

ERPC MPO Preliminary Project Application Form

Instructions: Complete and submit the project application form with any attachments by 4:30 P.M. on April 30, 2021 to the Erie County Office of Regional Planning and Development located at the Erie County Service Center, 3rd Floor, 2900 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky, Ohio 44870. Application instructions are available on ERPC's website and in the ERPC office. Staff can be reached by phone 419-627-7792, by fax 419-627-6670 or by e-mail at Planning@ErieCounty.OH.Gov to answer any questions. Additional sheets may be attached as needed. Basic eligibility for MPO project funding requires submitted projects to be compatible with the ERPC MPO Long Range Transportation Plan.

Proposed Project Details

1.) Sponsoring Agency: _____
(If multiple project partners, specify lead agency and attach cooperation agreement)

2.) Project Title: _____

3.) Contact Person (include phone, fax, and e-mail if available): _____

4.) Indicate State Fiscal Year, Amount, and Percentage of Costs Being Requested From MPO (PE phase includes all work completed up through environmental clearance) :

Project Phases	State Fiscal Year	MPO Funds Requested		Percent Split	Total Local Funds/ Other Funding	Percent Split
		Surface Transportation (STP)	Transportation Alternative (TA)			
Preliminary Engineering (PE)		\$	\$	%	\$	%
Right-of-Way (RW)		\$	\$	%	\$	%
Utilities		\$	\$	%	\$	%
Detailed Design (DD)		\$	\$	%	\$	%
Construction (CO)		\$	\$	%	\$	%
Construction Engineering (CE)		\$	\$	%	\$	%
Total		\$	\$	%	\$	%

5.) Project Funding: Describe all sources of non-MPO funding for the proposed project.

6.) How does the project support the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)?

7.) Other than the LRTP, is this project the result of or linked to a planning study or report?

8.) Provide the most recent Average Daily Traffic (ADT) counts for the proposed project. For bicycle/pedestrian projects provide number of non-motorized users if available.

ADT _____

Number of Non-motorized users (bicycle/pedestrian projects) _____

Year Completed _____

Location: _____

9.) Describe the proposed project, the problem that it is expected to resolve and any alternatives that may have been explored.

10.) Located in a High Crash Rate Area? (Yes/No) _____ If yes, please provide summary of crash data and how the proposed project incorporates safety solutions to address crash problem. For bicycle/pedestrian projects provide summary of bicycle/pedestrian crash data.

11.) Describe public involvement plan for the proposed project (level of public involvement to be commensurate with level of project complexity):

12.) Proposed Project Cost Information: Provide a cost estimate certified by a professional engineer, architect or appropriate professional discipline for your proposed project.

13.) What is the current status of the proposed project? (e.g. preliminary engineering, environmental complete, right-of-way plans, construction plans approved)

14.) Does the project impact any of the following? Respond with a “yes” or “no”.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities_____ Congestion_____ Character of the Area_____

User Fees_____ Multi-Modal Transportation_____ Public Use_____

ITS Components_____ Access Management_____ Local Economics_____

Tourism_____ Environmental Impacts_____ Historical Preservation/Impact_____

Environmental Justice Populations_____ Aesthetic_____

If “yes” to any of the above, please describe impacts:

15a.) Will this be your first MPO funded project? (“yes” or “no”) _____
(if “yes”, go to number 17)

15b.) If “no”, indicate what percentage of MPO projects over the past three years that have been awarded on time. If a project did miss the award milestone date, please indicate reason for delay.

16.) Number of missed Quarterly Project Review Meetings in the last year: _____

17.) Please self-score the proposed project by using the attached project evaluation form. This form must be completed and submitted with your application to be considered for funding. (Note—the MPO will review and may revise provided scores.)

*Applications may be submitted by email to planning@eriecounty.oh.gov
(email size not to exceed 13MB) or one hard copy may be submitted in person to the
ERPC Office at 2900 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky, Ohio 44870.*

Required items to be submitted with application include:

- *Site map of the proposed project's location*
- *Letter of support from the project sponsor's governing body*
- *Project cost estimate certified by a State of Ohio Professional Engineer*
- *Self-scored project evaluation form*
- *Project priority listing if submitting more than one project application for MPO funding consideration*
- *Executed cooperation agreement if project involves multiple entities*
- *Project maintenance plan if Transportation Alternative application*

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM (TA) PROJECT EVALUATION FORM

GENERAL EVALUATION - 50 POINTS

Project Name:_____

Project Sponsor:_____

Proposed State Fiscal Year:_____

Date Scored:_____

Number of Existing Users _____ (used if tie breaker needed)

1. Is the project included in an adopted local transportation or community plan?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points)
2. Does the project improve the utilization of an existing transportation system network?	<input type="checkbox"/> Greatly (4 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately (2 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points)
3. Does the project increase the utilization of an existing transportation system network?	<input type="checkbox"/> Greatly (4 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately (2 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points)
4. Does the project have a positive impact in an Environmental Justice Area (ex: low income, minority, etc., see maps)?	<input type="checkbox"/> 3+ Groups (4 points) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Groups (3 points) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Group (2 points)
5. Will the public be given a chance to provide input regarding the project (commensurate with level of project complexity)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (3 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points)
6. Has the project sponsor attended ODOT LPA Quarterly Project Meetings in the last calendar year (if first time applicant or sponsor had no projects then 'No Projects' should be selected).	<input type="checkbox"/> Attended All (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Missed One (3 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Missed 2 or more (-2 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> No projects (5 points)
7. What percentage of MPO projects has the project sponsor awarded on time over the last three calendar years (if first time applicant or sponsor had no projects then 'No Projects' should be selected)?	<input type="checkbox"/> 67% - 100% (10 points) <input type="checkbox"/> 34% - 66% (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> 1% - 33% (1 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No projects (10 points)
8. Does the project involve other regional partners (MPO area jurisdictions and/or other governmental agencies)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points)
9. What percentage of the costs is project sponsor requesting MPO funding for?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1% - 25% (10 points) <input type="checkbox"/> 26% - 50% (7 points) <input type="checkbox"/> 51% - 70% (4 points) <input type="checkbox"/> 71% - 79% (1 point)
TOTAL (50 Possible Points)	

*This form (general evaluation) to be used on all submitted TA projects. Depending on project type, select one of the three following forms to continue scoring out the project. The overall combined total points possible = 100.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM (TA) PROJECT EVALUATION FORM

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN AND OTHER NON-DRIVERS - 50 POINTS

