

APPENDIX E

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

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SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

Consistent with the policies of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), as well as to support proactive public involvement, the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission (LACRPC) as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Lima Urbanized Area and the Lima-Allen County Regional Transit Authority (ACRTA), as the public transportation provider in Allen County, were required to develop effective public involvement processes tailored to the local community. The standards for the proactive public involvement process included: (1) early and continuous involvement; (2) reasonable public availability of technical and other information; (3) collaborative input on alternatives, evaluation criteria, and mitigation needs; (4) open public meetings where matters related to Federal Aid Highway and transit programs are being considered; and (5) open access to the decision-making process prior to closure.

To meet the Federal mandate, an effective public involvement process was developed to provide for an open exchange of information and ideas between the public and transportation decision makers. The overall objective of the LACRPC and the ACRTA public involvement process was a proactive and informative process achieved through timely public notice, full public access to information and key decisions, as well as opportunities for early and continuing involvement (23 CFR 450.212(a) and 450.316(b)(1)). The public involvement process attempted to provide mechanisms to solicit public comments/ideas as well as identify circumstances and impacts which may not have been known or anticipated, to build wider support among those stakeholders where transportation-related investments might impact their communities

The enhanced focus on public involvement required by federal legislation and the need for more proactive outreach understandably necessitated an extensive outreach approach. The public involvement process was an integral part of the MPO's planning activities and its ability to adequately address current/future problems, as well as potential alternatives and solutions which were fundamental to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update.

MAP-21 specifically required each MPO to adopt a public participation plan to guide the planning process as well as to ensure that various segments of the public and the transportation industry be given the opportunity to participate. The FAST Act reinforced the public participation objectives of MAP-21, requiring MPOs to increase opportunities for citizen involvement, especially the traditionally underserved. Those required to be included were "citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agency employees, other affected employee representatives, private providers of transportation, and other interested parties" (e.g., 23 U.S.C. 134(h)). The FHWA and FTA define the public broadly as including all individuals or groups who are potentially affected by transportation decisions. This includes anyone who resides in, has interest in, or does business in a given area which may be affected by local transportation decisions. The public includes both individuals and organized groups. In addition, similar opportunities should be extended for the participation of all private and public providers of transportation services including, but not limited to, the trucking and rail freight industries, rail passenger industry, taxi operators, and all conventional and unconventional transit service operators. Finally, those persons traditionally under-served by existing transportation systems, such as low-income or minority households and the elderly, need to be explicitly encouraged to participate in the public involvement process.

The remainder of this Appendix is offered to document the extent to which the LACRPC and the ACRTA involved the public in the development, publication, and adoption of the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update.

SECTION 2

PARTNERS IN THE PUBLIC PLANNING PROCESS

The LACRPC and the ACRTA actively identified local transportation stakeholders and solicited partners in the preparation of the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update. The LACRPC and the ACRTA necessarily utilized the MPO's broad based membership and committee structure to provide the technical reviews and public input necessary to develop local transportation policies and the resulting projects of the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update. The MPO, housed within the LACRPC, is a volunteer organization comprised of county, city, village, and township representatives. These representatives in turn serve on the various committees that assist the MPO staff in developing short and long-range transportation plans, policies, and documents. Illustrations E-1 and E-2 depicts the tiered structure of the LACRPC, on which the ACRTA relies and serves.

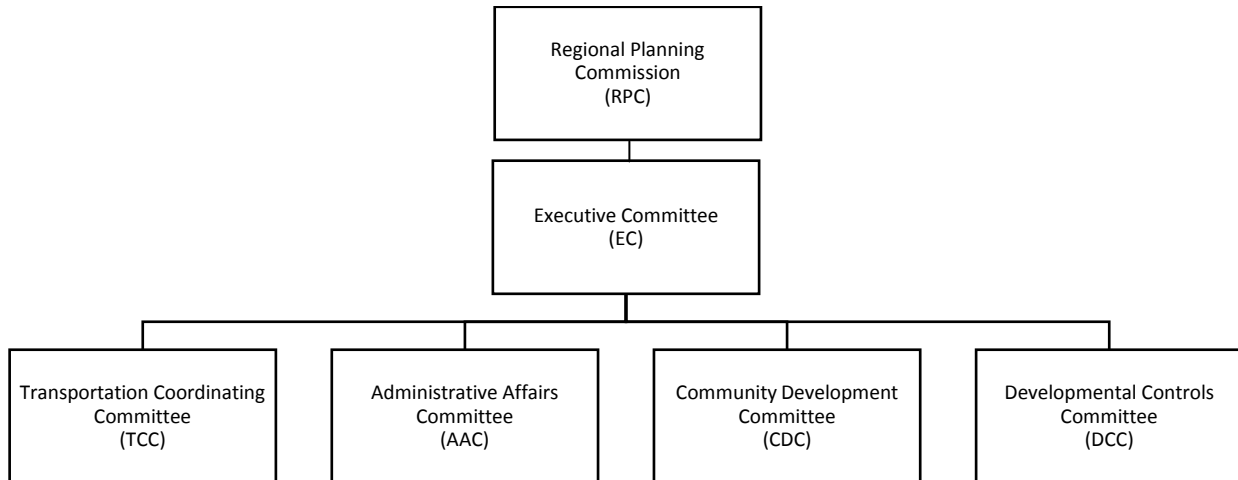
Map E-1 and Table E-1 are provided to identify and document the various political entities involved in the transportation planning process. In addition to the demographic indices provided by political subdivision, each community's accessibility to public transportation services is documented to provide insights as to their level of involvement/interest in transit planning. With respect to Table E-1, project development reflects two distinct planning phases. Project identification is separated from project selection which is based on the existing voting representation of the transportation policy committee. Of note, the Village of Cridersville did not participate in the planning process. Although eligible, the Village rebuffed offers of membership in the MPO. Of note the City of Delphos and the Village of Bluffton, both partially located in adjacent counties, have been actively involved in the planning process with representation on the Agency's internal committee structure.

In addition to the delegates of the local political subdivisions assigned to the MPO, as required by MAP-21 various traditional and non-traditional partners were identified and incorporated into the planning process. The Transit Authority is a mandated partner actively involved in the planning process; its representatives serve on four internal committees. Representatives of ODOT also serve on multiple committees with voting privileges on the technical and policy committees, TAC and TCC respectively; the FHWA is also a TAC member. Representatives of the Lima Area Chamber of Commerce and the Allen Economic Development Group (AEDG) were involved in the review and discussion of planned projects whether committed or recommended. Local hospitals, Allen County Public Health department, United Way and the local Community Action Commission participated in the planning process as well. The Lima Allen County Neighborhoods in Progress (LACNIP), a not-for-profit association of neighborhoods located in the Lima Urbanized Area, proved valuable in identifying and informing neighborhood organizations and their residents of the transportation planning process and its importance to their respective communities. As a result, various neighborhood organizations became actively involved during the public planning process, holding neighborhood meetings during which the planning document was actively reviewed and discussed. The Allen County Airport Authority and representatives of area cartage and freight concerns were also recognized and assimilated into the planning process. Local social service agencies, who provide paratransit services were integrated into the planning process.

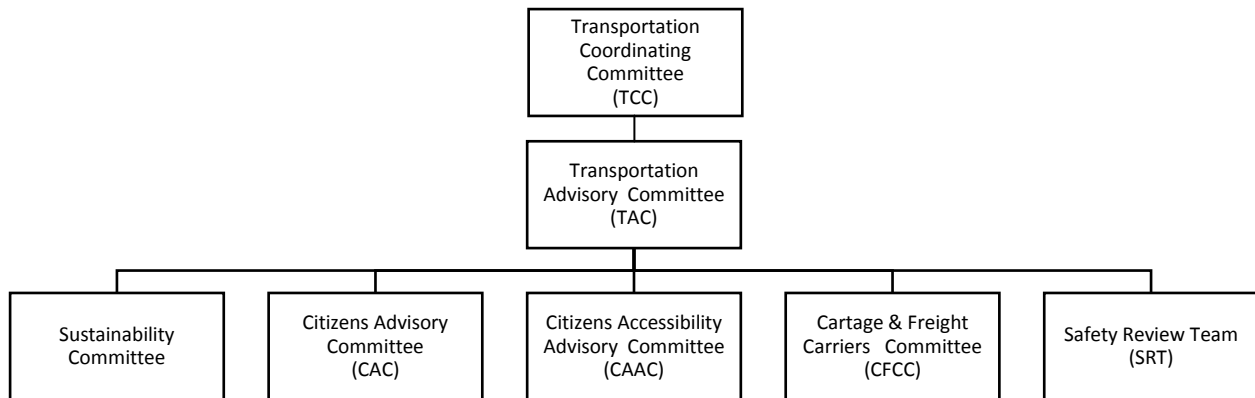
Information about the 2040 LRTP Update and the associated public meetings was disseminated in various ways. Local media were invited to the various LACRPC committee meetings and regularly provided extensive coverage of local transportation issues, including the capital improvement schedules and services, as well as roadway, intersection, and bridge deficiencies. The ACRTA made a copy of the Draft Plan available to transit users to secure comments about inter- and intra-urban public transit. In addition, the Plan was available during the nine (9) days of the Allen County Fair, providing about 210,000 Fair attendees an opportunity to review and comment on the Plan. Copies of the DRAFT 2040 Transportation Plan were available at the Lima Public Library, the offices of the Allen County

Commissioners and the LACRPC during normal business hours. The availability of the Plan was advertised on the web at: <http://www.lacrpc.com/about-us/whats-new>.

