



LIMA/ALLEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Summer 2024 • Volume 28 • Issue 2



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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Meet our newest staff at LACRPC

Tonya Dye: Administrative Assistant



Tonya and her husband Jason live in the Indian Lake area and have several “four-legged children.” She grew up on the East Coast and spent summers in New England. Tonya loves quilting, games, puzzles and traveling. A fun fact about Tonya is that she blowtorched the hull of R.M.S. Titanic!

Tonya has a BA in Anthropology from Ohio University, a MS in Historic Preservation and Planning from Eastern Michigan and a MeD in Adolescent and Young Adult Education History from Ohio University.

Some of Tonya’s duties at LACRPC include proofreading reports, communicating with committee members, take minutes for all meetings, functions as a records manager and archivist and supports all office functions.

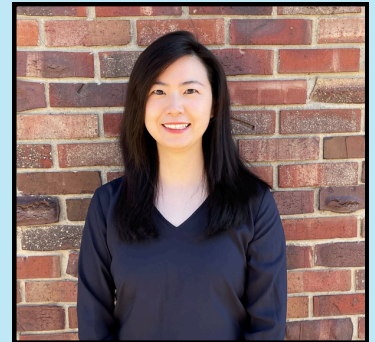
Liwen Kang: Associate Planner

Liwen is married to her husband Xuhui and they have a 3-year-old daughter named Karena. Xuhui and Karena currently reside in Chicago and the family spends weekends together, taking turns traveling back and forth from Chicago and Lima. Liwen grew up in Baoji, China, which is a large industrial and transportation center.

Favorite hobbies of Liwen’s are doing puzzles, listening to podcasts and music, traveling, and watching movies. She also loves spending time exploring new things in and around Lima.

Liwen holds a doctoral degree in Architecture, with a research focus on urban studies related to sustainable and healthy communities. Before her PhD, Liwen was trained as a Landscape Architect.

Some of Liwen’s daily work includes updating comprehensive plans, transit development plans, ADA transition plans, etc. She is also responsible for researching and preparing technical documents for policy consideration and assembling needed data and materials for planning-related projects.



Megan Kinnear: Public Outreach and Community Program Planner

Megan and her husband Chad have three teenaged daughters and live in Lima. She is from Ashtabula County in Northeast Ohio. Megan coaches volleyball and loves spending time with her family.



Megan has a BS in Public Relations from Kent State University with a concentration in Spanish. She spent several years operating a PR business while raising her girls before moving into an education role at a local private school.

At LACRPC, Megan spends much of her time working on active transportation-related safety initiatives and grant requirements. She also helps with public participation requirements for any reports or plans written by LACRPC staff, takes part in community coalitions and advocacy, updates the website, writes news releases, and more.

RTA Celebrates 50th Anniversary!

On Sept. 20, 2024, the Allen County Regional Transit Authority (RTA) will celebrate 50 years of “Connecting Our Community.” The RTA will be hosting an open house that day and will also offer free fixed route rides. In addition, the trolley will give free rides in downtown Lima.

There will be history of the Allen County RTA displayed, RTA swag to give away, and guest speakers, including board member Richard Schroeder who was at one time RTA’s Director of Planning who got the “wheels” in motion to create the Allen County RTA.

You don’t want to miss the milestone event celebrating 50 years of Allen County RTA providing the area with safe, dependable, and cost-effective public transit to meet the needs of all citizens, including seniors, disabled, choice riders, and those who are dependent on public transit.

RTA trolley used for CDC meeting!

As part of LACRPC’s Community Development Committee (CDC) meeting on July 18, the committee ventured out of its regular board room meeting and onto the RTA trolley for a tour of downtown Lima.

This unique tour was a fun and interactive way for the CDC members and other invited guests to learn about the extensive planning involved in building and revitalizing a city. Guest speakers took turns speaking while riding along to educate the attendees of the progress of downtown and any possible plans in the future.



