



LIMA/ALLEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Spring 2025 • Volume 29 • Issue 2

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



WELCOME

We are pleased to announce that Rebecca Phillips has been hired as LACRPC's new Executive Director. Please [view the news article here](#) to learn more about Rebecca, her qualifications, and agency outlook.



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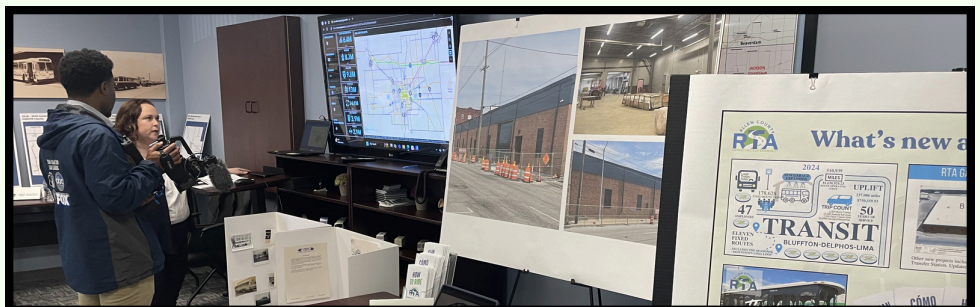
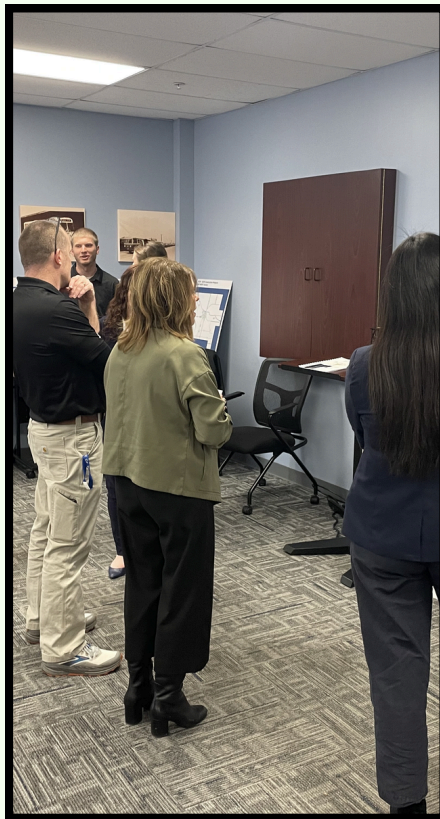
OPEN HOUSE

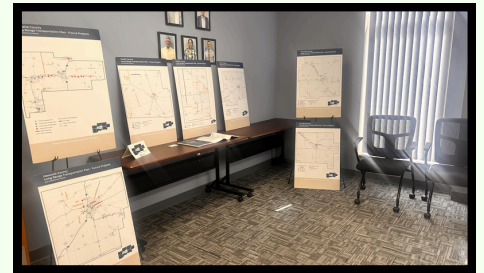
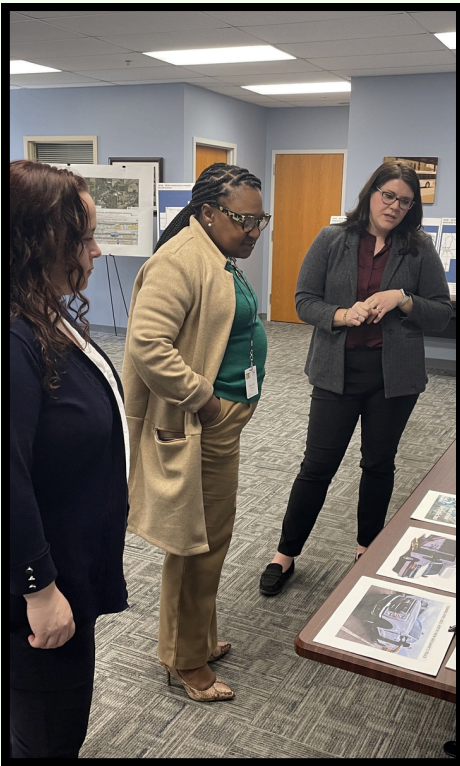
APRIL 1, 2025

HELD AT ALLEN COUNTY RTA

FOR LACRPC'S PRESENTATION OF: THE 2026-2029 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

With additional guests and information from The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), West Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (WORPO), Allen County RTA, and The City of Bluffton





THANK YOU to all who attended, to Sara's Sweets for the cookie donation, to Allen County RTA for the use of their building, and to Hometown Stations for covering the event.

