



LIMA/ALLEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

SPRING 2023 • Volume 24 • Issue 3



WELCOME

This newsletter is intended to provide timely updates on local transportation projects, area (re)development initiatives, as well as transit and paratransit related news, highway safety, and other activities undertaken by the Planning Commission and our partners. The newsletter is supported in part with funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FTA), the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and the Planning Commission member political subdivisions.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LACRPC Brush-Up • P. 2

TIP & LRTP • P. 3

Safe Communities • P. 4

Welcome New Director • P. 5

Upcoming Meetings • P. 6

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Lima/Allen County Regional Planning Commission is a multi-faceted organization whose work is integral to the growth and development of Allen County and the Greater Lima Region. With so many moving parts, let's take a minute to take a look at LACRPC, our overall structure, and how each organization or area of focus works to support the others while standing on its own.



NEW!

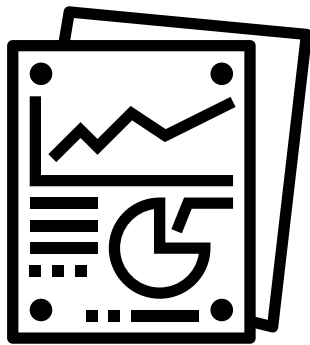
Rural Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) est. 2022

Designated to develop transportation improvement programs and long-range plans for non-metropolitan areas.

Over the next two years a Long-Range Transportation Plan will be created for the RTPO. After completion of the LRTP funds can be distributed for projects.

RTPO Counties:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| Auglaize | Hancock |
| Hardin | Mercer |
| Putnam | Van Vert |
| Wyandot | |



Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) est. 1964

*includes Allen County, Bluffton, and Delphos.

**Transportation Improvement Plan
Long-Range Transportation Plan
Comprehensive Plans**

Transportation Coordinating Committee

Designated as the MPO, responsible for all area-wide transportation planning, the review, and approval of the transportation portion of the annual UPWP, the review and maintenance of the TIP, and the adoption of an updated LRTP. Also makes such policies and final determinations, findings, recommendations, and resolutions as may be necessary to carry out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive urban transportation planning process.

Transportation Advisory Committee

Provides technical advice on transportation planning activities to the TCC. TAC will have broad technical knowledge and experience in transportation, planning, or related fields. The TAC will review the outline of procedures for various phases of the transportation study, methodology, projections, assumptions, and recommended plans before submission to the TCC.

Citizen's Advisory Committee

Utilized to increase public input and community understanding of local issues, funding, plans, and regulations. The CAC is the first critical step in the Commission's public involvement process.

Regional Planning Commission "Local" est. 1954

**Long-Range Transportation Plan
Community Development Committee**

This committee's charge is quality of life issues such as farmland preservation, crime, traffic safety, economic development, housing, historic preservation, and other issues of community concern.

Developmental Controls Committee

This committee monitors development activities within Allen County and establishing regulatory controls to minimize any adverse environmental or economic effects of development. The Committee monitors the development of local subdivision regulations, local zoning ordinances/resolutions, and floodplain management regulations as well as any local regulatory controls proposed by local entities. The Committee also reviews the merits of amendments or development under the regulatory controls once established