Project Name:_____

Project Sponsor:_____

Proposed State Fiscal Year:_____

Date Scored:_____

1. Does the project connect to any existing or planned bicycle or pedestrian paths?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (10 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points)
2. Does the project connect to any logical termini?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (10 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points)
3. Does the project serve any transportation generators (schools, hospitals, other major community facilities)?	<input type="checkbox"/> More than 5 (10 points) <input type="checkbox"/> One to Five (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> None (0 points)
4. How much of an increase in public use is anticipated to be generated by this project?	<input type="checkbox"/> Major (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor (3 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No Increase (0 points)
5. Does the project address an existing safety issue for bicyclists and/or pedestrians (as documented in application)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points)
6. Does the project meet a 'transportation' need (benefits other than recreational)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points)
7. Is a maintenance plan identified for the project?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points)
TOTAL (50 Possible Points)	

*This form to be used only for bicycle/pedestrian/non-driver projects (ex. on road or off-road infrastructure, lighting, ADA compliance, traffic calming techniques)

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM (TA) PROJECT EVALUATION FORM
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES - 50 POINTS

Project Name:_____

Project Sponsor:_____

Proposed State Fiscal Year:_____

Date Scored:_____

1. What is the project's significance to specific persons or events that have contributed to the area's transportation history?	<input type="checkbox"/> Major (10 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> None (0 points)
2. To what degree is there a threat to the environment or site if the project is not funded?	<input type="checkbox"/> Major (10 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> None (0 points)
3. How much of an increase in negative public exposure to the environment or site is anticipated to occur as a result of this project?	<input type="checkbox"/> Major (0 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No Increase (10 points)
4. The site is one of only few examples of once common structure/site in Ohio.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points)
5. The project provides safe accommodation for visitors to site.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points)
6. Does the project meet a 'transportation' need (benefits other than recreational)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points)
7. Is a maintenance plan identified for the project?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points)
TOTAL (50 Possible Points)	

*This form to be used only for community improvement projects (ex. vegetation management, historic transportation facility improvements, inventory/control/removal of outdoor advertising)

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM (TA) PROJECT EVALUATION FORM

SCENIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL - 50 POINTS

Project Name: _____

Project Sponsor: _____

Proposed State Fiscal Year: _____

Date Scored: _____

1. How much impact does the project have on environmental protection or presentation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Major (10 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> None (0 points)
2. How great is the threat to the environment or site if the project is not funded?	<input type="checkbox"/> Major (10 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> None (0 points)
3. How much of an increase of public exposure to environment or site is anticipated as a result of the project?	<input type="checkbox"/> Major (0 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No Increase (10 points)
4. The project is unique to the area's identity.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No (5 points)
5. The project removes visual blight or substantially enhances the visual environment (context sensitive design).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points)
6. Does the project meet a 'transportation' need (benefits other than recreational)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points)
7. Is a maintenance plan identified for the project?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (5 points) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0 points)
TOTAL (50 Possible Points)	

*This form to be used only for scenic/environmental projects (ex. Reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality, environmental mitigation activities to address storm water management/water pollution related to road construction and road run-off, construction of turnout/overlook/viewing area)



Erie County Regional Planning Commission (ERPC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

MPO Project Application Instructions

The following are instructions for applicants wishing to request funding through the ERPC MPO's Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Transportation Alternative Program (TA).

Basic eligibility for STP and TA project funding requires the proposed project to be included in the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan. STP projects must be located on an ERPC MPO eligible road, and have logical termini (rational beginning and end points). A road is ERPC MPO eligible if it's located in the ERPC MPO region and its functional classification is above a local road in a designated urbanized area or above a minor collector if in a designated rural area. If you are unsure if a project is eligible for MPO funding please contact the ERPC staff at 419-627-7792 for guidance.

All applications are required to include a site map of the proposed project's location, letter of support/resolution from the project sponsor's governing body, project cost estimate certified by a State of Ohio Professional Engineer, and a self-scored project evaluation form (included with the application form). If a project involves multiple MPO jurisdictional and/or governmental agencies, an executed cooperation agreement is required to be submitted with the application. Additionally, a project sponsor shall submit a project priority listing if submitting more than one project application during a solicitation cycle.

The MPO application form and this guidance will be made available on the ERPC website (<https://www.eriecounty.oh.gov/ErieRegionalPlanningCommission.aspx>) and in the ERPC Office located at 2900 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky during the entire project solicitation cycle. Applications will not be accepted beyond 4:30 p.m. on the due date that is specified at the top of the application form.

Applications may be submitted by email to planning@eriecounty.oh.gov (email size not to exceed 13MB) or one hard copy may be submitted in person to the ERPC Office at 2900 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky, Ohio 44870.

For more information on the STP or TA program (eligible project sponsors, eligible activities, and the project selection process) please consult the MPO's Surface Transportation Program Policy document. Should you require any additional information or have additional questions/comments, please contact the Erie County Department of Regional Planning at 419-627-7792.

ERPC MPO Project Application Form Instructions

Proposed Project Details

- 1.) Sponsoring Agency – Indicate the name of the entity applying for funds. Projects involving multiple MPO jurisdictional/governmental entities must select only one to serve as the lead. A cooperation agreement must be executed and attached.
- 2.) Project Title – Provide the name of the project being applied for. Please be descriptive and specific, e.g. Perkins Avenue Signalization Project, East Monroe Street Reconstruction Project.
- 3.) Contact Person (include phone, fax, and e-mail if available) – Enter the name of the contact person who can best answer or coordinate a response to questions regarding the application.
- 4.) Indicate State Fiscal Year, Amount and Percentage of Cost Being Requested from MPO – Indicate the dollar amount of MPO requested funds and what percentage this is of the project's total costs for each phase of the project and include the proposed state fiscal year. Note – Preliminary Engineering includes work up through environmental clearance.
- 5.) Project Funding: Describe all sources of non-MPO funding for the proposed project.
- 6.) How does this project support the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)? Explain how the project is compatible with the LRTP.
- 7.) Other than the LRTP, is this project the result of or linked to a planning study or report? Identify the source and where a copy of the study or report may be found (e.g. on a website). Please be specific when referencing, e.g. ERPC MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, Chapter 4, Section 1 (p.56).
- 8.) Provide the most recent Average Daily Traffic counts for the proposed project.
Counts may be found at:
<https://odot.ms2soft.com/tcds/tsearch.asp?loc=Odot&mod=TCDS><http://erie.ms2soft.com/tcds/tsearch.asp?loc=Erie&mod=> . If multiple choices are available list the highest ADT. For proposed bicycle/pedestrian projects indicate the number of non-motorized users if available.
- 9.) Describe the proposed project, the problem that it is expected to resolve and any alternatives that may have been explored. The following questions can be used as guidance in completing this section: *What is the purpose of the project? Why is the project needed? What are its benefits? Are there any existing management systems that were used to develop the project? Were performance based measures used to quantify expected benefits? Are there other planned investments in the project area?*

