



RPC Turns “50”

In 2007, the Regional Planning Commission will celebrate its 50-year anniversary. Although Stark County and the agency have changed significantly since 1957, for the most part the people have remained the same. The RPC staff would like for you to be part of this celebration at the Annual Dinner at Skyland Pines Rustic Lodge on Friday, March 23, 2007. A very special evening is being planned that will highlight the special projects, events, and people of the last 50 years. Congressman Ralph Regula, the first RPC President, will be the special guest. Music will be provided by the Sundance Quartet.

A search is on for former employees, Commission members, and associates. If you are in touch with someone out of the past, please either call Pat at 330-451-7934 with their names and addresses, or have them call to make a reservation. Remember to mark your calendar and watch for your invitation to arrive in late January/early February.

Recycling Department Reassigned

In 1985, the Stark County Commissioners initiated the Litter Control Program through a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and soon after asked the Regional Planning Commission to manage it. Two years later, RPC staff added recycling to its growing litter prevention program.

Since its inception more than 20 years ago, the Recycling Department has grown significantly. Over the years, it has grown to a staff of five, and includes a program coordinator, an education specialist, and three truck drivers to collect the recyclables. Originally, the program consisted of educational presentations, contests, displays, litter crews and clean-up projects. It has expanded to include 25 recycling drop-off sites situated throughout the county that are available to the public and 62 schools that participate in the paper recycling program.

During the first 10 months of 2006, more than 3,600 tons of materials were collected and recycled, and over 14,000 tons of yard waste were collected for composting

through a program established in 2004. All of these programs continue to grow at a rapid pace.

Effective January 1, 2007, the recycling program transferred to the Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne Joint Solid Waste Management District (SWD), and the Regional Planning Commission no longer administers the program. Under the direction of the Ohio EPA, the Solid Waste District now operates the programs that represent all three counties. A new Solid Waste Management Plan was approved in December and went into effect on January 1. This plan consolidates the activities of the three counties in an effort to offer a more centralized representation of the district.

This is a good fit for the recycling program, and RPC management feels confident that the Solid Waste District will continue these efforts for continued growth. Future recycling and litter prevention questions and concerns can be addressed by contacting the Solid Waste District at 1-800-678-9839.

Planning Efforts Seek to Fill Gaps in Transportation Needs

New federal regulations require communities to develop a “Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Plan” in order to qualify for several Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs. The regulations seek to improve transportation services for older Americans, those with disabilities, and those with low incomes.

The Stark County Regional Transportation Agency (SARTA), with assistance from SCATS, is taking the lead in developing the plan, major components of which will include identifying the transportation needs of those listed above, identifying available resources to meet their needs, and identifying gaps in service.

SARTA is in the process of arranging a public meeting in early 2007 to assist in developing the plan. Public, private, and nonprofit transportation providers, human service agencies and advocates, and the public will be invited to participate.

Please watch for more information and meeting notifications in the near future or contact Karl Lucas at 330-451-7386 or kblucas@co.stark.oh.us for more details, or to be placed on the mailing list.

I-77 Widening Includes Cable Median Barriers

Have you driven I-77 north of Portage Street and wondered what the cable “fences” are that have been installed in the median? The “fences” are called cable median barriers and have been installed as part of safety enhancements to decrease median crossover collisions.

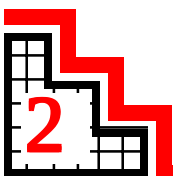
ODOT removed low-tensioned cable barriers as a design option in the mid-1960s, instead opting for concrete and w-beam (metal guardrail) barriers. Since that time, a number of states have tested installations of high-tensioned barriers as a cost-effective means of protecting against cross-median collisions and reducing impact injuries to vehicle occupants. Unlike concrete and metal barriers, high-tensioned cable barriers can reduce impact forces, resulting in fewer injuries to passengers, and also tend to entangle vehicles rather than allowing them to ricochet back into other vehicles.

ODOT began testing the new generation of cable median barriers in five locations throughout the state after a series of 11 median crossover accidents claimed



Safety Cables Along Interstate

14 lives on a 12-mile section of I-75 in 2000 and 2001. A report written in early 2006 noted that since the I-75 cable medians were installed in 2003, there had been 200 “hits” on the barriers and no fatalities. For more information on cable median barriers, use the term “cable median barrier” on-line with any internet search engine.