- lot splits
- replats
- zoning variances
- floodplain regulations

**Unified
Planning
Work
Program
2023**

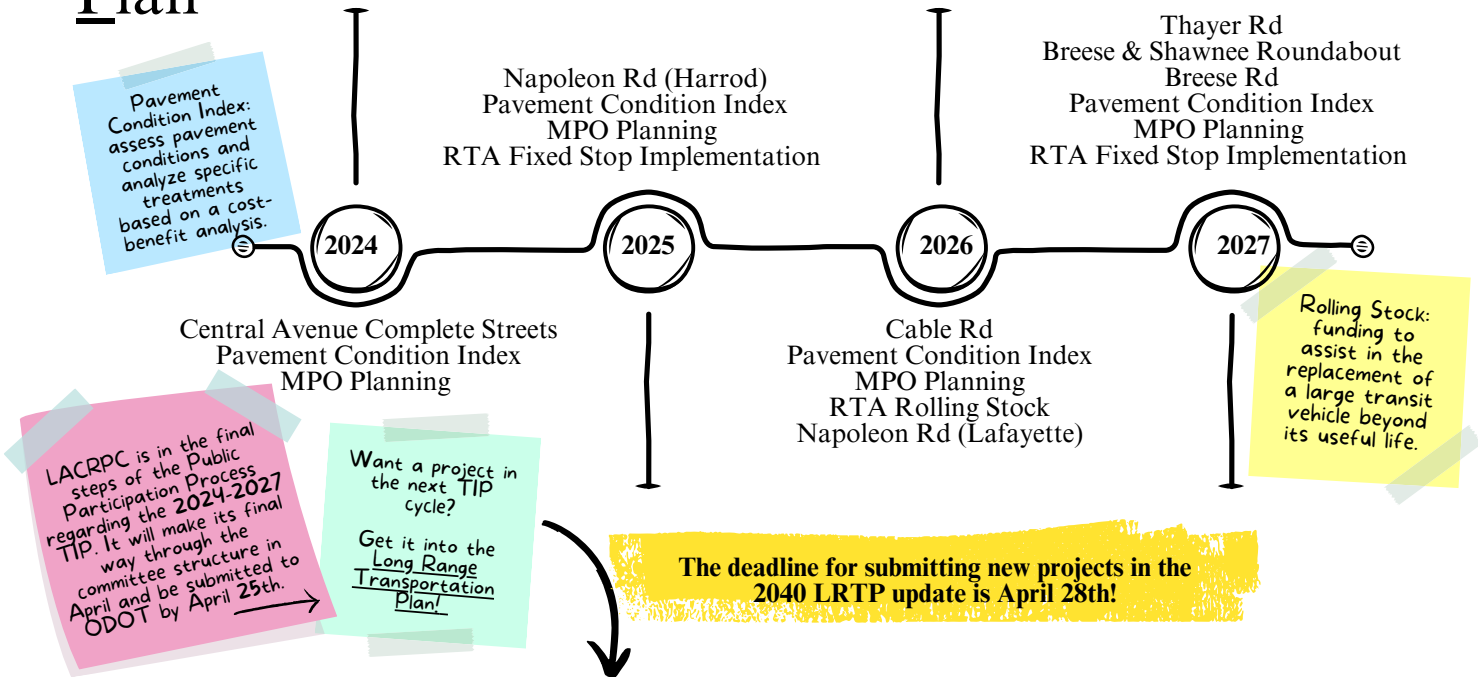
A Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is an annual statement of work identifying the planning priorities and activities to be carried out within our metropolitan planning area. A UPWP includes a description of the planning work and resulting products, time frames for completing the work, the cost of the work, and the source(s) of funds.

Of note in this round of updates is the creation of the Rural Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) which is adding another organization branch to the Regional Planning Commission tree and therefore a new series of work and funding programming.

2024 - 2027 Transportation Improvement Plan

The Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) is a list of upcoming federally funded transportation projects completed every four years in cooperation with our member political subdivisions and ODOT.

DRAFT 2024-2027 TIP is available at www.lacrpc.com in the "Recently at RPC..." for public view.



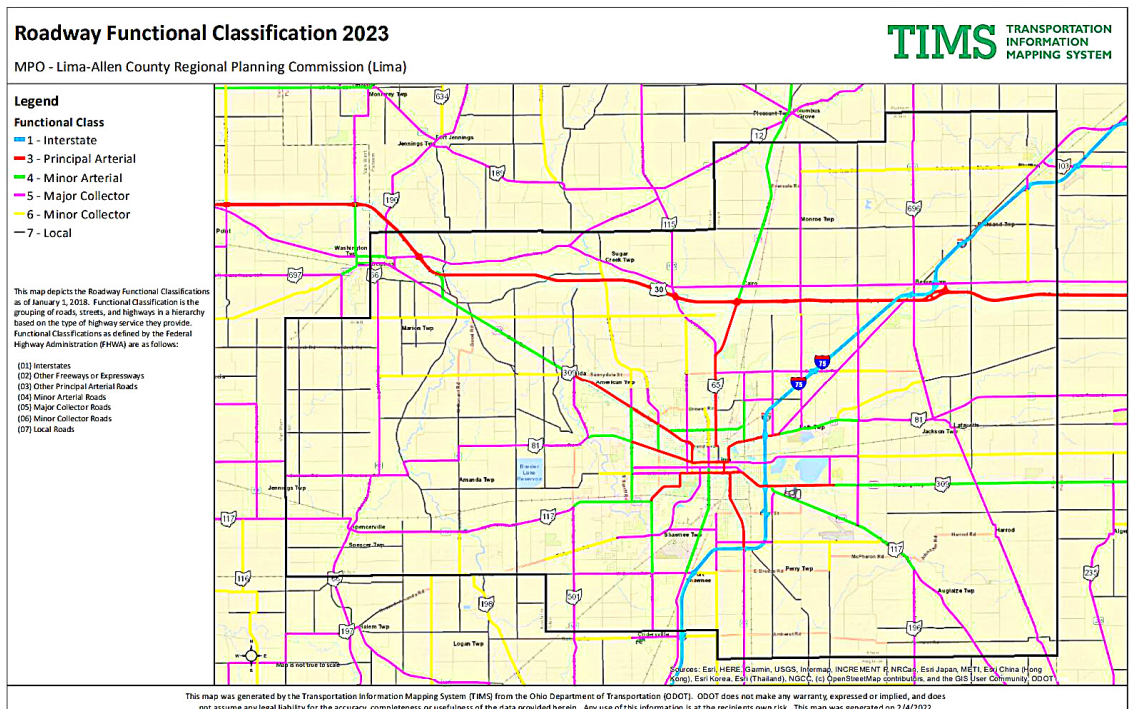
2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan

A Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is a strategy of capital improvement programming developed to guide the effective investment of public transportation facilities. The LRTP provides the framework from which the TIP is developed.

Requirements:

- Must be on the Roadway Functional Classification List.
- Political subdivision must be able to cover 20% of construction costs as well as costs for planning, engineering, environmental studies, etc.

It is suggested that political subdivisions conduct/supply studies including but not limited to traffic counts, crash data, roadway surface conditions, environmental studies and other such data to support the project and federal funding being requested. This is not required nor is it a guarantee that the project will be included in the Long Range Plan or will receive funding. The supporting information will be used to prioritize projects.



Remembering Russ Holly

Shawnee Township Board of Trustees member Russell Holly passed away on Friday, March 24, 2023, at the age of 76. Holly was a well-known community member who in addition to serving as a township trustee, was also a coach for Shawnee High School Cross Country and Track & Field Teams, a motorcycle instructor at Apollo Career Center for decades, an active advocate for roadway and motorcycle safety, and a valuable contributor to this agency. His dedication and generous donation of time and experience will be sorely missed and something we should all strive to replicate.



WINTER PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Safe Community Coalition's (SCC) primary goal is to make Lima/Allen County community, especially the roadways, a safer place to be. This winter, to help combat traffic crashes, roadside strandings, and other injuries specific to the colder months, Public Service Announcements were created to help share some important messages. The SCCs worked together to write up safety messages regarding Safe Driving Tips, Winter Weather Car Prep, Fire Safety, and Fall Prevention. Thank you to our PSA presenters Dr. Kris Harley (Mercy Health), Major Ron Holman (LPD), Lt. Alec Coil (OSHP), Chief Andy Heffner (LFD), and Mike Carpenter (Hometown Station, PSA Director).

As the weather begins to turn warmer, the Coalition will turn its attention to the dangers specific to the summer months including; Water Safety, Fire and Firework Safety, Bike & Pedestrian Safety, and Safe Driving Tips reminding people of the very real "100 Deadliest Days of Summer."

Phones Down, It's The Law.

Go to www.transportation.ohio.gov/phonesdown/home for more information!

As of April 4, 2023, it is illegal to use or hold a cell phone or electronic device in your hand, lap, or other parts of the body while driving on Ohio roads. If an officer sees a violation, they can pull you over.

Drivers over 18 can make or receive calls via hands-free devices, including speakerphones, earpieces, wireless headsets, electronic watches, and connecting phones to vehicles. In most cases, anything more than a single touch or swipe is against the law.

Exceptions Include:

- Drivers reporting an emergency to law enforcement, a hospital, a healthcare provider, a fire department, or a similar emergency entity.
- Drivers holding a phone to their ear during phone conversations, if the call is started or stopped with a single touch or swipe.
- Drivers holding or using cell phones and other electronic devices while stopped at a traffic light or parked on a road or highway during an emergency or road closure.
- First responders (law enforcement, fire, EMS) using electronic devices as part of their official duties.
- Utility workers operating utility vehicles in certain emergency or outage situations.
- Licensed operators using an amateur radio
- Commercial truck drivers using a mobile data terminal.

Ohio State Highway Patrol and local law enforcement will issue warning for six months for violations as part of the effort to educate and help motorists adapt to the new law.

