

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CDGB

The FY 2007 Small Cities CDBG Grant application was submitted Thursday, July 12 to ODOD/OHCP. Community Development will receive \$343,000 (\$10,000 less than last year). Of that \$343,000, Heath will receive \$39,000 and Pataskala will receive \$37,000. The following is a list of the projects staff will submit to OHCP when we apply for our FY 2007 CDBG Grant in July. These projects will be completed in 2008.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Heath: Install 16 fire hydrants
Total Funds: \$39,000 • City of Pataskala: Repave streets in Columbia Center
Total Funds: \$37,000 • Village of Buckeye Lake: Street improvements - Phase II walkway along SR 79/Walnut Road
Total Funds: \$59,200 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village of Buckeye Lake: Skate ramp, Phase II
Total Funds: \$10,000 • Licking County Transit Board: Replacement van match
Total Funds: \$103,348 • Village of Johnstown: Lakeview and Northview Drive street improvements
Total Funds: \$316,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village of Hartford: Handicapped-accessible curbs/sidewalks
Total Funds: \$37,400 • Village of Hanover: Phase 1 sidewalk/bike path
Total Funds: \$36,950 <p>Grand Total:
CDBG Funds: \$343,000
Other Funds: \$364,498
TOTAL FUNDS: \$707,498</p> |
|--|--|---|

Licking County Receives Governor's Awards For Excellence in Housing and Community Development

One of the 2007 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Housing and Community Development was presented to Licking County for its successful partnership with The Screen Machine. In 2004, the County was awarded a \$160,000 Ohio Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Economic Development Program grant to assist The Screen Machine in expanding operations. The Screen Machine manufactures portable screening and crushing machines for the construction, landscaping and mining industries. The Screen Machine created 26 jobs and invested \$4.5 million in the construction of an 86,000-square-foot addition to its facility in Etna Township and purchased new machinery and equipment. The CDBG funds were used to install 2,460 linear feet of sewer lines and waterlines, permitting the company to meet local fire code requirements. This project represents a public-private partnership involving several entities, including the Licking County Commissioners, the Licking County Planning Commission, Etna Township, the Southwest Licking Community Water and Sewer District, the Ohio Department of Development and the Screen Machine.

CHIP

The FY2007 CHIP Grant Application has been submitted to OHCP. There are 15 completed home repairs, one in progress and 12 on the wait list. There are 15 projects on the housing rehabilitation wait list, one beginning, three completed and seven withdrawn or denied.

FAIR HOUSING

The Fair Housing office for Licking County has expanded its duties and now will provide 40 hours a week of "housing services" for residents of areas outside of the city of Newark. Plans include participating in local housing initiatives, convening a Foreclosure Task Force in partnership with State Treasurer Richard Cordray and local officials who are involved in foreclosure activities, including the Recorder, Treasurer, Auditor, Sheriff's Office, County Commissioners and social service agencies. It is expected that seminars will be provided in several different areas of the County over a one-year period.

Staff is also investigating the feasibility of training and certification as a HUD-certified housing counseling agency, which would provide a local organization (one does not currently exist in Licking County) for assistance in first-time homebuyer education as well as aid in avoiding foreclosure and mortgage education.

LCPC

Licking County Planning Commission
20 South Second Street
Newark, OH 43055

Phone: 740-670-5200

Fax: 740-670-5197

Website: www.lcounty.com

Editor
Corinne
Johnson

CONNECTIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE LICKING COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Volume 12

August 2007

Planning Commission Members

Chad Berginnis - Chairman
Ronda Saunders - Vice Chair

Jim Bradley

Larry Ball

Jim Bidigare

Tim Bubb

Mike Foran

Jim Fullen

Chet Geiger

Jim Kiracofe

Dave Lang

Marcia Phelps

Doug Smith

Stephen Holloway

Larry Parr

Rod Osborne

Planning Commission Staff

Jerry Brems

LCPC Director

Corinne Johnson

Administrative Assistant

Laurie Pitchford

LCPC Fiscal Officer

Brad Mercer

Planner

Kim Workman

Planner

Scott Fulton

Planner

Jim Lenner

Planner

Jim Mickey

Environmental Planner

Warren Weber

Community Dev. Manager

Jim Evans

Housing Rehab Inspector

Sue Spiker

Grants Coordinator

Beth Jones

Community Dev. Specialist

Chris Savage

Fair Housing Specialist

Rob Klinger

Economic Dev. Manager

Randy Morgan

Certified Business Analyst

Racie Young

Economic Development Specialist

Loretta Frenton

Transit Board Gen. Manager

Cathy Sheets

Countywide Manager

Mike Richards

Countywide Director

Sandra R. Mapel, P.E.

