



LIMA/ALLEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Fall 2024 • Volume 28 • 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.

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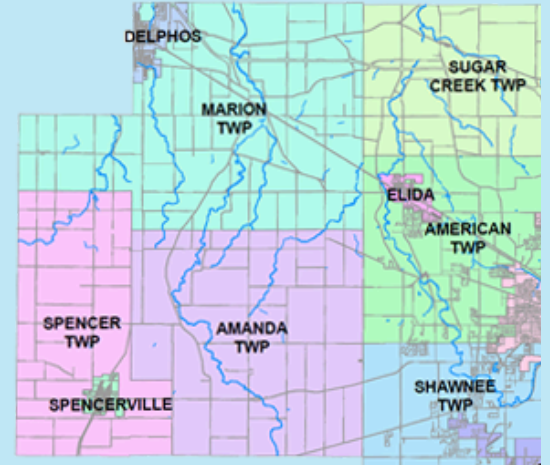
AMANDA TOWNSHIP COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission (LACRPC) staff is nearly finished with the first draft of the Comprehensive Plan update for Amanda Township. The update, requested by Amanda Township trustees, has been in progress since mid-summer. LACRPC staff has been working with a small steering committee from Amanda Township to update the plan, which was originally completed in 2012.

Comprehensive plans are the cornerstone of long-term planning. Otherwise known as master plans or general plans, comprehensive plans assess the public's vision for the community and develops an action plan to accomplish that vision. In this case, LACRPC is updating the current plan with new data and additional public participation.

The first draft of the new plan is expected to be finished mid-November. The plan will go through the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) committee structure to be opened for public comment period. After the public comment period, the final draft will be eligible for adoption by Amanda Township trustees. This will all be publicized via www.lacrpc.com and local media outlets.

When finished, the final plan will be available at www.lacrpc.com.



LAND EVALUATION SITE ANALYSIS (LESA) MODELING

Staff at Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission (LACRPC) was recently tasked to update the Amanda Township Comprehensive Plan, which was written in 2012. During the process of rewriting and updating the plan, staff stumbled across a “Land Evaluation Site Analysis” (LESA) model that had been underutilized since its inception. The LESA is an important part of the Amanda Comprehensive Plan because it identifies ground that is well-suited for agricultural use.

While working with West Central Ohio Land Conservancy staff to update the LESA for Amanda Township, the RPC identified a value in the LESA beyond spotting parcels and/or farms with potential for designation in the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s easement program.

One of our community’s most difficult tasks is balancing the forces of development while maintaining the rural characteristics that communities covet, as well as reaping the economic necessity of avoiding sprawling utilities. It can be difficult to determine which parcels are suited to remain farmland and which are ripe for development. The LESA could be a valuable tool in steering that necessary conversation.

The discipline of planning advocates for developments to be grouped. Development that spreads by the desires of uncontrolled forces is called “sprawl.” Sprawl constrains local governments by creating a scenario where unrealistically rapid and perpetual growth must occur to pay for infrastructure investments.

A LESA objectively scores parcels based on criteria determined by the modeler. The LACRPC LESA assesses parcels based on adjacent land use and development pressure. Parcels are scored based on soil composition, size, proximity to other development, and proximity to water, sewer, and interstate interchanges.

Not every LESA is created equally, and LACRPC’s prototype is unique. The model has gone through several iterations and is currently being honed to be the most logical for a countywide device that looks to contain sprawl and provide an avenue for guidance that favors fiscal responsibility. The LESA will be used as a reference tool for LACRPC and members who wish to have a discussion point for land use conversations.

WORPO Draft Plan Available

The West Central Ohio Rural Transportation Planning Organization (WORPO) is designated as an Ohio Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) for the seven counties surrounding the Lima-Allen County metropolitan area, including Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Mercer, Putnam, Van Wert, and Wyandot counties. In partnership with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), each RTPO is tasked with several roles and responsibilities, including developing and maintaining a comprehensive, long-range multimodal transportation plan for its region.

The draft of the WORPO 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan is currently available for public view. It was made available on the website of Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission on Wednesday, Oct. 23. It will remain available for public comment until Wednesday, Nov. 13.

Please view the draft report and public comment form here: www.lacrpc.com.



“DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER” CAMPAIGN

In an effort to bring awareness and advocacy for driving sober, the Allen County Safe Community Coalition hosted a time for area residents, first-responders and local officials to join in partnership as they kicked off the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” (DSOGPO) campaign in Allen County.

