

ERPC MPO SFY 2021 Progress Report For July 1, 2020—June 30, 2021



**Prepared by the Erie County Department of Regional Planning
2900 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
September 2021**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2021-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE ERIE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVING THE STATE FISCAL YEAR 2021 PROGRESS REPORT

WHEREAS, the Erie Regional Planning Commission is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization by the Governor, acting through the Ohio Department of Transportation in cooperation with local officials in Erie and a portion of Lorain Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Planning Organization refers to a forum for cooperative transportation decision making for the metropolitan planning area; and

WHEREAS, Erie Regional Planning in conjunction with the local and state representation has prepared the State Fiscal Year 2021 Progress Report as part of the transportation planning process; and

WHEREAS, Erie Regional Planning has outlined and detailed a number of different transportation work products completed between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 also known as State Fiscal Year 2021; and

WHEREAS, The planning products and programs in the State Fiscal Year 2021 Unified Planning Work Program are all fiscally constrained within the budget constraints of the approved Ohio Department Of Transportation Consolidated Planning Grant; and

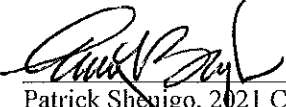
WHEREAS, All products and programs are compatible and further the goals of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, This Committee is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Erie County; and

WHEREAS, the State Fiscal Year 2021 Progress Report has been submitted to and reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee and the Policy Committee:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- 1) That this Policy Committee hereby approves the State Fiscal Year 2021 Progress Report and submittal of the report to the appropriate agencies; and
- 2) That this Committee authorizes the Erie Regional Planning Commission Director and staff to take any and all actions that in their judgment are necessary to carry out the purposes of this Resolution and to provide copies of this Resolution to the appropriate agencies as evidence of action by the Metropolitan Planning Organization.


Patrick Shewigo, 2021 Chairperson
Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee
Erie Regional Planning Commission
September 23, 2021

ERIE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION FINAL PROGRESS REPORT
STATE FISCAL YEAR 2021
UPWP SUBCATEGORY NUMBER: 601
TITLE: Short Range Planning

<u>FUNDING SOURCE/AGENCY</u>			
	ODOT/FHWA/FTA	LOCAL	TOTAL
Original Amount:	\$85,235	\$9,470	\$94,705

Subcategory Number 601 Work Products:

Element 601.1 Safety Review and Improvement Program

1. Spot Safety Review and Improvement Program Report - June 2021
2. Attend/Participate in ODOT D3 Safety Review Team Meetings: Quarterly and on as-needed basis
3. Coordinate with ODOT and locals to focus on safety conscious planning- ongoing
4. Participate in Safe Communities Program: Quarterly Fatal Crash Review Committee

Element 601.2 Transportation Planning Services

1. Assist local jurisdictions with comprehensive and transportation planning- As needed
2. Assist with Safe Communities Program- As needed
3. Assist with Safe Routes to School Program planning initiatives- Ongoing
4. Work activities associated with 2020 Census - Ongoing

Element 601.3 Environmental Justice and Public Involvement Policy

1. Conduct an environmental justice analysis targeting the agency's TIP and Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) projects- Annually
2. Updates to the 2019 Public Involvement Policy- As needed
3. Updates to the 2019 Title VI Plan- As needed
4. Create a Limited English Proficiency Plan: As needed

Element 601.4 Active Transportation Program

1. 2020 Erie County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update: 2025
2. ERPC Active Transportation Month: May 2021
3. Meet with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee: quarterly, or as needed
4. Provide related resources/programs to the public/committees: Ongoing
5. Attend and host trainings related to active transportation: Ongoing
6. Apply for grants and participate in other supporting programs as requested: Ongoing
7. Inform the public about active transportation activities and data through the MPO: Ongoing
8. Website and other social media outlets: Ongoing
9. Continue exploring a complete street policy for the MPO: Ongoing

REPORTING PERIOD 07/01/20 – 06/30/21
EXPENDITURE & PERCENT OF WORK COMPLETED:

AMOUNT BUDGET EXPENDED SFY 2021	PERCENT BUDGET EXPENDED SFY 2021	EST. % WORK COMPLETED SFY 2021
\$42,417	45%	100%

PROGRESS:

Element 601.1 Safety Review and Improvement Program: The goal of the Spot Safety Review and Improvement Program is to conduct a detailed review of high crash locations for consideration and inclusion within the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Spot Safety Review and Improvement Program is based on crash records, traffic counts and other information generated by work done through the transportation surveillance system. ERPC staff regularly works with the ODOT District Three Safety Review Team and attends team meetings for locations that lie within the ERPC MPO region.

