



Annual Report 2015

~

STARK COUNTY
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION



Robert Nau
Executive Director

Anthony Peldunas
President

Mission Statement

“To improve the quality of life in Stark County and its communities through an effective regional forum characterized by communication, collaboration, facilitation, and planning assistance.”



Agency Message

Anybody who has driven past the construction at the Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium (formerly Fawcett Stadium) knows that change is in the air for Stark County. It is fitting that our Annual Dinner speaker will talk about the proposed Hall of Fame Village which is a game changer for Canton and Stark County. The project represents a nearly half billion dollar investment in Stark County and will require public/private partnerships at an unprecedented scale in our community. The Regional Planning Commission's (RPC's) history in providing a framework for regional cooperation can be of assistance in planning for the land use, transportation and other infrastructure needs and impacts of this very important project.

In the past when we have talked about aging infrastructure, people's eyes would tend to glaze over, however, with the condition of our roads and recent problems with lead in drinking water, the issue is back in the public eye. Not only are our roads and bridges crumbling, but infrastructure buried out of sight, such as water and sewer lines, are well beyond their intended life span. The RPC's grant administration role in partnership with federal and state agencies will continue to be essential as local governments work to repair and replace their aging infrastructure. Also aging and deteriorating is the housing stock in some neighborhoods of our older legacy cities and villages. Our work with the Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation (a.k.a. the Land Bank) continued in 2015, focusing on building demolition through the Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP). The demolition of vacant, dilapidated housing is important in neighborhood stabilization and in preventing further decline of our neighborhoods. The continued development of the Land Bank programs will be a powerful tool to help revitalize our communities and promote economic development throughout Stark County.

Although residential subdivision activity remained modest compared to historic levels, the Planning Department had a busy year. The U.S. EPA Brownfield Assessment grant funded the environmental assessment of both the former Doctor's Hospital and Lehman High School as a first step towards their redevelopment. The department also completed the East Canton/Osnaburg Township Joint Community Plan and started work on the Stark 2040 Comprehensive Plan to be completed later this year. The RPC participated in the development of the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Canton, which will help guide their decision making in the years to come.

Please enjoy reading our "new look" annual report which more fully documents the activities and accomplishments of the RPC. Thanks to the leadership of our Commission and hard work of our staff, we will continue to work towards improving the quality of life of our citizens and help make Stark County a better place to live and work.



Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS)

SCATS is the Metropolitan Planning Organization responsible for transportation planning in Stark County. Projects must be listed in the Long Range Plan and Transportation Improvement Program in order to qualify for funding from the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. Major planning efforts completed in the past year include:

- The **FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program**
- The **2013 Safety Work Plan**
- The **Ride Stark** bicycle map of Stark County
- The **District 19 Public Works Integrating Committee** annual program of funding

The **FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** was adopted by the SCATS Policy Committee at its April meeting. Highlights include:

- Intersection improvements at Everhard Road and Whipple Avenue, Cherry and Locust Streets, Beeson Street and Freshley Avenue and Middlebranch/Harrison/30th.
- Corridor improvements on 12th Street/Mahoning Road in Canton and Market Avenue in Plain Township and North Canton.
- Multipurpose trails projects in Alliance, North Canton and Paris Township.
- Improvements on roads including State Route 619, Werner Church Street and Market Avenue

FY '16		STP	CMAQ	TA	Row Total
Rockhill Avenue Bridge Shoulder	County Engineer			\$96,000	\$96,000
Everhard-Whipple Intersection	County Engineer		\$1,110,000		\$1,110,000
Portage Street Phase 1 Resurfacing	County Engineer	\$709,920			\$709,920
Portage Street Phase 2 Resurfacing	County Engineer	\$1,070,880			\$1,070,880
Market Avenue STA-43-17.24	ODOT	\$3,567,300	\$2,326,000	\$280,656	\$6,173,956
Cherry/Locust Intersection	Canal Fulton		\$1,310,345		\$1,310,345
Hoover Trail West -Bridge to YMCA	Stark Parks			\$269,000	\$269,000
Main Avenue Improvement	Massillon	\$700,000			\$700,000
TOTAL		\$6,048,100	\$4,746,345	\$645,656	\$11,440,101

FY '17		STP	CMAQ	TA	Row Total
Beeson & Freshley Roundabout	County Engineer		\$320,000		\$320,000
12th Street Corridor- Bridges	Canton	\$4,973,850	\$360,000	\$300,000	\$5,633,850
Mahoning Road (Maple to Grace)	Canton		\$466,500		\$466,500
STA - 619-2.26	SCTID	\$500,000	\$3,000,000		\$3,500,000
Hoover Trail West (Bridge to YMCA)	Stark Parks			\$611,292	\$611,292
West Maple Turn Lane	N. Canton		\$64,000		\$64,000
Iron Horse Bike/Ped Trail (Early Hill)	Alliance			\$217,940	\$217,940
TOTAL		\$5,473,850	\$4,210,500	\$1,129,232	\$10,813,582



“The Shepler Church Avenue/Fohl Street Roundabout was constructed in 2015. The intersection was closed to traffic in mid-June, and re-opened on August 20th. The project improved the safety of the intersection which typically ranked high on the county accident rate list and was funded utilizing SCATS CMAQ funds, as well as the Ohio County Engineer’s Association (CEAO) safety funding.”

- Keith Bennett, Stark County Engineer

“The purpose of this project is to replace the structurally deficient bridge on Werner Church Road near Middlebranch Avenue. Due to significant housing developments to the east, the bridge and Werner Church Road will be relocated to the north to align with the intersection of Applegrove Street and Middlebranch Avenue. The \$4.9 million construction project is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2016.”

-Keith Bennett, Stark County Engineer



FY '18		STP	CMAQ	TA	Row Total
Everhard-Whipple Intersection	County Engineer	\$5,000,000	\$200,000		\$5,200,000
Middlebranch/30th/Harrisburg	ODOT		\$2,000,000		\$2,000,000
Para transit Vehicles	SARTA		\$537,398		\$537,398
Signal Communication Upgrade	Canton		\$631,620		\$631,620
West Maple Turn Lane	N. Canton		\$455,429		\$455,429
TOTAL		\$5,000,000	\$3,824,447		\$8,824,447

The **2013 Safety Work Plan** analyzes crash data supplied by the Ohio Department of Public Safety. This data is used to create a hazard rating for intersections using a formula that takes into consideration the severity and number of crashes. The study continues the trend of reduced number and severe accidents throughout the county. The top 10 hazardous intersections in Stark County are shown on the following table:

The 12th Street Corridor Project began as a safety project to improve the safety at the intersection of 12th Street and Market Avenue N. It grew into a roadway project that incorporates a “complete streets” design concept. The design approach provides better access to our transportation system for pedestrians, bicyclists, and users of public transportation. The work includes construction along 12th Street N. from Monument Road to Maple Avenue/The O’Jays Parkway and consists of the addition of bike lanes, improved traffic signal operations, improved SARTA bus stops, and streetscaping.

