

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

May 18, 2023

There was a meeting of the **Community Development Committee** of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission held on **May 18, 2023, at 3:30 p.m.** in the Conference Room of the Commission office located at 130 West North Street, Lima, Ohio.

In the absence of a quorum and chairperson, Shaunna Basinger brought the meeting to order and proceeded with the agenda.

1. ROLL CALL

Mr. Greg Kessen	Perry Township
Ms. Laura Bassitt	Village of Lafayette
Mr. Dan Kaseman	Citizen of Elida

STAFF

Ms. Shaunna Basinger	Lima/Allen County Regional Planning Commission
Ms. Tara Reynolds-Bales	Lima/Allen County Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Brandon Casler	Lima/Allen County Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Cody Doyle	Lima/Allen County Regional Planning Commission

2. APPROVAL OF CDC MINUTES – March 16, 2023

March minutes were tabled to be approved at the next meeting when a quorum is present.

3. RTA REPORT

Basinger gave a brief overview of the RTA report provided and instructed all those with further questions to contact Karen Garland.

[April RTA Report](#)

4. LRTP UPDATE

Ms. Basinger gave a brief update on the LRTP stating that staff is completing the written sections, the project submission deadline is passed, and that township, village, et al meetings will take place in June with the document making its final pass through the committee structure in July. Two open houses will take place, one being at RTA (July 18th, 10-11:45) and the other in the LACRPC office (July 19th, 2 pm-6 pm). Ms. Basinger went on to share 2050 population projections stating that like many counties in Ohio, Allen County is projected to have a decrease in population of 20.26%. Allen County is joined by our neighboring counties in this drop. While overall, Ohio's population is looking to increase by approximately 7%, many counties are looking at a significant decrease with the increase in population being in four counties and their surrounding regions. Ms. Basinger explained the significance of this population decrease in regards to LACRPC's MPO status and the funding and planning opportunities it provides our region stating that if Allen County's population were to drop below 100,000 our status would go from metropolitan to rural. Basinger went on to state that while these figures come from a reliable source and reliable data, they are just projections of which multiple exist in regards to population. Many factors, including the current development occurring throughout the county, may alter the projections and result.

5. UPWP DRAFT UPDATE

Mr. Casler gave an update on the UPWP stating that it will be in final form next month and that it will be larger than in past years due to the addition of the RTPO.

6. BLUFFTON BEYOND TOMORROW COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Doyle presented the Bluffton Beyond Tomorrow comprehensive plan to the committee stating that the CDC along with the Executive Committee are the two bodies within LACRPC who will be seeing the comp plan in the course of an official meeting. This is being done following the focus staff and board president Beth Seibert have recently had to ensure that committees and therefore committee members are more efficient with less information repetition. Due to the Community Development Committee's focus on housing, crime, and comprehensive development of Allen County, the CDC is the best committee within LACRPC to view this plan. The comprehensive plan in its entirety can be found at www.lacrpc.com. Individuals may review and comment on the document starting today (May 18th) until June 15th. Mr. Doyle proceeded to highlight a few key points within the document including the villages' focus on downtown growth and the need for medium-density housing for individuals making less than the median household income with the hope of providing housing in Bluffton for those working in Bluffton. Additionally, Bluffton is expected to have an increase in population by 2050 in comparison to Hancock and Putnam counties which Bluffton spans.

7. CHIP UPDATE

Mr. Casler gave an update on our CHIP application stating that the next public hearing will be June 8th at 8 am in the commissioner's office. Representatives from ODOD and GLCAP will be present to answer questions.

8. OTHER

Ms. Basinger gave an overview of the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant stating its purpose is to support planning, infrastructure, behavioral, and operational initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets involving all roadway users. LACRPC's role with this grant would be in technical assistance to our members who are looking to learn more about the grant or to apply. The administration of the grant would fall under the responsibility of the applicant. There are two grant types: Planning and Demonstration grants and Implementation grants. To benefit from either, groups must have a comprehensive safety Action Plan. However, applicants can apply for planning and demonstration funds to create an Action Plan using the grant dollars. Implementation funds are awarded to develop, complete, or supplement a comprehensive safety action plan and to implement the created action plan. Applications can be submitted for \$100,000 to \$10 million for planning and demonstration grants and \$2.5 million to \$25 million in implementation funds. Similar plans and programs which can be used to inform and create the needed action plan are Complete Streets, Safe Routes to School, Roadside Safety Audits, and Active Transportation Plans.

9. ADJOURNMENT