In 2018, the Erie County Regional Planning Commission (ERPC) secured an ODOT planning grant to complete a study of the U.S. 6 Corridor from Sycamore Line Road to Rye Beach Road. TranSystems, Inc. was hired to complete the study with ERPC oversight. Other project partners that participated in the study included the Erie County Commissioners, City of Sandusky, City of Huron, Perkins Township, and Huron Township.

The study was completed in 2019 and ERPC then took the lead on working with ODOT District Three and the regional partners to determine best approaches for implementing the study's recommendations. Through discussions it was determined that submitting a request for funding through ODOT's major safety program was a viable option.

In April 2020, three separate safety applications were submitted to ODOT's safety program for funding of the recommended alternatives. In October of 2020, ODOT announced it had selected and awarded funding for corridor improvements from Sycamore Line to Remington Avenue in Sandusky; the total amount of safety funding awarded was \$4,911,501.

The recommended improvements along this section of the corridor include:

- Signal and visibility improvements at each intersection
- Left turn lane extensions at Remington Ave and Sycamore Line Rd.
- Convert Cedar Point Drive signalized intersection into roundabout
- Other miscellaneous safety and signage improvements

The improvements are aimed at increasing efficiency, enhancing safety, and improving multi-modal transportation options; project construction expected to begin in 2024. ERPC continues to work with ODOT and its regional partners to identify funding sources to implement the remaining corridor improvements.

As previously mentioned, ERPC has been working with ODOT District Three staff on spot safety improvements on roads in the region. Staff participated in four ODOT District Three Safety Review Team meetings during SFY 2021. In the fall of 2020, two major safety applications were submitted for consideration of funding. The installation of left turn lanes and lighting at the US 6 @ SR 269 intersection in Margaretta Township and Sandusky Bay Pathway improvements. Unfortunately, neither of the applications were successful in receiving funding. However, the City of Sandusky was successful in securing a \$4 million set-aside for the Sandusky Bay Pathway improvements in the yet to be approved INVEST in America Act, ERPC staff supported this funding request through issuing a letter of support for the project.

Two abbreviated safety applications were submitted to ODOT also. The City of Vermilion requested funding for bicycle and pedestrian improvements along Liberty Avenue (US 6) and the City of Sandusky submitted for a multi-use path along Meigs Street. Vermilion's project was selected for funding and the enhancements will be constructed in SFY 2025. ODOT District Three also made the decision to utilize their operating funds for optimizing signals, improving vehicle detection, and signal head visibility along SR 4. The portion of the corridor (log point 3.75-7.95) was reviewed in SFY 2020 through the Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) program. Improvements are expected to occur in SFY 2022.

One local safety study is currently underway by an ODOT task order consultant at the locations of Perkins Avenue at Columbus Avenue in Sandusky. Also, a submittal for a study was made to review bicycle and pedestrian improvements at the Strub Road and Campbell Street intersection; final notice of approval of this request has yet to be announced.

Specific bicycle and pedestrian improvements in which ERPC staff participated in during SFY 2021 included the construction of a pedestrian crossing along US 250 at the Kalahari Drive intersection. The new crossing was installed as a result of a pedestrian fatality at the location. The crossing also included ADA compliant curb ramps and a pedestrian crossing system.

In the Milan area a separated sidewalk was also constructed with Safe Routes to School funding along SR 601 in the Village to provide children with a safer walk to the Edison Elementary School. Dedicated bicycle lanes along both sides of SR 113 in Milan Township began construction. ODOT abbreviated safety funding was used for the project and will also provide a safer commute for those students walking and biking to Edison High School. Construction is expected to be completed in September 2021.