Please view our interactive transportation project dashboard to learn about upcoming proposed projects in Allen County: www.lacrpc.com/projects-in-allen-county. The TIP draft plan and comment forms can also be found at www.lacrpc.com/reports-2.



What's new at ACRTA?

In our last newsletter, we discussed partnership plans with Allen County Regional Transit Authority (ACRTA). We are pleased to inform you that those plans have come to fruition. With ACRTA's assistance, we have created "How to Ride" videos and brochures in three languages: English, Spanish and Haitian Creole. Please check them out and share them with your partner agencies, family, neighbors and friends!



ENGLISH



SPANISH



HAITIAN CREOLE



Click on each video to view the videos in various languages, or search YouTube "How to ride the Allen County RTA."



Visit:

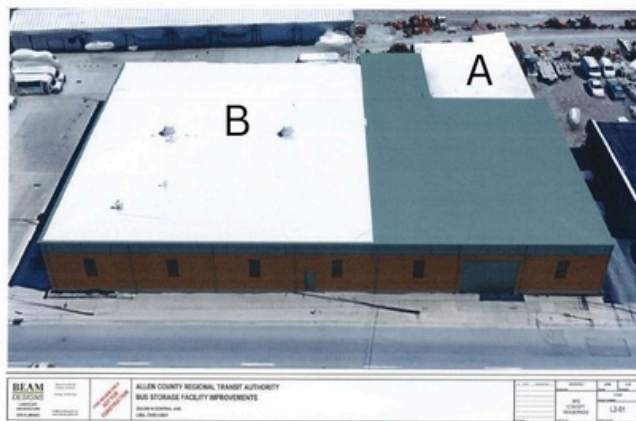
www.lacrpc.com/transportation-planning or click on the brochure graphic to download copies to print and distribute at your facility.

If you'd like LACRPC to print copies and deliver to you, please email: mkinnear@lacrpc.com

What's new at ACRTA?