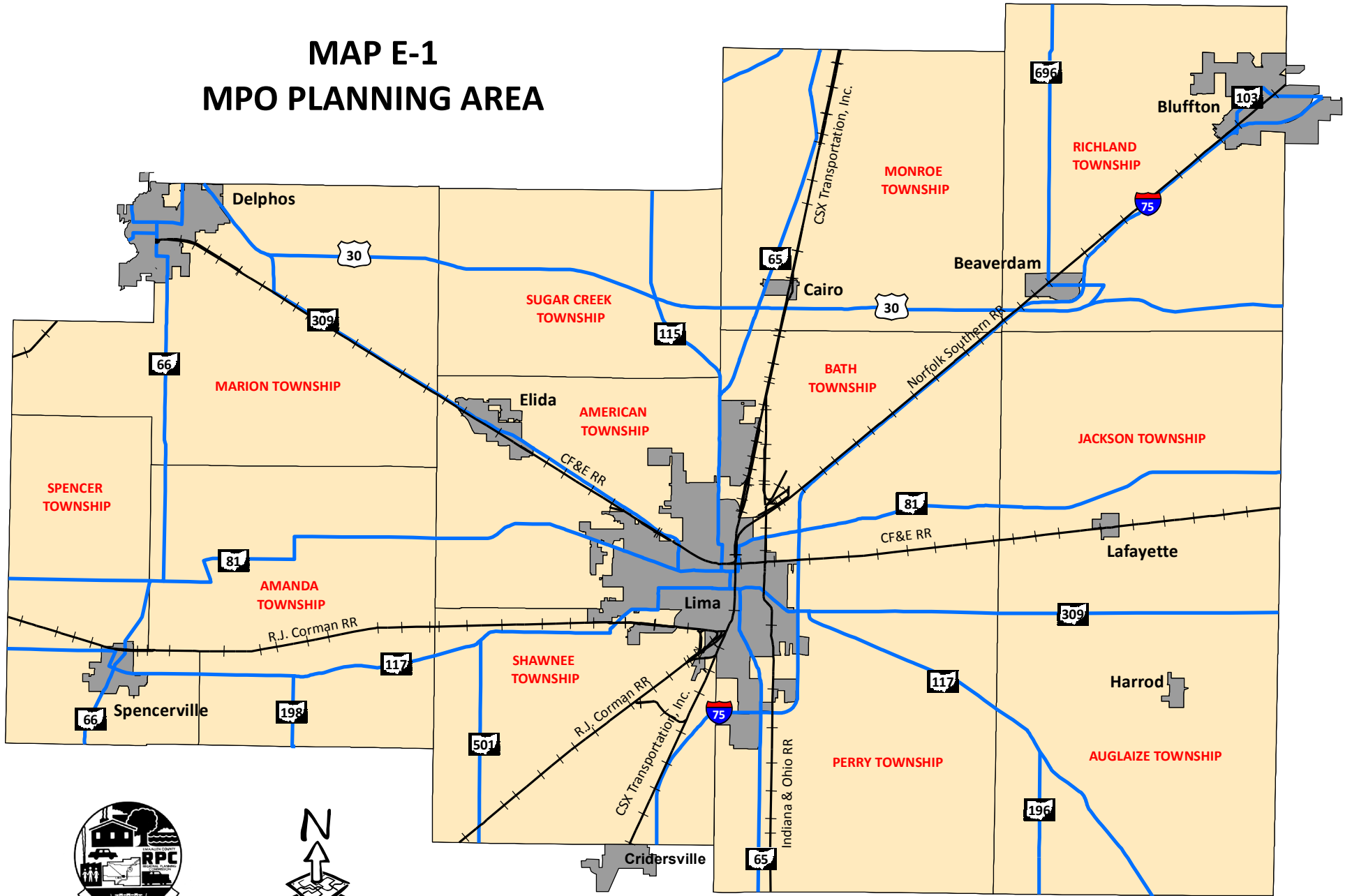
**ILLUSTRATION E-1
LACRPC TIERED STRUCTURE**



**ILLUSTRATION E-2
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS**



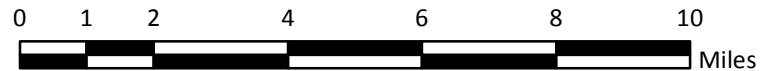
MAP E-1 MPO PLANNING AREA



E - 4



August 2018



**TABLE E-1
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS INVOLVED IN THE LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS
BY DEMOGRAPHICS, ACCESSIBILITY & PARTICIPATION**

| Political Subdivision | Demographics | | | | | Transit Accessibility | | Participation In | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| | Total Population | Total Minority | Total Elderly | Poverty | Total Mobility Impaired | Demand Response Accessibility | Fixed Route Accessibility | Land Use Planning | Transit Planning | Project Development | |
| | | | | | | | | | | ID | Selection |
| Allen County | 104,664 | 17,415 (16.6%) | 16,636 (15.9%) | 16,228 (16.1%) | 7,366 (7.7%) | 77,547 | 57,158 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| City of Delphos (Part) | 3,952 | 253 (6.4%) | 725 (18.3%) | 431 (11.2%) | 299 (8.4%) | 6,820 | 3,387 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| City of Lima | 37,836 | 12,430 (32.9%) | 4,228 (11.2%) | 9,992 (28.5%) | 3,005 (9.1%) | 38,771 | 38,771 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Village of Beaverdam | 466 | 4 (0.9%) | 61 (13.1%) | 68 (14.6%) | 26 (6.5%) | 0 | 0 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Village of Bluffton (Part) | 4,279 | 196 (4.6%) | 896 (20.9%) | 236 (6.1%) | 242 (6.1%) | 0 | 0 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Village of Cairo | 470 | 7 (1.5%) | 96 (20.4%) | 46 (10.0%) | 67 (15.1%) | 0 | 0 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Village of Elida | 1,935 | 142 (7.3%) | 246 (12.7%) | 35 (1.8%) | 73 (4.0%) | 1,905 | 1,905 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Village of Harrod | 425 | 11 (2.6%) | 47 (11.1%) | 76 (17.9%) | 13 (3.3%) | 0 | 0 | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Village of Lafayette | 384 | 0 (0.0%) | 56 (14.6%) | 65 (17.2%) | 33 (8.8%) | 0 | 0 | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Village of Spencerville | 2,339 | 71 (3.0%) | 341 (14.6%) | 557 (24.4%) | 169 (8.2%) | 2,223 | 0 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Amanda Township | 1,833 | 94 (5.1%) | 295 (16.1%) | 100 (5.5%) | 99 (5.5%) | 0 | 0 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| American Township | 12,268 | 1,618 (13.2%) | 2,756 (22.5%) | 1,291 (10.7%) | 937 (8.1%) | 12,476 | 6,225 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Auglaize Township | 2,300 | 132 (5.7%) | 269 (11.7%) | 215 (9.4%) | 96 (4.4%) | 0 | 0 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Bath Township | 9,616 | 768 (8.0%) | 1,667 (17.3%) | 1,171 (12.4%) | 528 (5.8%) | 9,725 | 7,449 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Jackson Township | 2,589 | 12 (0.5%) | 491 (19.0%) | 176 (6.9%) | 141 (5.7%) | 0 | 0 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Marion Township | 2,854 | 144 (5.0%) | 463 (16.2%) | 130 (4.6%) | 129 (4.8%) | 1,697 | 0 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Monroe Township | 1,937 | 8 (0.4%) | 257 (13.3%) | 184 (9.5%) | 158 (8.6%) | 0 | 0 | | | ✓ | |
| Perry Township | 3,446 | 200 (5.8%) | 664 (19.3%) | 281 (8.3%) | 377 (11.6%) | 3,531 | 1,129 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Richland Township | 1,548 | 13 (0.8%) | 301 (19.4%) | 79 (5.4%) | 107 (7.5%) | 0 | 0 | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Shawnee Township | 12,243 | 1,271 (10.4%) | 2,438 (19.9%) | 996 (8.2%) | 799 (6.9%) | 3,826 | 90 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Spencer Township | 699 | 41 (5.9%) | 128 (18.3%) | 37 (5.3%) | 36 (5.3%) | 0 | 0 | ✓ | | | |
| Sugar Creek Township | 1,245 | 0 (0.0%) | 211 (16.9%) | 62 (5.0%) | 32 (2.8%) | 7 | 0 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Total | 104,664 | 17,415 (16.6%) | 16,636 (15.9%) | 16,228 (16.1%) | 7,366 (7.7%) | 77,547 | 62,343 | 21 | 17 | 21 | 8 |

Source: ACS 2016 5-Year Estimates: S0101 Total Population.

SECTION 3 THE PLANNING PROCESS

The MPO initiated the Transportation Plan Update with two separate modal studies. The first, an Active Transportation Plan (ATP) that was adopted by the MPO in November 2017. The document provided the modal crashes, usage, network, concepts, and policies to help define, identify and prioritize investments in policies, programs and projects. The Allen County ATP works to supplement the 2040 Transportation Plan Update with specific policies, programs and projects targeting bicycle and pedestrian modes. A second modal element was addressed in the Regional Public Transportation & Human Service Transportation Plan. The Plan adopted by the MPO and the Lima Allen County Regional Transit Authority in December 2017 documents the size of the transportation-dependent populations and provides current data on the various non-traditional modes of transportation present within the region. The report documents the concerns and needs of the transportationally disadvantaged groups, and includes an overview of possible services with both general and specific recommendations for future implementation. Collectively, the findings and recommendations of these two Plans allowed the MPO and community stakeholders to reflect on the needs of community before addressing the more traditional highway-oriented transportation plan. Both Plans should be considered supporting modal elements of the 2040 Transportation Plan Update.

The more traditional “highway plan” started with corridor levels of service (LOS) analyzed and intersection LOS performed to document existing operational conditions in the summer and fall of 2016. Crash analyses were drafted in the fall and finalized in the winter of 2017. The results of computer modeling were used to support existing and future capacity constraints, and air quality conformity determinations – all conducted by ODOT and finalized in the spring of 2018. Internal committees were engaged in the plan development process beginning in the fall of 2017, with traffic volumes and traffic flow. Land use and population projections followed. Later crash and level of service data were collated; and, finally traffic projections and LOS projections were developed. The Plan experienced numerous early drafts as a result of input and debate about the goals, objectives, and various strategies to realize said goals. The final Draft Plan was released to the general public in August 2018. Two (2) public meetings were held in August 2018 as advertised in the legal section of all area newspapers including: *The Lima News*, *The Delphos Herald*, *The Journal News*, and *Bluffton News*. The MPO supported its public comment period as established by the MPOs adopted Public Involvement Plan/Policy. The 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update was adopted and forwarded to ODOT in August 2018 after a deliberate and extensive public involvement process. Illustrations E-3 and E-4 identifies the structure of the planning process and defines the timeline over which the plan was developed as well as the extent of local partner involvement.

3.1 Planning Elements

As stated earlier, the LACRPC and the ACRTA undertook various steps necessary to complete the planning process. Principal components within the process included: (1) the identification of stakeholders including traditional and non-traditional partners; (2) data collection activities; (3) operational studies of the transportation system; (4) computer modeling of the transportation system, (5) public surveys of needed improvements, (6) an analyses of identified projects; (7) effective and productive public educational outreach efforts; (8) analyses of options and alternatives; and finally (9) Plan adoption. The process spanned approximately 10 months and required the participation and cooperation of various state and local partners. Over that period, stakeholders were identified, queried, polled, and solicited for input and support in the development of the 2040 Transportation Plan Update. The MPO sought continuing and cooperative communications among Plan participants, building the public involvement process on a series of information-based public forums, including focus groups and public meetings with local stakeholders.










| ILLUSTRATION E-3 2040 LRTP 11-MONTH PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Event | 2017 | | | 2018 | | | | | | | |
| | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG |
| CAC Meetings | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TAC Meetings | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TCC Meetings | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DCC Meetings | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CDC Meetings | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M&FC Meetings | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CAAC Meetings | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EC Meetings | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Focus Group Meetings | 5 | 2 | 11 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 11 | 3 |
| Public Meetings | | | | 3 | 5 | 1 | | 1 | | | 15 |
| Media Coverage | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Open House | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Project Solicitation | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Newsletters | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Public Comment Period | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Submit to ODOT/FHWA | | | | | | | | | | | |

3.2 Inclusiveness

The LACRPC and ACRTA identified the transportationally disadvantaged groups early in the planning process and developed listings of organized groups, including those persons with disabilities, minority community groups, as well as ethnic groups and organizations typically considered to be underserved. To address the needs of these groups the MPO and ACRTA assessed the extent to which such local groups have been neglected or underserved, the current and future transportation needs of these groups, as well as opportunities to engage them in the planning process. Strategies used to inform the transportationally underserved involved partnering with existing special needs service providers, sending notices of public involvement opportunities in both English and Spanish to businesses and other sites the underserved might patronize, and holding meetings in ADA accessible, familiar, and non-threatening environments. Service providers, including non-profit neighborhood associations and transportation providers, were recognized for their ability to identify opportunities for residents to express their needs and concerns. Attending meetings of the Low Vision Coalition and integrating their members within the existing MPO committee structure worked to advance to a better understanding of diverse needs. The LACRPC and the ACRTA recognized continuous interaction with these groups as critical to better serve residents' needs in the future.