Staff continues to share crash data and reporting information with the District relative to safety improvements conducted in Erie County. Information gathered is also shared with local ERPC MPO jurisdictions and safety agencies. Staff held quarterly Safety and Citizen Advisory Meetings and reviewed plans and programs with the group relative to the MPO planning process and other transportation safety related issues. Staff continues to participate in the Safe Communities Program and attends quarterly fatal crash review sessions.

Element 601.2 Transportation Planning Services: In SFY 2021, staff continued working with local jurisdictions by serving as a liaison for various local agencies relative to the Safe Routes to School program. ERPC staff also continued work with the most recent Census data to further enhance its long and short range planning processes. Data and maps are updated for inclusion in various ERPC documents. Staff worked with its local jurisdictions on activities associated with the Census 2020 by developing a Complete Count Committee for Erie County. The Committee promoted participation in the 2020 Census through public notices, posters, and radio advertisements.

Element 601.3 Environmental Justice and Public Involvement Policy: Staff continued to gather data and information on low income and/or minority persons in the MPO region using Census 2010 and the most recent American Community Survey five year survey information. The information compiled from the census is used to complete an analysis of geographic concentrations of low income/or minority persons and their relationship to specific TIP projects. Assessing poverty and minority levels in the county based on Federal and State averages completed the identification of targeted population areas. Mapping is completed within the identified geographic locations of the low-income and minority areas in the MPO service area. Additionally, TIP projects are mapped to aid in the impact analysis and mapping is added to a narrative to analyze any affects that specific TIP projects have on geographic concentrations of low income and/or minority populations. Staff continues to work with ODOT Central Office and utilize ArcView software to compile and review socio-economic data. A SFY 2021 Environmental Justice Report was completed in April 2021. The report included an analysis of programmed projects as described above.

ERPC's Title VI Plan and Public Involvement Plans were both updated during SFY 2020 and approved by the MPO's Technical Advisory and Policy Committees in December 2019. Staff analyzed data, prepared tables and maps for both plans. Both documents may be accessed online at: <https://www.eriecounty.oh.gov/DownloadableDocuments.aspx> and are updated as needed.

Staff developed a Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan was during SFY 2021. The plan guarantees continued compliance with state laws governing open meetings and public access to MPO documents. The plan was approved by the MPO's Policy Committee in April 2021 as part of the transportation planning process.

Element 601.4 Active Transportation Program: Planning staff has continued promoting alternative forms of transportation through programs such as Active

Transportation Month. Staff has also collaborated with other organizations and community members to promote the program. Staff continues to attend workshops and presentations to further their knowledge on active transportation.

In the past, staff had made a concerted effort to pass out educational materials to the public at various locations and events. Since COVID-19, in person outreach methods have been scaled back. This year a virtual Active Transportation Panel Discussion was held. It is anticipated that in the future staff can continue in person public outreach methods once conditions improve.

Staff has maintained an alternative transportation resources website that is housed on the ERPC MPO's webpage. Website materials were added on a continual basis. The website can be accessed at: <https://www.eriecounty.oh.gov/ErieCountyActiveTransportation.aspx>. The MPO staff was also active on social media and posted active transportation related materials periodically. Staff has continued to assist the Ohio Department of Transportation with efforts associated with state and nationally designated bike routes endeavors.

Staff maintains the county's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, which was updated in 2020 and regularly meets with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The committee is led by ERPC staff and meets quarterly, or as needed. The committee assists staff with active transportation promoting and planning efforts.

In previous years staff has spoken at numerous safety seminars geared towards foreign exchange students as requested by Alliance Abroad and has been an active member of Alliance Abroad's community support group. Due to the pandemic the area experienced a drastic decrease in J-1 students and as a result of this, participation in the Alliance Abroad program was paused.

On Schedule Yes X No

Delays/Problems Encountered/Corrective Action: Staff completed all products listed in subcategory 601 without any delays.