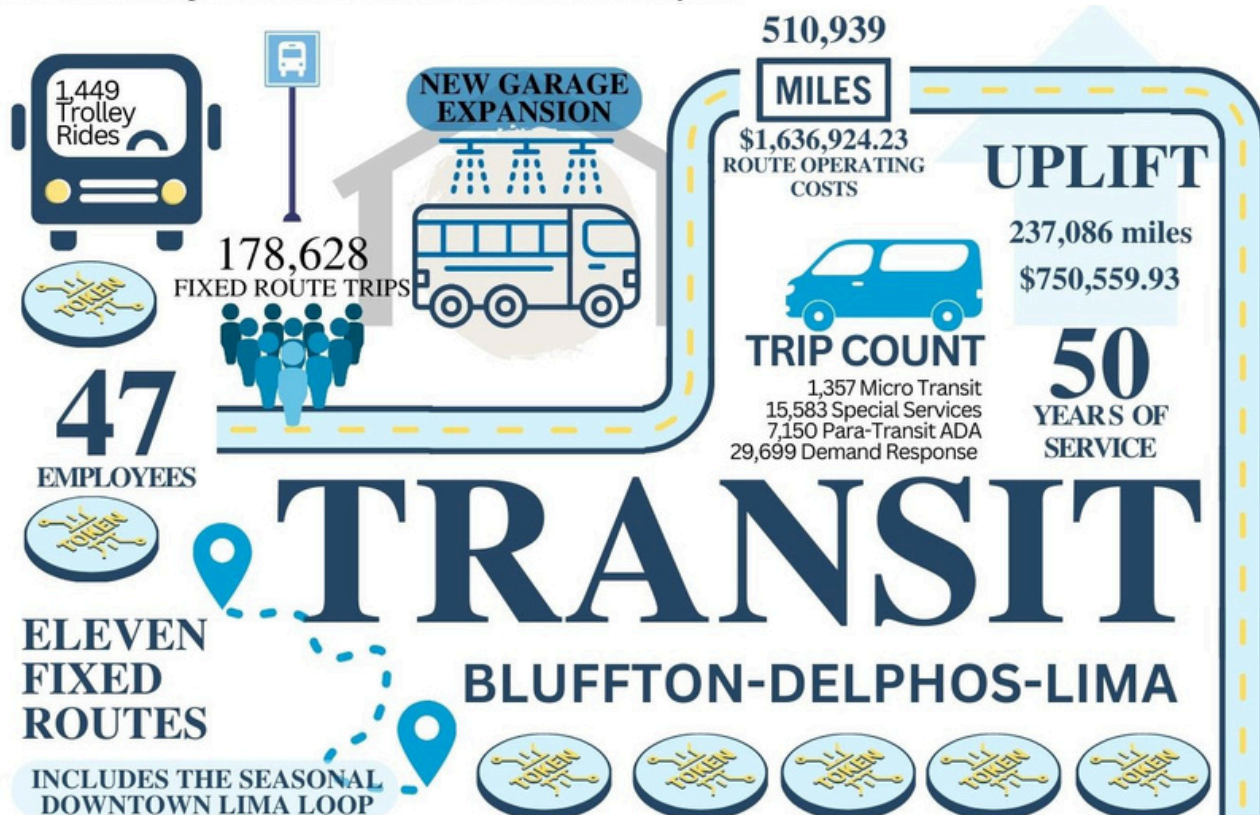
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RTA GARAGE EXPANSION AND ADDITIONAL PROJECTS



The RTA garage expansion project began in November 2023 with an estimated completion date of summer 2025. The project will incorporate RTA's existing garage (A) with the building directly before the existing garage (B). There will be a drive-thru bus wash in the space between the buildings that currently exist. The façade of the garage will match up with the façade of the downtown entities including Lima Sr High School. The expansion will create enough space for all RTA vehicles to be housed inside at all times meaning they will no longer be exposed to the elements when not in use. The drive-thru bus wash will allow RTA buses to get cleaned daily. Future possibilities include non-profit and/or governmental agencies being able to utilize the drive-thru bus wash as well.

Other new projects include building generators at all three locations, a passenger canopy, and concrete repairs at the Transfer Station. Updated fleet is also slated for the next few years.



The Allen County Regional Transit Authority (ACRTA) was created in 1974 by the Board of Allen County Commissioners to provide needed transportation services across Allen County. On September 30, 2024, ACRTA celebrated its 50th year by hosting an open house for the public and ACRTA stakeholders.

Transit management reflects a seven-member Board of Trustees appointed by the Allen County Commissioners who are responsible for ensuring legal and ethical integrity, maintaining accountability, and providing proper fiscal and risk management oversight for ACRTA. In addition, ACRTA works with ODOT and LACRPC to optimize federal and state funding for necessary rolling stock, equipment, maintenance, facility upgrades and technical assistance.



Community Development Committee of LACRPC

CDC TROLLEY TOURS

The Community Development Committee (CDC) at LACRPC would like to thank ACRTA for its trolley transportation services for two upcoming meeting dates to tour local organizations.

ACRTA will transport the committee members from LACRPC to Lima Senior High School's Agriculture and Engineering Campus on April 10, and also to West Ohio Food Bank on July 17 in order to learn about and explore the facilities.

We appreciate the opportunities to work together while learning more about vital community services and educational programs in Allen County.



