

LCCA NEWS

August 2009

Commuter Rail Update

Betty Blair, LCCA Chair
Lorain County Commissioner

Richard Enty and Associates, holder of the Lorain County Contract to prepare an RFP (Request For Proposal) for the Alternatives Analysis (AA) on the West Shore Commuter Rail Project advises that said RFP should be ready for bid by the end of July. Completion time for the AA is estimated to be approximately one year.

The Lorain County Community Alliance (LCCA) has long been involved in promoting the advantages of this Commuter Rail Project, which is part of the original NEORAIL Study done by NOACA (Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency) in the 1990's.

For two years, All Aboard Ohio, led by Ken Prendergast, Executive Director, and the LCCA have hosted bi-monthly meetings along the corridor to solicit buy-in for this project.

The Lorain County Commissioners and the Northern Ohio Commuter Rail Coalition entered into an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) creating a new joint agent, Westshore Commuter Rail Task Force; wherein the Coalition committed to contribute up to \$34,000 of the County's required 80 per cent match to access the \$343,000 Earmark acquired by Congresswoman, Betty Sutton. To date, \$30,000 has been secured. \$35,000 is being requested from NOACA, and additional funding to meet educational, marketing and promotional requirements is being solicited from entities such as the Fund For Our Economic Future.



Alliance Meeting and Tour Scheduled

The Lorain County Growth Partnership & The Lorain County Community Alliance are partnering for a Team Tuesday/Alliance Meeting and Tour on Tuesday, July 28th, 2009; 8:30-10am at the Lake Erie Crusher Stadium 2009 Baseball Blvd., in Avon.

Agenda includes a pre-meeting Tailgate Continental Breakfast (in Crusher parking area); a welcome from Avon Mayor James Smith; a Team Tuesday Briefing and Alliance Updates. A tour of the Stadium will immediately follow the meeting. Meeting will adjourn at 10:05 and guests will exit premises at that time.

Secondary, and "On Your Own", you may purchase game tickets and reenter the park to watch a game scheduled for 11:05 a.m.

~ATTENTION~

This Collaborative meeting with the Lorain County Growth Partnership replaces the Alliance meeting scheduled for Friday, August 7th, 2009.

"Partnerships for the Future"

Thank You Alliance!

For your interest and support of the Leadership Lorain County Summer Internship Program by presenting:



"Accessing Lorain County Government Resources" on June 10, 2009

Jennifer Jackson (Kent State), Whitney Ryba (University of Toledo), Allison Dakos (Heidelberg), Kaitlin Smith (Otterbein), Tommy Mahall (Baldwin Wallace), Orlando Jones, Sarah Ignatz-Hoover (Ohio State), Matt Kilbane, Alexandra Holomuzki-Zgonc (Ohio State), Nick McGreevy (Baldwin Wallace), Ashley Hand (Baldwin Wallace)



10th Annual LCCA Summit

Friday, October 2, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

Lorain County Administration Bldg.
226 Middle Ave. Elyria, Ohio
4th Floor Rooms A & B



Keynote Speakers:

Ohio State Senator Capri Cafaro
Ohio's 49th Attorney General Richard Cordray

STORM WATER STUDY PROGRESS SUMMARY

July 1, 2009

JCPR and the Storm Water Management Design team have made considerable progress on several aspects of the feasibility study. These include:

- ✦ Assessment of the extent and nature of storm water run-off and related government management and financing issues for Lorain County is nearly complete.
- ✦ A survey of local governments throughout Lorain County has been designed and administered to gather information regarding local government activity levels and expenditures in various aspects of storm water management. (We continue to seek responses from the remaining jurisdictions that have not yet responded.)
- ✦ Based on survey responses and FEMA flood plain maps, a Lorain County map of flood prone areas has been developed.

A preliminary look at survey results was presented to the Design Team in June. Some initial insights are that nearly \$2 million dollars is expended by local governments (not including county government expenditures) annually for storm water management operations (excluding capital projects), nearly a half million is spent on capital projects, and that some degree of fragmentation in relation to efforts to control storm water run-off exist. Two jurisdictions currently charge for storm water management under \$5 per month per household), and another five are considering such a step.

- ✦ A best practices search has been performed and is being used to develop a set of options to address storm water management in more effective and efficient ways across local governments.
 - ✦ Options will be broadly circulated and weighed by key stakeholders before an implementation plan is developed and finalized.
 - ✦ Relevant Ohio Revised Code citations have been reviewed and summarized for each of the structural/governance options Lorain County might pursue.
- Prospective obstacles to implementation are being considered and documented.

Welcome 2009 Members

Amherst Township
Columbia Township
Elyria Township
Grafton Township
Pittsfield Township
Wellington Township
City of Amherst
City of Avon
City of Avon Lake
City of Elyria
City of Lorain
City of North Ridgeville
City of Oberlin
City of Sheffield Lake
Village of Grafton
Village of LaGrange
Village of Kipton
Village of Sheffield
Village of South Amherst
Village of Wellington
Dr. David J. Hintz
Laborers' Union Local 758-AFL-CIO
Lorain County Engineer
Lorain County Visitors Bureau
Lorain Port Authority
Ross Environmental Services
Lorain County 911 Agency
Lorain County Sherriff's Department
R.E. WARNER & ASSOCIATES, Inc.
Lorain County Joint Vocational School
Lorain Public Library System
North Coast Building Industry Association
Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency
Lorain County Health District
Lorain County EMA

Dues reminder

*** An important reminder to unpaid members. Paying your dues enables you to VOTE at the upcoming meetings and receive member discounts. Please verify that you are eligible.**

Bulk Salt

Alliance Members who requested to purchase Bulk salt from the State should have received agreements by now. Bidding went out early this year with the purchase price at 45.50 per ton. Up from 41.33 from last year. If you have not received your agreement, contact Jim Schurch in the ODOT Office of Contracts at 1-614-644-7880.

