



Planning Progress

January - March 2015

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Assistance Needed

Inside

CDBG Apps
Received.....page 2

Drainage
Problems.....page 5

SCATS
Crash Report..... page 6

Towpath Trail
Dedicated.....page 7

The newly formed Brownfields Technical Advisory Committee needs your assistance in identifying sites to include on a county-wide distressed property inventory. The USEPA recently awarded SCRPC a Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grant in partnership with the cities of Alliance and Canton. This grant will allow the Coalition to create an inventory of distressed sites throughout Stark County. It will also provide funds to carry out Phase I and II Environmental Assessments of a few of the sites.

Distressed sites we'd like to identify include former industrial or commercial sites where future use may be affected by real or perceived environmental contamination. Historic uses of the properties may include gas stations, dry cleaners, and industrial sites. The long term goal is to identify, assess, cleanup and re-develop distressed properties in Stark County.

Phase I Assessments research previous uses of a site and whether a hazardous waste condition is likely to exist. Phase II Assessments investigate hazardous substances and/or petroleum hydrocarbons, and may include soil borings, water monitoring well, and testing of onsite hazardous materials.

For more information or questions, please contact Emma Posillico at emposillico@starkcountyohio.gov, or 330-451-7389. A nomination form for environmental assessments will be available on our website soon- www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov.

CDBG Applications Received

The Community Development Department of the Stark County Regional Planning Commission accepted applications for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for the FY 2015 – 2017 three-year funding program. A total of nine applications were received from various private, non-profit agencies and local governments. This included five public service projects, one economic development project, and three infrastructure projects. These projects will be reviewed by three members of the SCRPC staff, whose scores will be averaged together; and then by a five member review committee which was selected at the application workshop held late this summer, with these five scores averaged together. The two sets of averages will then be averaged together to determine a final scoring for each project. A three-year funding program will be developed based upon the project scores along with the activities that are normally undertaken with the CDBG funds which include: administration, comprehensive planning, fair housing, housing rehabilitation and The Stock Pile.

A public meeting will be held in late winter to present the three-year funding proposal to the public, after which the proposal will be presented to the Regional Planning Commission. The Board of Stark County Commissioners will hold a public hearing to review the proposal and accept any public comments presented. After a 30-day comment period, the Board of Stark County Commissioners will vote on the three-year funding program, and the application for the first year of funds will be submitted to the Columbus office of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The FY '15 program will commence on July 1, 2015.

Homeless Crisis Response Program (HCRP)

The Board of Stark County Commissioners recently were notified that the county will be the recipient of Homeless Crisis Response Program (HCRP) funding from the Ohio Development Services Agency. The county has been awarded \$256,000 to be expended over the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016. This is the second 2-year allocation of HCRP funds that the county has received.

The activities that will be undertaken include: homeless prevention financial assistance and case management by Community Services of Stark County; rapid re-housing financial assistance and case management by ICAN, Inc.; HMIS (homeless management information system – a required component of the program by Stark Mental Health and Recovery Services Board; and administration to be undertaken by the Stark County Regional Planning Commission. The purpose of the program is to prevent persons (both individuals and families) from becoming homeless and to also quickly house persons (both individuals and families) who find themselves homeless. The program works in conjunction with the other various housing and supportive services of the Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County and is a countywide effort.

HOME Application Workshop Held

The Community Development (CD) Department of the Stark County Regional Planning Commission held a HOME application workshop on Wednesday, November 19th for entities interested in applying for funds. This workshop kicked off the application process and included a review of the policies, procedures and an explanation of the 2015 Request for Proposal process. Funding can be expended for eligible housing activities within any of the Stark County HOME Consortium areas, which includes all of Stark County with the exception of the City of Canton and the Village of Hills and Dales. Beneficiaries of the activities must be low income individuals and/or families (80% or less of area median income).

Applications for the FY 2015 HOME program funding must be received by the Stark County Regional Planning Commission no later than 12:00 noon Friday, January 9, 2015. Applications are accepted on an annual basis, so those entities that may have a project that would not need funding until after July 2016 should discuss the potential project with the CD staff and submit an application in a future round of funding.

All application information, including the policies and procedures along with the Request for Proposal can be found on the SCRPC website under the Community Development page. (www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov).