Market Avenue has been widened at 12th Street to provide northbound and southbound left turn lanes to improve the safety of the intersection. The \$23,000,000 project will be completed in mid to late 2016.



Dan Moeglin
Canton City
Engineer



Nick Loukas
Assistant Canton City Engineer

The **Ride Stark** bicycle map and online application of Stark County was completed and distributed this fall. The map ranks roads for suitability of bicycling based on traffic and truck volume, speed limits, and lane width. Roads with lower traffic volume and speed limits are ranked as being more suitable for beginner cyclists while those with high speed limits and traffic volume are rated as more suitable for experienced cyclists. See <http://tinyurl.com/RideStark> for the online map.

The **District 19 Public Works Integrating Committee** oversees the distribution of State Capital Improvement Program and Local Transportation Improvement Program funds by the Ohio Public Works Commission to assist local communities in improving their basic infrastructure. This program is funded by Ohio selling bonds and the state gas tax. Stark County's share is approximately \$8 million per year.

The committee awarded more than \$8.3 million for 10 projects as seen in the following table. In addition, two projects were approved as contingencies:

2016 OPWC Projects

State Capital Improvement Program

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Request</u>
Stark County	Howenstine Drive Bridge	\$1,570,000	\$190,000
Stark County	Liberty Church Bridge	\$887,000	\$655,500
Canton	Overbrook NW Storm Sewer	\$193,507	\$193,507
Canton	Avondale Area Waterline-Phase 1	\$2,066,959	\$950,000
Canton	38th Street Waterline	\$2,862,999	\$1,500,000
Canton	30th Street NW Rehab	\$1,583,998	\$1,500,000
Canton	Mahoning Road NE, Phase 2	\$13,000,000	\$1,500,000
<i>Canal Fulton*</i>	<i>Locust Street Storm Sewer</i>	<i>\$483,000</i>	<i>\$375,420</i>

Local Transportation Improvement Program

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Request</u>
Canton/Stark County	12th Street Bridge Replacement	\$8,962,500	\$1,500,000
Osnaburg/Paris/Nimishillen Twps.	Parks Road Rehab	\$385,160	\$192,580
Stark County/Meyers Lake	12th/13th Street Paving	\$532,000	\$200,000
<i>Massillon*</i>	<i>Richville/Southway Improvement</i>	<i>\$1,550,653</i>	<i>\$1,147,000</i>

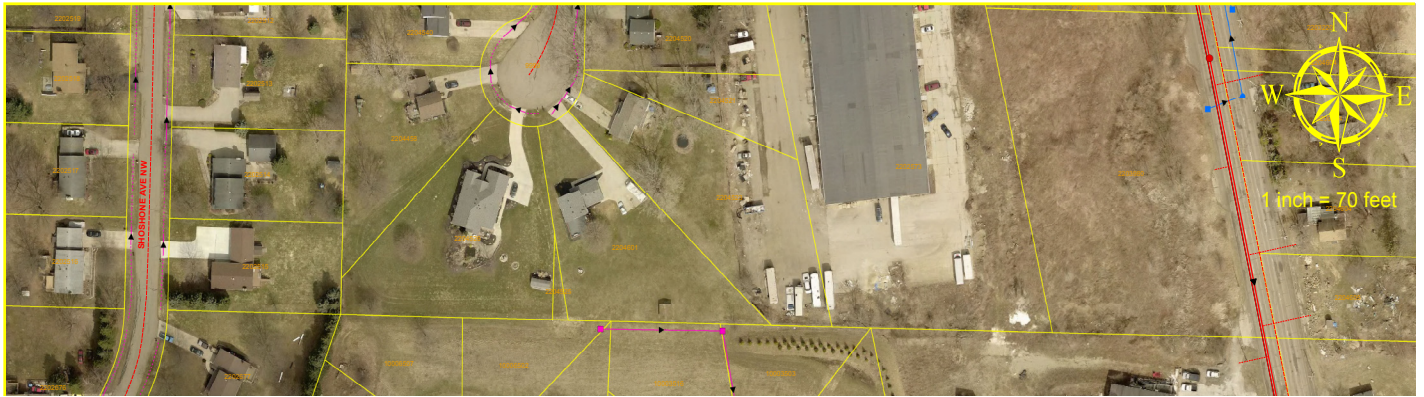
Total \$8,381,587

*** Contingency Projects**

***\$1,522,420**

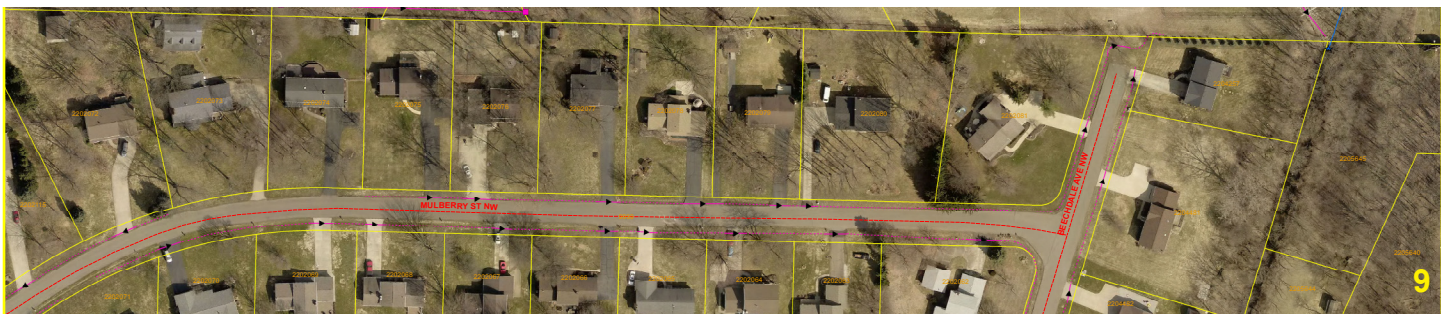


Subdivision Engineering



SCRPC administers the Subdivision Engineering Program on behalf of the Board of Stark County Commissioners. Some of the work performed by the Subdivision Engineer included:

- Subdivision Engineering
 - Reviewed new allotments' preliminary plans, construction drawings, and final plats for compliance with the Subdivision Regulations as well as processed any requested construction variances
 - Performed construction inspections of the public improvements installed in new allotments to insure compliance with the Subdivision Regulations and for release of performance and maintenance bonds. Handled any questions arising during construction
 - Established dollar amounts of performance and maintenance bonds for new allotments as well as reviewed performance and maintenance bonds, bond substitution requests, and bond reduction requests. Maintained all current, approved bond forms on the SCRPC web site for public use
 - Reviewed private utility company installation drawings for new allotments
 - Archived and subsequently maintained new allotments' project documents including as-built construction drawings, storm water management reports, bond related files, construction inspection reports, variances, and off-site easements
 - Reviewed private commercial and industrial site improvement plans for compliance with the Subdivision Regulations as well as made recommendations to SCRPC for any variances requested





- Ohio EPA National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit related work including:
 - Prepared the county's 2015 NPDES Annual Report
 - Maintained/updated the county's comprehensive storm water conveyance system map for all county owned and operated facilities and roadways within the urbanized areas
 - Monitored over 400 individual county outfalls
 - Prepared the city of Alliance's 2015 NPDES Annual Report
 - Monitored over 100 individual outfalls for the city of Alliance
- Performed the monthly inspections of the county's Zimmer Ditch Detention Basin B concrete dam as required by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for Class I Structures, as well as maintaining the inspection and maintenance logs. Obtained bids and administered the contract for the yearly maintenance work required for the Zimmer Ditch Detention Basins A and B
- Assisted various townships and the Board of Stark County Commissioners with drainage related issues and/or problems on an as-requested basis
- Served as Project Manager to the Board of Stark County Commissioners for the County Office Building Garage and Façade Repairs Projects
- Served on the NEFCO General Policy Board and District 19 Public Works Committee
- Provided engineering design assistance to the Stark County Sanitary Engineering Department for various projects
- Provided assistance to the Board of Stark County Commissioners for various building and parking lot improvement projects





Economic Development

The RPC provides assistance to members of all county Tax Incentive Review Councils (TIRC's) and provides required monitoring of companies with tax incentive agreements under the Enterprise Zone (EZ) and Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) programs. Such programs must comply with state law and rules adopted by the Ohio Development Services Agency.

- Enterprise Zone (EZ) - designated area where business and industry may locate and/or expand/improve their property and by committing to retain and/or hire employees may realize reduced real estate and personal property taxes
- Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) - primarily a program to encourage revitalization of existing housing; however, retail and other businesses may also receive real property tax relief by improving property in such previously designated areas and committing to retain/hire employees

Except for the cities of Canton, Alliance and Massillon, who monitor their own programs, the county's designated Enterprise Zone Manager is responsible for five enterprise zones – EZ360C (Minerva); EZ342C (Brewster); EZ360C (Canal Fulton); EZ234C, which includes parts of East Canton, Navarre, Canton, Perry and Osnauburg Townships and all of the city of Louisville and Nimishillen and Plain Townships; and EZ252C, which includes parts of Lake and Jackson Township and the city of North Canton.

- Members of a Tax Incentive Review Council

Stark County Auditor or representative serves as Chairman
Three members represent County Commissioners
Two members appointed by local township/municipality
One school district representative

TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCILS 2015

- Reviewed eight EZ agreements and one CRA agreement with recommendations sent to the Board of Stark County Commissioners

BOARD OF STARK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 2015

- Agreed to recommendations of the TIRCs with seven EZ agreements being continued and one expired and the one CRA agreement in Plain Township being continued



Community Development

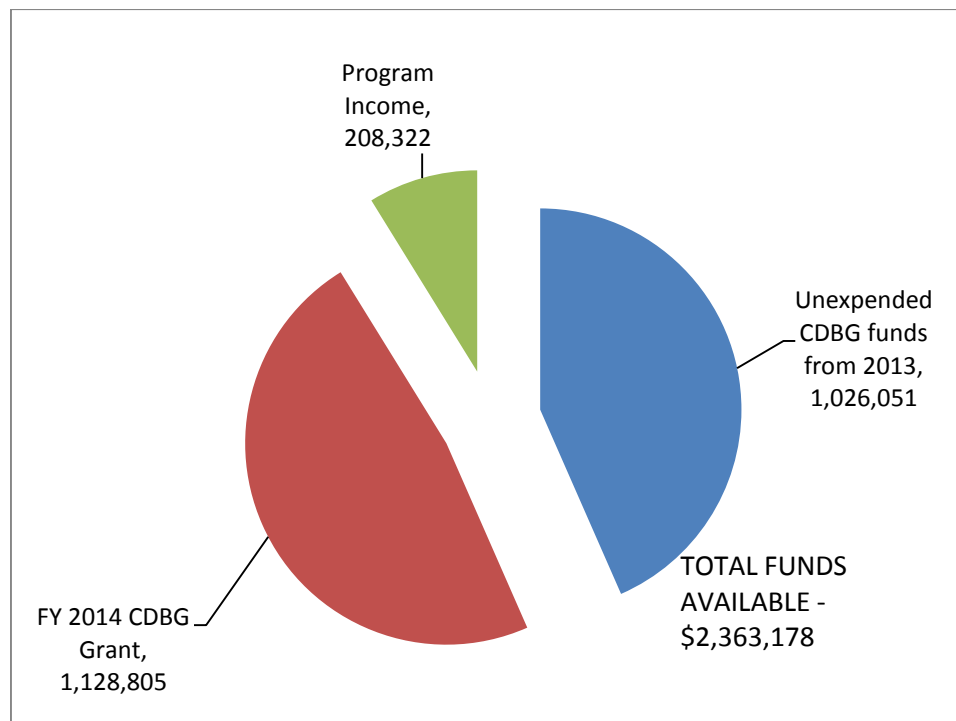
FY 2014 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG)

As stated by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), “The Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program provides annual grants on a formula basis to entitled cities and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.”