- 10.) Located in a High Crash Rate Area (Yes/No) - If yes, provide summary of crash data, calculated crash rate, and how proposed project incorporates safety solutions to address crash problem(s). If proposed project includes bicycle/pedestrian improvements provide summary of bicycle/pedestrian crash data.
- 11.) Describe public involvement plan for the proposed project (level of public involvement to be commensurate with level of project complexity).
- 12.) Proposed Project Cost Information – Provide a cost estimate certified by a professional engineer, architect or appropriate professional discipline for your proposed project.
- 13.) What is the current status of the proposed project? (e.g. preliminary engineering, environmental complete, right-of-way plans, construction plans approved)
- 14.) Does the project impact any of the following respond with a yes or no –
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities _____ Congestion _____
- Character of the Area _____ User Fees _____ Public Use _____
- Multi-Modal Transportation _____ ITS Components _____
- Access Management _____ Local Economics _____ Tourism _____
- Environmental Impacts _____ Historical Preservation/Impact _____
- Aesthetic _____ Environmental Justice Populations _____
- If “yes” to any of the above, please describe impacts.
- 15a.) Will this be your first MPO funded project (yes/no)? If ‘yes’ skip ahead to question number 18, if no answer question 16b.
- 15b.) If “no”, please describe previous MPO project delivery performance. Have previous projects been delivered on time? If not, please indicate reason for delay.
- 16.) Number of Missed Project Review Meetings in the last year – refers to ODOT District 3 Quarterly LPA Meetings.
- 17.) Please self-score the proposed project by using the attached project evaluation form. This form must be completed and submitted with your application to be considered for funding. The MPO will review the submitted self-scoring sheet and may revise the provided scores.

Items required items to be submitted with application include:

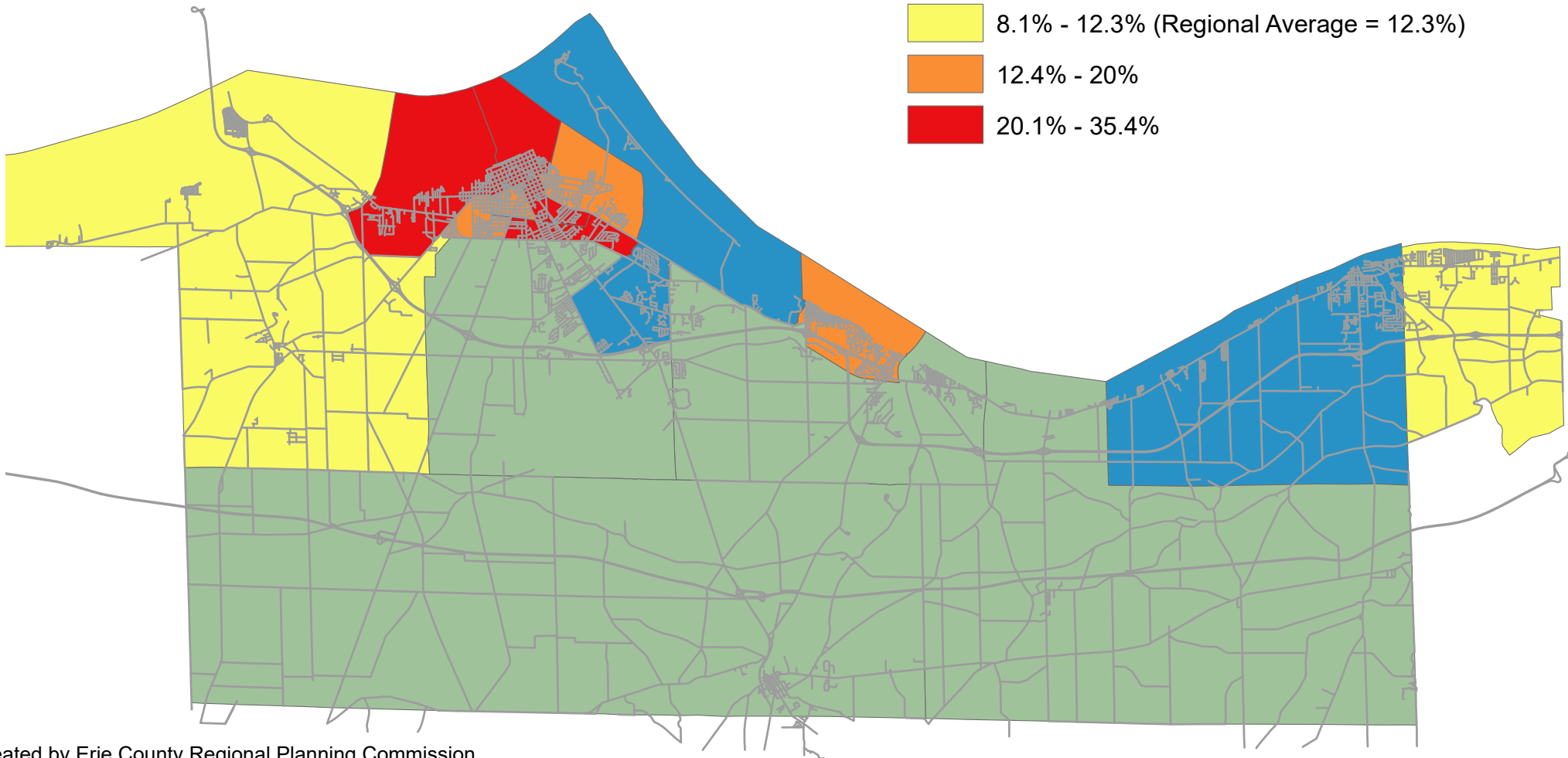
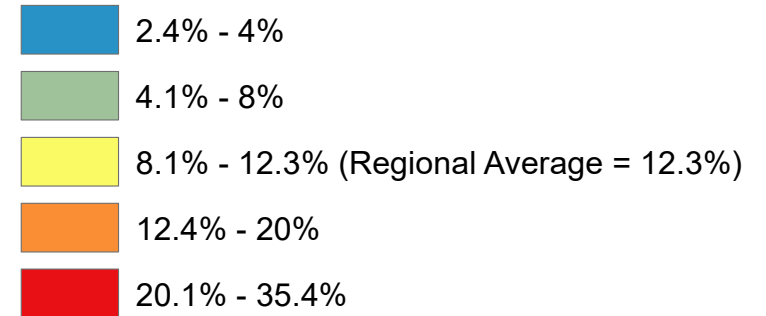
- Site map of proposed project location
- Letter of support/Resolution from project sponsor’s governing body
- Project cost estimate certified by a State of Ohio Professional Engineer

- Self-scored project evaluation form
- Project priority listing if submitting more than one project application for MPO funding consideration
- Executed cooperation agreement if project involves multiple entities
- Project maintenance plan if Transportation Alternative (TA) application