**TRANSPORTATION FINAL PROGRESS REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2021
UPWP SUBCATEGORY NUMBER: 602
TITLE: Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

<u>FUNDING SOURCE/AGENCY</u>			
	ODOT/FHWA/FTA	LOCAL	TOTAL
Original Amount:	\$54,700	\$6,078	\$60,778

Subcategory Number 602 TIP Work Products:

1. Facilitation of projects through the TIP process– Continual
2. Re-establish targets for safety performance measures: February 27, 2021

3. Update of the SFY 2021-2024 TIP- Continual May 2021
4. Attend MPO Project Meetings at ODOT D3 – Quarterly
5. Integration of visualization techniques throughout TIP development- Continual
6. Weekly reviews of the ODOT/MPO sub-allocated funds report
7. Annual Listing of Obligated Projects for SFY 2020 - September 2020
8. Review and update of Transportation Alternative Program project selection process: December 2020

REPORTING PERIOD 07/01/20 – 06/30/21
EXPENDITURE & PERCENT WORK COMPLETED:

AMOUNT BUDGET EXPENDED SFY 2021	PERCENT BUDGET EXPENDED SFY 2021	EST. % WORK COMPLETED SFY 2021
\$29,906	49%	100%

PROGRESS:

Subcategory 602 Transportation Improvement Program: The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a four-year program of transportation projects and strategies formally implementing the MPO Transportation Plan. Therefore, it serves as the region's means of allocating limited transportation resources to projects and programs as well as a clear set of short-term transportation priorities. The list includes all projects from the county engineers, local governments, ODOT and the local transit agency that are utilizing federal funding.

The formal TIP listing serves as a prerequisite to expending US Department of Transportation federal surface transportation funding on the transportation system improvements within the MPO region. The TIP document update is currently on a biennial basis and serves as the formal listing of federal and state funded transportation improvement projects that will be implemented within the Erie County MPO region during the next four years. The 2021-2024 TIP was approved by the MPO Policy Committee in April of 2021. The developed SFY 2021 - 2024 TIP document included an analysis of current project schedules, costs, agency budgets and environmental justice analyses. Updating included ensuring project schedules, scopes and funding amounts, as determined through consultation with ODOT district staff and project sponsors are programmed and documented correctly. Also, processes regarding reporting on performance measures are included in the TIP.

Staff continued to work on the facilitation of projects through the TIP process during SFY 2021. Staff hosted several meetings of the MPO's project selection committee to review the MPO's Transportation Alternative project selection and scoring process. Some of the revisions made to the program included instituting a project solicitation cycle on an every other year basis and simplifying project scoring sheets. The MPO's Technical Advisory and Policy Committees approved the changes as recommended by the project selection committee. Adhering to the newly established solicitation cycles, in

February 2021 a new round of Transportation Alternative funding was made available for SFY 2025. Three applications were received which were then reviewed by the MPO's Project Selection Committee. Ultimately, the Policy committee approved funding for a sidewalk project located within the City of Vermilion. The selected project will upgrade and complete an existing sidewalk network. The sidewalks are located in a neighborhood that directly links to the Vermilion School Campus, the City's public pool, and a nearby church.

In total for SFY 2021, the MPO executed four TIP related resolutions and four TIP related administrative modifications were processed. Staff also performed continual review and monitoring of already programmed projects and current funding statuses. Weekly reviews of budget data sent by ODOT were utilized in this process. Staff continues to review the sub-allocated funds reports as published by ODOT every week. The reports are used to track MPO projects and ensure fiscal constraint by reviewing project funds encumbered and balances as reported. A request was submitted to ODOT in July 2020 to request carrying over SFY 2019 Surface Transportation and Transportation Alternative funds as the MPO is saving up funding for various high cost future projects. The waiver request was approved.

Staff continued to use visualization techniques throughout TIP development. PowerPoint applications are used for all MPO Committee meetings, public involvement and outreach meetings. Mapping along with aerial photography are often used in presentations as well. Staff also has used an audience response system at some public meetings to take audience surveys and display summary of those answers. Additionally, staff continues maintenance of the MPO's website, Facebook page and office e-mail account to ensure information is updated and exchanged. Staff continues to monitor public comments and emails through these methods. In March of 2020, ERPC moved to an online only format for its outreach due to state health orders restricting public gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic. Approximately a year later, as restrictions eased, ERPC began holding hybrid meetings where attendance can be made in-person or online. ERPC continues to see higher meeting participation rates due to providing the meetings in an online format and plans to continue the hybrid meeting option into SFY 2022.