Beginning October 5, 2023, law enforcement will start issuing citations for violating this law.



Penalties:

- **1st offense in two years:** 2 points assessed to driver's license, up to \$150 fine
 - **2nd offense in two years:** 3 points assessed to license, up to \$250 fine
 - **3rd or more offense in two years:** 4 points assessed to license, up to \$500 fine, possible 90-Day suspension of driver's license.
 - **Fines doubled if the violation occurs in a work zone.**
- *Completion of a distracted driving course can help avoid the fine and points.

NEWS

FROM THE

OFFICE

After an extensive months-long search, LACRPC is thrilled to announce that a new executive director has been named. This new appointment brings Tara Reynolds-Bales, a resident of Allen County, back to the Allen County professional sphere. Most recently, Reynolds-Bales' worked as the Regional Director of the Ohio Education Association. Reynolds-Bales obtained her undergraduate degree from Carlow University, received an MBA from Point Park University in Pittsburgh, and a law degree from Ohio Northern University.

Reynolds-Bales resides in Shawnee with her husband Rick Bales, a professor of law at ONU, two children, and two dogs. When asked what most excited her about leading LACRPC, Reynolds-Bales shared that she "recognizes the incredible work that is being done in Lima-Allen County to strengthen the economy, housing, infrastructure and more" and is "excited for the opportunity to give back and aid in this worthy work." Reynolds-Bales also shared her pride of being from Allen County stating, "While being gone for 20 years with my studies and early career, I began to see more clearly all of the things that made Allen County a wonderful place to live and work. I'm so proud of where I'm from, excited for the vision of Allen County being created, and am enthusiastic to help make that vision a reality."

LACRPC Board President Howard Elstro also shared his enthusiasm for Reynolds-Bales stepping into this new leadership position stating, "We are fortunate to have Ms. Reynolds-Bales serve as our Executive Director. The LACRPC and it's political subdivisions are in good hands."



Ms. Tara Reynolds-Bales
Executive Director

Thank You to outgoing President Howard Elstro for his service to our organization and incredible leadership over the past year.

Welcome incoming President Beth Seibert, who will be leading the LACRPC Board for 2023.



Mr. Howard Elstro
2023 Past-President



Ms. Beth Seibert
2023 Board President

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

APRIL 20, 2023
5:00 PM

Annual Meeting

30th Annual
OTTAWA RIVER
CLEAN UP 2023

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 ~ 9 A.M. TO NOON

ASSIGNMENT/TOOL PICK-UP AND WALK-UP REGISTRATION:
CENTRAL SERVICES BUILDING
900 S. COLLETT ST.
LIMA, OH 45804



Pre-Register to Volunteer!
Minors are welcome if accompanied by an adult.
Get your clean-up location assignment early by pre-registering! Send one car to pick up supplies and the rest of you can meet on location!

THEN...

Come to Hover Park for the Ottawa River Clean Up After Party!
FOOD - MUSIC - FUN - COMMUNITY

▶▶▶▶ **DRIVE THRU** ▶▶▶▶

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.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

APRIL 2023

MAY 2023

JUNE 2023

CMTE	DATE	TIME	CMTE	DATE	TIME	CMTE	DATE	TIME
DCC	Tu, April 11th	3:00 pm	DCC	Tu, May 9th	3:00 pm	DCC	Tu, June 6th	3:00 pm
CDC	Thu, April 13th	3:30 pm	CDC	Thu, May 18th	3:30 pm	CDC	Thu, June 15th	3:30 pm
CAC	Tu, April 18th	10:00 am	TAC	Thu, May 23rd	1:30 pm	TAC	Tu, June 20th	1:30 pm
TAC	Tu, April 18th	1:30 pm	DCC	Tu, May 23rd	3:00 pm	DCC	Tu, June 20th	3:00 pm
AAC	Wed, April 19th	4:00 pm	AAC	Wed, May 24th	4:00 pm	AAC	Wed, June 21st	4:00 pm
TCC	Thu, April 20th	3:00 pm	TCC	Thu, May 25th	3:00 pm	TCC	Thu, June 22nd	3:00 pm
EC	Thu, April 20th	4:00 pm	EC	Thu, May 25th	4:00 pm	EC	Thu, June 22nd	4:00 pm
Annual Mtg.	Thu, April 20th	5:00 pm						
DCC	Tu, April 25th	3:00 pm						

CONTACT US

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