Percent of Population Below Poverty Level

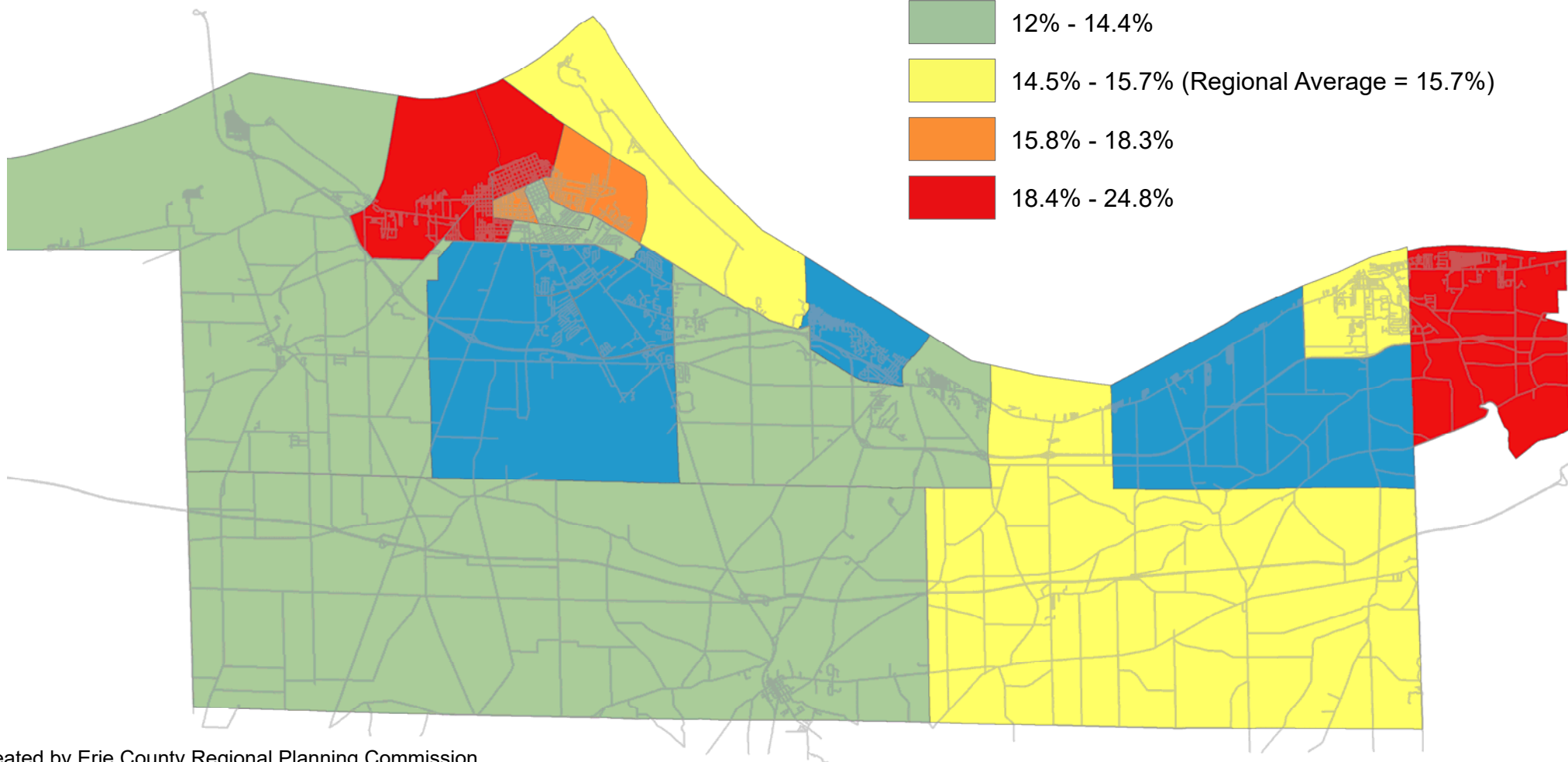
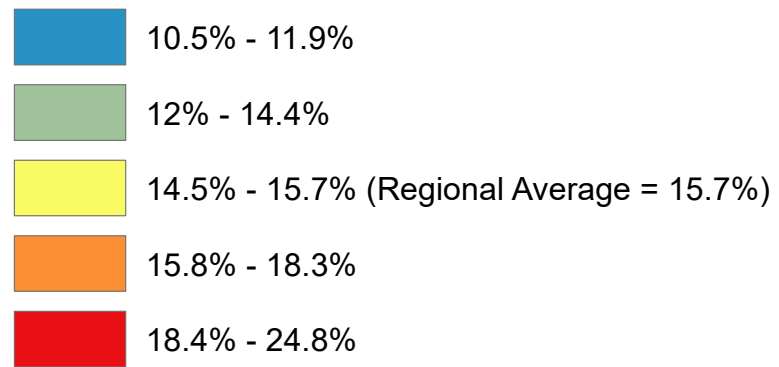
Legend





