



# LIMA-ALLEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

SPRING 2022 • Volume 22 • Issue 3



## WELCOME

This newsletter 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 (FTA), the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and the Planning Commission member political subdivisions.

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## Bike and Pedestrian Counts



The Allen County Bike and Pedestrian Task Force is seeking your help! Bike and pedestrian counts are conducted twice a year, during five time periods at 40 locations across Allen County. Volunteers are always needed to complete these counts. You may be asking why your help is needed and why is it important? These counts are conducted to:

- Gauge local levels of bicycling and walking beyond what is already available from Census data.
- Identify trends based on count data to aid the planning and design of multimodal transportation infrastructure and the implementation and execution of encouragement, educational, and enforcement programs.
- Aid in the prioritization of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and planning projects.

## 2022 NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK

National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) is slated for April 11-15, 2022. This annual campaign is held at the start of the construction season to encourage safe driving through highway work zones. In 2021, there were 4,796 work zone crashes in Ohio, resulting in 29 deaths.

For more information regarding Ohio State Highway Patrol's efforts to aggressively enforce work zone safety, check out the OSHP Work Zone Dashboard at [www.workzonedashboard.ohio.gov](http://www.workzonedashboard.ohio.gov)

### Work Zones in Ohio 2017-Current Data as of 3/28/2022



25,934  
Crashes  
Worker present = 38%

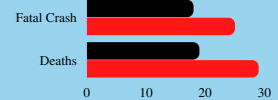


79,021 Citations  
Issued by OSHP  
20+ mph over limit = 35%

90 Fatal Crashes  
99 Deaths  
Fatalities +53% in 2021  
• 2020 • 2021



Mon-Fri  
7 am-7 pm  
Weekday crashes = 63%



## Virtual Meetings

The Ohio Legislature approved a provision allowing public boards, councils, and commissions to conduct online meetings and hearings through the end of June.

Ohio's Open Meetings Act requires that members of a public body be present in-person to be counted as part of a quorum and to deliberate, discuss or vote on any issue considered at the meeting.

*This provision allows members to attend and vote virtually by following specific requirements.*

Contact LACRPC offices at 419-228-1836 for more information regarding virtual attendance.

## THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) includes billions of dollars in competitive funding available to cities, towns, and municipalities across dozens of new and existing programs. To help everyone stay up to date, ODOT has developed a BIL webpage ([transportation.ohio.gov/bil](http://transportation.ohio.gov/bil)). Here you will find critical information, including:

- A downloadable report providing funding levels and details for each grant program within BIL
- A listing of all the current open solicitations for grants and application deadlines

Please reach out to LACRPC if you have additional questions regarding any grant programs available in the coming months.

**word from**  
**WEST OHIO COMMUNITY**  
**ACTION PARTNERSHIP**

The condition of housing in the City of Lima has always been a topic of conversation for its citizens but has seemed to step into the spotlight in recent years. In addition to the Harsany Housing Assessment (2020) and subsequent Housing Task Force, community grant opportunities, and the recent boom in the housing market seen across the United States, West Ohio Community Action Partnership is doing its part and offering free educational programs on Homeownership and Financial Management.

Hoping to equip Lima's citizens with information on establishing good credit, home budgeting, home repair and maintenance, the home purchasing process, foreclosure prevention, housing insurance, and the importance of getting involved in your neighborhood association, WOCAP is offering eight rounds of webinars on Homeownership. With four sessions already complete, community members can still register (required) for the webinars taking place on May 10th, 12th, 17th, and 19th from 5pm-8pm. In addition to the program providing Free Home Inspections, eligible participants could receive up to \$6,000 in down payment assistance/closing costs!

Those wanting a little more focus on money management can attend the free (registration required) webinar on Financial Management. Six sessions in total with three already past, community members can still learn how to fix their credit, improve their personal finances, and create a budget that works on May 24th, 25th, and 26th from 1 pm-3 pm.

For more information or to register for these programs call 419-227-2586 or visit [www.wocap.org](http://www.wocap.org).

**LOW-INCOME**  
**HOUSEHOLD**  
**WATER**  
**ASSISTANCE**  
**PROGRAM**

The Ohio Department of Development and West Ohio Community Action Partnership will help income-eligible Ohioans with water and wastewater assistance. The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program provides eligible Ohioans assistance paying water and wastewater bills. The program runs until September 30, 2022.