Lima/Allen County
REGIONAL PLANNING
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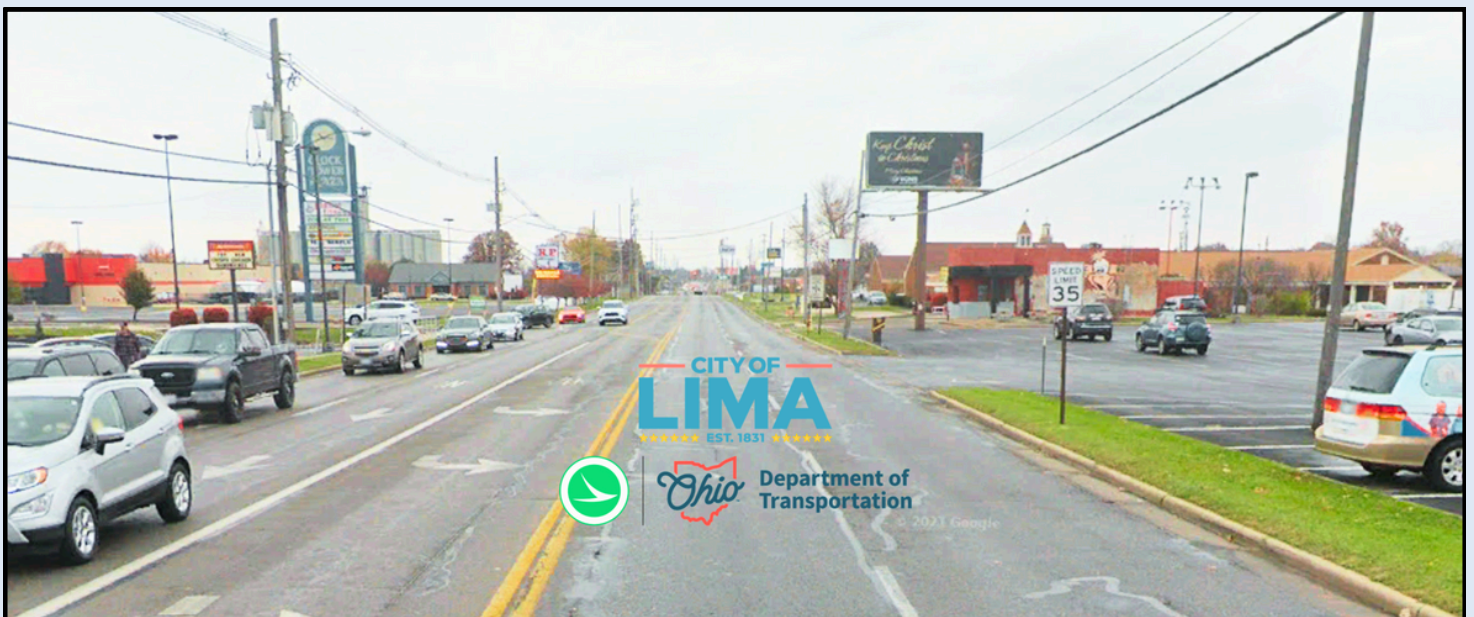
Cable Road Project - City of Lima

As a brief overview, the following improvements are being proposed:

- **Latham Avenue to Windsor Drive:** A median barrier will be installed. Access to Cable Road from business drives along this section would be right-turn only; no left-turn movements across lanes of traffic would be accessible. Signalized U-turns will be accommodated at each end of the median barrier to allow drivers access to the opposite side of the roadway.
- **Windsor Drive to College Park Drive:** The five-lane roadway will be converted to four lanes to provide two northbound lanes, one center two-way left turn lane, and one southbound lane.
- **Install Sidewalks:** Sidewalks will be installed along the west side of the roadway from the entrance of Clock Tower Plaza (where the existing sidewalk ends) to College Park Drive; and along the east side of the roadway from Latham Avenue to the mid-block pedestrian crossing near the UNOH Indoor Athletic Complex.
- **Upgrade traffic signals** at the Latham Avenue, Windsor Drive, and College Park West intersections.
- **Reconstruct driveways** along the corridor to tie in with the roadway and pedestrian improvements.
- **Install new catch basins and repair storm sewers.**
- **Replace the sanitary sewer force main** from Latham Avenue to the pump station near an unnamed tributary to Dug Run.
- **Permanent and temporary right-of-way** will be required in order to complete the proposed work.