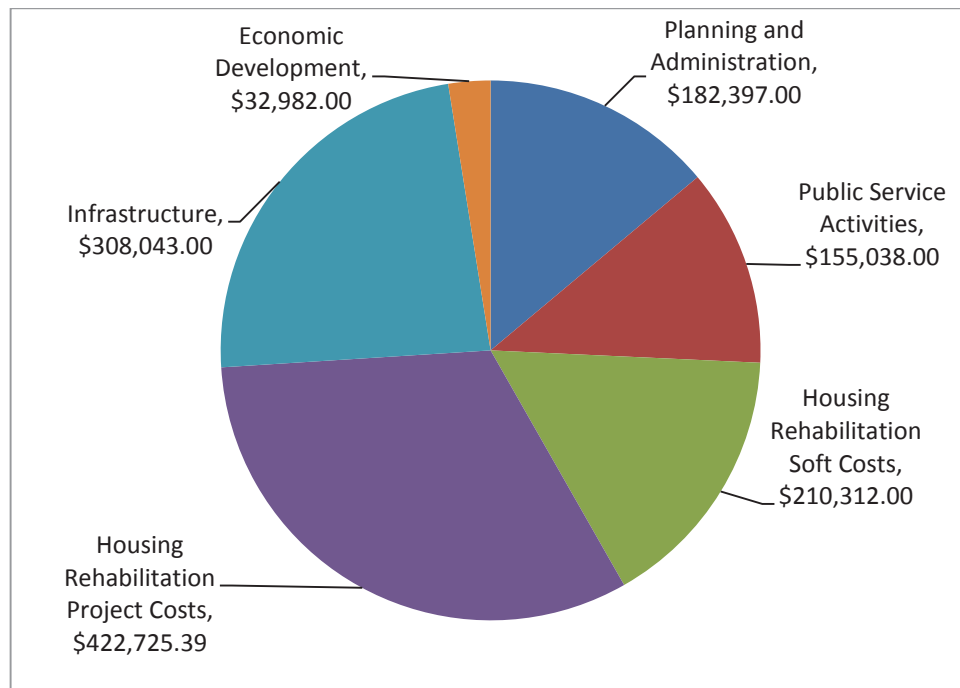
Stark County is designated as an Urban County under the CDBG program, with the Board of Stark County Commissioners being the recipient of the funds. The Stark County Regional Planning Commission has been under contract to the Board to provide the overall administration of the CDBG program, including administration, planning, fair housing and housing rehabilitation.

This information provides a picture of the activities and programs undertaken during the FY 2014 CDBG program year (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015). All of the projects were developed and implemented to provide decent housing, a suitable living environment or expand economic opportunities for low- to moderate-income (LMI) persons, prevent or eliminate slum or blight, or meet an urgent need that poses a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of a community when no other funding options are available. Locally 100% of the projects/activities undertaken during FY 2014 benefited LMI persons or families.

Total CDBG funds available



Total CDBG Expenditures by Activity



FY 2014 Stark County CDBG Activities

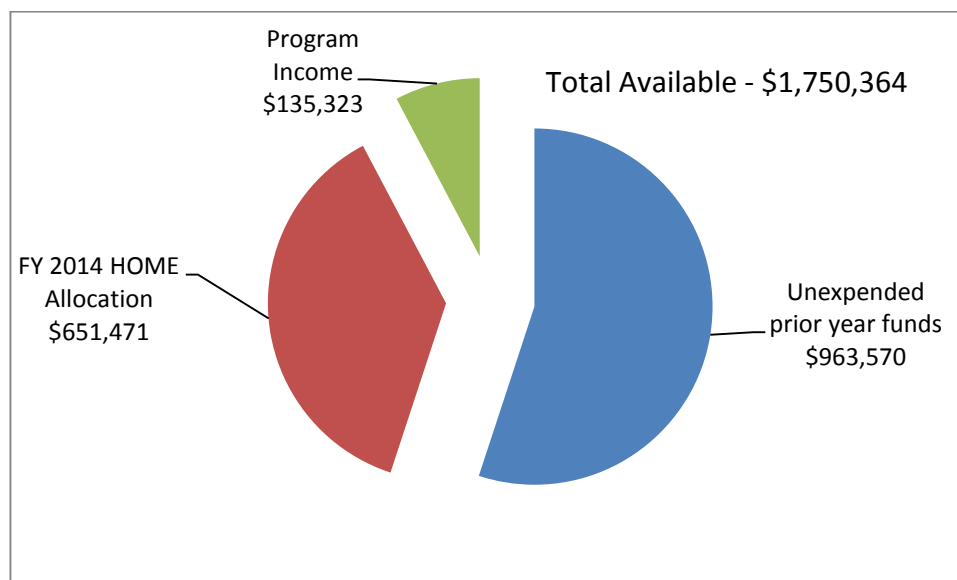
Public Infrastructure	Public Services
East Sparta Main & Walnut Roundabout North Canton Hillcrest & Royer Ave. Waterline Hartville Water Line Extension	Fair Housing The Family Living Center Homeless Shelter The Stock Pile - Building Goods Reuse Warehouse Alliance Emergency Residence Homeless Shelter Prescription Assistance Network
Housing Activities	Administration
Emergency Rehab Housing Rehab Program Housing Rehab Septic/Sewer Program	Comprehensive Planning CDBG Administration
Economic Development	
KSU Micro Enterprise Development	

FY 2014 HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (HOME)

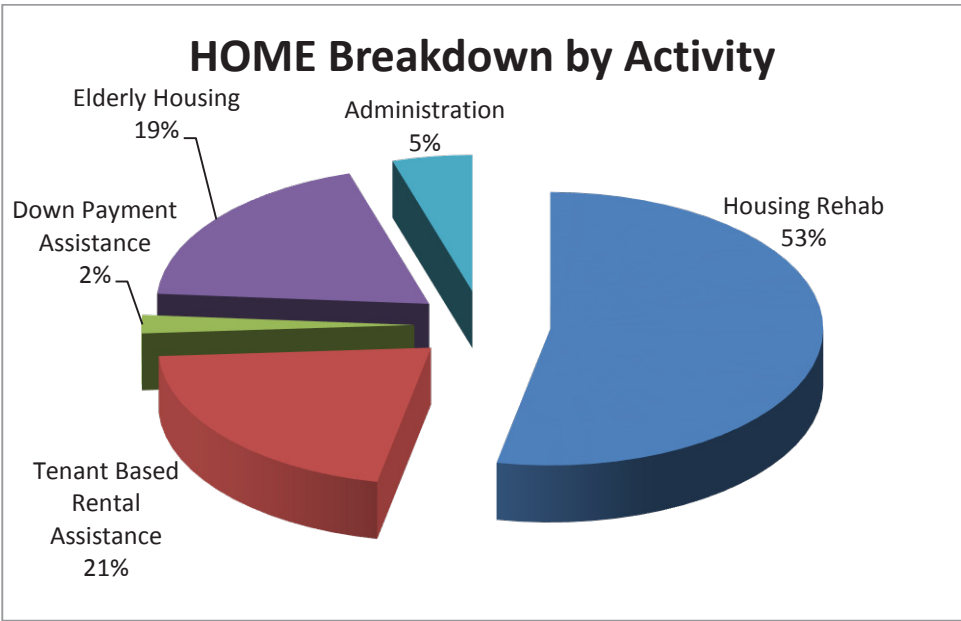
"The HOME Investment Partnership Program provides formula grants to states and localities that communities use - often in partnership with local nonprofit groups - to fund a wide range of activities including building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent or homeownership or providing direct rental assistance to low-income people. It is the largest federal block grant to state and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households."