Percent of Population with Disability

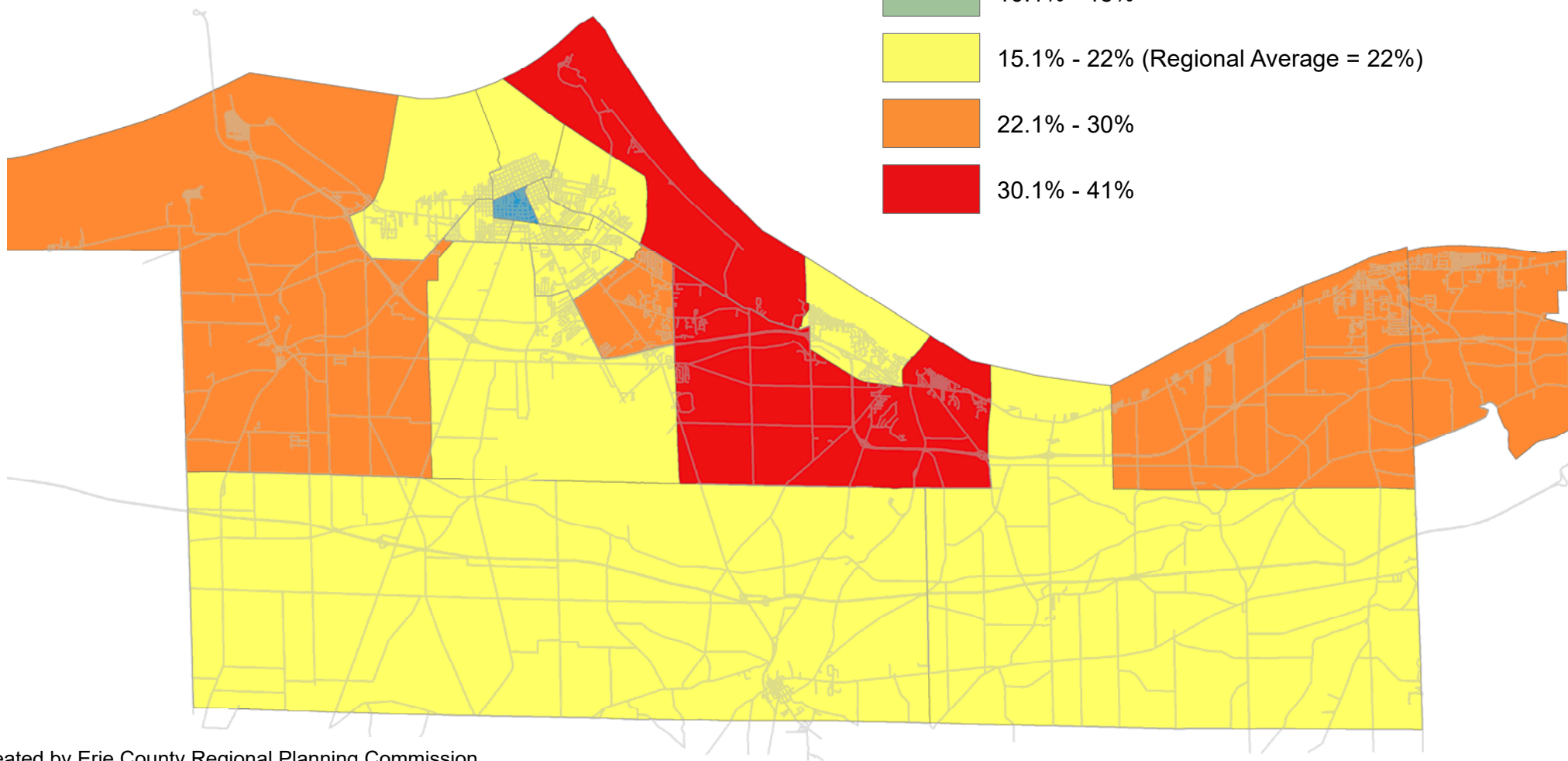
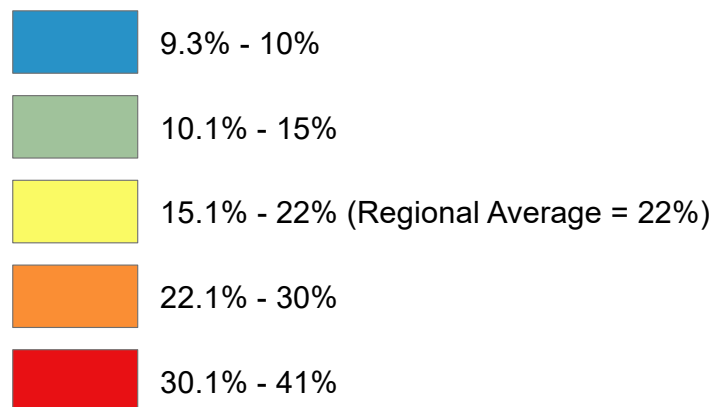
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Percent of Population 65 years and older

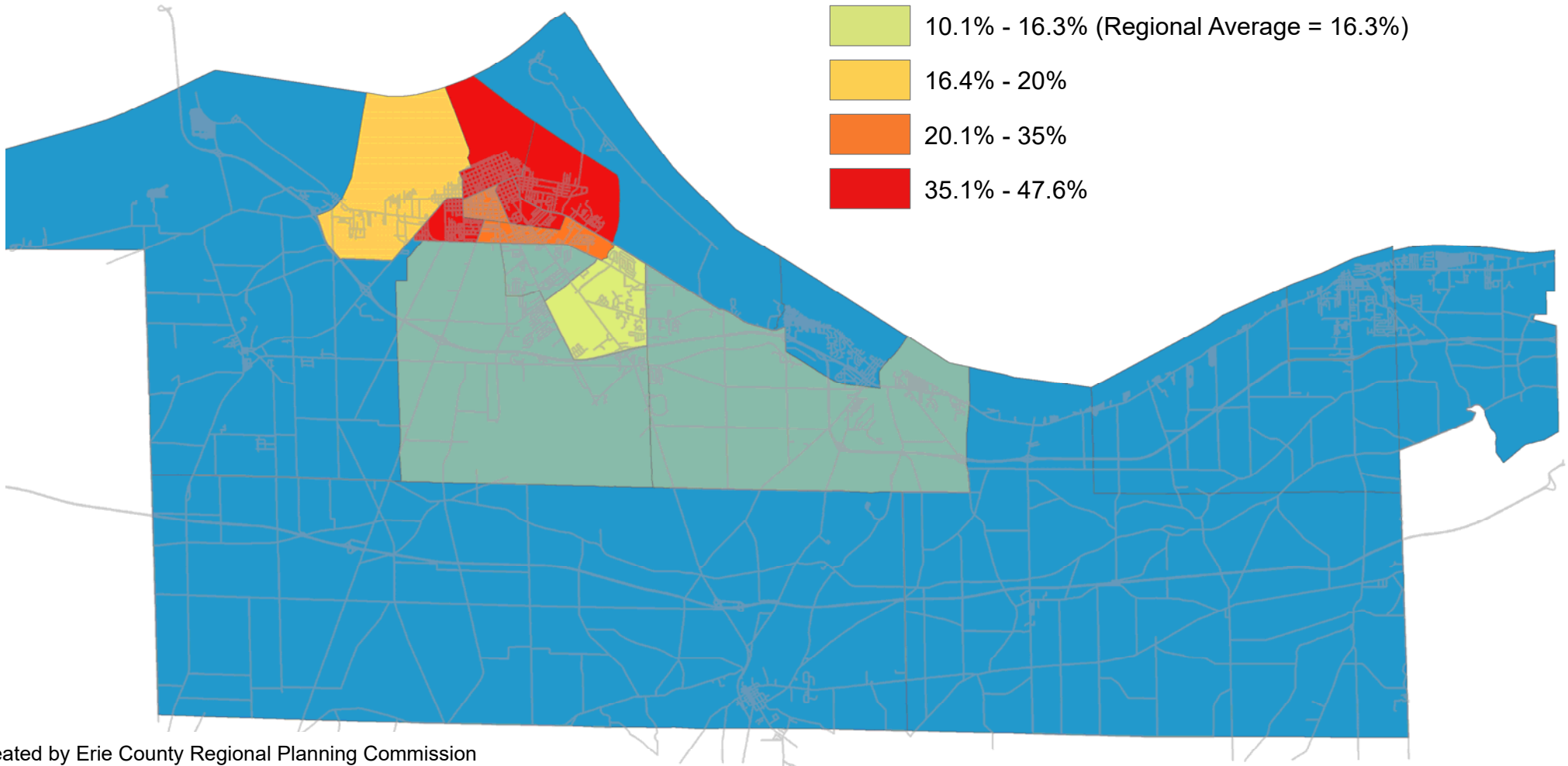
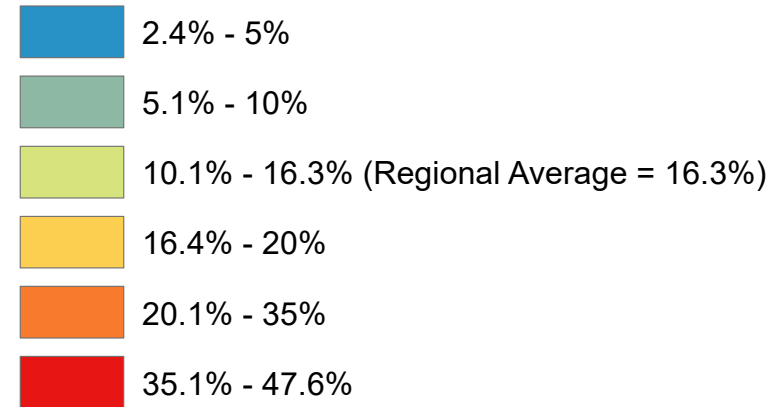
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Percent Minority Population