**ILLUSTRATION E-4
2040 LRTP DETAILED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS**

| July | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|
| Internal committees | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DCC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CDC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CAAC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CAC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TAC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TCC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Presented at stakeholder meetings | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Legal notice requests | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Legal notice ad in newspaper - TLN | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stakeholder surface mail re public mtgs - 21 days | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Placards re public meetings mailed to sites | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Placard re public mtgs delivered to Lima Public Library | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Email stakeholders re public mtgs - 13 days | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Press release re public meetings | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plan at Public Library/Commissioners/LACRTA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plan posted on RPC webpage | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Press release re comment period | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Social media re public meetings | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Website ticker public meeting announcement | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Homepage announcement re public meetings | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Community Calendar requests re public meetings | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| August | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
| Internal committees | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Safety Review Team | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DCC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CAAC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CDC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CAC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TAC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TCC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ACRTA Board Meeting/Approval | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 day comment period | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Public meetings | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Allen County Fair | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Presented at stakeholder meetings | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Summary Sheet posted webpage | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Social media re public meetings | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Submit to ODOT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---|----------------------|---|--------------------|
|  | task start |  | task deadline |  | last day of month |
|  | task complete |  | internal committees |  | weekends |
|  | ongoing |  | stakeholder meetings |  | end of fiscal year |

SECTION 4 OUTREACH & INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

The MPO followed its Public Participation Plan through numerous venues. Neighborhood groups were targeted and sought for their input and public participation. Major employers and manufacturers as well as cartage companies were incorporated into the process to assess transportation and economic development concerns. Public transit and social service agencies, their drivers and their passengers were requested to participate. Members of environmental groups targeting farmland preservation, water quality and air quality were also target for inclusion.

Representatives of the agriculture industry, affordable housing advocates, public housing tenants, and home builders were introduced to land use issues, including urban sprawl and accessibility to transportation facilities and services. Modeling activities were conducted with the assistance of ODOT's Division of Planning, Modeling and Forecasting Section, then reviewed by the various technical and policy committees of the Planning Commission. Community leaders and development officials debated policies, projects, and the financing of the Plan. Social service providers facilitated the identification and means to address and interact with the transportationally disadvantaged. The MPO targeted the transportationally underserved as well as community development advocates to ensure a wide cross section of the public were engaged in the planning process. The remainder of this Section will describe the relationship between specific committees, area stakeholders, and elements of the planning process, including the extent of public notification.

4.1 Transportation Coordinating Committee

The Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC) is designated by the State of Ohio as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Lima Urbanized Area. The Committee is responsible for (1) all area wide transportation planning activities, including programs, services, and plans, (2) the review and approval of the transportation portion of the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), (3) the review and maintenance of the short-range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and (4) the adoption of an updated Long Range Transportation Plan. The Committee also makes policies and final determinations, findings, recommendations, and resolutions necessary to carry out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive urban transportation planning process. The composition of the Committee includes representatives of the ACRTA, local public works, and traffic engineering departments, as well as ODOT and local public officials. Committee membership is comprised of no less than fifty-one percent of locally elected public officials. During the 11-month planning period, the TCC met 8 times to consider data analyses, policies, programs and/or projects affecting transportation decisions. The Agency used its newsletter and website (www.lacrpc.com) to provide advance meeting notification. In addition, meeting dates and agendas were sent to all local media, including *The Lima News* in which meeting notices were printed at the media's discretion.

4.2 Transportation Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) is to provide technical advice on transportation planning projects, plans, and activities to the TCC. The membership of the TAC consists of designated representatives from, but not limited to, agencies and interests such as the Ohio Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, City of Lima and Allen County engineers, the Allen County Regional Transit Authority, railroads, public utilities, economic development interests, and trucking companies. The TAC members offer their broad insights and technical knowledge and experience regarding transportation planning and project impacts. The TAC reviews the procedures undertaken during various phases of traffic

engineering projects, land use analyses, as well as the transportation plan methodology, projections, assumptions, and recommended plans before submission to the TCC. Over the 11-month planning period, the TAC met 8 times to consider data analyses, policies, programs, and/or projects affecting transportation decisions. The Agency used its newsletter and website (www.lacrpc.com) to provide advance meeting notification. In addition, meeting dates and agendas were sent to all local media, including The Lima News in which meeting notices were printed at the media's discretion.

4.3 Citizens Advisory Committee

Acknowledging the input and valuable insights of the MPO's policy and technical committees, the MPO utilized its Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to solicit the broadest spectrum of resident concerns regarding the planning process. The MPO and ACRTA were careful to target various sectors, including representatives from environmental organizations, commercial development, neighborhood and public housing authorities, community action commissions, law enforcement agencies, minority advocacy groups, faith based organizations, and transportation professionals, including school transportation officials, nonprofit social service providers, and local transportation engineering professionals. Committee participants were exposed over the course of Plan development to public comment pertaining to problem identification, data analyses, alternative solutions, and project recommendations. The CAC met 6 times to consider data analyses, policies, programs, and/or projects relevant to the transportation issues over the planning process. The Agency used its newsletter and website (www.lacrpc.com) to provide advance meeting notification. In addition, meeting dates and agendas were sent to all local media, including The Lima News in which meeting notices were printed at the media's discretion.

4.4 Outreach Efforts with Other Interested Parties

Illustration E-3 identifies an 11-month planning process and the extent to which various stakeholders participated. During Plan development, focus groups representing diverse segments of the population were identified, queried, educated, and polled regarding their interests. Such focus groups grappled with data analyses and project specifics. The trucking and manufacturing sectors were targeted for their input to address freight movements and safety concerns unique to large transport vehicles. Meetings with local political subdivisions provided elected officials, residents, and the media information regarding traffic problems, project recommendations, and funding issues specific to their individual community interests. The use of focus groups within urban neighborhoods was selected in part because of the ability to support individual participation in familiar group settings. The small group setting allowed for, and encouraged, individual participation in discussion and Plan development. To assure that the needs of the transportationally disadvantaged were considered during plan development, the MPO was careful to identify locations that were served by public transportation and familiar to these specific population groups.

MPO staff met with local stakeholders in small focus group settings more than 40 times to consider data analyses, policies, programs and/or projects during the 24-month planning period. Neighborhood groups were actively encouraged to participate in the planning process. Discussions with LACNIP resulted in increased CAC diversification/participation as well as several neighborhood organizations undertaking data collection activities related to land use, population, and transportation planning. Several neighborhood groups were actively involved in developing land use elements and expressed concerns over inadequate capital investments and available public transportation services in their specific neighborhoods. Meeting dates of the

local political subdivisions and neighborhood associations were sent to *The Lima News*, in which meetings notices were printed at the discretion of the media.

Several maps included in this Section geographically depict public participation efforts. Maps E-2 through E-8 depict the locations of public outreach efforts in the City of Lima and the outlying community. Maps E-4 through E-8 attempt to identify accessibility concerns of the transportationally disadvantaged through the use of residents' socio-economic characteristics residing within the proximity of the outreach locations. Map E-9 depicts active neighborhood associations as related to participation in the planning process. Table E-2 identifies neighborhood demographics and extent of involvement in plan development. Table E-3 identifies census tracts by targeted population concentrations and participation in the public participation process.

**TABLE E-2
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS INVOLVEMENT IN THE LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING PROCESS BY DEMOGRAPHICS, ACCESSIBILITY & PARTICIPATION**

| Neighborhood Associations | Demographics | | | | | | | Area Accessibility | | Participation | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------|---|
| | Total Area | Total Population | Total Households | Total Minority | Pop Under 200% Poverty | HH w/ Elderly Resident | HH w/ Disabled Resident | Fixed Route Services | Demand Response | Land Use Planning | Project Identification | Project Review | Comments |
| Country Club Hills | 249.6 acres | 1,234 | 387 | 72 5.80% | 138 14.20% | 113 29.20% | 78 20.20% | 100% | 100% | ✓ | | ✓ | Suburban neighborhood fully engaged in MPO planning process. |
| Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. | 515.9 acres | 1,544 | 615 | 827 53.56% | 888 57.5% | 155 25.20% | 189 30.70% | 100% | 100% | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Urban mixed use neighborhood completed land use planning process. Further outreach required. |
| Northside | 1,478.0 acres | 10,686 | 4,040 | 2,981 27.90% | 6,137 57.60% | 785 19.40% | 1,216 30.10% | 100% | 100% | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Urban residential neighborhood newly expanded its boundaries reflect mixed use. Further involvement is suspect. |
| Northwest Perry | 147.2 acres | 279 | 100 | 168 60.20% | 152 54.50% | 20 20.00% | 25 25.00% | 100% | 100% | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Urban residential neighborhood is actively represented on CAC. |
| Central Lima | 499.2 acres | 3,213 | 1,240 | 1,353 42.10% | 2,120 68.90% | 209 16.90% | 394 31.80% | 100% | 100% | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Faurot West | 505.6 acres | 3,602 | 1,339 | 991 27.50% | 1,250 35.10% | 260 19.40% | 320 23.90% | 100% | 100% | | | ✓ | |
| Westgate | 256.0 acres | 1,791 | 846 | 317 17.70% | 755 43.50% | 360 42.60% | 259 30.60% | 100% | 100% | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Urban residential neighborhood is actively represented on CAC. |
| Total | 3,545.2 acres | 22,492 | 8,624 | 6,624 29.45% | 11,435 50.84% | 1,929 22.37% | 2,473 28.68% | 100% | 100% | | | | Neighborhood Associations differ in their composition and abilities. The MPO is actively soliciting increased involvement in planning process. |

