



January - March 2026

Volume 63 Issue 1



Planning Progress

Governmental Law Seminar and Annual Dinner

2026 Governmental Law Seminar

Save the Date!

Saturday, February 28, 2026

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

R. G. Drage
Career Technical Center
2800 Richville Dr. SE
Massillon, OH 44646

Sessions

Ethics and Conflict of Interests - Keynote Address
Land Bank
Sunshine Law
Basics of Zoning
Employment Law
Nuisance Abatement
Property Tax Valuations
Fair Housing and Zoning
Levies and Election Law
RPC Grants and Programs
Stark Economic Development Board
Public Records and Records Retention

Participating Agencies



Cost: \$45.00 per person

**For reservations or questions,
Call 330-451-7405 or email**

mrwatkins@starkcountyohio.gov

SCRPC
*invites you
to attend the
Annual Dinner Meeting*



March 11, 2026

Tozzi's on 12th

4210 - 12th St. NW

Canton 44708

Guest Speaker: Georgia Paxos

Executive Director: Canton Palace Theatre

Stark County Regional Planning Commission

Cost: \$28.00 per person

Includes morning coffee, donuts,
luncheon, and informational materials

**For reservations or questions,
Call 330-451-7405 or email**

mrwatkins@starkcountyohio.gov

Community Development



APPLICATION WORKSHOP

The next application workshop for Stark County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds will be on August 7, 2026 at 9:00 AM. This will be a virtual workshop. Be on the lookout for more information later this year. If you would like to discuss a potential CDBG or HOME project, contact Lisa Snyder at Lcsnyder@starkcountyohio.gov.

ATTENTION CONTRACTORS

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission is searching for contractors who are committed to undertaking quality housing rehabilitation work under federally funded programs.

If you're interested in bidding on upcoming home improvement projects, SCRPC has grant funds available!

Work May Include:

Plumbing	Electric
Heating	Roofs
Siding	Gutters
Insulation	Windows
Doors	...and MORE

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

To learn more about contracting with the SCRPC on our upcoming home rehabilitation projects, visit, call or email us today!



201 3rd Street NE, Suite 201
Canton, OH 44702

Call Us at 330-451-7302

Email Us at spwilliams@starkcountyohio.gov

Visit Us Online at www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov

Community Transportation Planning Studies Selected

SCATS is pleased to announce the selection of two new Community Transportation Planning Studies for the current cycle. Through this program, SCATS provides funding to help local governments evaluate transportation issues that affect safety, mobility, accessibility, economic development, and environmental or historic resources within their communities. These studies are planning-focused and allow communities to explore conceptual solutions, cost estimates, multimodal needs, and long-term strategies before pursuing engineering or construction funding.

The first study selected this year will support the village of Brewster in addressing stormwater challenges at the Wabash Avenue (SR 93) underpass. This location, situated beneath the railyard and crossing over SR 93 is a vital north-south line for residents, businesses and emergency responders. Heavy rainfall can overwhelm drainage at the underpass, leading to flooding that effectively divides the village and increases travel times for emergency response vehicles as well as the public.

This planning study will identify and evaluate conceptual options to improve drainage and reduce the likelihood of future closures. By identifying feasible stormwater mitigation strategies, the study will help Brewster improve system reliability, enhance safety, and strengthen the community's resilience to severe weather events.

The second study will focus on improving safety and traffic operations along SR 21 in the city of Massillon. This planning effort will analyze multiple potential lane configurations at the intersection of Lake Avenue and SR 21. The study will evaluate how each alternative affects the functionality, safety performance, and overall footprint of the proposed roundabout currently being considered for the location.

In addition to examining vehicle movements, the study will identify the most feasible and safe option for pedestrian crossings across SR 21. This is a key connection point between the residential neighborhoods along Lake Avenue and the Towpath Trail, and the study's findings will guide future decisions aimed at improving accessibility and multimodal connectivity in the corridor.

SCATS Crash Report

SCATS has completed the latest Stark County Crash Report and Safety Work Plan based on data from the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT's) online Crash Analysis Module Tool.

The report incorporates an analysis of crash data from the past three years (2024, 2023, & 2022) with geographic data to identify intersections and road segments that are dangerous. The report lists rankings for roads and intersections for each community in Stark County as well as a top ten list which includes more detailed information. This data has resulted in several scheduled (and completed) projects to make traveling in Stark County safer.