Attention General Contractors

Stark County Regional Planning Commission Housing Rehabilitation Department

is searching for contractors who are committed to undertaking quality rehabilitation work under a federally funded program.

Section 3 and Minority/Women-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.

Contact Steve Williams at 330-451-7398 for further information and to obtain an application packet.

Stormwater Education Update

The theme for Stark County's Stormwater Education Program this year is "Proper Planting With Clawd" and it will focus on proper planting techniques for farmers and hobby gardeners. The Public Involvement/Public Education (P.I.P.E) Committee has decided to do several of the same activities as last year. There will be a Billboard Contest, booth at the Home and Garden Show, radio ad, rain barrel auction (barrels painted by local artists), a new brochure, Nimishillen Creek LEAP (Litter, Elimination, Awareness, and Prevention) Clean-Up, distribution of posters to all of the schools, and presentations as requested. For more information, contact Malia Morrison at 330-451-7405.



Annual Dinner



The Stark County Regional Planning Commission will be holding its Annual Dinner on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at Skyland Pines Rustic Lodge and all local officials and interested residents are encouraged to attend. A cash bar will open at 6:00 p.m. with dinner following at 7:00 p.m.

This year's guest speaker will be Christopher Kenney, impersonating the 25th President of the United States, William McKinley. Kenney as McKinley will speak about his life and presidency. After his speech, Christopher Kenney from the William McKinley Presidential Library and Museum, will discuss the Monument and updates at the museum. Kenney has a B.A. in History and Music and a M.A. in History Museum Studies. He is also a published author of books on McKinley.

Plan now to attend. Registration deadline is March 11th. The cost per person is \$27. For additional information or to register, please call 330-451-7405 or email mrwatkins@starkcountyohio.gov.

Drainage Problems

For many, the term “drainage problem” conjures up an image of a stream overflowing its banks and flooding areas not normally under water. However, drainage problems can mean different things to different people. For a township road superintendent, a drainage problem might mean having to come up with funding to replace deteriorated, metal storm sewers that are past their useful life. Another person might think of a drainage problem as needing to reduce the amount of chemicals or trash entering a waterway and improving water quality. A county engineer's biggest drainage problem might be obtaining necessary funds for replacement of an undersized culvert or bridge. Another person might consider establishing riparian setbacks along streams and rivers as the most pressing drainage problem needing addressed. A neighborhood from which surface water is discharged into an existing ditch or stream would most likely think that keeping this waterway clear is their most important drainage matter. Thus a drainage problem can be any number of things.

Solving a drainage problem can be very complex, requiring that everyone involved agrees that there exists a problem that needs addressed and next arriving at a consensus on how the problem should be solved. There are times where a solution desired by some conflicts with objectives desired by others. An example of this could be where some people desire a particular ditch be cleaned so that its carrying capacity is maintained, but others disagree, wanting the area to remain undisturbed and allowed to return to its original, natural state. Solving a drainage problem doesn't always mean construction of some new feature since the solution could take the form of policy or regulation change. Examples could be the revision of flood plain regulations such that the construction of a building within the limits of 100-year flood plain is no longer permitted, or changing the local building code so that the plan review includes site drainage as part of any issued building permit.

Obtaining necessary funding for structural solutions to drainage problems which involve the construction of new facilities often prevents the solution from being implemented. Funds needed can include costs such as preparation of construction documents, obtaining required permits, land or easement acquisition, and performing the actual construction. While bridge or storm sewer replacement projects can be quite expensive, flood control projects of any size are much more costly and time consuming to achieve.

Thus one can see why some of the drainage problems that have been long recognized remain unsolved. However, revisions made to the Stark County Subdivision Regulations and the Stark County Water Quality Regulations a few years ago have helped prevent new land development and redevelopment from making existing drainage problems worse. In addition, many municipalities in Stark County have also adopted more stringent storm water related regulations that do the same. Hopefully, by communities continuing to work together and funding being obtained, more and more drainage problems can be solved for the good of all.

SCATS Crash Report and Safety Planning

As the transportation planning agency for Stark County, SCATS provides planning documents and processes to assist local governments with policies, programs and projects needed to identify, develop, and maintain the county's transportation infrastructure.