**TABLE E-3
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CENSUS TRACTS & CONCENTRATED TARGETED POPULATIONS**

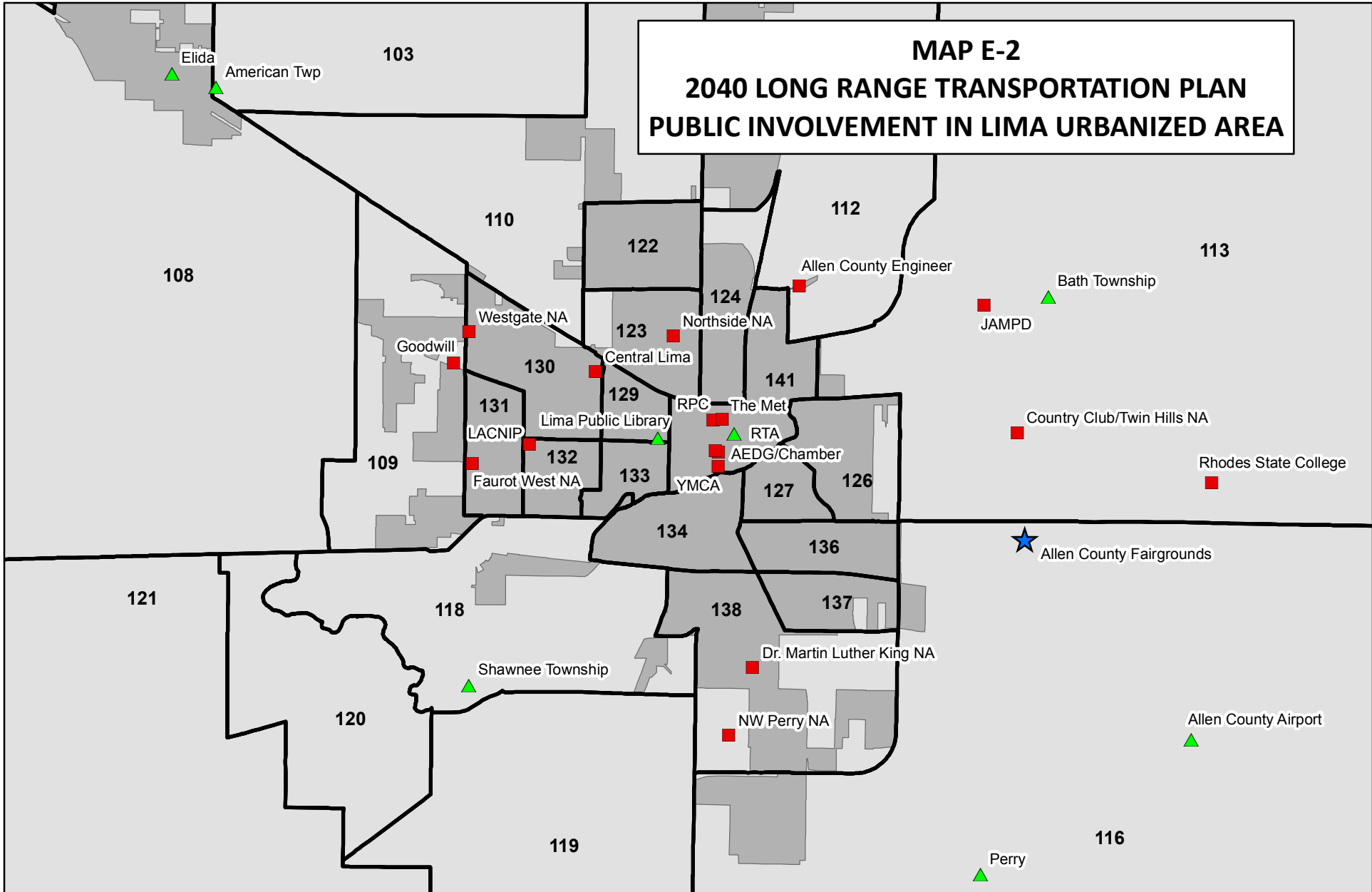
| Census Tract | Total Population | Percent Over 65 | Percent Minority | Percent w/ Ambulatory Difficulty | Percent Below Poverty Level | Percent HH w/ No Vehicle Available | Focus Group Mtgs | Public Mtgs | Open House |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|------------|
| Allen County | 104,644 | 15.9 | 18.5 | 7.7 | 16.1 | 7.5 | | | |
| 101 | 4,535 | 20.9 | 5.6 | 6.0 | 5.8 | 4.5 | x | | |
| 102 | 4,165 | 16.0 | 2.0 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 1.2 | | x | |
| 103 | 1,553 | 18.0 | 4.6 | 2.9 | 5.4 | 0.0 | | x | |
| 106 | 4,871 | 15.7 | 4.8 | 6.7 | 14.4 | 3.0 | | x | |
| 108 | 7,382 | 22.3 | 7.3 | 6.3 | 2.5 | 3.9 | | x | |
| 109 | 4,690 | 16.7 | 17.4 | 6.1 | 14.4 | 6.6 | x | | |
| 110 | 5,902 | 16.2 | 23.8 | 8.5 | 21.7 | 4.8 | | | |
| 112 | 2,961 | 8.8 | 32.8 | 7.4 | 14.3 | 5.7 | x | | |
| 113 | 7,300 | 19.2 | 8.1 | 5.2 | 9.7 | 2.6 | x | x | |
| 114 | 2,973 | 18.4 | 1.3 | 6.2 | 8.3 | 0.4 | | x | |
| 115 | 2,725 | 11.6 | 9.7 | 4.2 | 10.8 | 3.8 | | x | |
| 116 | 2,583 | 20.8 | 4.2 | 12.0 | 9.4 | 6.8 | | x | x |
| 118 | 2,524 | 20.2 | 16.2 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 0.5 | | x | |
| 119 | 3,000 | 22.4 | 8.0 | 10.8 | 15.1 | 7.0 | | | |
| 120 | 2,373 | 23.9 | 5.7 | 5.4 | 2.1 | 1.1 | | | |
| 121 | 3,511 | 18.3 | 14.2 | 6.1 | 8.6 | 1.5 | | | |
| 122 | 3,652 | 10.6 | 36.4 | 9.8 | 19.8 | 10.3 | | | |
| 123 | 3,808 | 10.1 | 19.7 | 5.7 | 27.0 | 6.8 | x | | |
| 124 | 2,571 | 7.4 | 24.6 | 7.1 | 25.4 | 13.6 | | | |
| 126 | 1,892 | 13.8 | 22.6 | 5.2 | 21.0 | 7.1 | | | |
| 127 | 1,860 | 7.5 | 40.4 | 11.6 | 56.4 | 24.0 | | | |
| 129 | 1,534 | 7.0 | 38.4 | 6.8 | 39.6 | 22.7 | | x | |
| 130 | 4,346 | 18.1 | 22.1 | 8.7 | 19.4 | 9.9 | x | | |
| 131 | 2,302 | 14.4 | 23.9 | 3.0 | 12.4 | 3.9 | x | | |
| 132 | 2,065 | 10.1 | 38.3 | 8.8 | 18.6 | 10.4 | x | | |
| 133 | 1,344 | 16.0 | 50.1 | 13.0 | 16.6 | 14.9 | | | |
| 134 | 2,411 | 13.4 | 40.0 | 17.1 | 52.9 | 33.3 | | | |
| 136 | 1,029 | 8.7 | 48.8 | 11.8 | 45.2 | 13.7 | | | |
| 137 | 1,143 | 11.4 | 65.3 | 16.8 | 38.9 | 29.3 | | | |
| 138 | 2,871 | 9.8 | 56.7 | 12.9 | 23.9 | 19.9 | x | | |
| 139 | 3,362 | 15.7 | 3.4 | 7.8 | 8.5 | 4.0 | x | | |
| 140 | 3,444 | 19.2 | 11.2 | 5.9 | 8.3 | 3.8 | | | |
| 141 | 1,982 | 6.6 | 43.2 | 12.4 | 36.3 | 31.4 | x | x | |
| 205* | 5,248 | 15.0 | 4.2 | 5.9 | 5.4 | 1.2 | | x | |
| 13** | 3,112 | 19.0 | 6.0 | 10.6 | 7.0 | 4.0 | | | |

Source: ACS 2016 5-Year Estimate

*Van Wert County Census Tract

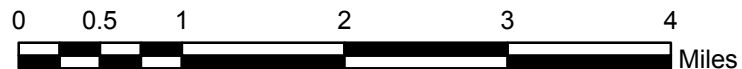
**Hancock County Census Tract

MAP E-2 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN LIMA URBANIZED AREA