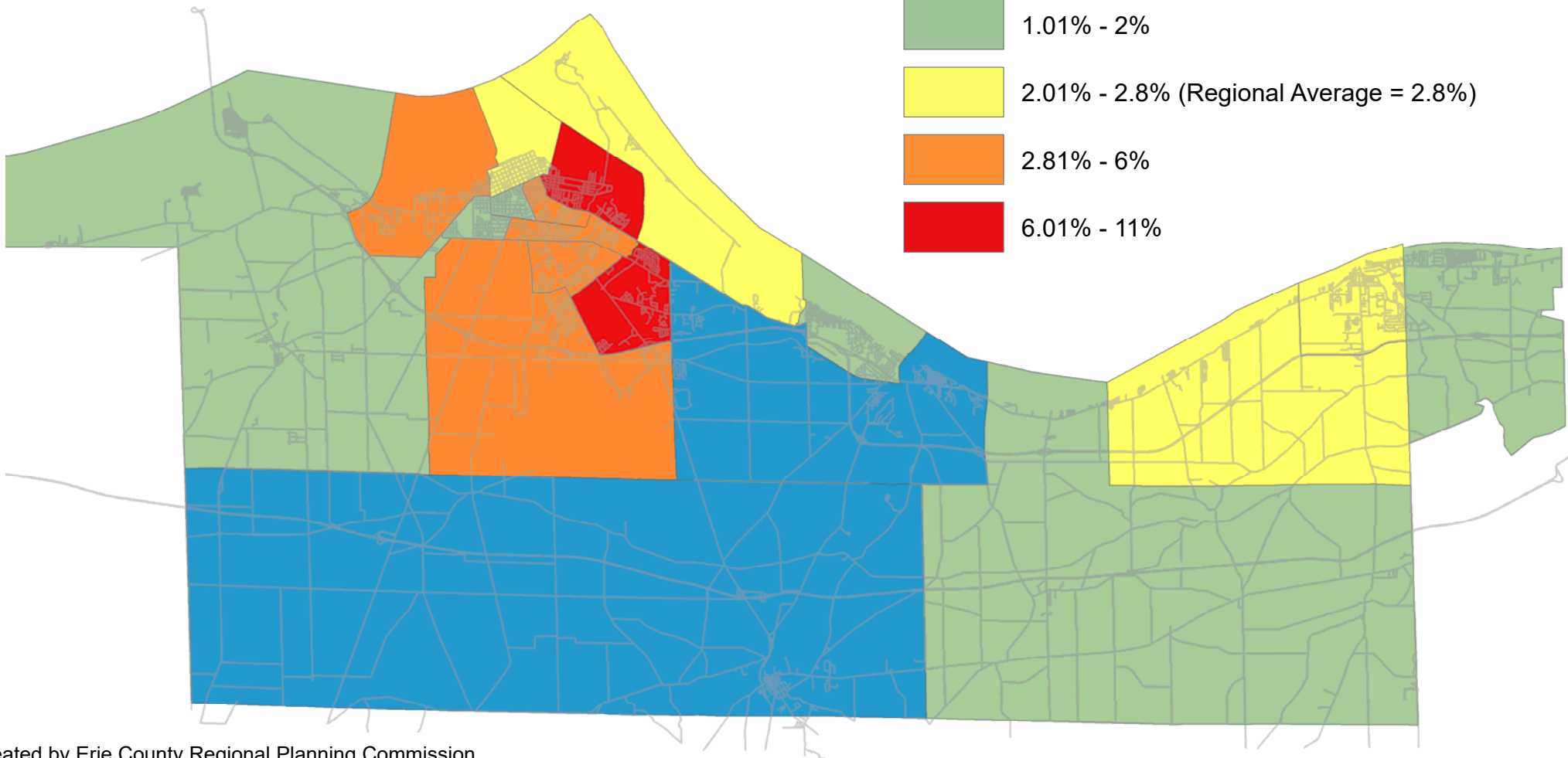
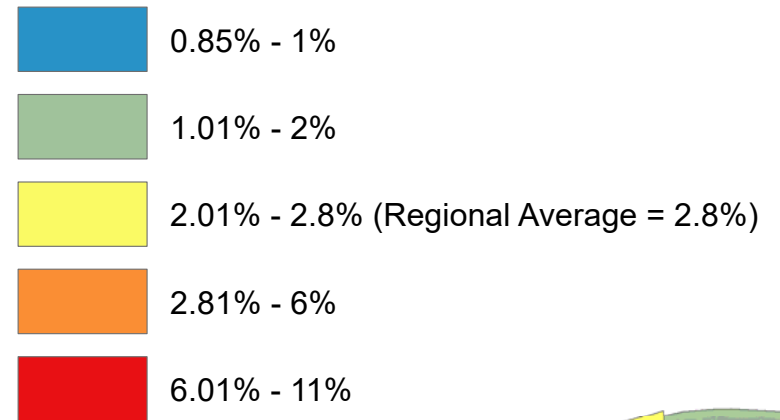
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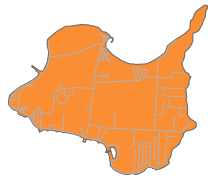