GIS Services Available

The RPC now has Geographic Information Systems (GIS) available to meet the needs of the cities, villages, and townships in Stark County. Sean Phillips, GIS Coordinator, has been working on this “digital mapping with intelligence” since he joined the RPC in May.

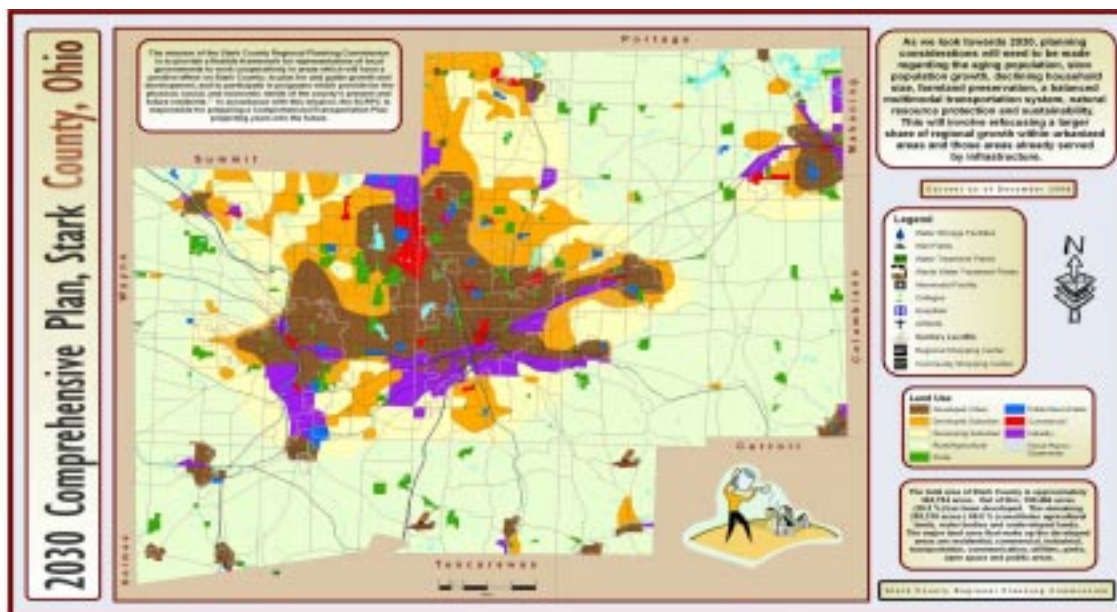
GIS is a combination of hardware and software, used together to create and maintain hundreds of geographic layers and their associated databases. It is a technology that brings together all types of information based on geographic location for the purpose of query, analysis, and generation of maps and reports. GIS benefits the Stark County region by providing a means to share data and a method of visualizing geographically related problems, and subsequently leads to better planning.

The RPC will offer technical and data acquisition assistance for countywide GIS projects. To maximize benefits and minimize costs, the RPC is available to

help coordinate countywide GIS services in cooperation with existing GIS efforts.

To find out more about these quick and affordable mapping services that may be beneficial to your jurisdiction, business, or association, contact Sean Phillips at 330-451-7331. Maps available include:

- Zoning Maps
- Flood Plain and Watershed Maps
- Contour, Elevation and 3D Maps
- Map Books
- School, Political or Subdivision Districts
- Utility Maps
- GPS Location Mapping
- Contract Services
- Fire Department Hydrant Location Map Books
- Crime and Crash Data Maps
- Aerial Photography with Overlays of any Map
- Many different maps to meet your needs



Stark County 2030 Comprehensive Plan

Zimber Ditch Detention Basins A & B Flood Control Projects

In 1995, the Stark County Board of Commissioners contracted with the engineering firm of MS Consultants, Inc. to perform a hydraulic analysis of the existing Zimber Ditch to determine what improvements could help reduce flooding along this drainage way. The amount of the contract was \$106,640. Jackson Township and the City of North Canton each provided \$30,820 and the county paid the remaining \$45,000.