On Aug. 9 at the A.C.C.E.S.S. Center on Market Street in Lima, Judge Todd E. Kohrieser addressed the public by discussing the importance of avoiding all drugs and alcohol while operating a vehicle. Judge Kohrieser sees young people on a regular basis in his courtroom and often discusses with them about good decision-making.

The kickoff event was also an opportunity to showcase a distracted and impaired driving simulator that is housed at the A.C.C.E.S.S. Center. A teenager was on site to demonstrate it, which proved the difficulty involved in navigating a roadway when impaired.

The event was open to the public and refreshments were donated by Sara’s Sweets. It was the local kickoff to the nationwide DSOGPO campaign.

Local and national efforts are designed to help keep people making good choices when it comes to avoiding abuse of drugs and alcohol while driving.



Safe Community Coalition Events - Fall '24

“Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over”
campaign - Aug. 9

“Welcome Day” at University of
Northwestern Ohio campus - Sept. 18

“Save A Life Tour” high school events
at Bluffton HS, Allen East HS, Perry HS
& Spencerville HS - Sept. 25, 26, 26 &
Oct. 11

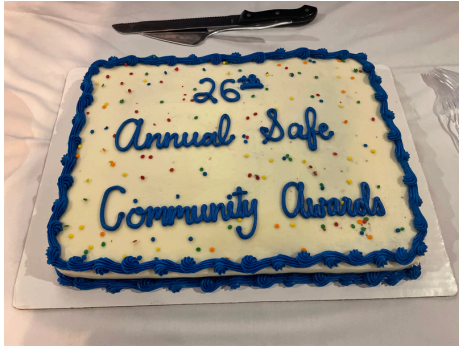
“26th Annual Safe Community Awards”
at Milano Cafe on Oct. 23



Lima-Allen County
Safe Community
Coalition



26TH ANNUAL SAFE COMMUNITY AWARDS LUNCHEON – OCT. 23



26TH ANNUAL SAFE COMMUNITY AWARDS OCT. 23, 2024



Sponsored by
Lima FOP Lodge #21 &
George B. Quatman
FOPA Lodge #8

Awards presented by
Lima-Allen County Safe
Community Coalition



CHILD SAFETY AWARD



SARAH
MISIAKIEWICZ
ALLEN CO
PUBLIC HEALTH

YOUTH SAFETY AWARD



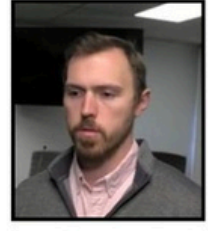
DAVID MCDANIEL
KRUISIN' DRIVING
SCHOOL

OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARD



CAROLYN
WILKERSON
SPEAKER/AUTHOR

ENGINEERING SAFETY AWARD



ROSS
VENNEKOTTER
THE CITY OF LIMA

26TH ANNUAL SAFE COMMUNITY AWARDS OCT. 23, 2024

EMS/FIRE SAFETY AWARD



NATHAN
HAINES
LIMA FIRE DEPT

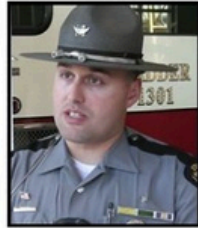


TANESHA
MANLEY
LIMA FIRE DEPT



ALLEN CO
FIRE CHIEFS'
ASSOCIATION

TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARD



TROOPER
TRAVIS RICKER
OSHP



SERGEANT
DAVID BOYLES
AMERICAN TWP PD

SERVICE AWARD TRAINING & EDUCATION



CHIEF GENE SMITH
MERCY HEALTH



DEPUTY CHIEF
LEE SHORT
LIMA FIRE DEPT

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



JEFF ORPHAL
APOLLO CAREER
CENTER



JUDGE RICHARD
WARREN
LIMA MUNICIPAL
COURT-RETIRED

PROGRESS OF AUDIBLE PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS IN LIMA



A team from The City of Lima and the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission (LACRPC) met with representatives from the Low Vision Coalition on Friday, Oct. 18 at the intersection of Main and Robb to discuss the next audible pedestrian signal installation. This location will be the fifth in the city to receive the audible button upgrade.

The City of Lima representatives have been working closely with Sean Oden and Jacob King, concerned citizens and members of the Low Vision Coalition, in order to come up with solutions to assist pedestrians who are visually impaired be able to safely cross busy city streets.

Ian Kohli, Ross Vennekotter and Jason Ditto are some of the city's engineers who have been working to get the signals in place. Cody Doyle of LACRPC is project lead for the Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plans for the MPO.