Percent of Population Limited English Proficiency

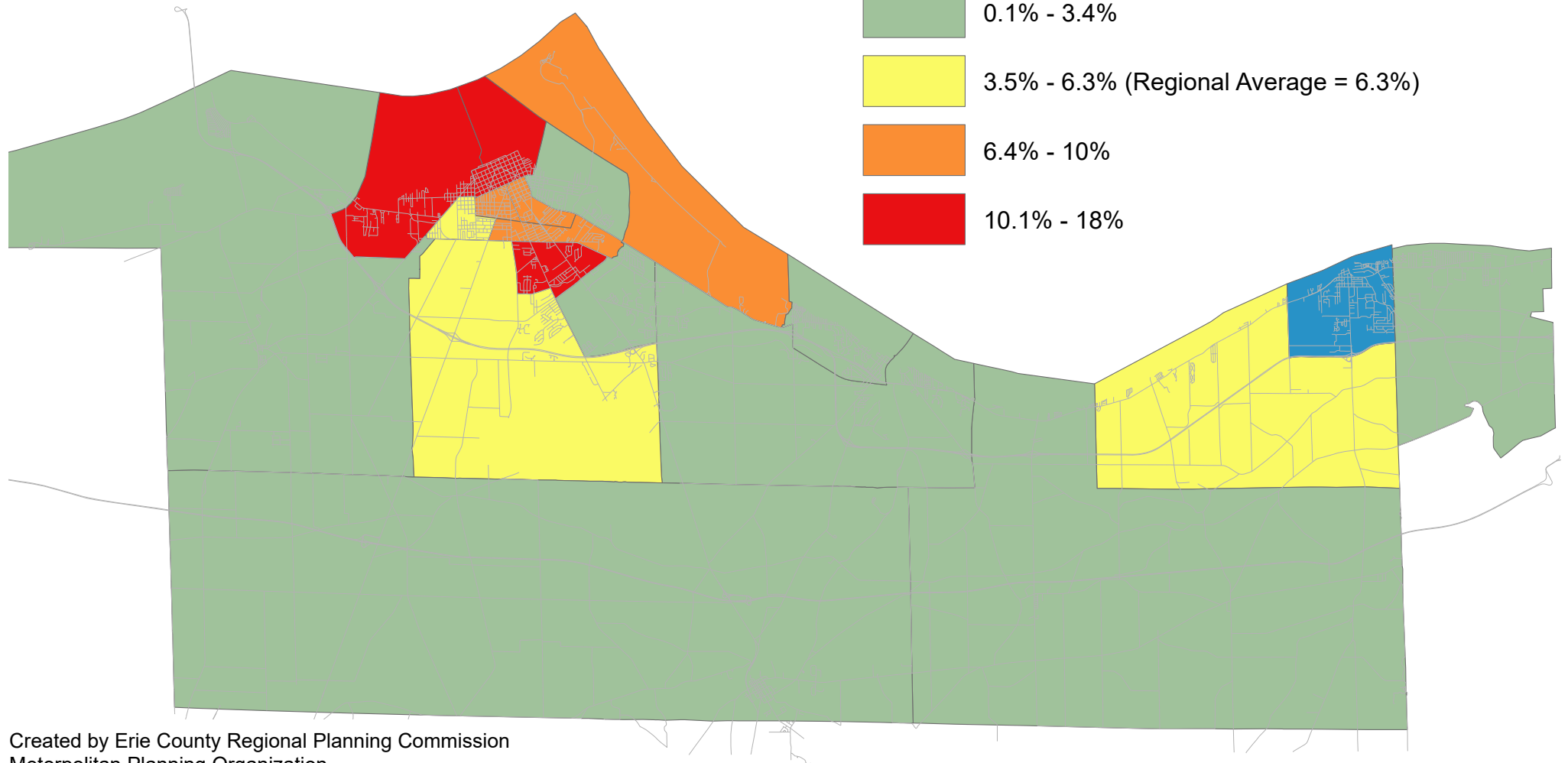
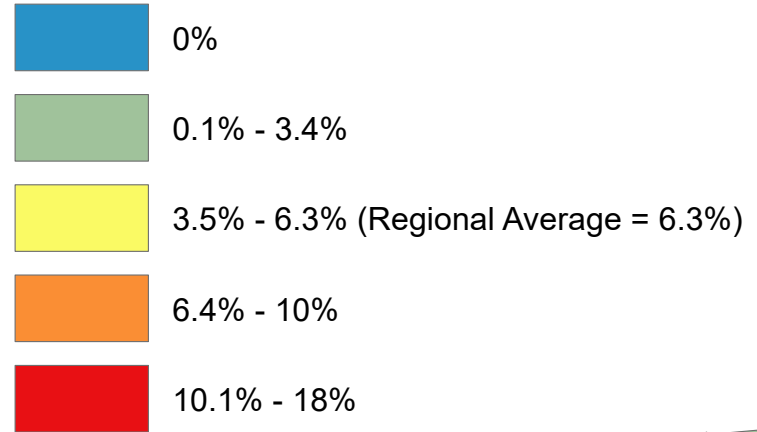
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Percent of Housing Units with No Vehicle Available

Legend





ERPc Metropolitan Planning Organization

Surface Transportation and Transportation Alternative Program Policies and Procedures

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a transportation planning organization that includes all of Erie County and the Lorain County portion of the City of Vermilion. The MPO is responsible for dispersing federal funds to eligible transportation projects across the planning region. The MPO has two types of funding programs in place; the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and the Transportation Alternative Program (TA). These programs are not grant programs but rather a reimbursement program, meaning that FHWA reimburses the state for the funded share of the actual expenses it incurs on a project as the project proceeds. The state then reimburses the local project sponsor as the project proceeds. In no case will costs be eligible for reimbursement until ODOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the MPO Committee process approve the project for use of federal funds.

Those eligible to apply for MPO funding include:

- a local government
- a regional transportation authority
- a transit agency
- a natural resource or public land agency
- a school district, local education agency, or school
- a tribal government
- a nonprofit entity responsible for the administration of local transportation safety programs
- any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for or oversight of transportation or recreational trails (other than a metropolitan planning organization or a [State](#) agency) that the [State](#) determines to be eligible, consistent with the goals of this subsection.

Basic eligibility requirements for STP projects require the proposed project roadway meet a certain roadway Functional Classification. In designated Urbanized Areas, eligible roads must be above a Local classification and in designated Rural Areas eligible roads must be above a Minor Collector classification (Please refer to the attached maps for Road Classifications and designated Urbanized and Rural Areas).

Eligible Surface Transportation Program (STP) activities must include one of the categories as listed below (as defined in 23 U.S.C. 133):

- (1) Construction of—
 - (A) highways, bridges, tunnels, including designated routes of the Appalachian development highway system and local access roads under section 14501 of title 40;
 - (B) ferry boats and terminal facilities eligible for funding under section 129(c);
 - (C) transit capital projects eligible for assistance under chapter 53 of title 49;
 - (D) infrastructure-based intelligent transportation systems capital improvements, including the installation of vehicle-to-infrastructure communication equipment;
 - (E) truck parking facilities eligible for funding under section 1401 of MAP-21 (23 U.S.C. 137 note); and
 - (F) border infrastructure projects eligible for funding under section 1303 of SAFETEA-LU (23 U.S.C. 101 note).
- (2) Operational improvements and capital and operating costs for traffic monitoring, management, and control facilities and programs.
- (3) Environmental measures eligible under sections 119(g), 328, and 329 and transportation control measures listed in section 108(f)(1)(A) (other than clause (xvi) of that section) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7408(f)(1)(A)).
- (4) Highway and transit safety infrastructure improvements and programs, including railway-highway grade crossings.
- (5) Fringe and corridor parking facilities and programs in accordance with section 137 and carpool projects in accordance with section 146.
- (6) Recreational trails projects eligible for funding under section 206, pedestrian and bicycle projects in accordance with section 217 (including modifications to comply with accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.)), and the safe routes to school program under section 1404 of SAFETEA-LU (23 U.S.C. 402 note).
- (7) Planning, design, or construction of boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.
- (8) Development and implementation of a State asset management plan for the National Highway System and a performance-based management program for other public roads.
- (9) Protection (including painting, scour countermeasures, seismic retrofits, impact protection measures, security countermeasures, and protection against extreme events) for bridges (including approaches to bridges and other elevated structures) and tunnels on public roads, and inspection and evaluation of bridges and tunnels and other highway assets.
- (10) Surface transportation planning programs, highway and transit research and development and technology transfer programs, and workforce development, training, and education under chapter 5 of this title.