Bylaw Review Committee

Committee Members

David Ashenhurst, Oberlin City Councilman
Committee Chair

Brian R. Frederick, President & CEO
Community Foundation of Lorain County

Dave Gillock, Mayor of North Ridgeville

Jean Anderson, Mayor of Vermilion

Patricia Echko, Sheffield Township Fiscal Officer

Amy Szmania, Rochester Township Trustee

cc- Commissioner Blair, Joyce Parks, Virginia Haynes

--Bylaw Committee meeting is set for Friday, August 7th, 9:00 a.m. Meeting room A on the 4th Floor of the Lorain County Administration Building 226 Middle Ave. in Elyria.

--Contact David Ashenhurst for further information at dashenhurst@cityofoberlin.com

Member Discounts

The Lorain County Commissioners passed a Resolution on May 28th, 2009 allowing Alliance Members to purchase discount tickets for the Amusement Parks Cedar Point and Geauga Lake.

Tickets may be purchased by money order or certified check ONLY through the Purchasing Department located on the 4th floor of the Administration Building from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For further information you may contact Purchasing Director Yvonne Newton at 440-329-5240.

Following locations and prices are as follows:

Cedar Point – Tickets will be \$35.00 (vs. \$43.99) for adults and \$16.99 (vs. \$19.99) for Juniors and Seniors (62 & Older) Children 2 and under are free. These Tickets will also be available for the Halloweekends.

Gauga Lake – Tickets will be \$18.99 (vs. \$25.99) for adults and \$12.18 (vs. \$12.18) for Juniors and Seniors (62 & Older) Children 2 and under are free.

--Update on Ohio Commission on Local Government Reform & Collaboration (Section 701.20)

The budget sent to Governor Strickland included language that expands the issues that the Commission must consider: (1) making annual financial reporting across local governments consistent for ease of comparison; and (2) aligning regional planning units across state agencies. View the bill in its entirety at www.legislature.state.oh.us



"Partnerships for the Future"

Message from the Administrative Coordinator

Proudly representing the Lorain County Community Alliance (LCCA), I recently graduated from Leadership Lorain County (LCC).

As a student I learned more in depth about the different organizations, communities and businesses in Lorain County. Additionally, I had the pleasure of increasing awareness to other student leaders regarding the Alliances collaborative efforts and greatly acknowledging LCCA's years of success to the forward thinking of the Alliance founders and members.

Throughout the class year, I listened tentatively to the challenges facing leaders throughout the county and how they solved those issues, or have yet to solve them. I found the common thread is collaboration. Collaboration between entities is the key to making Lorain County a successful competitor in the market today and is in the best interest of our constituents. The Alliance is a tool that is already in place. The Alliance is a respected entity, regionally recognized*, established and ready to be utilized. The Alliance should be the first avenue to travel when seeking ways to collaboratively solve existing and emerging issues.

LCC identifies community leaders and expands their knowledge and awareness to existing and emerging community issues, needs, and challenges. It exposes them to the resources available and then releases them back into the county, with a fresh and energized perspective on how to make this happen and supplies them with the tools they need to work together and make Lorain County the finest place in which to live. I am thankful to the Alliance for allowing me the opportunity to attend. Both the Lorain County Community Alliance and Leadership Lorain County serve as catalyst for positive change in Lorain County and Ohio. Thank you again !

Virginia Haynes

*LCCA was recognized on Regional Leadership Day at Youngstown State University as being the forerunner in Collaborative Government. The Alliance was also applauded for its acquisition of the Local Government Services Collaboration Grant for Stormwater Management from the Ohio Department of Development.

~~~This Stormwater Management plan may be a used as the model for the entire state of Ohio.~~~

### 2009 Executive Committee

**CHAIR-** Betty Blair, Lorain County Commissioner 440-329-5112 [bblair@loraincounty.us](mailto:bblair@loraincounty.us) or [jparks@loraincounty.us](mailto:jparks@loraincounty.us)

**VICE-CHAIR-** Walt Sukey, Vice Chair, LaGrange Village Administrator 440-355-5555 [lagov@windstream.net](mailto:lagov@windstream.net)

**TREASURER-** Bill Holtzman, Elyria Township Trustee, 440-329-5585 [bholtzman@loraincounty.us](mailto:bholtzman@loraincounty.us)

**SECRETARY-** Lori Kokoski, Lorain County Commissioner 440-329-5101 [lkokoski@loraincounty.us](mailto:lkokoski@loraincounty.us)

**ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR-** Virginia Haynes 328-2362 [vhaynes@loraincounty.us](mailto:vhaynes@loraincounty.us)

### Website

[www.lccommunityalliance.com](http://www.lccommunityalliance.com) received over 1900 visitors to the website during the month of June 2009. A convenient Membership Form and information has been added for download for new members and to renew your dues.