To apply for the program clients are required to contact West Ohio Community Action Partnership at 419-227-2586.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO CITY OF**  
**LIMA ON SMART CITIES AWARD!**

The City of Lima has been named a winner in the IDC (International Data Corporation) Government Insights' fifth annual Smart Cities North America Awards (SCNAA) in the Transportation Infrastructure (Smart Train Avoidance category). The award recognizes the progress North American municipalities have made in executing Smart Cities projects, as well as provide a forum for sharing best practices to help accelerate Smart Cities development in the region.

Award recipients in the SCNNA illustrate best practice examples of how forward-thinking municipalities are effectively leveraging technology and innovation to offer new services and economic opportunities and to meet the needs and expectations of citizens and residents. The City of Lima was recognized for unprecedented progress in creating and sustaining smart city projects in the Transportation Infrastructure category.



## CONGRATULATIONS 2022 OUTSTANDING WATERSHED PARTNER

Congratulations to Adam Haunhorst, 2022 Outstanding Watershed Partner! The Outstanding Watershed Partner Award recognizes an individual who has made a significant contribution to the long-term efforts and changes needed in the watershed to improve water quality. Adam provided substantial help to the Ottawa River Coalition after the removal of the Allentown Lowhead Dam. After the Coalition removed this dam in 2020, The Allen Soil and Water Conservation District was presented with an \$8,000 fee with FEMA to submit changes to the floodplain map. Adam worked very closely with the ASWCD Executive Committee and with FEMA to help guide them through this process. Adam's efforts greatly impacted the Coalition after his research found that ASWCD would be exempt from the normal process of having to submit this map revision and therefore exempt from the hefty fee. Adam's contributions helped solidify the "Removal of the Allentown Lowhead Dam" as a significant step towards water quality improvement in our watershed.



Above: Adam Haunhorst receiving the Outstanding Watershed Partner Award from Haley Belisle, Executive Director of Allen Soil and Water Conservation District.

right: a rendering of the final parking lot project on the corner of Union/Central and North



Image provided by  
Beam Designs

## RTA UPDATE

As always, the Regional Transit Authority has its buses running getting the people of Allen County where they need to be. In support of their mission to provide convenient transportation that operates consistently and safely, the RTA continues to see growth in its ridership for the Up-Lift rides and they anticipate more growth in the future.

Once again, the RTA is offering the Senior/Disabled monthly pass at a cost of \$20. Individuals can go into the Transfer Station and purchase their monthly passes. There are certain qualifications that must be met so those interested in the Senior/Disabled pass should call the station at 419-222-2782.

In other, more stationary, news, the parking lot project on the corner of Union/Central and North is set to break ground mid-May to beginning of June. This new parking lot will offer parking for RTA employees as well as some public parking and fits into the beautification and revitalization efforts being seen all across Downtown Lima. With fencing and greenspace including flowering and shade tree, the parking lot project is sure to brighten and boost the area.

Looking farther into the future, the RTA has applied for funds to install a bus wash that would connect to the current garage, however, this project is still expected to take 1-1.5 years to come to fruition.

**Finance Administrator-** senior administrative position responsible for the financial management and grant administration activities of the LACRPC, including but not limited to providing accounting/fiscal program management as well as MPO budget monitoring; preparing and managing grants and contracts; preparation of monthly and annual reports; funding oversight and monitoring in compliance with local, state, and federal regulations.

**Assistant Finance Administrator-** mid-level administrative position responsible for the financial management and grant administration activities of the LACRPC, including but not limited to providing accounting/fiscal program management as well as MPO budget monitoring; preparing and managing grants and contracts; preparation of monthly and annual reports; funding oversight and monitoring in compliance with local, state, and federal regulations.

For more information on open positions please visit [www.lacrpc.com](http://www.lacrpc.com)

## NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

If interested in either position, please send a cover letter and resume to:  
[mschumaker@lacrpc.com](mailto:mschumaker@lacrpc.com)  
by April 9, 2022

Colleen Barry (Lima native) joined the LACRPC as an Associate Planner in July of 2021 after her husband retired from the US Marine Corp (Camp Lejeune, NC) and they returned to Lima, happy to be able to call Ohio home again after being away for so long. Graduating from Lima Senior High School in 1997, Colleen and her husband married in 1999 and the military life took over from there. During this time, Colleen earned her B.A. in Geography from The University of NC Wilmington and a Graduate Certification in GIS from the North Carolina State University School of Geospatial Analytics.