Two major products associated with the planning process are the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), updated every four years, and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), updated every two years. The LRTP provides a 20 year (minimum) projection of recommended transportation improvements whereas the TIP shows projects that are scheduled for implementation within the next four years.

SCATS Policy Committee updates the TIP by adding projects every two years with local project sponsors (County, Cities, ODOT, SARTA) competing for a very limited amount of funding based on a scoring methodology developed to fund projects that best address the county's needs. This scoring methodology is born out of the Goals, Objectives and Strategies identified in the LRTP. A major objective of the SCATS LRTP is to provide a safe transportation system and one of the strategies to assist in reaching that goal is to identify and target high crash locations for safety improvements.

The Stark County Crash Report, developed by SCATS and updated annually, provides a summary of intersection accidents in the county over the past three years and ranks them based on data received from the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

SCATS identifies high crash locations using a formula that accounts for the rates and severity of crashes per year at all county intersections connecting arterial or collector streets. The table below shows the worst intersections for crashes in Stark County as identified in the 2013 Crash Report.

1ST STREET	2ND STREET	2010 Total	2011 Total	2012 Total	ADT	3-Year Total	3-Year Injury	3-Year Fatal	Alcohol Related	SI	Rate	AVG	HR	CVT
13/12th St	I-77 Ramps TM Hospital	19	22	12	19,000	53	14	0	1	1.53	2.55	7	45.82	Canton
Central Plaza	Tuscarawas St	19	14	10	19,100	43	10	0	0	1.47	2.05	3	28.76	Canton
US 62	Harmont Ave/Lesh St	17	18	17	32,060	52	16	0	0	1.62	1.48	3	27.63	Canton
6th St NE	North Ave	6	1	5	2,200	12	3	0	0	1.50	4.98	4.00	19.91	Massillon
Fohl St	Shepler Church Ave	6	3	5	3,050	14	3	0	0	1.43	4.19	4.67	18.62	Bethlehem Twp
30th St NW	Harvard	14	5	5	11,750	24	10	0	0	1.83	1.86	8.00	18.23	Canton
11th St SW	Harrison Ave	9	4	7	9,850	20	12	0	1	2.20	1.85	6.67	18.12	Canton
I-77	Belden Village & Whipple	18	12	14	36,350	44	14	0	0	1.64	1.10	7	17.67	Jackson Twp
Beech St	Beechwood Ave	9	3	4	7,600	16	12	0	0	2.50	1.92	5.33	17.08	Washington Twp
12th St N	Market Ave N	12	12	9	23,575	33	8	1	0	1.82	1.28	0	17.03	Canton

Towpath Trail Dedication

The Congressman Ralph Regula Towpath Trail in Stark County, now completed, was dedicated on November 12, 2014.

Former Congressman, Ralph Regula, as well as his wife Mary and son Richard were on hand to assist in the ribbon cutting for the dedication and opening of the trail section crossing the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Viaduct in Massillon.

With the opening of this section of the trail, Stark County became the second out of four counties to complete the Towpath Trail within their boundaries. Trail users can now travel from the Aqueduct Bridge trailhead near Bolivar, more than 70 miles, to Harvard Road in Cleveland without impediments.

It has been more than 50 years since Ralph Regula and others first sought to protect and develop the canal as a recreational and historical resource. Work on improving the Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway continues by many dedicated individuals and groups throughout the four counties where it is located.



From left to right: Stark Parks Director Bob Fonte, Ohio & Erie Canalway CEO Dan Rice, Canalway Partners CEO Tim Donovan, Stark Parks Commissioners Andrew Hayden and Faye Heston, Mary Regula, former Congressman Ralph Regula, Stark County Commissioner Richard Regula, Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry, Mayor Bob Benson, and Massillon VFW 3124 Post Commander Terry Roan



Stark County Regional Planning Commission
201- 3rd St. N.E.
Canton, Ohio 44702

Upcoming Events

January

5	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
6	SCRPC	7:30 PM
26	SCATS	1:30 PM

February

2	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
3	SCRPC	7:30 PM
23	SCATS	1:30 PM

March

2	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
3	SCRPC	7:30 PM
23	SCATS	1:30 PM

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