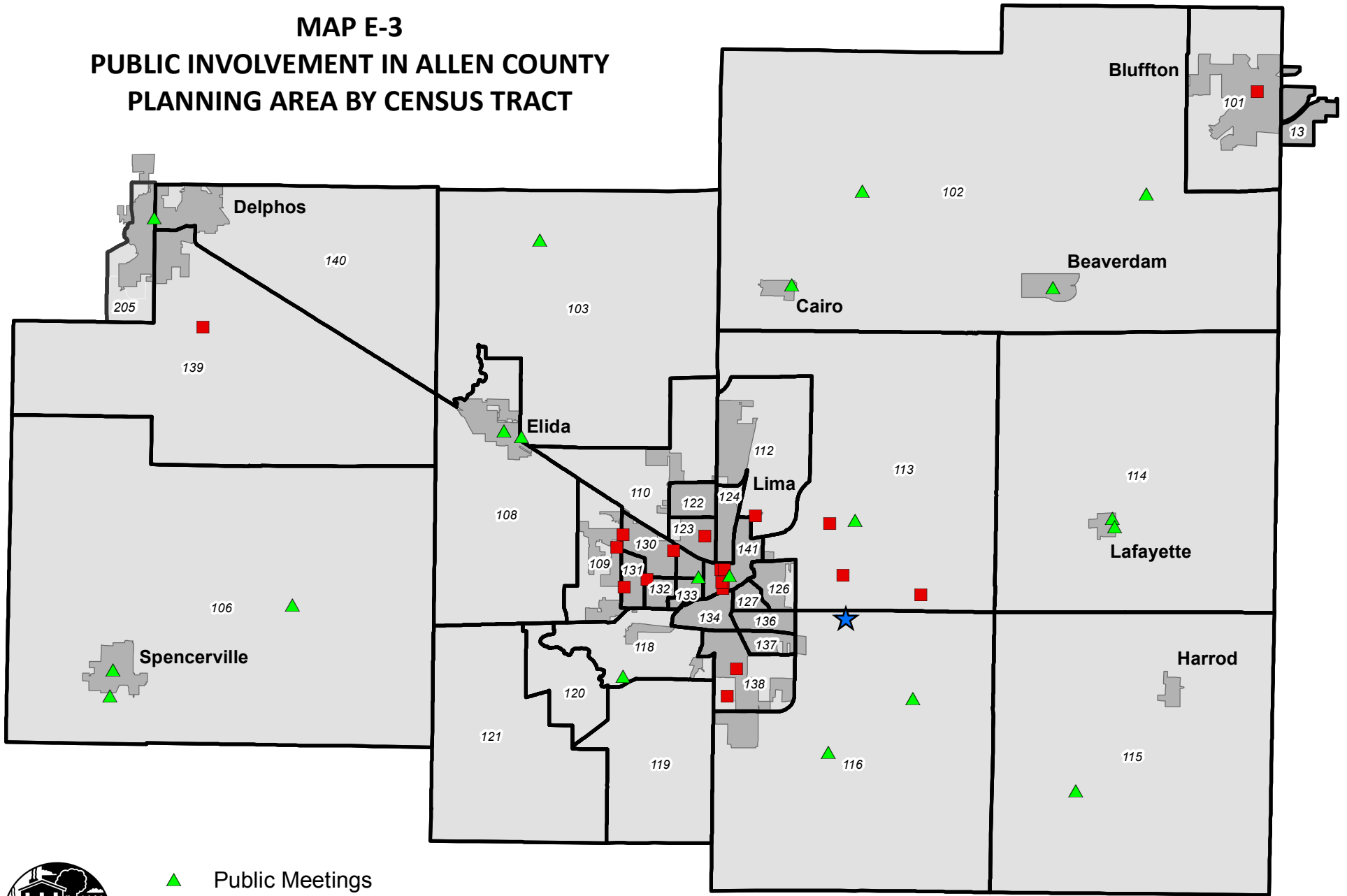
E - 14

- Focus Group
- ▲ Public Meetings
- ★ Open House



August 2018

MAP E-3 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN ALLEN COUNTY PLANNING AREA BY CENSUS TRACT

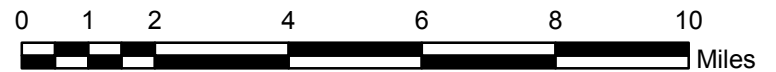


E - 15

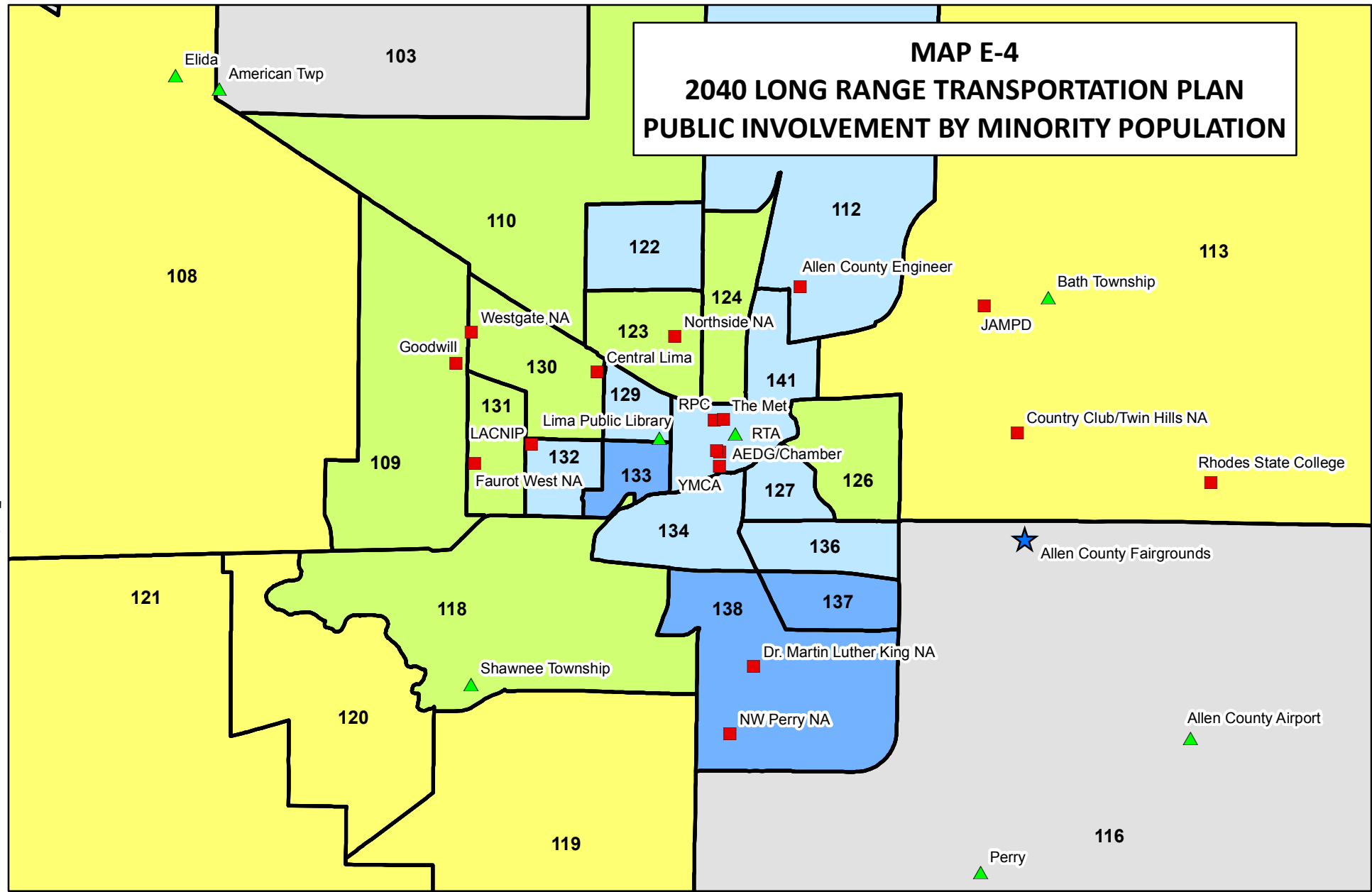


August 2018

- ▲ Public Meetings
- ★ Open House
- Focus Group

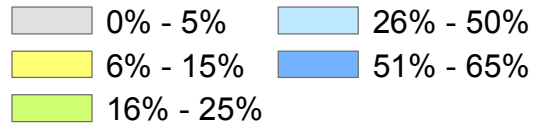


MAP E-4 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT BY MINORITY POPULATION

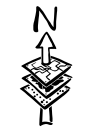
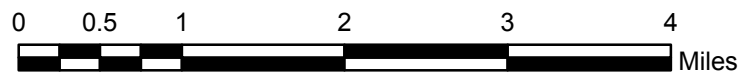


E - 16

Percent Minority

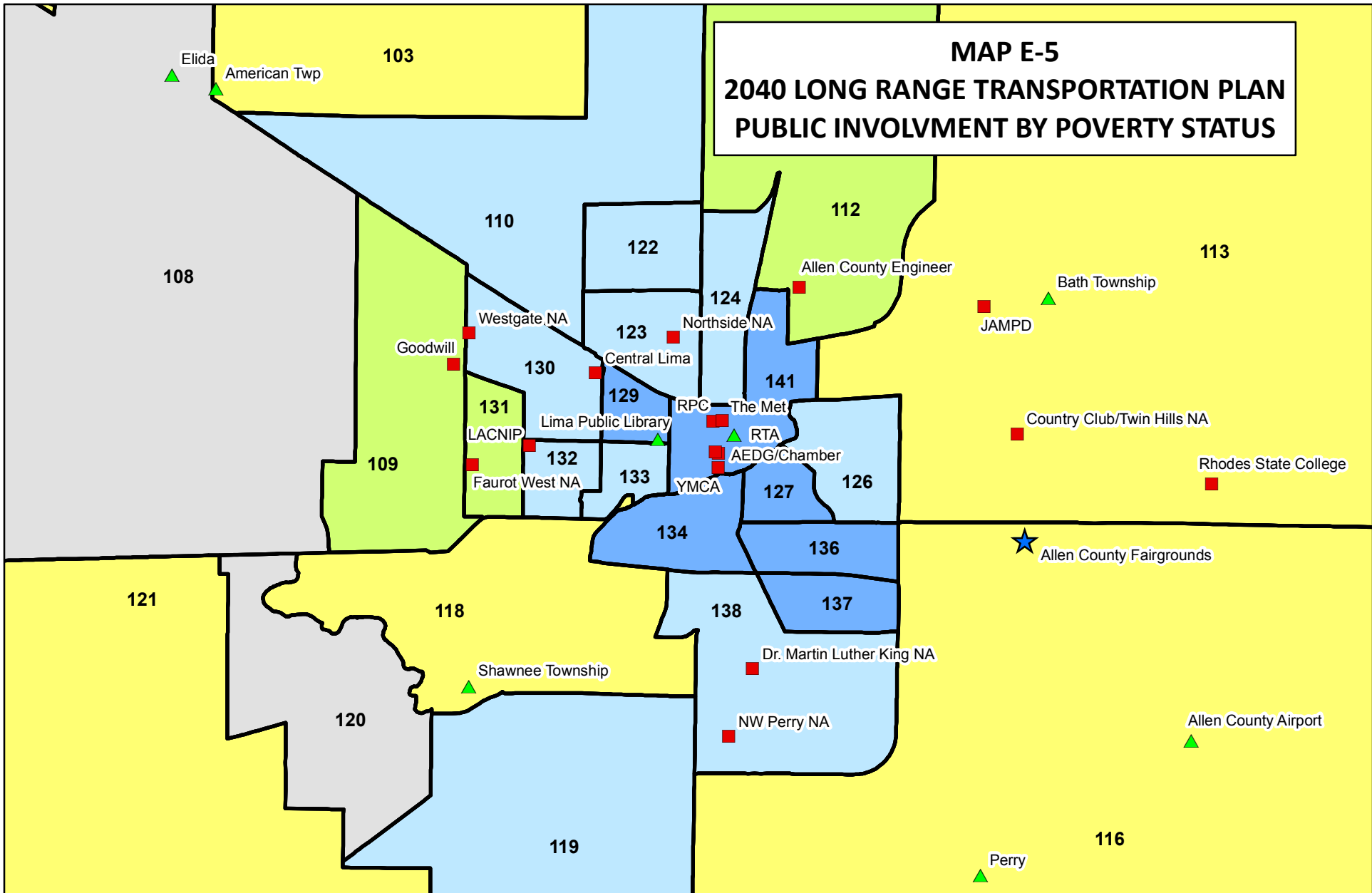


- Focus Group
- ▲ Public Meetings
- ★ Open House



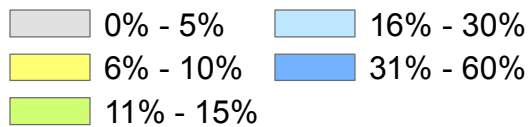
August 2018

MAP E-5 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN PUBLIC INVOLVMENT BY POVERTY STATUS

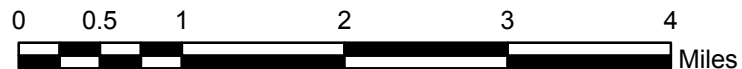


E - 17

Percent In Poverty

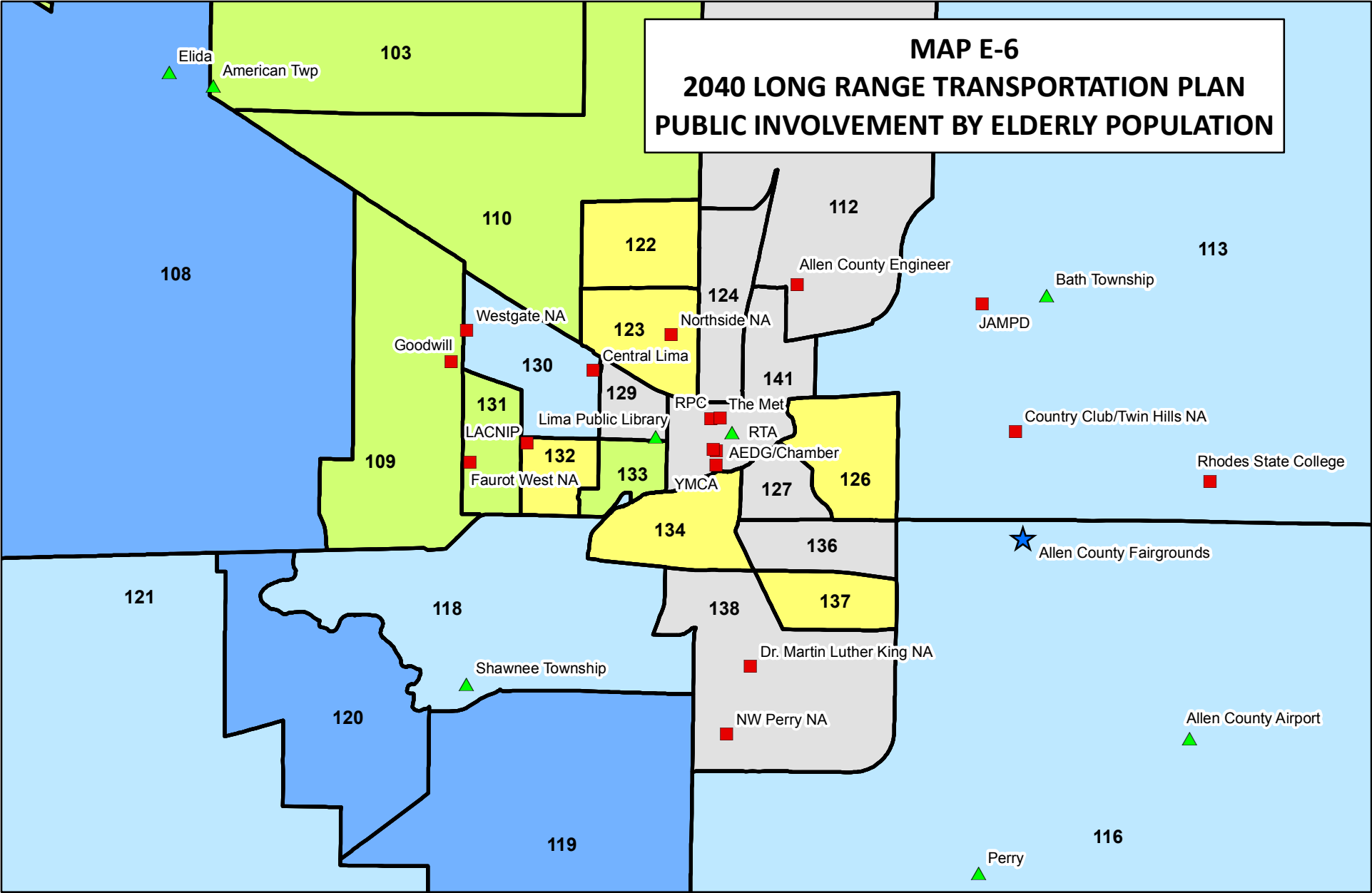


- Focus Group
- Public Meetings
- Open House



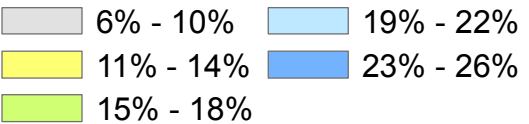
August 2018

MAP E-6 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT BY ELDERLY POPULATION