Stark County participates in the HOME program of HUD as a Designated Consortium with the cities of Alliance and Massillon, with the county as the lead entity. The SCRPC is under contract to the Board of Stark County Commissioners to administer the HOME program.

Total Funds Available



Total HOME Expenditures by Activity



“The Stone Ridge Village Senior Apartments offer 40 units and are very close to capacity. This is a positive for Louisville and was definitely needed. It’s very attractive and the residents are really pleased.”

- Pat Fallot, Mayor of Louisville



2014 Stark County HOME Consortium Activities

Affordable Housing	Housing Rehabilitation
SMHA - HOPE Tenant Based Rental Assistance SMHA - HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance ICAN Stone Ridge Village Senior Apartments	Stark County Housing Rehab City of Alliance Housing Rehab City of Massillon Housing Rehab
	Down Payment Assistance
	City of Massillon

Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Programs

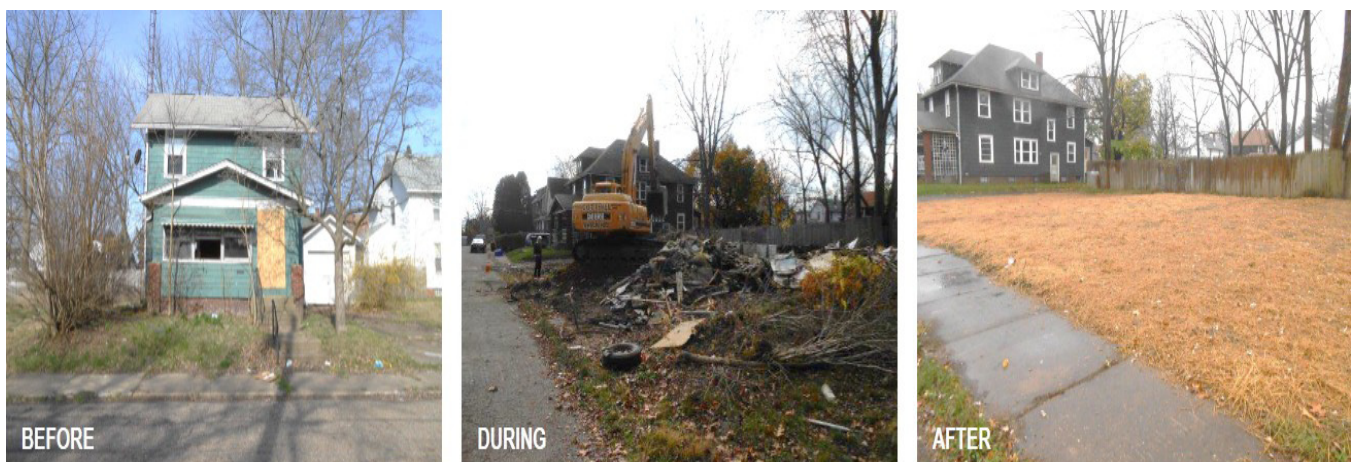
The Stark County Regional Planning Commission has been designated as the Collaborative Applicant for the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC). As such, the SCRPC is responsible for the planning activities related to the HUD funded homeless programs in accordance with the HEARTH Act.

During 2015, the following activities were undertaken:

- Coordinated the writing and submission of the FY 2015 CoC application, which included 22 individual projects for a total of \$2,739,620
- Reviewed two applications and submitted them to the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) for a total of \$681,198
- Reviewed and submitted 4 projects to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency for funding under the Capital Improvements to End Homelessness Initiative for a total of \$2 million
- Provided planning and staffing to the HCCSC for monthly board meetings, members meetings, four main committees, various sub-committees and other work groups of the HCCSC including meeting preparation, assisting with and ensuring that minutes of each were completed and posted on the monthly website
- Communicated with the consultant, Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) to ensure the needs of the HCCSC were adequately addressed
- Assisted with drafting and reviewing changes to policies and procedures required by federal regulations for Continuum of Care to ensure compliance with the HEARTH Act
- Monitored projects funded with CoC, ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) and HCRP (Homeless Crisis Response Program) funding via status reports and on-site monitoring, offering feedback and guidance to project for increasing performance
- Administered the city of Canton's ESG program
- Communicated with the press regarding various issues surrounding homelessness
- Assisted with the annual Point-in-Time Count and the Project Homeless Connect event
- Researched and obtained answers to various questions relating to regulations and requirements of project recipients

Land Bank Program

The SCRPC entered into a contract with the Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation (SCLRC) (aka the Land Bank) to administer the overall Land Bank program. The SCRPC originally administered the “Moving Ohio Forward” (MOF) demolition program. This program was completed during 2014. With the completion of the MOF program came an application for funding to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency under the “Neighborhood Initiative Program” (NIP) which also began during 2014. Total original allocation to the SCLRC under NIP was \$4,235,000 which has since been amended to add an additional \$500,000. NIP will allow for the demolition of a minimum of approximately 275 vacant and blighted residential structures owned by the SCLRC which will be in the cities of Canton, Alliance and Massillon. Once these demolitions are completed, the vacant parcels will be available for reuse.



“Through the Neighborhood Initiative Program, over 100 blighted houses have been demolished which has helped provide safer and more stable neighborhoods in Canton. The program has been a success and the city of Canton plans to demolish at least 140 additional houses.”

- Lisa Miller, Community Development Director, City of Canton

An initiative of the SCLRC is the Side Lot program. This program allows qualified persons to acquire vacant, tax delinquent parcels that are contiguous to a property that they own. Since the program began in 2013, a total of 936 side lot applications have been received, and to date, 275 lots have been transferred to the approved applicants. From that total number, 233 new applications were received in 2015.

Another initiative of the SCLRC is the Vacant Lot Acquisition program. While being put into place late in the fall of 2015, this program has already seen 5 properties in the acquisition phase.

Demolitions were also undertaken outside of NIP in the cities of Alliance and Louisville. A total of five properties were demolished this year, three in Louisville and two in Alliance.

It is expected that as the RPC administers the Land Bank program, operations will continue to grow and evolve.



Fair Housing

The Fair Housing Department's mission is to eliminate housing discrimination, racial and sexual harassment and to ensure housing opportunities for all people regardless of a person's race, color, sex, religion, military status, national origin, ancestry, handicap or familial status. The Fair Housing Department is dedicated to the elimination of housing discrimination. Landlord and tenant counseling (L/T), fair housing counseling, compliance monitoring, testing, investigating alleged claims of housing discrimination, and sponsoring educational programs are some of the services provided to the citizens of Stark County and the city of Alliance.

