

CITIZENS ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 13, 2020

There was a meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission on **Tuesday, May 13, 2020**, 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/Introduction
2. Approval of CAAC Minutes – February 6, 2020
3. RTA Report
4. Bike/Pedestrian Update
5. Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Update
6. ADA Transition Plans
7. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
8. FEMA Floodplain Mapping
9. Other
10. Adjournment

A quorum being present, Shane Coleman brought the meeting to order, requested introductions and proceeded with the agenda.

1. **ROLL CALL**

Ms. Alice Curth	Delphos Senior Citizens
Ms. Carole Enneking	Family & Children First Council
Ms. Karen Garland	Allen County Regional Transit Authority
Mr. Michael Hensley	Allen County Council on Aging
Mr. Jacob King	Rhodes State College
Mr. Joe Lewis	Marimor Industries
Mr. Charles Schreck	Ohio Department of Transportation District 1
Ms. Beca Sheidler	Area Agency on Aging ³
Mr. Josh Unterbrink	Activate Allen County

STAFF

Mr. Shane Coleman Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission

2. **APPROVAL OF CAAC MINUTES – February 6, 2020**

Shane Coleman reported to Committee members that copies of February 6, 2020 minutes were emailed and/or mailed to Committee members and asked if there were any comments or corrections. The Committee accepted the minutes as presented.

3. **RTA REPORT**

Karen Garland stated that a copy of the April ridership stats was emailed to each Committee member. Ridership numbers continue to increase and the staff of the Allen County Regional Transit Authority (ACRTA) is excited as the April ridership numbers for 2021 are double what they were in April 2020. Karen Garland reported that the Bluffton and Delphos fixed routes will begin on June 7th. ACRTA will have several Public Service Announcements (PSA's) on the radio. RTA administrative staff participated in an interview which will air on the radio this Sunday.

4. BIKE/PEDESTRIAN UPDATE

a. Activate Allen County Bike/Pedestrian Brochure and Map

Shane Coleman reported a map should be displayed on a shared screen with Committee members. Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission (LACRPC) staff has been working with Activate Allen County over the past several months to update the bike/trail map Activate Allen county has been using. RPC staff has worked with the Village of Spencerville, Bluffton, City of Lima, Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District (JAMPD) as well as others to update the map. Shane Coleman reported the map was presented to the internal committee structure of the RPC in April. The map/brochure is out for public review and comment. Staff is just waiting to finalize some Village of Bluffton information. Staff anticipates the comment period to be over by the end of next week and then Activate Allen County can have copies printed and available for public use. Josh Unterbrink thanked the RPC and Adam Haunhorst and John Kesner for all the work they did to update the brochure and map(s).

b. Bike/Ped Counts

Shane Coleman reported that this is Bike/Ped count week. Several spots are still open for volunteers to sign-up to count. If any Committee member would like the link to sign-up, please let RPC know and staff will forward the link to you. Shane Coleman stated that RPC staff is compiling the results of the counts as they come in.

c. Active Crash Data

Shane Coleman reported that staff has compiled a short PowerPoint presentation to update the Committee on bike crashes in Allen County and compare the numbers to the Ohio State crashes and the trends over time. Staff presented this information to the Bike/Ped Task Force. Based on some questions and comments staff received, staff reviewed the Active Transportation Plan to determine what was actually being tracked internally. Staff will go back and update some of the figures. Shane Coleman reported that over time, the trend for Allen County is in line with the trend for the State of Ohio in bike crashes. The same is true for pedestrian crashes from 2011 to 2020. Shane Coleman reported that there were four pedestrian deaths in Allen County in 2020. None of these were bicycle-related. Staff did find some interesting anomalies and believes that two of the four pedestrian crashes may have been suicide-related.

5. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) UPDATE

Shane Coleman reported that since this Committee last met, the City of Delphos, Delphos City Schools, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), Allen County Public Health, etc. were involved in creating the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) travel plan for the City of Delphos and applied for funding. Late last summer, Delphos was notified they had been awarded a \$395,000 grant for an SRTS project. The project will encompass sidewalks near and around Franklin Elementary and Jefferson Middle School. The project will also include crosswalk and signage updates as well as curb ramp improvements such as adding when none exist and updating current curb ramps. Pedestrian signals will also be added at Second and Jefferson streets. Shane Coleman reported that the City of Lima is applying for SRTS funds for a project. Staff is working with Lima on a school travel plan with the target schools being Freedom and Independence Elementary schools, Liberty Arts and the South Science and Magnet schools. Josh Unterbrink asked when the Delphos SRTS project will break ground. Shane Coleman replied that he believes it to be a 2023 project.

6. ADA TRANSITION PLANS

Shane Coleman reported the need for these plans to be developed or updated continues to exist. The City of Delphos was working with the RPC on an ADA transition plan when Thomas Mazur was still Executive Director. Delphos did not complete their ADA transition plan before Shane Coleman stated he became Executive Director of the RPC. Staff will actively be working on ADA transition plans as part of its 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) which begins in July. Shane Coleman reported RPC staff will be working with the Village of Spencerville, Bluffton, and the City of Delphos to get their ADA transition plans completed. Shane Coleman stated that he and a member of staff have a meeting with the Village of Spencerville on Monday evening prior to their Council meeting. The Village Administrator and various Council members are going to survey sidewalks, etc. Shane Coleman stated that RPC has not yet initiated any conversations with the City of Delphos about their ADA transition plan. Staff reached out to the Village of Bluffton this spring to offer to help the village complete an ADA transition plan. Staff hopes to have all three Plans completed and approved over the next twelve to fourteen months.

7. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)

Shane Coleman stated he was unsure if this topic relates to this Committee but reported that as part of the public participation process, he wanted to be sure the Committee was aware of some things that are going on. Shane Coleman reported the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a continuous economic development planning process that works to address Allen County's economic potential as well as any problems that might exist within the county. Through broad-based and diverse community participation, the CEDS process provides for long-range development while identifying and implementing solutions to short-term problems. Shane Coleman reported that the CEDS is a document that is required to be updated every five years. The last time the CEDS was updated was in 2015 meaning that the document is a year behind being updated. Staff has reached out to several partners such as the City of Lima, City of Delphos, Allen County Commissioners, Allen County Sanitary Engineer (ACSE) and Allen Water District in order to get the process moving on updating the document. These partners have agreed to help with the funding of the development of the updated CEDS document. A CEDS document is important to the above entities because the CEDS is required in order to qualify for Economic Development Administration (EDA) assistance. Shane Coleman stated that the City of Lima and the City of Delphos both submitted large applications to the EDA last year. Due to the pandemic, the priorities of the EDA were "adjusted". The City of Delphos application was denied due to pandemic priorities. Staff does not know if the City of Lima received an award. ASCE is looking at EDA funding for some projects in the future. Staff has a meeting with the Allen Economic Development Group (AEDG) next week and then staff will begin working on the CEDS along with a CEDS Committee. If any member of this Committee would like to be involved, please let staff know.

8. FEMA FLOODPLAIN MAPPING

Shane Coleman stated that staff is meeting with the local political subdivisions as part of the public participation process to inform them about transportation, SRTS, ADA transition plans as well as the FEMA floodplain mapping update. Staff floodplain administrators met with FEMA about a month ago pertaining to the floodplain mapping updates. There are many changes proposed. The floodplain in Allen County is growing; minimally in some areas and quite significantly in other areas. Shane Coleman stated that the RPC will begin a 90-day comment period sometime this summer once the updates are posted to the Federal Register. If any Committee member or someone they know lives in a floodplain or believes

8. **FEMA FLOODPLAIN MAPPING** (Continued)

they live near a floodplain, let them know and call the RPC and staff will help determine whether the property will be in the floodplain. Property owners need to be aware of whether they are located in the floodplain as it can negatively impact the property.

9. **OTHER**

None.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 P.M.