LCATS Director

Marty Dowell

LCATS Fiscal Officer

Matt Hill

LCATS Transportation Planner

Erica Allbaugh

LCATS Intern

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The first half of 2007 has been eventful for the Licking County Planning Commission (LCPC). Although residential development reviews have greatly declined, commercial and industrial development reviews have subsequently increased. The past decade of residential development has been limited due to the slow housing market. Now developers seem to have turned their attention to commercial and industrial developments to provide services and jobs to residents for which they previously constructed housing. To date, LCPC staff has had nine Major Developments, including two industrial facilities, four commercial developments, one institutional facility, and one public utility facility. This compares to two residential developments that have been proposed, one in the Village of Buckeye Lake (The Landings at Maple Bay) and one in Granville Township (The Estates at Old Orchard Farm).

In 2002, the LCPC started the process of revising the Land Development/Subdivision Regulations. After years of hard work by many individuals and various stakeholders from the community, including representatives from local engineering firms, surveyors, the farm bureau, Building Industry Association (BIA), developers, real estate, and local government officials, the LCPC Board approved a final draft in June 2007. Numerous changes have been made, including removing sections that were deemed unnecessary, updating sections pertaining to the Ohio Revised Code, updating technical requirements, the addition of a landscape/open space management plan, lowering thresholds for turn lane requirements, decreased pavement width for local streets, more definitions, and inclusion of street trees and intersection lighting in areas served by central water and sewer. The next step is approval by the Licking County Commissioners.

The updated Licking County Flood Damage and Prevention Regulations became effective Jan. 26, 2007. Some of the main highlights of the updated regulations include requirements for developers of new developments within Licking County to determine the base flood elevation for the site upon which they propose to construct their project. Subdivision standards have been revised to require dry land access to developments, identify the floodplain on the plat, and the minimum building area for a lot shall be located outside the 100-year floodplain. Standards for fill compaction and allowable rise were increased, along with increased standards for dredging within the floodplain. In regards to structures, an increase in the lowest horizontal structure member above the base flood elevation, along with increased anchoring requirements and requirements for water and wastewater systems to be located outside the 100-year floodplain were added. Overall the updated regulations were enacted to further the purpose of the regulations, which is to promote public health, safety and general welfare, and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in areas within Licking County.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Environmental Planner Jim Mickey is currently working with Ohio EMA and FEMA to supply them with additional information regarding the grant application for the proposed Tornado/Severe Weather Community Shelters for Licking County. On July 11 Mr. Mickey was advised that Ohio EMA expects FEMA to announce their approval of the project very soon.

Mr. Mickey has also been working on a FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Program Planning Grant, which will allow funding for upgrading the Countywide All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (CANHMP) for Licking County so that it meets FMA criteria established after the CAMHMP was approved. Future FMA grant funding will then be available to Licking County, based on the upgraded FMA compliant CANHMP. Mr. Mickey has a contract with FMSM Engineers for consulting services for this project. Preliminary information was compiled and a draft addendum is being prepared for Ohio EMA review. A list of potential mitigation projects is currently being developed.

Over the last few months Mr. Mickey has received Floodplain Management Agreements for selected villages in the county that have expressed an interest in having the Planning Department provide floodplain management for their jurisdictions; these agreements are currently under review. Mr. Mickey has also been compiling information for the Community Rating System (CRS) Classification, which is a five-year renewal cycle anticipated for this fall.

If you have questions or concerns about this issue, contact us by phone at (740) 670-5200 or e-mail cjohnson@lcounty.com

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our Licking County goal in Economic Development is to strengthen the economy by encouraging capital investment and job growth. Economic Development interfaces with financing tools: bond funds, lease financing, tax increment financing and project financing in order to accomplish the above goal.