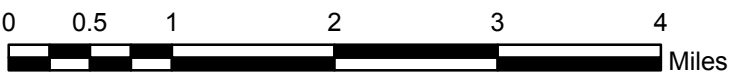


E - 18

Percent Elderly

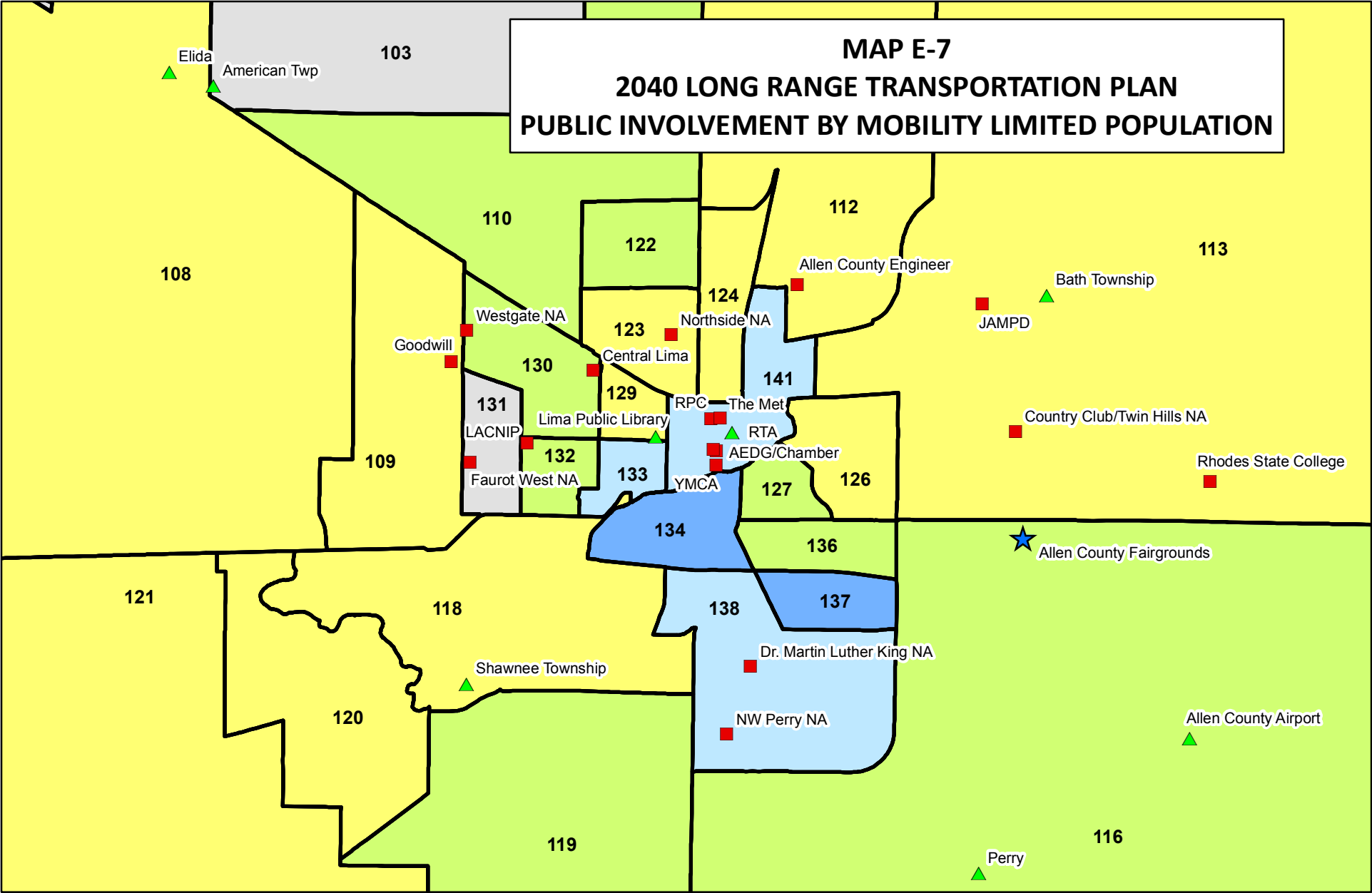


- Focus Group
- ▲ Public Meetings
- ★ Open House



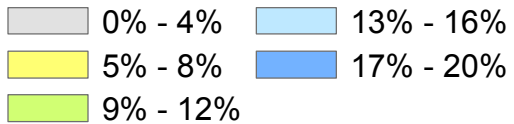
August 2018

MAP E-7 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT BY MOBILITY LIMITED POPULATION

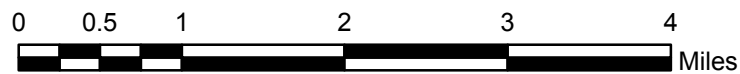


E - 19

Percent Mobility Limited

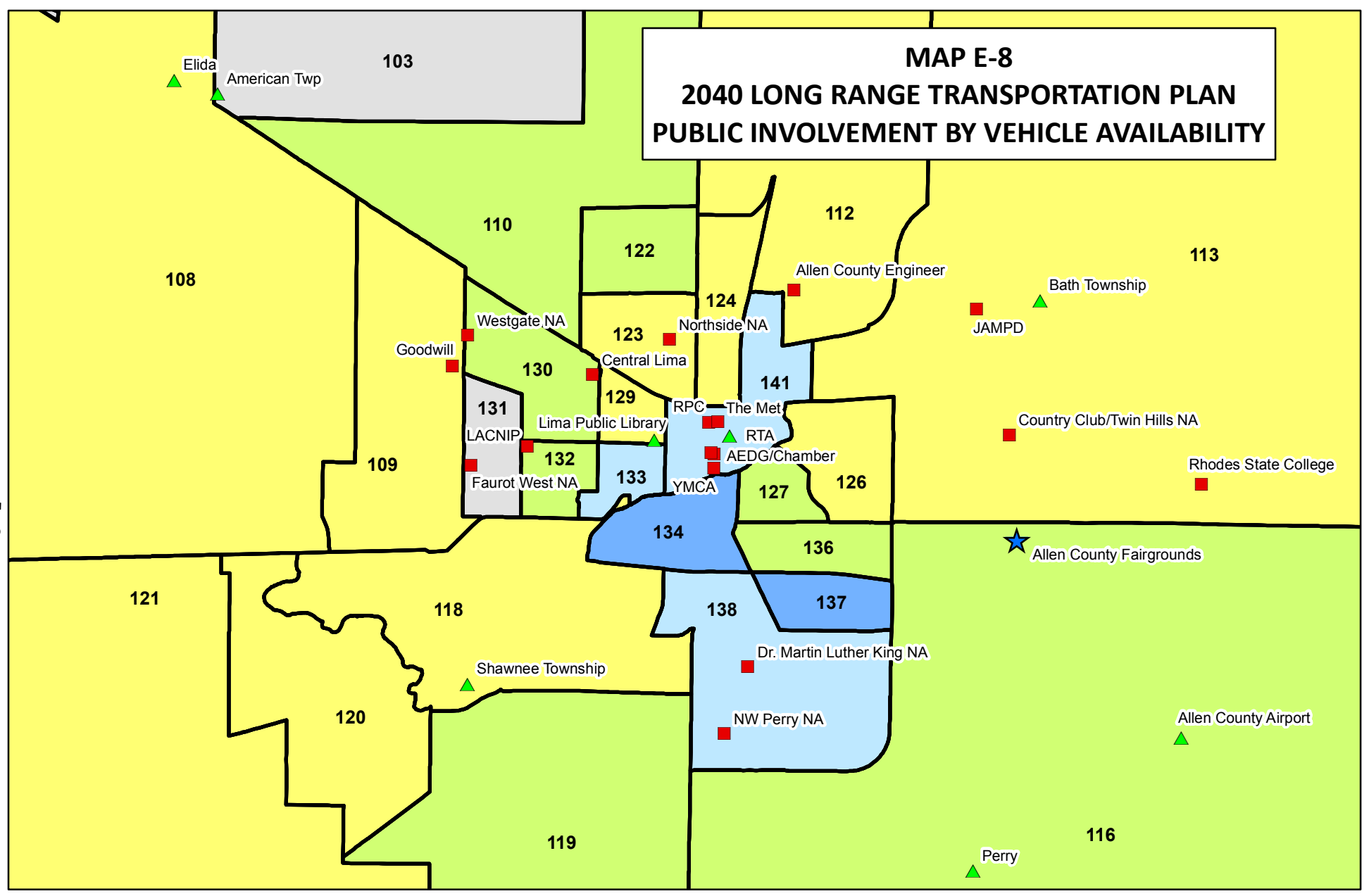


- Focus Group
- Public Meetings
- Open House



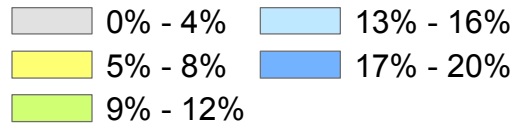
August 2018

MAP E-8 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT BY VEHICLE AVAILABILITY

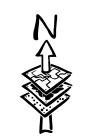
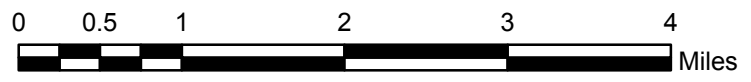