PROCESSED BY LACRPC

2024 YEAR-TO-DATE

Lot Split	93
Replat	0
Floodplain Development Permit	11 new 2 renewals

2024 ALLEN COUNTY Q3 FATAL CRASH CHART

Allen Co. Traffic Fatalities: July-September 2024

	Fatal Crashes	Total Fatalities (due to crashes)
State/Federal Highways	0	0
County Roads	0	0
City Streets	1	1 (passenger)
Township Roads	0	0

TIRED OF TIRES!

OTTAWA RIVER COALITION CLEARS TIRES FROM THE OTTAWA RIVER

Members of The Ottawa River Coalition (ORC), a local non-profit organization, were in the Ottawa River on Sept. 20 pulling tires out of the river. Three volunteers removed more than 50 tires within a 150-yard stretch of the Ottawa River between the Metzger Road bridge and the dam.

The ORC established the “Tired of Tires” project in 2023, which is an initiative to help rid rivers of ugly tires in order to help make the water beautiful again. Not only are tires unsightly, but they can cause a great disturbance to wildlife by leaching chemicals into the water, impeding flow, and trapping animals.

Adam Haunhorst, Planning Engineer at the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission, and also the ORC Chairman said, “It feels good to make a difference where we can.”



On the subject of helping, ORC Executive Director Lydia Archambo added that it’s a great feeling to help make a difference “especially when you are able to be so hands-on in that difference like we were today.”

The ORC members also expressed gratitude for their community partners at The City of Lima Public Works and Streets Departments for coordinating a dump truck for all the pulled debris.



HAVE A FINE THANKSGIVING

and not a Thanksgiving fine

BUCKLE UP.



Celebrate Thanksgiving Safely!

CLICK IT and DRIVE SOBER.

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

RTA Celebrated 50 Years!

On Sept. 20, 2024, the Allen County Regional Transit Authority (RTA) celebrated its 50 years of “Connecting Our Community.” The RTA hosted an open house with free food and cakes, and even gave free fixed rides downtown all day to the public.

There was history of the Allen County RTA displayed, RTA swag given away, and guest speakers.

The milestone event celebrated 50 years of Allen County RTA providing the area with safe, dependable, and cost-effective public transit to meet the needs of all citizens, including senior citizens, people with disabilities, choice riders, and those who are dependent on public transit.



LACRPC CLOSINGS: NOV. 11; NOV. 28-29; DEC. 25

UPCOMING MEETINGS AT LACRPC

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

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

CMTE	DATE	TIME	CMTE	DATE	TIME	CMTE	DATE	TIME
DCC	Tue, Oct. 8	3:00 pm	DCC	Tue, Nov. 5	3:00 pm	DCC	Tue, Dec. 3	3:00 pm
CDC	Thu, Oct. 17	3:30 pm	SRT	Fri, Nov. 8	8:00 am	DCC	Tue, Dec. 17	3:00 pm
CAC	Tue, Oct. 22	10:00 am	TAC	Tue, Nov. 19	1:30 pm	AAC	Wed, Dec. 18	4:00 pm
TAC	Tue, Oct. 22	1:30 pm	DCC	Tue, Nov. 19	3:00 pm	TCC	Thu, Dec. 19	3:00 pm
DCC	Tue, Oct. 22	3:00 pm	AAC	Wed, Nov. 20	4:00 pm	EC	Thu, Dec. 19	4:00 pm
AAC	Wed, Oct. 23	4:00 pm	TCC	Thu, Nov. 21	3:00 pm	TAC	Tue, Dec. 24	1:30 pm
TCC	Thu, Oct. 24	3:00 pm	EC	Thu, Nov. 21	4:00 pm	DCC	Tue, Dec. 31	3:00 pm
EC	Thu, Oct. 24	4:00 pm	Please check our website: www.lacrpc.com for up-to-date details about meetings in case of cancellations or rescheduling needs.					

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



BIKE & PEDESTRIAN COUNTS

Thank you to those who participated in the “Bike & Pedestrian Counts” in Allen County from May 6-12 and again from Sept. 9-15. If you would like more information and/or would like to volunteer to help count/track bicyclists and pedestrians for the next count, please contact:
Josh Unterbrink
Activate Allen County
junterbrink@activateallencounty.com
419-303-3387

Bike/Ped count totals during May = 1,658

Bike/Ped count totals during September = 2,680

2024 Allen County September Bike/Ped Counts

