have reached out to LACRPC and the County Engineer for application assistance. Charles Schreck wanted the committee to know that this is a one-time opportunity with ODOT allowing the townships to use this funding on roadways that in the past have not been eligible for ODOT funding

No motion is needed-just an update

9. OTHER

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 37 (08-24-21) TAC

Steve Kayatin made the motion that the meeting is adjourned. Seconded by Ron Meyer, motion carried.