July 18 *Meet at 3:30 at LACRPC*
130 W. North St. Lima

DOWNTOWN LIMA
CDC TROLLEY TOUR
Community Development Committee of LACRPC

LEARN ABOUT

- Downtown improvement efforts
- How government, non-profit, and private entities work together in purposeful community development
- Why organized planning today creates more financial opportunity, community growth, and less tax burdens tomorrow
- How to be more civic-minded in planning and what Lima's future holds

HEAR FROM

- John Heaphy - Good Food Restaurants
- Rob Nelson - The Met Restaurant / The Metropolitan Block
- Bart Mills - Central District Lima
- Karen Garland - Allen Co. Regional Transit Authority (RTA)



Safe Community Coalition Events

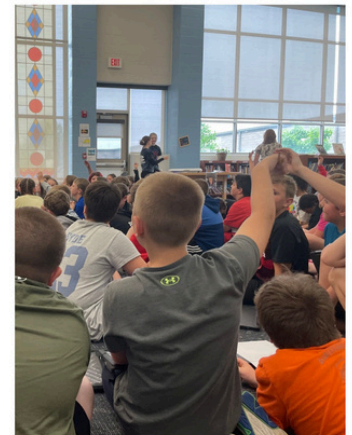
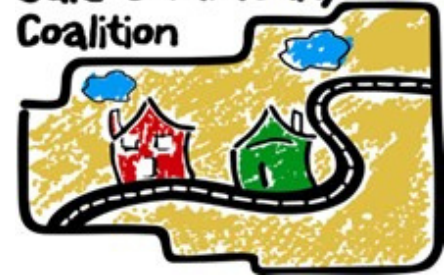
Prom “Drive Sober” awareness - April & May

“Click It or Ticket” campaign - May

Safe Summer Block Party - June

“Drive Sober” on the 4th - July

Lima-Allen County
Safe Community
Coalition



“CLICK IT OR TICKET” CAMPAIGN – APRIL 2024

In an effort to bring awareness and advocacy for seatbelt safety, the Allen County Safe Community Coalition hosted a time for area residents, first-responders and local officials to join in partnership as they kicked off the “Click It or Ticket” campaign in Allen County.

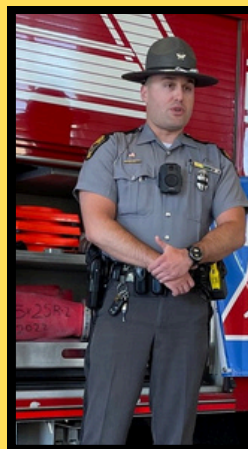
On May 16 at Bath Township Fire Department, Chief Joe Kitchen addressed the public by discussing seatbelt and child restraint safety, seatbelt statistics, and what the current laws are regarding seatbelt usage. It was open to the public and refreshments were donated by Sara’s Sweets.

This event was the local kickoff to the nationwide seatbelt campaign. Local and national efforts are designed to help keep people making good choices when it comes to wearing seatbelts and also properly using child seats and restraints.

In Allen County, some area schools also participated in the seatbelt advocacy initiatives, including Allen East Schools. The S.A.D.D (Students Against Destructive Decisions) instructor and students led fourth grade students as they taught an interactive lesson on seatbelt safety. They had learning quiz games and also gave the students the opportunity to simulate a crash by using a toy car, egg carton, a raw egg, duct tape and a cotton ball. In addition, the AE S.A.D.D. students monitored how many people in vehicles were wearing seatbelts upon elementary morning drop-off time.

Local media covered the “Click It” events, and seatbelt safety television PSAs ran throughout April and May on Lima’s Hometown Stations/WLIO.

Thank you to all who participated in Allen County to help keep people buckled up and safe!



GLR and AEDG have new leadership

Congratulations to Dave Stratton and Cindy Leis on their new roles leading economic development in the region.

Dave Stratton is now the president of Greater Lima Region Inc. (GLR) and Cindy Leis is now the president and CEO of Allen Economic Development Group (AEDG).

Both are a great fits for their new professions and we wish them well. We, at LACRPC, look forward to our continued work with them.



PROCESSED BY LACRPC

2024 YEAR-TO-DATE

Lot Split	62
Replat	0
Floodplain Development Permit	7 new 1 renewal

2024 ALLEN COUNTY FATAL CRASH CHART

Allen Co. Traffic Fatalities: Jan-June 2024

State/Federal Highways
County Roads
City Streets
Township Roads

Fatal Crashes

3
0
1
1

Total Fatalities (due to crashes)

3 (drivers)
0
1 (pedestrian)
1 (passenger)

100 DEADLIEST DAYS

OF SUMMER

Memorial Day
through
Labor Day

Traffic volume increases during the summer months typically bring with it a corresponding increase in vehicular crashes and deaths.

Celebrate Summertime Safely!