In 2015, the staff conducted the following activities:

Educational Workshops, Trainings, and Outreach

- Made presentations to Pathway Caring for Children, Hoarding Coalition Committee, city of Massillon, Canton Fair Housing Commission and the RPC Commission
- Conducted a training on "Fair Housing and Disability Rights" to the staff at Community Services of Stark County
- Trained respondents on the fair housing law and how to provide equal housing opportunity to the residents of Stark County
- To celebrate the passage of the Federal Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, sponsored a Fair Housing Luncheon, with the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA), during Fair Housing Month. The luncheon was titled, "Civil Rights and Discrimination...How Far Have We Come?"



*Herman Hill and Corey Minor Smith representing SMHA
and Valerie Watson and Bob Nau representing SCRPC*



Timothy J. Moran was the luncheon keynote speaker. He serves as the Deputy Chief in the Housing and Civil Enforcement Section of the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice. He has over 20 years' experience litigating cases enforcing the Fair Housing Act and other civil rights statutes at the trial and appellate court levels.

In recognition of the 47th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act and in support of Fair Housing throughout Stark County, Ohio and the Nation, Stark County Commissioner, Richard Regula, joined the national celebration and proclaimed April 2015 as "Fair Housing Month" and presented the staff with a proclamation.



More than 135 individuals attended the Fair Housing Luncheon that was held at the Alex Krassas Event Center.

Valerie Watson, Fair Housing Coordinator, (center) presented the Outstanding Achievement in Fair Housing Award to an individual and organization that showed exemplary performances in civil rights and fair housing practices. Denise Hollenbach (left) accepted the award for the Domestic Violence Project, Inc. (DVPI). The DVPI strives to educate survivors and the community about housing rights and protections available through Fair Housing and Violence Against Women Acts. The recipient for the individual category went to Brenda Turner. Ms. Turner (right) has been in the mortgage industry for 14 years, assisting minorities, women, and low-to-moderate income individuals.



Hearing Appeals Services

- Renewed agreement with the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA) for the Fair Housing Coordinator to conduct Hearings and write appeal decisions for applicants and tenants of SMHA
- Conducted 55 Informal and Formal Grievance hearings for SMHA

Landlord-Tenant

- Counseled and educated landlords, tenants, and agency representatives on their rights, obligations and responsibilities under the landlord-tenant laws. Some individuals were referred to other agencies that could better assist them

Discrimination Cases

- Investigated and/or processed claims of housing discrimination

At a Glance

756 persons counseled in L/T

900 educational brochures distributed

11 landlords monitored due to discriminatory rental practices in the past

4 discrimination cases investigated

1 disability discrimination case

2 familial status discrimination cases

1 race discrimination case

1 case settled

1 familial status discrimination case

Advertisement and Public Awareness

- Distributed 900 educational brochures to property owners, managers, tenants, landlords, students, lawyers, city of Alliance, SCRPC, Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority, West Manor Park, Hoarding Coalition Committee, Pathway Caring for Children and Community Services of Stark County
- Advertised in the Repository and Alliance Review newspapers



Planning

Stark 2040 Comprehensive Plan



Help us plan the Future of Stark County!

The Planning Department administers the subdivision review process, makes recommendations on zoning, oversees The Stock Pile, operates house numbering, handles public relations for the agency, coordinates stormwater education, and carries out long-range planning activities. In 2015, the department:

- Continued to administer a 3-year U.S. EPA brownfields assessment grant
- Completed the East Canton/Osnaburg Township Joint Community Plan
- Coordinated SCRPC's public relations work, including public meetings, press releases, advertising, the Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC), the annual dinner, annual report, RPC's quarterly newsletter, the agency's updated website, and Facebook page
- Began an update to the county's long-range comprehensive plan
- Conducted an online survey for public feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the county
- Served on Northeast Four County Planning Organization's (NEFCO's) Cooperative Economic Development Strategy Committee and the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Township Recycling Station
- Carried out stormwater education for the Board of Stark County Commissioners through educational workshops, speaking engagements, the RPC website, brochures, articles, advertisements, contests, a clean-up with the Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partnership, and hosted Public Involvement/Public Education (PIPE) committee meetings
- Assisted the city of Alliance with the management of their stormwater education program

Subdivision Review Subcommittee and staff reviewed:

- 10 preliminary plans (2 revised)
- 19 final plats (7 new subdivisions, 9 replats, 2 revised, 1 re-record)

Resulting in: 77 new lots
0.6 miles new residential streets

- 68 site plans (commercial, industrial & multifamily uses)
- 35 administrative waivers of formal site improvement plan reviews
- 6 variance/appeals requests
- 178 divisions of property without plat (lot splits)

Street Vacations/Annexations Recommendations:

- Recommended to the County Commissioners on 9 proposed street vacations
- Recommended to the County Commissioners on 1 proposed street establishment
- Recommended to the County Commissioners on 1 annexation request

House Numbering:

373	Total House Numbers Issued
265	Single Family
6	Multi-Family
68	Commercial/Industrial
3	Agriculture
19	Electric/Utility
4	Replacement/Re-Issues
8	Other

Zoning:

- Reviewed and made recommendations on 28 township zoning amendments
- Organized 10 Zoning Inspector's "Mutual Assistance" meetings- Topics included:
 - Legal updates from the Stark County Prosecutor's Office
 - Regulatory updates from the Stark County Health Department
 - Overview of the Auditor's Tax Map Department & County GIS Department
 - Tour of The Stock Pile as a lower-cost building materials resource



**The Venue
at Belden Village**

157,555 sq. ft.

"Executed leases or leases in the final stage ready for execution at this site are EarthFare and Home Goods, both of which are new to Stark County, and HH Gregg. We also have leases pending with two other national retailers not currently in Stark County. We are also working with a few regional restaurant chains that are also not in Stark. This center will have an upscale architectural design that will be a dramatic upgrade to the existing northeast corner of Whipple and Everhard Roads."

- Robert Brown, Deville Director of Operations

The Village of East Canton and Osnauburg Township contracted with the RPC to assist with the development of a Joint Community Plan. A public visioning meeting was held requesting input on transportation, economic development, livability, and housing.

"We are looking forward to growing and working together to further develop the community."