Staff participated in two ODOT District Three local public agency (LPA) meetings during SFY 2021. These LPA meetings have proven to be successful in providing an opportunity for project sponsors and ODOT District personnel to discuss questions and problems related to their projects, including MPO funded projects. At the meetings, sponsors also provide status reports on their projects which are useful to staff to ensure timely program delivery. Staff coordinates with District personnel in regards to schedule and meeting content where it relates to MPO funded projects. ERPC continues to monitor projects and work with its local jurisdictions and ODOT online to work out any project issues that may arise. At this time, all MPO funded projects are on schedule to meet their respective programmed deadlines.

Staff prepared the Annual Listing of Obligated Funds for SFY 2020 in September 2020. The listing contained projects that utilize federal funds that have been sold or obligated

during SFY 2020. The data is supplied by the Ohio Department of Transportation and compiled into a report that is then advertised for public review and comment.

In SFY 2021, staff guided its technical advisory and policy committees through the process of target setting for national performance management measures. In January 2021, the ERPC MPO Policy Committee approved a resolution to support ODOT's safety performance targets. The updated SFY 2021-2024 also included narrative relative to performance measure management.

On Schedule Yes X No

Delays/Problems Encountered/Corrective Action: Staff completed all identified products in Subcategory Number 602 without any problems or delays.

**TRANSPORTATION FINAL PROGRESS REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2021
UPWP SUBCATEGORY NUMBER: 605
TITLE: Transportation Surveillance System**

FUNDING SOURCE/AGENCY			
	ODOT/FHWA/FTA	LOCAL	TOTAL
Original Amount:	\$35,188	\$3,910	\$39,098

Subcategory Number 605 Work Products:

Element 605.1 Surveillance: Crash Records

1. Crash Data File- June 2021
2. Crash Summary Report- June 2021
3. Member on the County Wide GIS Advisory Board- Meets bi-annually
4. Participate on GIS Advisory Board Subcommittees- as needed
5. Traffic and high crash location maps- June 2021

Element 605.2 Surveillance: Local Traffic Counts

1. Traffic Count Database- Updated as counts are taken on as needed basis
2. Traffic Counts Maps- Updated as counts are taken on as needed basis

**REPORTING PERIOD 07/01/20 – 06/30/21
EXPENDITURE & PERCENT OF WORK COMPLETED:**

AMOUNT BUDGET EXPENDED SFY 2021	PERCENT BUDGET EXPENDED SFY 2021	EST. % WORK COMPLETED SFY 2021
\$31,713	81%	100%

PROGRESS:

Element 605.1 Surveillance and Crash Records:

Staff continued to maintain a computerized database of vehicular accident listings for current and future use in the preparation of safety studies and high crash location maps. The MPO continues to maintain the computerized crash records file with information gathered from the Ohio Department of Public Safety, ODOT and local agency engineering staffs. Staff also utilizes ODOT's GIS Crash Analysis Tool (GCAT) to access and download data. The agency's crash summary report for SFY 2021 was completed and provides information on crash data trends in the region along with a list of locations where crash frequencies are greater than 9 crashes over a 3 year period. Crash rates are also calculated for those locations where traffic counts are available. The ERPC MPO region had 6,978 total crashes over a 3 year period (2017-2019). Of these, 26 were fatal and 1,945 were serious injury. 32% of all crashes were young driver related (15 years old – 25 years old). The number of fatalities increased over the three years while the number of serious injury crashes declined. Comparing crash years 2016-2018 against 2017-2019, all but two categories saw decreases in crashes. Those two crash categories that increased were school zones and speed.