The Zimber Ditch drains a watershed area of approximately 9370 acres. About 60% of this area has been developed in the last four decades. Because of the rapid development, which had little or no previous runoff control measures in place, flooding along the drainage way was worsening. MS Consultants, Inc. published their findings in March 1997 and listed several suggested improvements that would reduce the 100-year flood elevation from two to five feet. The estimated construction cost for all improvements recommended was \$5 million. Because of the large cost, the Commissioners elected to perform the improvements over a period of time and in logical sequence, so that the improvements would work together to help reduce flood levels.

In 1999, the Stark County Board of Commissioners selected two regional detention basins as one of the recommended improvements to be constructed. The Board hired MS consultants, Inc. to design and prepare the construction plans for this improvement with the amount of the contract being \$137,304. The name chosen for this improvement is "Zimber Ditch Detention Basins A & B Flood Control Project." The county obtained partial funding for the design and construction of this project from the federal government through the United States Army Corps of Engineers 594 Program with 75% of these costs paid for by the federal government and 25% paid for by the county.

Detention Basin A encompasses a 9.60 acre area adjacent to and on the south side of Mount Pleasant Street with the Schrantz-Slusser Ditch running through it. Detention Basin B encompasses a 10.85 acre area adjacent to and south of Aultman Road with the Stripe Ditch running through it. Both the Schrantz-Slusser Ditch

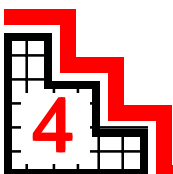
and the Stripe Ditch are tributaries to the Zimber Ditch. The purpose of each basin is to store storm water during heavy periods of rain and subsequently release it at a rate that the downstream channel can more readily accommodate. Detention Basin A is created by the excavation of approximately 162,000 cubic yards of earth using the culvert under Mt. Pleasant Street as its outlet control structure. Detention Basin B is created by constructing a Class I concrete dam across a natural ravine, using a box culvert through the dam as its outlet control structure. When completed, Detention Basins A & B each will be able to store approximately 10 million gallons of water.

Earlier this year construction bids for this project were obtained with a subsequent contract issued by the county to the Beaver Excavating Company in the amount of \$1,385,575. Construction started early in August. Detention Basin A is approximately 30% complete and is scheduled for completion by August 2007, while Detention Basin B is nearly completed.

In November 2003, the RPC's Joe Underwood was asked to assist the Commissioners' office in completing this project. He has been involved in ensuring that the project's construction drawings and specifications were satisfactorily completed by the consulting firm. He also coordinated various documents required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 594 Program in order to obtain partial-project funding from the federal government, obtained required construction permits, and administered the construction contract.



Zimber Ditch Dam Location
Before Construction





Detention Basin B Dam Under Construction

STARK COUNTY'S FY 2007 HOME FUNDING

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission is under contract to the Board of Stark County Commissioners to administer the Stark County HOME program. Stark County receives this federal funding as a direct entitlement grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Last year, the county received approximately \$900,650 in HOME funding which included American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI) funds in the amount of \$17,877. This funding is utilized to provide downpayment assistance to qualified low- to moderate-income, first-time homebuyers within Stark County, outside the city of Canton and the Village of Hills & Dales corporate limits. It is expected that for FY 2007, the county will receive approximately the same HOME allocation amount. This funding will be available for use between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008.

Stark County participates in the HOME program as a consortium with both the cities of Massillon and Alliance, thus a portion of Stark County's HOME funding will be provided to each. The cities will receive 18% and 19.8%,

respectively, of the HOME allocation for use in their jurisdictions.

HOME-eligible activities are housing-related projects that benefit low- and moderate-income persons/ households. Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) are encouraged to apply. The county plans to allocate up to \$132,450 of HOME funding to such activities.

A HOME "Request for Proposal" workshop was held on November 21, with applications for this upcoming HOME program due by noon, Friday, January 19. The applications will be reviewed, and a decision regarding the 2007 program is expected to be presented to the public by mid-March. A public hearing will be held in early April presenting the proposed program to the Board of Stark County Commissioners. For questions concerning the HOME program, please contact Lynn Carlone, Community Development Administrator at 330-451-7774.



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9	SCRPC	7:30 PM
22	SCATS	1:30 PM

February

5	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
6	SCRPC	7:30 PM
22	Citizens' Advisory Council	1:30 PM
26	SCATS	1:30 PM

March

5	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
6	SCRPC	7:30 PM
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	RPC's 50th Anniversary	7:00 PM
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