Right-of-way acquisition is currently under way. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2027. The estimated project cost is \$6.25 million, which includes design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction costs. This estimate will be refined as project development continues. Funding has been secured and will come through a variety of federal, state, and local resources.

For all of extensive details of the project, safety study data, right-of-way acquisition plans, alternatives considered, public feedback, etc., please click here: [Cable Road Project](#) or simply do an Internet search for “Cable Road Lima Ohio” and choose the “Public Input” website.



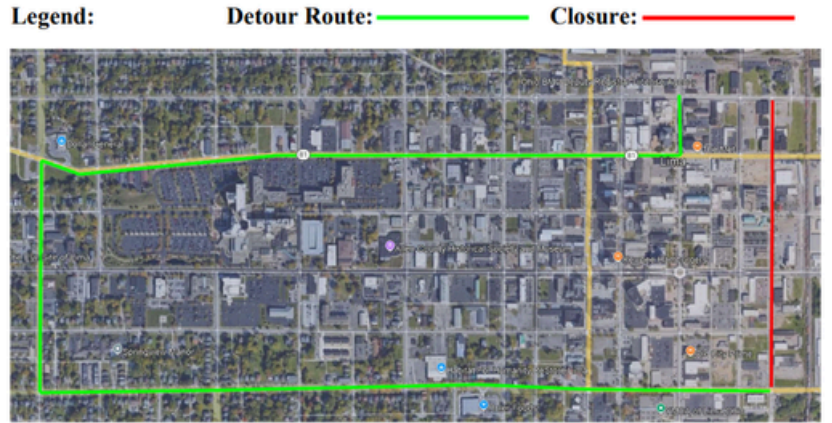
All of the details in this article and the photo have been directly pulled from the [project's website](#).

Central Avenue Streetscape Project - City of Lima

State Route 65 (Central Avenue) between North Street and Elm Street in the City of Lima closed Feb. 24 and will remain closed until approximately Sept. 30 for a streetscape project. The project aims to improve the safety and accessibility of the one-way, two-lane route by transforming to one lane with a bike lane and reverse angle parking, lighting upgrades, sidewalk and curb ramp upgrades, curb extensions, crosswalks, and updated signage.

TRAFFIC IMPACT: Detour: SR 81 (North St.) to SR 309 (Jameson Ave.) to SR 309 (Elm St.), back to SR 65 (Central Ave.)

Project: ALL-65-Central Ave. (City of Lima)
Closed to thru traffic and trucks – single lane open for locals
PID #: 115561
Contractor: Helms and Sons
Contact: Matthew Glick (419-348-4712)
ODOT Project Manager: Scott Langhals (419-999-6906)
City Project Manager: Ross Vennekotter (419-998-5522)
Date of Closure: 2/24/2025
Anticipated Duration of Closure: (9/30/25)
Length of Detour: 2.66 mi.
Added Travel Distance: 2.04 mi.
Project Description: City of Lima Streetscapes
Detour Established By: ODOT
Official Detour Route: At the intersection of SR65 and SR309, go west on SR309 to the intersection with Jameson Avenue. Go north on Jameson Avenue to the intersection with SR81. Go east on SR81 to the intersection with Main St. Go north on Main St. to the intersection with SR65 (see map below).



All of the details and detour photo have been directly pulled from [ODOT's website](https://www.odot.ohio.gov/).