Staff continues its involvement with the Erie County GIS Board. The Board is responsible for recommending GIS activities within the county system. One activity undertaken has been the implementation of the LBRS (Location Based Response System) that has aided in efforts to accurately locate traffic crashes and provide for an update to the street centerline files which also aide in transportation modeling. The Board meets twice a year but staff also participates on project subcommittees associated with the GIS Board that meets on an as needed basis. Staff utilizes ArcGIS Online that is provided through the county's GIS committee. Using ArcGIS Online, staff created a web mapping application called Everything ERPC for public use. Everything ERPC acts as a repository for information that the office works with, including census information, road centerlines, sidewalk inventory, zoning, scenic byway routing, flood plain information, crash data, and jurisdictional boundary information. ERPC staff views the application as a working document where it will continue to be updated as additional GIS shapefiles are developed. The application is accessible from the ERPC webpage and an overview of the tool has been provided to all ERPC MPO committees.

Element 605.2 Surveillance: Local Traffic Counts: The Traffic Count Program focuses on the Functional Classification System, localized areas of concern and modeling needs of ODOT/MPO. All traffic counts are kept in computerized files and are uploaded to ODOT's online traffic count database (TMMS). The online traffic count database provides historical and current traffic count information for locations across the state in both map and form views. Beginning in SFY 2018, due to limited staffing resources, ERPC's traffic count program was scaled back. ERPC MPO continues to accept special requests for traffic counts from its local jurisdictions, however, a regularly scheduled count program is unable to be supported. In SFY 2022, carryover funding is being utilized to hire a traffic count consultant to conduct vehicle counts at 77 locations in the MPO and bicycle and pedestrian counts at two locations in the City of Vermilion.

On Schedule Yes X No

Delays/Problems Encountered/Corrective Action: Staff was unable to complete traffic counts during SFY 2021 due to limited staffing resources. However, ERPC is utilizing carryover funding to hire a traffic count consultant to conduct counts at 77 locations in the region. The counts will take place during September of 2021. Other identified products in Subcategory Number 602 were completed without any problems or delays.

**TRANSPORTATION FINAL PROGRESS REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2021
UPWP SUBCATEGORY NUMBER: 610
TITLE: Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)**

FUNDING SOURCE/AGENCY

	ODOT/FHWA/FTA	LOCAL	TOTAL
Original Amount:	\$73,069	\$8,119	\$81,188

Subcategory Number 610 Work Products:

Element 610.1 Review and appraisal: Maintain and monitor an independent variables file and land use maps for the members of ERPC

1. Update and maintain an independent variables file- Continual
2. Update Land Use Maps- Continual
3. Coordinate with ODOT Central Office on modeling for ERPC region- Continual
4. Attend OTMUG meetings- Quarterly

Element 610.2 Review and Update of the LRTP

1. Ascertain data and information gathered from public resources and committees to aid in the five year update of the LRTP- Continual
2. Annual target setting for safety Performance Measure 1 - February 27, 2021
3. MPO target adjustment review for Performance Measures 2 and 3 – July 2020
4. Work with ODOT and Sandusky Transit System (STS) to develop system performance report for inclusion in the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Update: Ongoing
5. 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Update: Ongoing
6. Partner with ODOT on implementing AO2045 themes, strategies, and actions: Ongoing

REPORTING PERIOD 07/01/20 – 06/30/21
EXPENDITURE & PERCENT OF WORK COMPLETED:

AMOUNT BUDGET EXPENDED SFY 2021	PERCENT BUDGET EXPENDED SFY 2021	EST. % WORK COMPLETED SFY 2021
\$31,561	39%	100%

PROGRESS:

Element 610.1 Review and appraisal: Maintain and Monitor an Independent Variables File and Land Use Maps for the Members of the ERPC: During SFY 2021, staff continued its coordination with ODOT Central Office personnel in regards to activities that would assist with the long-range plan travel demand model update. Staff has uploaded available traffic count information to the online database and has reviewed employment files. Also, ERPC continued its maintenance of other independent variable files. These files help provide information for use in the calibration of the traffic forecast model for the MPO area. Other activities staff was involved with ODOT Central Office included discussion and analysis of identifying existing/projected traffic volumes.

Staff also continued to work with the members of the political subdivisions and Erie Regional Planning Commission to gather information for use in updating existing zoning and future land use maps. The maps are used in the five year update of the Long Range Transportation Plan and zoning maps are posted on the ERPC website per the request of the participating member jurisdictions. Staff also has placed and continues to maintain the county-wide zoning layer on its Everything ERPC web mapping application. The application tool is available for public use and the link can be found on ERPC's home webpage. When schedules allow, staff attends the Ohio Travel Demand Model User Group quarterly meetings as well as meetings with the County's Soil and Water Conservation District staff to partner and discuss how best to incorporate environmental issues and mitigation techniques into projects and planning processes.