View our safe driving PSAs here:
www.lacrpc.com/press-releases/

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the specified times in the conference room of LACRPC. Meetings are open to the public.

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

CMTE	DATE	TIME	CMTE	DATE	TIME	CMTE	DATE	TIME
DCC	Tue, July 2	3:00 pm	SRT	Fri, Aug. 9	9:00 am	DCC	Tue, Sept. 10	3:00 pm
DCC	Tue, July 16	3:00 pm	DCC	Tue, Aug. 13	3:00 pm	TAC	Tue, Sept. 24	1:30 pm
CDC	Thur, July 18	3:30 pm	TAC	Tue, Aug. 20	1:30 pm	DCC	Tue, Sept. 24	3:00 pm
CAC	Tue, July 23	10:00 am	AAC	Wed, Aug. 21	4:00 pm	AAC	Wed, Sept. 25	4:00 pm
TAC	Tue, July 23	1:30 pm	TCC	Thu, Aug. 22	3:00 pm	TCC	Thu, Sept. 26	3:00 pm
AAC	Wed, July 24	4:00 pm	EC	Thu, Aug. 22	4:00 pm	EC	Thur, Sept. 26	4:00 pm
TCC	Thur, July 25	3:00 pm	DCC	Tue, Aug. 27	3:00 pm			
EC	Thur, July 25	4:00 pm						
DCC	Tue, July 30	3:00 pm						

Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission
130 W. North St. Lima, OH 45801
www.lacrpc.com 419-228-1836