SPRING/SUMMER LACRPC CLOSINGS: MAY 26 & JULY 4

UPCOMING MEETINGS AT LACRPC

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

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

CMTE	DATE	TIME	CMTE	DATE	TIME	CMTE	DATE	TIME
DCC	Tue, April 8	3:00 pm	DCC	Tue, May 6	3:00 pm	DCC	Tue, June 3	3:00 pm
CDC	Thu, April 10	3:15 pm	TAC	Tue, May 20	1:30 pm	DCC	Tue, June 17	3:00 pm
CAC	Tue, April 22	10:00 am	DCC	Tue, May 20	3:00 pm	TAC	Tue, June 24	1:30 pm
TAC	Tue, April 22	1:30 pm	AAC	Wed, May 21	4:00 pm	AAC	Wed, June 25	4:00 pm
DCC	Tue, April 22	3:00 pm	TCC	Thu, May 22	3:00 pm	TCC	Thu, June 26	3:00 pm
AAC	Wed, April 23	4:00 pm	EC	Thu, May 22	4:00 pm	EC	Thu, June 26	4:00 pm
TCC	Thu, April 24	3:00 pm	Please see our website: www.lacrpc.com for up-to-date details about meetings in case of cancellations or rescheduling needs.					
EC	Thu, April 24	4:00 pm						

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

32nd Annual OTTAWA RIVER CLEAN UP 2025

Pre-Register to Volunteer!



SATURDAY, APRIL 26 ~ 9 A.M. TO NOON

Central Services Building
900 S. Collett St. Lima, OH 45804

Sponsored By:



SAFE COMMUNITY COALITION'S SUMMER PARTNER'S BREAKFAST

Lima Memorial
HEALTH SYSTEM
Affiliate of ProMedica



FRIDAY, JUNE 13 AT 8:30 A.M.

HOSTED AT AND SPONSORED BY:
LIMA MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM
1001 BELLEFONTAINE AVE. LIMA, OHIO 45804

The meeting will be held in Lima Memorial's Auxiliary Conference Center (ACC) on the ground floor of the hospital. A complimentary breakfast will be served at the start of the meeting, followed by a presentation of Coalition and safety grant updates.

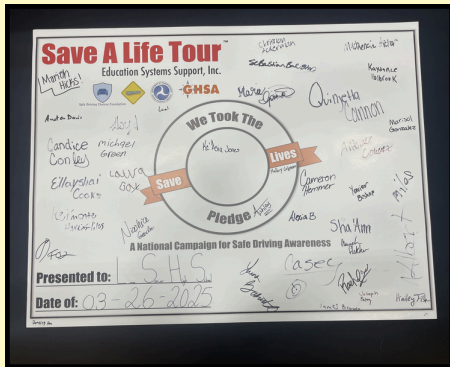
RSVP appreciated: mkinnear@lacrpc.com

Lot Split	30
Replat	0
Floodplain Development Permit	1



Lima-Allen County Safe Community Coalition & Save-A-Life Tour Visit Lima Senior HS

Save-A-Life-Tour and the Lima-Allen County Safe Community Coalition/LACRPC staff visited Lima Senior High School on Wednesday, March 26 to put on a program paid for by the OTSO Safety Grant managed by LACRPC staff. High school seniors had the chance to attend the event, answer transportation safety-related questions for a prize, try on alcohol- and drug-impairment goggles (known as drunk goggles) that demonstrate the dangers of driving drunk or high, and also got a chance to use the driving simulation machines. The two simulations demonstrate different dangers: drunk driving and distracted driving. Students were also educated by a guest speaker and a video that gave facts, statistics, and true stories about lives shattered by destructive decisions behind the wheel. There were even some staff and the high school principal willing to participate and have some fun!



Fatal Crash Report & Super Bowl Drive Sober Event



Left picture taken from The Lima News article; Top and bottom right pictures taken from news coverage from Hometown Stations.

LACRPC hosted a media conference on Feb. 6 to bring attention to the 2024 Fatal Crash Report in conjunction with one of the most dangerous driving days of the year - Super Bowl Sunday. Allen County Coroner Dr. John Meyer (bottom right), Adam Haunhorst of LACRPC (top right), and Sgt. Justin Powell of Ohio State Highway Patrol - Lima Post (left) all spoke to the media about area crash statistics, safe driving recommendations, and ways to reduce crash injuries and death.

by Jacob Espinosa | The Lima News limaohio.com
published: March 7, 2025



LIMA — Allen County saw eight fatal crashes in 2024, according to the regional planning commission's draft of its fatal crash report.