- Kathleen Almasy, Mayor of East Canton



The Stock Pile

The Stock Pile (TSP), is the RPC's non-profit building material reuse warehouse, which the Planning Department assists with administration, personnel and grant management. Located at 1387 Clarendon SW in Canton, TSP draws customers and donors from all over northeast Ohio. In 2015, The Stock Pile:

- Assisted 2,200 low- to middle-income families, by providing materials for home repairs
- Partnered with 95 non-profit agencies by supplying items for their projects
- Served as work site for Mature Services and Municipal Court Referrals, as well as Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, with over 4,000 volunteer hours worked
- Took in over \$145,000 in handling fees, representing approximately \$435,000 in materials and diverted more than 193 tons of reusable materials from land-fills (total since opening 1,885 tons)
- Reinvested more than \$1.4 million in handling fees in the program (since opening), which represents well over \$4.2 million worth of materials returned to useful life
- Experienced five of its best-selling months ever during the 2015 calendar year
- Provided an outlet for dozens of companies to remove overstock and scratch and dent items from their warehouses and reduced their disposal costs
- Rehabilitated one home and transferred it to ICAN for veterans rental housing, and purchased another for rehabilitation for sale to a qualified moderate income buyer through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program
- Evaluated 206 homes for deconstruction for the Stark County Land Re-utilization Corporation and carried out minor deconstruction on 24 of those; carried out deconstruction on one Wayne Homes model home, one doctor's office, and seven other private homes, yielding excellent materials for TSP customers



"Love this store and very helpful people." - Robin Shultz

"It's a fun place to go see what's new! Everyone that works there is very nice and always has a smile. We can always find something we think we need." - Alice Moreland

"Love this place- great prices!!!" - Theresa Henderhan

"Come get lost in a sea of supplies, with friendliest staff around! There is buried treasure in this store. THANKS!" - Matthew Mayle

"Love it- we go there often." - Candi Arnold





Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

The GIS Department partnered with SCATS on the initiative that was kicked off in 2014 to update the Stark County bike map and was finished in 2015. The map has been well received throughout the county. Ride Stark bike maps are available in both print and online map services. The printed maps can be found at various locations around the county or at the SCRPC office. The online map is available at www.tinyurl.com/RideStark or by clicking the QR code seen here.



Online map services continue to grow and there are several that are new this year, created by SCRPC and the County Auditor GIS including Ride Stark, Allotments and others. These new map services and other links can be located by clicking on the GIS Mapping Portal icon on the SCRPC GIS page. Among these icons is a link to browse by city, village or township, so specific data and information can be found. The Stark County Auditor GIS has also created an open data portal that will allow browsing data from several different county departments and agencies. The data is free to download and available in various formats.

STARK COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Stark Web Applications

- Zoning Map
- Stark County Stormwater
- Stark County RPC House Numbering Map
- RIDE STARK

Other useful links...

- Data Downloads
- Browse by City, Village or Township
- Help Documents
- Visit the Stark County RPC Homepage
- Embed a map in a public website
- Visit the Open Data Portal

The department continues with asset inventory mapping in several different areas throughout the county. In 2015, additional storm water inventory mapping for Jackson, Plain and Canton Townships that extends the dataset to their entire political boundaries was completed. The effort to build-out these datasets for the rest of the county continues to move forward.

As in years past, the SCRPC GIS department continues to head up the Ohio GIS Map Gallery competition held annually at the Ohio GIS Conference each September. The Map Gallery and conference continue to grow each year and is one of the most well attended state conferences in the nation.



New Pictometry aerial photos were flown in the spring of 2015 by the county and are available by DVD or can be copied to external hard drives. They are also available for viewing on several different map services throughout the county. The aerials are flown approximately every three years. With new innovations in camera technology come incredible high resolution aerial photos that allow for in-depth analysis.



The department continues to create maps and map services at the request of county entities and private agencies. This year community plans, fire district maps, zoning and land use services and many others were created. SCRPC is ready to help with any map service or paper map that is needed.



Historic Preservation

The SCRPC's part-time Historic Preservation Administrator reviews the agency's housing rehab and other CDBG projects to comply with federal regulations (Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act) requiring considerations of their potential effect on historic properties. Under terms of a Programmatic Agreement with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO), this eliminates the need to otherwise submit all such projects to the OHPO, whose reviews usually take a minimum of one or more months for completion. Similar reviews are also performed under contract with the city of Canton.

Within Stark County (including the cities of Canton, Massillon, and Alliance) 65 historic preservation reviews (plus 16 programmatic exclusions signed by SCRPC) were completed in 2015.



Historic Frank T. Bow Federal Building



Equal Employment

- Processed seven equal employment discrimination telephone calls
- Investigated county-wide employee complaints relating to equal employment issues
- Provided employee mediation services
- Assisted in the development of Equal Employment Opportunity plans for three county departments



Fiscal

	2015 Actual Income	2016 Projected Income
Taxes	\$3,866.06	\$4,000.00
Charges for Services	\$5,790.45	\$5,775.00
Licenses and Permits	\$20,383.36	\$20,000.00
Fines & Forfeitures	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
Intergovernmental - includes Federal, State, Local Reimbursements & Contract Services	\$1,808,277.49	\$2,276,745.00
Other Revenue	\$3,125.42	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$1,843,942.78	\$2,306,520.00

	2015 Actual Expenses	2016 Projected Expenses
Salaries and Benefits	\$1,692,118.30	\$1,754,314.00
Supplies	\$31,053.96	\$31,485.00
Purchased Services	\$140,096.90	\$394,159.00
Capital Outlay	\$23,141.05	\$93,028.00
Other	\$26,386.76	\$32,250.00
TOTAL	\$1,912,796.97	\$2,305,236.00

The Regional Planning Commission's financial records were audited in 2015 by State Auditor Dave Yost's office. The audit was completed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and there were no findings or questioned costs for the year 2014.



2015 SCRPC Members

President: Anthony Peldunas

Vice-President: Robert Fonte

Secretary: Wayne Schillig

Executive Committee

Tom Bernabei, President - Commissioners

John Ferrero Jr., County Prosecutor

Alan Andreani, City of Alliance/Joe Mazzola, alt.

William J. Healy II, City of Canton

Kathy Catazaro-Perry, City of Massillon/Larry Marcus, alt.

*James Benekos, City of North Canton

*Maurice "Mort" DeHoff, Washington Township

*Robert Leach, Village of Magnolia

*Wayne Schillig, Marlboro Township

*Fred Abraham, County-at-Large

*David McAlister, County-at-Large

*Carl Rose, County-at-Large

*Ronald Revlock, County-at-Large

*Anthony Peldunas, County-at-Large

*Robert Fonte, CAC President/Stark County Park District

*** Personnel Committee**

Vince Marion, City of Louisville

Robert Sanderson, County-at-Large

County Office Members (all ex-officio)

Commissioners

Tom Bernabei

Janet Weir Creighton

Richard Regula

Administrator

Brant Luther

Sanitary Engineer

James Troike

Tom Davis, alt.