- (11) Surface transportation infrastructure modifications to facilitate direct intermodal interchange, transfer, and access into and out of a port terminal.
- (12) [Projects](#) and strategies designed to support congestion pricing, including electronic toll collection and travel demand management strategies and programs.
- (13) At the request of a [State](#), and upon Secretarial approval of credit assistance under chapter 6, subsidy and administrative costs necessary to provide an eligible entity Federal credit assistance under chapter 6 with respect to a [project](#) eligible for assistance under this section.
- (14) The creation and operation by a [State](#) of an office to assist in the design, implementation, and oversight of public-private partnerships eligible to receive funding under this title and chapter 53 of title 49, and the payment of a stipend to unsuccessful private bidders to offset their proposal development costs, if necessary to encourage robust competition in public-private partnership procurements.
- (15) Any type of [project](#) eligible under this section as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the FAST Act, including [projects](#) described under [section 101\(a\)\(29\)](#) as in effect on such day.

Eligible Transportation Alternative (TA) activities must include one of the categories as listed below (as defined in 23 U.S.C. 133 (h), 23 U.S.C. 101(a)(29) (MAP-21 1103))

- 1. Transportation Alternatives:
 - A. Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other no motorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
 - B. Construction, planning, and design of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs.
 - C. Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other no motorized transportation users.
 - D. Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.
 - E. Community improvement activities, including-
 - i. inventory, control, or removal of outdoor advertising;
 - ii. historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities;
 - iii. vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way to improve roadway safety, prevent against invasive species, and provide erosion control; and
 - iv. archaeological activities relating to impacts from implementation of a transportation project eligible under title 23.
 - F. Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to-

- i. address storm water management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff, including activities described in sections 133(b)(11), 328(a), and 329 of title 23; or
 - ii. reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.
- 2. The recreational trails program under section 206 of title 23.
- 3. The safe routes to school program under section 1404 of the SAFETEA-LU.
 - A. Infrastructure-related projects.-planning, design, and construction of infrastructure-related projects on any public road or any bicycle or pedestrian pathway or trail in the vicinity of schools that will substantially improve the ability of students to walk and bicycle to school, including sidewalk improvements, traffic calming and speed reduction improvements, pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements, on-street bicycle facilities, off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities, secure bicycle parking facilities, and traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools.
 - B. Noninfrastructure-related activities to encourage walking and bicycling to school, including public awareness campaigns and outreach to press and community leaders, traffic education and enforcement in the vicinity of schools, student sessions on bicycle and pedestrian safety, health, and environment, and funding for training, volunteers, and managers of safe routes to school programs.
 - C. Safe Routes to School coordinator.
- 4. Planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.

Note that these lists of qualifying STP and TA activities comes directly from the federal transportation legislation and is intended to be exclusive, not illustrative. Only those activities listed above are eligible for STP and TA activities. Eligible projects must also have a direct relationship to transportation and to the MPO's long range plan, such that they enhance a current or proposed transportation system.

Project Solicitation Cycle and Project Selection Processes

In January/February every other year (and depending on budgets available), ERPC staff will seek approval from the MPO's Policy Board to solicit for projects for a specified state fiscal year(s). Once approval is given for project solicitation ERPC staff will post the MPO Application Form and Application Instructions on its website and make hard copies available in their office. ERPC will accept completed applications starting March 1 through close of business April 30.

Once the application deadline closes, all accepted applications enter a two-step evaluation and ranking system. The first step, completed by staff, is an initial screening that includes determining if the proposed project meets eligibility for either the STP or TA programs. If the proposed project meets eligibility requirements, the project will advance to the second step.

The second step, completed by the Project Selection Committee typically in mid-May, involves completing ranking the projects using MPO defined criteria. Once the draft scores from the project evaluation system are compiled, staff will prepare a profile summarizing all applications that will be made available for public comments and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) review.

Staff will then develop a draft list of ranked projects with financial plan that will be forwarded with public and CAC comments to the MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and MPO Policy Committee for final approval at their June/July meeting. In order to assure timely obligation of funds, annual Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) programming priority will be determined based upon funding rank, anticipated date of expenditure and funds availability.

The program will provide up to 80% (federal) of total project costs. The applicant is required to provide a minimum of 20% (non-federal) of total project costs. The amount of federal funds available for reimbursement for a project will be determined by the MPO Committee structure. All project phases (preliminary engineering, right of way, etc.) are eligible for consideration of funding.

Upon sponsor request and available funding, additional project funds will be considered for a cost increase up to \$20,000 or 10% of the original project estimate (whichever is greater). A sponsor must present the circumstances demonstrating the need for an increase in writing to MPO staff to begin the process. Staff will forward the request through the MPO Committee structure for consideration.

All cost estimates must be certified by a professional engineer, architect or appropriate professional discipline. The program requirements can be demanding and what is thought of a small, inexpensive project can spiral quickly into a complicated and expensive project with particular consideration given to possible inflation of cost of materials and right of way costs. Also, because of the use of federal funds, projects are subjected to many requirements, including NEPA, the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and other regulations and standards consistent with the Ohio Department of Transportation's practices and policies. Except for ADA, most locally planned and funded projects are not subject to these requirements and may often be developed more quickly and at less expense than those that are funded federally.

Upon the MPO Policy Committee's determination and recommendation, should a project have a major change in scope or not made satisfactory progress toward expending awarded MPO funds, the Project Selection Committee can meet and re-review the project. The Project Selection Committee will make a recommendation to both the TAC and Policy Committee and the recommendation can include up to withdrawal of MPO funding for the project as well as requiring the project sponsor to refund MPO funds that have already been expended on the project.

Finally, should any additional funding become available (ex. project cancelled/withdrawn, leftover funding from a solicitation cycle, project awarded under estimate, receipt of additional MPO funding), the funds may be utilized to program another project from the current solicitation cycle upon The MPO's Policy Board approval.

Should you require any additional information or have questions/comments, please contact the Erie County Department of Regional Planning at 419-627-7792.