The commission, with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Allen County Coroner's Office, held a press conference Thursday morning to present this information ahead of Super Bowl Sunday.

"2024 was a fairly safe year, not the safest by far, but in terms of fatalities, it was a good year," Ohio State Highway Patrol Sgt. Justin Powell said. "Over the last year, we did see an increase in crashes with mature drivers, so we talked a bit about making that decision to maybe not drive at night as you age. There might be a point where you have to decide it's not safe for you to drive because you don't want something bad to happen or if you have to help a family member in that same situation so they're safe."

Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission planning engineer Adam Haunhorst drafted the report and said the vast majority of crashes occur on dry roads during the day.

"Of all those, three people who died were not wearing their safety equipment," he said. "Two of them involved alcohol and drugs, so those are the important things we like to emphasize every year. There isn't always a pattern, so we all need to be doing our part all the time."

Haunhorst said this can happen because drivers are lulled into a false sense of security, unlike when conditions are as severe as Thursday's icy, wet roads.

Powell stressed the importance of wearing safety belts.

"When you're in a rollover crash and you're not wearing a safety belt, it's completely rolling the dice," he said. "You could be ejected from the vehicle, and it could roll on top of you. That's a crash you would have probably walked away from otherwise, so we want everyone to be safe all the time on the roadway."

Ahead of a weekend when many people are hosting parties around a football game, Powell advised residents to make a plan ahead of time to avoid driving under the influence.

"You do need to be sober to drive, and .08 is a fairly low number, especially if you have a lower body weight," he said. "If you're going to a party and you're going to be drinking and/or using marijuana, you need to have a plan for how you're going to get home. Have a designated driver set up or someone you can call to get a ride home, or even spend the night where you are. If you see somebody that's about to drive, if you care about them, step in and keep them from making a big mistake."

The Ohio Divisions of Liquor and Cannabis Control sent out a reminder along those lines, advising party attendees to plan ahead, stay hydrated and nourished and follow the rules. Among the nine fatalities from the crashes, one was recorded as a pedestrian, seven as motorists and one as a bicyclist.

The county compared favorably to the national average in data crashes involving impaired driving and lack of safety belt but was above the national average of fatal crashes involving speeding.

Buckle YOURSELF In

So THEY Don't Have To



 NHTSA

CLICK IT. DON'T RISK IT.

Click It or Ticket.

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

2025 Allen County Q1 Fatal Crash Summary

Allen Co. Crash Fatalities: January - March 2025

Date of crash	Location of crash	Number of Fatalities
1/18/25	City of Lima at Bluelick Rd	1 (driver)
1/23/25	Monroe Twp at Slabtown Rd & Searfoss Rd	1 (driver)
1/25/25	Shawnee Twp at Rt. 501 (Wapak Rd) & Fort Amanda Rd	2 (drivers)

Need a ride?
Over the age of 60 and/or have a disability?
The Area Agency on Aging 3 might be able to help.

Call us for more information at 800-653-7723!

Transportation

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- Auglaize
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MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:00AM-4:30PM

For more information
visit aaa3.org/transportation



2423 Allentown Road
Lima, Ohio 45805



Awakenings
Hope in Every Step
5K
2025

Hope in Every Step 5K Run/Walk

Saturday, May 3rd - 9:00 a.m. Start
Ottawa Metro Park, 2632 Ada Rd., Lima



Area Agency on Aging
Integrity. Independence. Quality of Life.



GLOBAL MEALS
MAKING THE DIFFERENCE



LEWIS
FAMILY
McDonald's

Pre-registration deadline signup is April 21st.
Those who pre-register will receive a t-shirt and goodie bag!
Pre-registration fee: \$25 Race Day Registration Fee: \$30
Check-In/Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. Age-group awards, finisher medals and snacks provided upon race completion!

Take it at your own pace! The course is fully paved, with some portions going across wooden bridges. Together, we can help older adults in their recovery from abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
Come run, walk, and make a difference!



Awakenings



REGISTER HERE
Scan the QR Code
click here to go to
the registration and
for more info!