E - 20

Percent No Vehicles Available

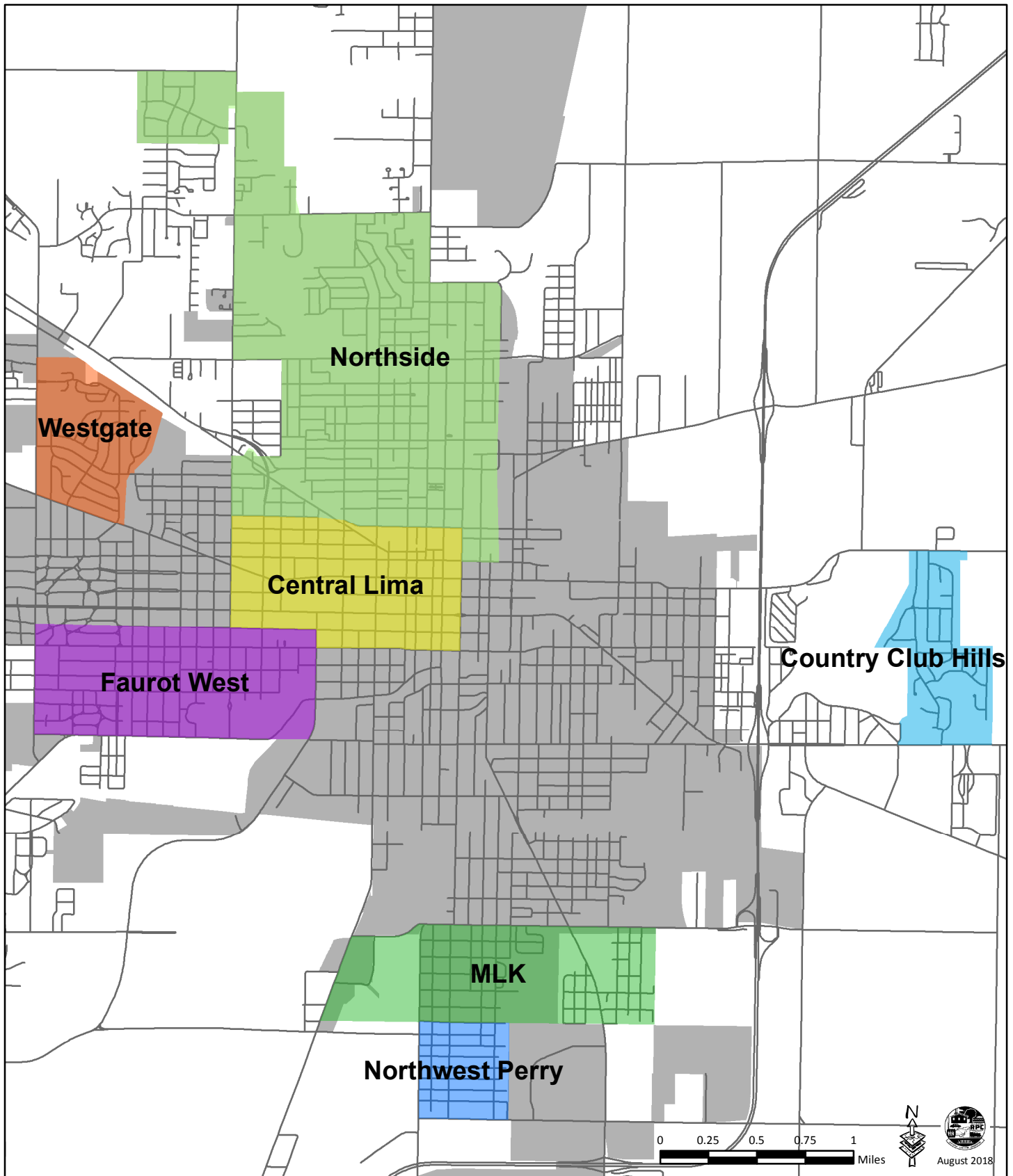


- Focus Group
- ▲ Public Meetings
- ★ Open House



August 2018

MAP E-9 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING PROCESS



SECTION 5
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS SUMMATION

This document demonstrates the MPO's "explicit consideration and response to public input," as required by 23 CFR 450.212 and 23 CFR 450.316. In the spirit of MAP-21 and the FAST Act, the LACRPC attempted to increase the level of public awareness and public involvement over the course of preparing the 2040 Transportation Plan Update and following the MPO's Public Participation Plan. The MPO successfully identified and solicited those members of the public, typically underserved by the existing transportation facilities and services, employing outreach efforts complete with graphic, linguistic, and geographic techniques. The MPO was only able to complete this task after securing the confidence of those neighborhood associations as well as social service and transportation agencies that service said populations.

The 11-month transportation planning process was facilitated by more than 50 meetings, addressing local conditions and proposed alternatives. When considering the targeted populations within the Allen County planning area, the MPO was successful in placing focus group meetings and public meetings at locations in the residential proximity of these groups. Within the identified minority population, 55.0 percent of the total minority population was located in census tracts where meetings were held. Among the elderly, 67.7 percent resided within census tracts where meetings were held. Among households identified as having no vehicle available, 54.9 percent were exposed to public meetings and/or focus groups. All in all, 67.0 percent of Allen County's total population were located in census tracts where focus groups, public meetings or open houses were located.

The LACRPC targeted geographic areas and sectors of the community for inclusion and ultimately increased participation in the planning process. And, although the extent and degree of participation varied, the process has become stronger and will establish a foundation from which future transportation planning efforts can build. The MPO has incorporated in the document those limited comments received from the public in order to assure the public that its input is valued and considered during the decision making process. This was a policy position taken to guarantee to the public that the time and energy expended in getting involved was meaningful and worthwhile. The LACRPC has incorporated records of its public involvement activities, input, comments, and concerns as well as any document requests for information and responses to comments received during the public involvement process as Attachments to this document.

COMMENT SHEET
Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission
DRAFT 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update
August 9, 2018

Please use this sheet to record your comments regarding the DRAFT 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update. If additional space is required, use the reverse side of this sheet.

(update)

The Draft 2040 LRTP seems well thought-out and comprehensive.

Please accept these comments in support of the plan & the 4 goals for the plan (1 - support economic opportunities; 2 - system level efficiencies + safety; 3 - protecting natural + built environment; 4 - developing health, livable communities through equitable public investments.)

Transportation systems need to support people who need to reach their everyday destinations such as jobs, school, healthcare facilities + healthy food/recreation outlets/opportunities. Accessibility is a key factor to assure that everyone in a community can reach their destinations, including those who do not have access to a personal vehicle, individuals with disabilities, children, + older adults. →
over

Name: Kathy Luhn Signature: Kathleen A Luhn
Address: 219 E Market St, Lima Date: 8/20/18
Telephone: 419-228-4457

If you have additional questions or comments, the LACRPC office hours and telephone number follows:

Address: LACRPC, 130 W. North Street, Lima, OH 45801
Office hours: Monday through Friday; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Telephone: 419-228-1836 (voice); 419-228-3891 (fax)
Webpage: www.lacrpc.com

(Continued)

It is important that the transportation plan continue to address & reduce barriers that limit convenient public transportation & safe, well maintained bike & pedestrian facilities. Vehicular transportation impacts air quality & the health/quality of life for residents, which emphasizes the need to continue to plan for multimodal transportation. I recognize there are public costs to addressing these issues, and yet the cost of not addressing them is even higher.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment. KAC 8/20/18

DRAFT 2040
Long Range Transportation Plan Update
Public Meeting – August 10, 2018
EVALUATION

Please read each item and circle the number of the response that best describes your opinion.
1=Poor 2=Fair 3=Good 4=Very Good 5=Excellent

Evaluation of Program:

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. The content of the presentation was easily understood. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. The meeting was well organized. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. Handouts provided were easily understood. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. Visual aids helped to understand the Long Range Plan | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. There was sufficient time and opportunity for questions and discussion. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. The room was comfortable. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

7. What would have made the information presented at the meeting more easily understood and useful?

None

8. Please indicate topics that should be reduced or deleted.

None

Comments:

The audio visual ~~and~~ presentation graphics could have been larger for those of us who are becoming "more visually challenged"

Great presentation & presenter

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF OHIO } SS
COUNTY OF ALLEN }

Melissa Sanchez, being duly sworn, says:

That she is Classified Sales Representative of the LIMA NEWS, a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in LIMA, ALLEN County, OHIO; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following dates:

Jul 20, 2018

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

SIGNED:

Melissa Sanchez

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 20th day of Jul 2018

Debra S. Laman, ALLEN County, OHIO

My commission expires: 06/13/2023

\$ 120.32



DEBRA S. LAMAN
Notary Public, State of Ohio
My Commission Expires

40010544 90033105 419-228-1836

Lima Allen Co Regional Planning Commission
130 W North St
Lima, OH 45801

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

DRAFT 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE REVIEW & COMMENT

The Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission is requesting public review and comment on the Draft 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update. The Plan ensures that transportation needs are identified and resources made available to address future demands to the year 2040 through the development of an inter-modal transportation system. Two public meetings are scheduled to review the Plan. The first is scheduled for Thursday, August 9, 2018, 10:00 a.m., at the Allen County Regional Transit Authority (ACRTA), 200 E. High Street, Lima. The second is scheduled for Friday, August 10, 2018, 3:00 p.m., at the Lima Public Library, 650 W. Market Street, Lima. Both the ACRTA and the Lima Public Library facilities meet accessibility standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Accommodations for those with special needs are available, if a formal request is made immediately. If you have a special request or other questions regarding the Plan or public meetings, please call the Commission office at 419.228.1836 or email esmith@lacrpc.com.

Legal #396 - July 20, 2018 (1t)

TMH

PO 1145

RECEIVED

JUL 23 2018

Lima-Allen County
Regional Planning Commission

Proof of Publication

THE DELPHOS DAILY HERALD
DELPHOS, OHIO

The State of Ohio, Allen County, ss.

Before me A Notary Public
..... of said county, personally appeared
Lori A. Beining
..... who being
solemnly sworn, deposed that the annexed advertisement was duly
published in the **Delphos Daily Herald** once every
..... seventh day for the space of .. one
consecutive weeks from and after the. eighteenth day
of July , A.D., 2018, and that the said
Delphos Daily Herald - was at that time a newspaper printed and
published in Allen County and of general circulation in said county.

TMM

..... *Lori A. Beining*

Sworn to and subscribed before me at Delphos, Ohio, this
..... 18th day of July, 2018

..... *Kelli Metzger*

KELLI METZGER
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF OHIO
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES OCTOBER 21, 2019

Printer's Fee, \$ 79.10
.80
Affidavit \$ 79.90

RECEIVED
JUL 20 2018
Lima-Allen County
Regional Planning Commission

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF OHIO:

COUNTY OF ALLEN:

CASSANDRA HELMSTETTER, being first duly sworn according to law, states and avers as follows:

Affiant is the publisher of The Journal News and that the attached NOTICE OF PUBLICATION was published in The Journal News, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Spencerville, County of Allen and State of Ohio in the following issue: 07/19/18 and that the attached newspaper clipping is a true and correct copy of said published notice.

Cassandra L. Helmstetter

CASSANDRA HELMSTETTER, Affiant

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence this 2nd day of July, 2018.

Jon Platt

NOTARY PUBLIC



Jon Platt
Notary Public, State of Ohio
My Commission Expires 8-14-18
Anglice County

July Activities Continue at Bluffton Public Library

The 'Libraries Rock' Summer Program continues for the month of July. Please notice: because registration for many of these programs begins at the beginning of June, registration may be full for some programs. To register, give us a call at 419-358-5016, visit our website at blufftonpubliclibrary.org, or stop in during library hours.

Jammin' at the Library continues at 6 p.m. July 30. This is a song-circle style jam session to which anyone is welcome to join. Bring your instrument, voice, or listening ears. For more information, email asc@blufftonpubliclibrary.org. The Dulcimers @ the Library continue to meet at the library on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. on the main level.

Ongoing Playgroup sessions continue at 10 a.m. on Fridays. Make a playdate and the library will provide the space and toys.