Below is a table of the Top-Ranked Dangerous Intersections in Stark County:

Top Ten Hazardous Intersections in Stark County

Jurisdiction	1ST STREET	2ND STREET	2024 Total	2023 Total	2022 Total	3-Year Total	Possible Injury	Non-Serious Injury	Serious Injury	Total Injury	Total Fatal	2024 ADT	Severity Index	Crash Rate	Crashes Per Year	Hazard Rating
ODOT	SR173 (State St)	Paris Ave	5	6	11	22	4	9	2	15	0	5,540	3.32	3.62	7.33	58.79
Canton	15th St NE	Walnut Ave NE	8	8	5	21	3	4	0	7	0	2,900	1.86	6.61	7.00	57.27
County	Dressler Rd	Everhard Rd	20	28	38	86	5	10	0	15	0	31,250	1.47	2.51	28.67	55.20
Canton	US 62	Harmont Ave/Lesh St	30	34	26	90	6	14	0	20	0	38,920	1.60	2.11	30.00	50.65
County	Everhard Rd	Whipple Ave	25	28	20	73	8	8	1	17	1	38,750	1.81	1.72	24.33	46.63
Canton	13th/12th St NW	I-77 Ramps TM Hospital	16	26	20	62	6	3	0	9	0	22,490	1.34	2.52	20.67	46.40
ODOT	SR172 (Tuscarawas St)	Perry Dr	19	16	20	55	4	9	2	15	0	28,500	1.93	1.76	18.33	41.49
ODOT	SR687 (Fulton Rd)	Blackburn Hills & Dales	27	13	10	50	5	5	1	11	0	20,400	1.66	2.24	16.67	41.26
County	12th St NW	Whipple Ave	15	17	19	51	5	12	1	18	0	26,850	2.06	1.73	17.00	40.45
County	Frank Ave	Portage St	15	18	28	61	6	8	1	15	0	32,350	1.72	1.72	20.33	40.15

Land Bank Update

Abatement & Demolition of Former Molly Stark Hospital Complete

In late 2024, the Stark County Land Bank, in partnership with Stark Parks, secured a \$2.3 million grant through the Ohio Department of Development's (ODOD) Brownfield Remediation Program for the abatement and demolition of the former Molly Stark Hospital, Children's Hospital and boiler building.



Drone image during early demolition of the main building

The grant award covers eligible project costs at 75% with the remaining 25% provided by local match. The project completion deadline was through December 31, 2025, but the Land Bank requested a short extension into 2026 for grant reimbursement submission to ODOD.

As of early December, the demolitions were complete.

The Stark County Land Bank had also received funding through the Brownfield Remediation Program in 2024 for the remediation of a former gas station site in Plain Township, and a former iron castings manufacturing facility in the city of Canton. Both projects have program completion deadlines of June 30, 2026.

Stark Parks Plan Updated



In 2024, the Stark County Park District (Stark Parks) contracted with SCRPC to update their five-year park plan, which was originally created in 1987 and last updated in 2019. The 2026-2035 Stark County Park Plan will provide an update on the progress of projects identified in the previous plan, incorporate suggestions from park staff and the general public, and provide recommendations for the next ten years.

Several public meetings were held throughout Stark County to gather public input and present findings, which will be incorporated into the new plan, along with survey responses and feedback from park staff and volunteers. A public meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2026 at Exploration Gateway to discuss the draft plan that has been prepared. The draft will be open for a public comment period of 30 days. Once changes are implemented into the plan, it is expected to be adopted by Stark Parks in early 2026.

January

5	Subdivision Review	1:30 AM
6	SCRPC	7:00 PM
26	SCATS	1:30 PM

February

2	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
3	SCRPC	7:00 PM
23	SCATS	1:30 PM
28	Governmental Law Seminar	8:30 AM

March

2	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
3	SCRPC	7:00 PM
11	Annual Dinner	6:00 PM
30	SCATS	1:30 PM

Visit our website:
www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov

Stark County Regional Planning Commission
201- 3rd St. N.E., Suite 201
Canton, Ohio 44702
330-451-7389



Executive Director: Robert Nau

President: David Thorley