Engineer

Keith Bennett

Vincent Mueser, alt.

Health Commissioner

Kirk Norris

Todd Paulus, alt.

Stark County Park District

Robert Fonte

Prosecutor

John Ferrero, Jr.

Michael Bickis, alt.

Deborah Dawson, alt.

Ross Rhodes, alt.

City Members

Alliance

Mayor Alan Andreani

Joe Mazzola, alt.

Canal Fulton

Mayor Richard Harbaugh

Mark Cozy, alt.

Canton

Mayor William J. Healy II

Samuel Sliman, alt.

Amy Dreussi

Kevin Kennard

Dan Moeglin

Rhoderick Simpson

Louisville

Mayor Patricia Fallot

Vince Marion, alt.

Massillon

Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry

Keith Dylewski

Larry Marcus

James Johnson, alt.

Jason Haines, alt.

Dave Maley, alt.

North Canton

Mayor David Held

James Benekos

County Appointments

Fred Abraham

David McAlister

Erik Parker

Anthony Peldunas

Ronald Revlock

Carl Rose

Robert Sanderson

Members Continued

Township Members

Bethlehem

William McGovern

Canton

Christopher Nichols

William Mittas

Phyllis Schwinn, alt.

Hallie Umpleby, alt.

Jackson

Todd Hawke

John Pizzino

James Walters

Ralph Boger, alt.

Marilyn Lyon, alt.

Joni Poindexter, alt.

Lake

Ellis Erb

Galen Stoll

John Arnold, alt.

Lexington

James Mathews

Linda Chain

Marlboro

Wayne Schillig

Nimishillen

Mike Lynch

Dale Rigenbach

Lisa Shafer, alt.

Osnaburg

Kris Vincent

Brenda Griffith, alt.

Pike

Douglas Baum

Plain

Louis Giavasis- resigned

Scott Haws

Al Leno

John Sabo- appointed

Lisa Campbell, alt.

Sandy

Bruce Weisburn

Washington

Maurice "Mort" DeHoff

Village Members

Beach City

Mayor Connie White

Brewster

Mayor Mike Schwab

East Canton

Mayor Kathleen Almasy

East Sparta

Mayor Mike Stephens

Hartville

Mayor Richard Currie

Rob Graham, alt.

Hills & Dales

Mayor Mark Samolczyk

Limaville

Mayor Troy Hansen- resigned/

Mark Johnston appointed

Magnolia

Mayor Robert Leach

Meyers Lake

Mayor Diana Stadelman- resigned/

Ron Briggs appointed

Minerva

Mayor James Waller

David Harp, alt.

Navarre

Mayor Robert Benson

Waynesburg

Mayor Kenneth Flesher

Larry Hawkins, alt.

Wilmot

Mayor Kenneth Posey



2015 Committees

SCATS Policy Committee

Chair: Dave Torrence

Vice-Chair: Curtis Bungard

Members

Alan Andreani
Tom Ault
William Bartos
Keith Bennett
Tom Bernabei
Alan Biehl-appointed
Ralph Boger
Jonathan Chastek
Janet Weir Creighton
Charles DeGraff
Richard Harbaugh
William J. Healy II
David Held
Dan Moeglin
Andrea Perry
Kathy Catazaro Perry
H. Steven Poulos
Richard Regula
Anthony Urankar-retired

Audit Committee

President: Anthony Peldunas
Vice-President: Robert Fonte
Secretary: Wayne Schillig
Fred Abraham
David McAlister

Citizens' Advisory Council

President: Robert Fonte
Vice-President: Jonathan Chastek
Members: all citizens working/residing in Stark County

Alternates

Chris Barnes
James Benekos
Rick Bodenschatz
Curtis Bungard
Kirt Conrad
Mark Cozy
Keith Dylewski
Rick Flory
Robert Fonte
Faye Heston
Brant Luther
James Kinnick
Nick Loukas
Vince Marion
Joe Mazzola
Greg McCue
Christopher Nichols
Steve Rebillot
Debbie Swickard
Dave Torrence

Technical Advisory Committee

Chair: Dan Moeglin

James Adams	James Kinnick, alt.
Tom Ault	Nick Loukas, alt.
James Benekos	Vince Marion, alt.
Keith Bennett	Dan Moeglin
Alan Biehl-appointed	Rick McQueen
Curtis Bungard	Robert Nau
Kirt Conrad	Steve Rebillot, alt.
Mark Cozy	David Torrence
Keith Dylewski	Anthony Urankar-retired

Subdivision Review Subcommittee

Chair: Ron Revlock, County-at-Large

Curtis Bungard, City of Alliance
Fonda Williams, City of Canton
Matt Bailey, alt.
Jason Haines, City of Massillon
Bruce Bernhard, City of North Canton
Todd Paulus, Stark County Health Department
Keith Bennett, Stark County Engineer
Vincent Mueser, alt.
James Troike, Stark County Sanitary Engineer
Tom Davis, alt.
Richard Rohn, Stark County Soil & Water Conservation District
(plus any interested RPC member)

2015 Planning Staff

Robert Nau, Executive Director

SCATS

Jeff Dutton, P.E., P.S.
Technical Director/Engineer
Dan Slicker, P.E.
Senior Transportation Engineer
Jeff Dotson
Principal Planner
Karl Lucas
Senior Planner
Rick Keyes
Transportation Planner

Community Development

Beth Pearson
*Chief of Community Development/
Fiscal Planning*
Lynn Carlone
Community Development Administrator
Sarah Peters
Community Development Planner
Natalie McCleskey
Continuum of Care (CoC) Planner
Jill Ross
Housing Counselor
Steve Williams
Senior Housing Rehab Specialist
Jeff Bartolone
Housing Rehab Inspector

Fair Housing

Valerie Watson
Fair Housing Coordinator

Fiscal

Linda Hartman
Fiscal Officer

Historic Preservation

Jeff Brown
Historic Preservation Administrator

Planning

Brenda Sarsany
Chief of Planning
Rachel Forchione
Senior Regional Planner
Emma Posillico
Regional Planner
Malia Morrison
Community Relations Planner

Subdivision Engineering

Joe Underwood, P.E., P.S.
Subdivision Engineer

GIS

Sean Phillips, GISP
GIS Coordinator

Special Projects

Mary Lee Sponseller

Office Management

Jill Gerber
Office Manager
Jennifer Young
Secretary

Staff Attorney

Dave Thorley



**STARK COUNTY
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COMMISSION**

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