MANUFACTURING/WAREHOUSE INVESTMENT IN LICKING COUNTY

Investments in Licking County are on a two- to three-year timetable. Over 24 manufacturers/warehouse companies committed to:

- Create new jobs: 994
- Retained employees: 2,252
- Real property: \$145,808,000
- Machinery and equipment: \$98,462,000
- Increased inventory: \$139,780,000

JOB READY SITES

Licking County requested \$5 million for this project and received \$3.4 million. The property owner, ProLogis, and the county are seeking ways to allow the project to go forward, with several options being considered, such as reducing the scope, finding additional dollars to complete the project as proposed, and/or restructuring. Ongoing discussions continue, with the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) encouraging all parties to seek a positive result. ODOD officials see this project as extremely attractive to the local, regional and state economies.

RETENTION AND EXPANSION TASK FORCE

The Licking County Retention and Expansion Task Force meets monthly and determines companies to be interviewed, reviews recently interviewed companies and reports challenges and issues with each company. Sixty-four companies have been interviewed to date.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The Ohio Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Newark and Licking County is a public-private partnership supported by the US Small Business Administration, the Ohio Department of Development, Columbus State Community College and other local partners. Through its programs and services, the Center provides entrepreneurial development assistance and business consulting to start-up and emerging business owners. Many of the Center's services are offered at no cost to the client and all services are provided on a non-discriminatory basis.

The SBDC offers numerous services to small businesses at no charge. These include one-on-one business consulting regarding access to capital, strategic planning and financial concerns, accounting and bookkeeping records, marketing, sales, public relations strategies and human resource guidance.

The SBDC at Newark and Licking County also provides access to a network of over 250 business experts through its PROS volunteer network. These are private sector professionals who have agreed to meet with selected SBDC clients to provide specific advice that will help their business grow and succeed. Areas of expertise include, but are not limited to, legal, accounting, banking, venture investment, marketing and PR.

For further information on programs and services provided, please contact Business Consultant Randy Morgan, CBA at the Ohio SBDC at Newark and Licking County by phone at (740) 670-5215, or via e-mail at rmorgan@lcounty.com.

MANUFACTURING/WAREHOUSE INVESTMENT IN LICKING COUNTY

COMPANY (recent buildout)	REAL PROP.	M & E	INVENTORY	NEW	RETAINED
ATRIUM (2007)	\$4,500,000	\$500,000		40	200
BEST LIGHTING #1	\$1,600,000	\$100,000	\$3,000,000	20	25
BEST SUPPLY (2007)	\$900,000	\$490,000	\$75,000	12	20
BOEING (2006)	\$838,000	\$1,347,000		35	10
BUD CORP. (2006)		\$1,500,000		10	
DDM (2006)		\$1,100,000		40	
INST. BUSINESS (2006)	\$545,000	\$2,500,000		6	
SHANK RACING (2006)	\$1,200,000	\$75,000	\$100,000	11	20
OHIO METAL TECH. (2005)		\$2,000,000		10	75
MENLO LOGISTICS (2006)	\$8,000,000	\$750,000	\$3,000,000	70	
JELD-WEN (2006)	\$9,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$5,000,000	130	
S. MANN TECH. (2006)	\$8,100,000	\$6,000,000		63	37
SCREEN MACHINE (2006)	\$3,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$6,500,000	25	42
SUNFIELD (2005)	\$600,000	\$2,000,000		5	95
TOTAL:	\$38,783,000	\$20,362,000	\$17,675,000	477	524
COMPANY (in process)	REAL PROP.	M & E	INVENTORY	NEW	RETAINED
AEP/New Albany	\$25,921,000	\$12,300,000			110
BAYER	\$6,000,000			15	143
BEST LIGHTING #2	\$700,000	\$75,000	\$2,000,000	14	58
HARRY AND DAVID	\$6,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$2,000,000	184	225
HENDRICKSON	\$2,000,000	\$1,500,000		50	86
HOLOPHANE (GRANVILLE)	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000		50	140
PROGRESSIVE FLOORING	\$1,875,000	\$25,000	\$75,000	10	20
PROLOGIS	\$43,000,000	\$3,250,000	\$12,000,000	100	
SOUTHGATE CORP.	\$1,400,000				
SPEED FULFILLMENT	\$9,000,000	\$900,000	\$5,000,000	40	
STAR PIZZA BOX				5	
TRAILS WEST	\$1,445,000	\$60,000	\$600,000	10	20
TWEEN BRANDS		\$3,500,000			
VELVET ICE CREAM	\$800,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	14	
VICTORIA'S SECRET	\$5,000,000	\$46,000,000	\$100,000,000		916
UNIFACS	\$1,384,000	\$590,000	\$30,000	25	10
TOTAL:	\$107,025,000	\$78,100,000	\$122,105,000	517	1,728
GRAND TOTAL:	\$145,808,000	\$98,462,000	\$139,780,000	994	2,252