Summer Storytime continues on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. or Tuesdays at 10 a.m. until July 24. Call 419-358-5016 or stop by our front desk to register your child. Storytime is for preschool children ages 3-5 on either Monday nights or Tuesday mornings. Children may join Storytime at the start of the month in which they will have their third birthday. Please note: spots are limited and registration may already be full.

Children going into grades K-5 are encouraged to attend the many free 'Make & Take' craft sessions during the Summer Program. Registration is required for each session to ensure enough materials for everyone. Sock Puppet Karaoke is on July 24 at 1 p.m. Email ysc@blufftonpubliclibrary.org for more information.

In honor of the 'Libraries Rock' theme, there is still plenty of music going on in the library for the Tiny Concert Series. Phil and Krysti Schey will do a 'Children's Sing-Along' on July 27 at 11 a.m. No registration is necessary, and all ages are welcome.

STEAM Fridays is an ongoing program during the Summer Program geared towards children grades K-5 and their families. Check out projects and challenges going on during library hours on our main floor. July 20 is a Coloring Activity and July 27 is Sound Sandwich.

Borrow a copy of August's book 'The Dressmaker' by Kate Alcott and join the meeting of the library's Adult Book Discussion on Aug. 1. Call us or email asc@blufftonpubliclibrary.org for more information.

We've got great events all summer for our teens. Lip Sync Battles for tweens and teens is on July 19 at 2 p.m. Registration required. Then join us for the Unicorn Tea Party on July 26 at 1 p.m. The SciFi/Fantasy Writer's Group will meet on July 19 at 6 p.m. Please register in advance. For more information or to register/be put on the

group's email list, email asc@blufftonpubliclibrary.org.

The Toledo Zoo & Aquarium returns for insects and invertebrates on July 20 at 1 p.m. This program is for children going into grades K-2, and registration is required. Then on July 20 at 2 p.m., the Toledo Zoo & Aquarium will present Zoo Careers (for grades 3-12). Learn more about who works at a zoo and what goes on behind the scenes. Registration is required for this program as well.

Everyone ages six and up is welcome at a fun Family Yoga session with Joy Stemen, local licensed massage therapist and yoga instructor, on July 21 at 10 a.m. Children must be accompanied by an adult who will participate with them. Due to space restrictions, registration is required. Bring your yoga mat and water bottle.

Watercolor Workshop is July 23 at 6 p.m. Local artist Jeanne Beutler will continue teaching on the lower level of the library. Advance registration is required as the number of registrants is limited. Walk away with your own watercolor piece of art, complete with mat. There is a \$10 supply fee at the door (cash only please).

The Gluten Free and Food Allergy Support Group meets at the library on July 23 at 6:30 p.m. Please notice: this group will meet in the Local History Room on the library's main level.

The Rain Gardens & Rock Gardens presentation by Transition Bluffton is on Tuesday, July 24 at 6:00 p.m. Please register in advance. Information will be presented on the water-saving impact of rain gardens and the aesthetics of implementing rocks into landscaping. A variety of applicable plant selections will be discussed, as well as the different styles and forms of rain gardens and the various methods of water collection as a source of irrigation as opposed to utilizing city water.

Join Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District Naturalist Jessie Elsass for an exciting program learning about reptiles (and meet some reptiles as well) at the park system's new Naturalist van, the B.E.E.T.L.E. (Bringing Environmental Education to Learners Everywhere). It will be parked at Bluffton's Buckeye Park on July 25 at 10 a.m. beside the pavilion. Register at the library, and then we'll meet you there.

Essential Oil Make & Take: Insect repellent is on July 26 at 6:00 p.m. (register by July 19). At this workshop, you will learn how to make your own insect repellent with simple household ingredients and using essential oils. Then, you will have the opportunity to mix up your own bottle of insect repellent to take home with you. There is a supply fee of \$5 (cash only please).

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Compiled from Bluffton News Archives by Paula McKibben

25 Years Ago July 29, 1993

The Bluffton Swim Team will host a Grand Opening celebration at the new community swimming pool on Sunday, Aug. 1, beginning at 11 a.m. The celebration fun will be added to with the long-anticipated opening of the new water slide.

50 Years Ago July 25, 1968

The sign posted on the front of the spacious new Pure Oil service station at the corner of Main and Jefferson reads, "Watch for our opening soon, Wilbur, Bob Renner." By the word "soon," the Renners mean the middle of August after Bob returns from his two week training session with the National Guard at Grayling, Mich. By that time, the Renners will be able to move all their equipment from the Cookson building into the new station. The father-son team previously operated the Pure Oil station, which was abandoned, about a year ago and the property sold.

A new portable classroom building is being erected at the Beaverdam school. The building will provide space for two fifth-grade classes entering the middle school.

There will be no more Saturday window service at Bluffton Post Office beginning this Saturday, postmaster Woodrow W. Little has announced. The cut-back is part of a nationwide move to reduce post office employment lists to the level of June 30, 1966. Local postmasters have also been ordered to prepare by September 1 plans for the elimination of residential delivery on Saturdays.

75 Years Ago July 29, 1943

Due to conditions imposed by the war and because of the

late season, the annual mid-winter fair of the Bluffton agricultural society has been eliminated this year, it was decided last Wednesday night at a meeting of the fair board of directors. Last year was the first in several decades that Bluffton did not have the winter fair. The decision to eliminate the fair this year was by the unanimous vote of 10 of 13 directors present. Present at the recent meeting were Hiram Kehli, president; Albert Winkler, vice-president; Ray Marshall, treasurer; Harry Barnes, secretary; and the directors, Joe Powell, Clyde Warren, Ben Amstutz, Clyde Klingler, Carl McCafferty, Harvey Burkholder, Q. E. Burkholder.

100 Years Ago July 25, 1919

Bluffton's second Good Roads Day will be held Thursday, Aug. 15, according to plans which were announced at the meeting of the Community Association Thursday night. An allowance of 200 tons of stone has been made by County Commissioners, provided the town meets the expense of hauling and getting the crushed stone on the streets. The date for the Good Roads Day which has been set by the committee was determined largely by the pressure of farm work and a time was selected when it will be possible for farmers to come to town with their teams to assist in the work. The services of thirty teams was donated last year by farmers in the vicinity. Farmers who will donate teams for a day's work are requested to notify one of the following: G. W. Rupright, John Warren, A. Battles, L. M. Jennings, Ernest Gratz, Elmer Lasby, John Winkler, Phillip Hilly, Sam Hilly, F. C. Herr, A. C. Geiger, J. E. Nicholson, D. P. Diller and L. T. Greding.

Vacation Bible School at Trinity Lutheran in Jenera

Join us from Sunday, July 22nd through Thursday, July 26th from 6-8:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran School, 105 Allen Street, Jenera, for our awesome Vacation Bible School. The theme is "Splash Canyon! God's Promise on Life's Wild Ride." Have a blast as we enjoy learning about how God guides and sustains us with His almighty love through life's rough waters and

rapids, make crafts to take home and enjoy snacks. (Children with allergies will be accommodated. Please be sure to let us know on your registration.) You may register your child/children ages 3-12 years on our VBS website, vbsmate.com/events/tlscjenera/16407 or by calling or texting Megan at 715-889-9546 or emailing mrsnowak@gmail.com

Community Calendar July 19 - July 25

Thursday July 19 Community Meal, Bluffton Senior Citizens Center, 6PM

Cancer Support Group, Maple Crest, 3PM Orange Township Trustees, Township Meeting Hall, 7:30PM

Cory-Rawson Board of Education, Community Room, 7PM

Bowling at Bluffton Bowling Alley, Bluffton Senior Citizens Center, 9:30AM

Lip Sync Battles, Bluffton Public Library, 2PM SciFi/Fantasy Writer's Group, Bluffton Public Library, 6PM

BFR, Level 1 Water Exercises, Maple Crest, 9:30AM BFR, Level 2 Water Exercises, Maple Crest, 8:30AM

TBC, BFR, 7:30AM

Friday, July 20 Playgroup, Bluffton Public Library, 10AM S.T.E.A.M. Friday Coloring Activity, Bluffton Public Library

Insects and Invertebrates, Toledo Zoo, K-2, Bluffton Public Library, 1PM

Zoo Careers, 3-12, Bluffton Public Library, 2PM

BFR, HIIT, 5:45AM, 6PM TBC, BFR, 7:30AM

Silver Sneakers, BFR, 9:45AM All Star Aerobics, BFR, 8:30AM

Saturday, July 21 Farmers' Market, Citizens National Bank Parking Lot, 8:30-Noon

Swiss Homestead Open House, 1-5PM Family Yoga, Joy Stemen, Bluffton Public Library, 10AM

Rawson Proud Festival

Sunday, July 22 Monday, July 23

AA, English Lutheran Church, 7:30PM Town Council, Town Hall, 7PM

Toenail Clinic, Bluffton Senior Citizens Center, 10AM

Western Square Dance, Bluffton Senior Citizens Center, 6:30PM

Watercolor Workshop, Bluffton Public Library, 6PM

Gluten Free/Food Allergy Group, Bluffton Public Library, 6:30PM

Summer Storytime, Bluffton Public Library, 6:30PM

BFR, Level 1 Water Exercises, Maple Crest, 9:30AM

BFR, Aqua Zumba, 5:45PM BFR, HIIT, 5:45AM, 6PM

TBC, BFR, 7:30AM

Silver Sneakers, BFR, 9:45AM All Star Aerobics, BFR, 8:30AM

Tuesday, July 24 Boy Scouts, Sportsman's Depot, 7PM

TOPS/KOPS, St. John UCC, 5:30/6:30PM Richland Township Trustees, Township Garage, 8PM

Swiss Community Historical Society, 7PM Summer Storytime, Bluffton Public Library, 10AM

Dulcimers at the Library, Bluffton Public Library, 1PM

Sock Puppet Karaoke, K-5, Bluffton Public Library, 1PM

Rain Gardens and Rock Gardens, Bluffton Public Library, 6PM

Dance, Bluffton Senior Citizens Center, 6PM Line Dance Class, Bluffton Senior Citizens Center, 3PM

BFR, Level 1 Water Exercises, Maple Crest, 9:30AM

BFR, Level 2 Water Exercises, Maple Crest, 8:30AM

BFR, TBC, 7:30AM

Wednesday, July 25

Reptiles, Johnny Appleseed Nature Bus at Buckeye Park Pavilion, 10AM

Scam Talk, Bluffton Senior Citizens Center, 2:30PM

BFR, HIIT, 5:45AM, 6PM TBC, BFR, 7:30AM

Silver Sneakers, BFR, 9:45AM All Star Aerobics, BFR, 8:30AM

Contact BFR at 419-358-4150 for children's programming.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS DRAFT 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE REVIEW & COMMENT

The Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission is requesting public review and comment on the Draft 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update. The Plan ensures that transportation needs are identified and resources made available to address future demands to the year 2040 through the development of an intermodal transportation system. Two public meetings are scheduled to review the Plan. The first is scheduled for Thursday, August 9, 2018, 10:00 a.m., at the Allen County Regional Transit Authority (ACRTA), 200 E. High Street, Lima. The second is scheduled for Friday, August 10, 2018, 3:00 p.m., at the Lima Public Library, 650 W. Market Street, Lima. Both the ACRTA and the Lima Public Library facilities meet accessibility standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Accommodations for those with special needs are available, if a formal request is made immediately. If you have a special request or other questions regarding the Plan or public meetings, please call the Commission office at 419.228.1836 or email esmith@lacrpc.com.