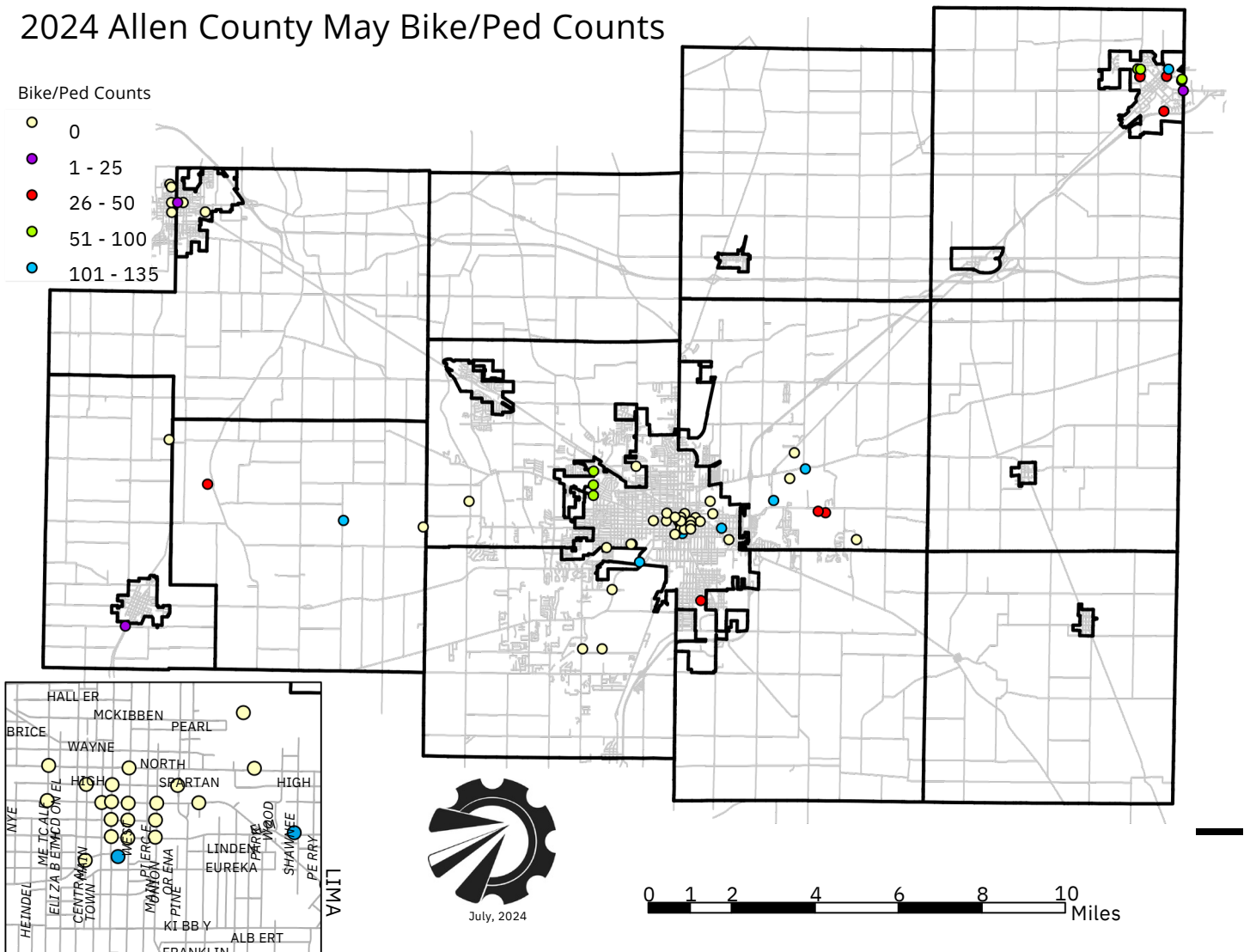
BIKE & PEDESTRIAN COUNTS

Thank you to those who participated in the “Bike & Pedestrian Counts” in Allen County from May 6-12. Mark your calendars for our fall count, which will be Sept. 9-15. If you would like more information and/or would like to volunteer to help count/track bicyclists and pedestrians for the next count, please contact:

Josh Unterbrink
Activate Allen County
junterbrink@activateallencounty.com
419-303-3387

Bike totals during May 6-12: 471
Pedestrian totals during May 6-12: 1045

2024 Allen County May Bike/Ped Counts



FY2025 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

The Lima/Allen County Regional Planning Commission annually prepares a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) detailing the work it proposes to perform during the upcoming fiscal year (FY). The FY2025 UPWP reflects a timeline from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, and identifies more than two dozen separate work elements, as well as associated expenditures of \$1,177,023 necessary to support the LACRPC committee structure and staff. In addition, 21 local political subdivisions contribute \$113,780 to support local planning services and the seven West Central Ohio Rural Transportation Planning Organization (WORPO) counties contribute \$21,608 to support regional planning services. The UPWP provides not only specific details about the LACRPC, its mission, organizational structure and responsibilities, but also provides the rationale and justification for planned activities. The UPWP is presented to both federal and state agencies for review and approval before adoption by the LACRPC Board of Directors and includes:

- Tasks to be completed over the fiscal year
- Identification of all funding sources
- Identification of federal and/or state-funded studies
- Identification of significant studies not funded with federal and/or state funds
- Identification of responsible federal and/or state agencies
- Schedule of activities
- Identification of local stakeholders

Planning emphasis areas for the FY2025 Work Program include:

- Implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Capital Programs Management
- Development of 2026-2029 Statewide Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP/STIP) Transport Ohio Implementation (freight)
- Title VI Environmental Justice

The FY2025 UPWP has been made available for review online at the LACRPC website (www.lacrpc.com) and a copy is also available in the LACRPC office at 130 W. North St., Lima on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS

The Planning Commission recently worked with staff and members of the City of Lima, West Ohio Community Action Partnership (WOCAP), the Allen Metropolitan Housing Authority and the Allen County Housing Consortium to update the 2019 Analysis of Impediments: Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Choice (AI).

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, and disability. Section 808(e)(5) of the Fair Housing Act requires that all communities receiving federal financial assistance to administer housing programs and activities must “affirmatively further fair housing choice.” Restricting such choice limits not only an individual’s housing opportunities, but also may limit educational and employment opportunities.

The AI must not only identify impediments to fair housing but also identify warranted actions to eliminate those identified restrictions. To provide accountability, the AI must include goal statements intended to provide the community with an overview of the steps necessary to eliminate the barriers to housing choice, including a five-year action plan with benchmarks, timelines, and responsible parties. Federal requirements mandate an annual review of the action plan. Annual review findings are intended to provide the community and the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) with an easy-to-read overview of the steps taken to eliminate identified barriers countywide. To continue to receive federal funds for housing programs, the AI must meet planning requirements identified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and ODSA, as well as be formally adopted by both the City of Lima and Allen County.

The AI was open for public comment on our website, in our office, by mail, email and also at a Lima Public Library event on May 29 with drafts on-hand and a presentation prepared. For more information, call the LACRPC office at 419-228-1836 or email mkinnear@lacrpc.com.