Her previous work includes Planning Technician aboard MCB Camp Lejeune on the Infrastructure Reset Campaign that helped installations optimize force readiness through more efficient life-cycle management of Marine Corps facilities. Colleen's work has taken her to several of the Marine Corps Installations located along the East Coast.

Here at LACRPC Colleen's duties include, gathering and evaluating planning information as it pertains to land use, zoning, housing, and transportation. Using that information, reports are compiled, maps created, as well as other documents, that allow Colleen to effectively communicate and collaborate with various agencies, including the general public, in order to assist in the coordinated development of the Allen County region.

In February of 2022, the LACRPC welcomed Shaunna Basinger as the new Public Outreach and Community Program Planner. Originally from Kalida, Basinger is a 2018 graduate of The Ohio State University at Lima with a bachelor's in Early and Middle Childhood Education. After graduation, Shaunna became the Student Activities Coordinator at the University of Northwestern Ohio until fall of 2020 when she became the Executive Director of Downtown Lima, Inc.

Shaunna's responsibilities at Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission include director of the Ohio Department of Public Transportation grant, this includes the Safe Communities Coalition and working with local law enforcement and area organization and schools to reach the greater Lima region and promote safe driving. Additionally, Shaunna will be working closely with the Public Participation efforts of the LACRPC office as well as assisting the RTA in their promotion and public outreach efforts.

## Transport Ohio Freight Plan: Feedback Wanted!

The State of Ohio is at the center of freight's changing role. The state's freight network includes 1,330 miles of interstate, 5,000-plus miles of active freight rail lines, 736 maritime system miles, eight airports with regular cargo service, and more than 110,000 miles of pipeline. This network moved over 1 billion tons of goods worth over \$1.2 trillion in 2018.

In response to these changes and as part of a federally-mandated process, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has spent the last two years updating its state freight plan called Transport Ohio. The updated plan looks at the state of the freight industry in Ohio today and for the next five years.

The plan analyzes the needs of the state's roadway, rail, air cargo, maritime and pipeline networks. It includes freight system strategies focusing on coordination, partnerships, innovation, and technology for ODOT to implement over the next five years. It also recommends freight system investments to maintain Ohio's leadership in moving freight on land, air, and water.

ODOT is seeking the public's review and comments on the draft plan. The public comment period is open until Sunday, April 10. Download a copy of the draft at the Transport Ohio website. In addition, you can share feedback by taking a brief survey at [www.workzonedashboard.ohio.gov/index](http://www.workzonedashboard.ohio.gov/index)

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the specified times in the Conference Room of the Planning Commission located at 130 W. North Street, Lima, Ohio 45801. Meetings are open and the public is invited to attend.

### MAY 2022

### JUNE 2022

### JULY 2022

CMTE	DATE	TIME	CMTE	DATE	TIME	CMTE	DATE	TIME
DCC	Tu, May 10th	3:00 pm	DCC	Tu, June 7th	3:00 pm	DCC	Tu, July 5th	3:00 pm
CAAC	Thu, May 12th	3:00 pm	CAAC	Thu, June 9th	3:00 pm	CAAC	Thu, July 14th	3:00 pm
CDC	Thu, May 19th	3:30 pm	CDC	Thu, June 16th	3:30 pm	DCC	Thu, July 19th	3:00 pm
CAC	Tu, May 24th	10:00 am	CAC	Tu, June 21st	10:00 am	CDC	Thu, July 21st	3:30 pm
TAC	Tu, May 24th	1:30 pm	TAC	Tu, June 21st	1:30 pm	CAC	Tu, July 26th	10:00 am
DCC	Tu, May 24th	3:00 pm	DCC	Tu, June 21st	3:00 pm	TAC	Tu, July 26th	1:30 pm
AAC	Wed, May 25th	4:00 pm	AAC	Wed, June 22nd	4:00 pm	AAC	Wed, July 27th	4:00 pm
TCC	Thu, May 26th	3:00 pm	TCC	Thu, June 23rd	3:00 pm	TCC	Thu, July 28th	3:00 pm
EC	Thu, May 26th	4:00 pm	EC	Thu, June 23rd	4:00 pm	EC	Thu, July 28th	4:00 pm

## CONTACT US

**Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission**  
130 W. North Street  
Lima, OH 45801  
419-228-1836