LCATS

2007 Transportation Visioning Hog Roast

On July 10 the Annual LCATS Transportation Visioning Hog Roast was held at the Bryn Du Mansion in Granville with Congressman Zack Space, Transportation Infrastructure Committee Member, as the keynote speaker. A survey from more than 50 attendees reflects that they would like this event to be held annually. The information collected will be used in developing the Transportation Long Range Plan.

SAFETEA-LU and Safety

Since August 10, 2005, when President George W. Bush signed the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), safety has become a dominant word in transportation planning. SAFETEA-LU authorizes the Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 5-year period 2005-09.

Federal Safe Routes to School Program funds

Federal Safe Routes to School Program Funds are new funds being made available as part of SAFETEA-LU, the last federal transportation bill. The program makes funding available for a wide variety of programs and projects, from building safer street crossings to establishing programs that encourage children and their parents to walk and bicycle safely to school. LCATS submitted an application for these funds in January 2007 for enforcement (speed trailers), encouragement, education and engineering (infrastructure). LCATS' intent is to be a county-wide resource for local jurisdictions.

Safety Conscious Workshop

Staff prepared for and hosted a Safety Conscious Workshop in November 2006 in partnership with ODOT and ODPS. Nearly 50 representatives from local governments, school transportation officials, townships, and state and federal partners attended. The goal of the workshop was to present available funding resources, potential resources for solutions and to create a working list of potential safety locations on our local roadway network.

Safety Studies (the following safety studies are currently in process or completed):

- SR 16 and 21st Street Interchange
- SR 16/Buena Vista and SR 16/Cedar Street Interchange
- US 62 Village of Johnstown
- Main and 30th Street in City of Newark
- SR 310 Corridor Study in conjunction with MORPC
- SR 13 (Hudson Avenue) and SR 16 Eastbound Ramp Merge
- SR 79 and SR 16 Interchange and the adjacent interchanges of Main Street and 11th Street
- SR 13 High Crash section between St. Louisville and Utica

LCATS completed and received approval from ODOT of a traffic engineering signal analysis that recommends the signal remain in Kirkersville, with the addition of vehicle detection. The study must now be reviewed by federal highway in order to allow the use of federal funds for the required upgrades.

GIS Needs Analysis

LCATS hired FMSM to conduct a GIS Needs Analysis. LCATS members currently operate four independent systems: Newark, Heath, Granville and the County system. The report highlights the need to develop standards on data and processes, format to share data between agencies, document our existing data (metadata), and develop a consortium to meet these goals. LCATS will begin forming a consortium of interested governments over the summer.

Documents Approved

LCATS staff prepared or updated many documents throughout the year. The LCATS Policy/TAC Committee approved via Resolution:

- **State Fiscal Year 2006 Federal Funding Report**, an list of federal transportation funds obligated.
- **Public Participation Process**, a written description to assure early and continued public awareness and access to the transportation decision-making process.
- **FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**, the four-year listing of multi-modal transportation projects.
- **FY 2008 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**, the annual document describing the urban transportation planning process and associated programs to be performed by the MPO staff.
- **Addendum to the LCATS 2030 Transportation Plan (T-Plan)**, a Technical Memorandum, which reviews and reappraises the LCATS 2030 T-Plan project recommendations. The Addendum will bring the LCATS 2030 T-Plan into compliance with SAFETEA-LU requirements, the new federal transportation legislation.
- **Biennial Agreement** between the State of Ohio Department of Transportation and the Licking County Planning Commission for the implementation of the urban transportation planning process for the Newark Ohio urbanized area.



Congressman Zack Space addresses the crowd during the 2007 LCATS Transportation Visioning Hog Roast.