Element 610.2 Review and Update of the Long Range Transportation Plan: The Long Range Plan documents existing conditions and networks of all modes while identifying needs based on capital, demand, geographic coverage and system continuity. ERPC staff feels the Plan establishes a regional vision for all transportation modes including bicycle and pedestrian facilities and prioritizes recommended projects. Gaps in service and infrastructure are also taken into account in project recommendations. Staff officially kicked off the update in the fall of 2019. During the plan update process, the COVID-19 pandemic occurred which significantly altered the public involvement that had been planned for the plan update. One in-person public meeting was able to be held prior to state orders being issued restricting public gatherings. As such, ERPC moved to an online public involvement format to abide with the orders. Various online presentations, notices, surveys, emails, and articles were utilized to continue to engage the public through the plan update process. Staff found public engagement was adequate utilizing the online format and all received comments were considered in the

development of the final plan. ERPC also included a system performance report as required by federal legislation which reports on the region's performance relative to established targets in key transportation performance areas. The 2045 plan was presented to the MPO's Technical Advisory and Policy Committees and approved for adoption at the July 23, 2020 meeting. ERPC is currently planning to execute an update to the freight inventory and profile report in SFY 2022 through the use of an ODOT task order consultant. Information from this report will be utilized in ERPC's next Long Range Transportation Plan update which is due in July 2025.

On Schedule Yes X No

Delays/Problems Encountered/Corrective Action: Staff completed all identified products in Subcategory Number 610 without any problems or delays. Note - SFY2021 carryover funding will be utilized for payment of freight inventory and profile report in SFY 2022.

**TRANSPORTATION FINAL PROGRESS REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2021
UPWP SUBCATEGORY NUMBER: 665
TITLE: Special Studies**

FUNDING SOURCE/AGENCY			
	ODOT/FHWA/FTA	LOCAL	TOTAL
Original Amount:	\$2,815	\$313	\$3,128

Subcategory Number 665 Work Products:

Element 665.1 National Scenic Byway Program – Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail (LECT)

1. Complete Byway Annual Survey From - April 2021
2. Serve on LECT Steering Committee and LECT Transportation Subcommittee- Continual
3. Ascertain data and information gathered from public resources and LECT steering committee to aid in keeping Corridor Management Plan current – Continual
4. Participate in Statewide Scenic Byway Program meetings and phone conference calls – Continual
5. Assist with development of print materials which includes integrated messaging, brochures, articles, maps and guides- Continual

Element 665.2 U.S. 6 (Cleveland Road) Corridor Study – PID 105803

1. PID 105803 – U.S. 6 (Cleveland Road) Corridor Study: July 2019

REPORTING PERIOD 07/01/20 – 06/30/21
EXPENDITURE & PERCENT OF WORK COMPLETED:

AMOUNT BUDGET EXPENDED SFY 2021	PERCENT BUDGET EXPENDED SFY 2021	EST. % WORK COMPLETED SFY 2021
\$2,114	67%	100%

Element 665.1 National Scenic Byway Program – Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail:

In SFY 2021, staff completed work to promote, conserve, and protect the Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Scenic Byway Trail (LECT) and ensure it maintains its national designation as an America's Byway.

Due to the pandemic, the byway's annual October 2020 meeting was held online. ERPC assisted the Cleveland MPO, Northeast Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), with preparing for the meeting, coordinating the agenda, administering, and presenting at the meeting.

The byway's steering committee met virtually throughout the SFY to continue finalizing bylaws for the creation of an executive board and also for byway promotion discussions. NOACA and ERPC completed the annual survey as required by the Department of Transportation as well as updating byway routing in ODOT's Transportation Information System (TIMS).

In April, with the assistance of ODOT, a promotional video was shot at various sites of interest along the Coastal Ohio Trail. ERPC and NOACA coordinated speaker and location information for five points of interest along the byway. Two locations were coordinated by staff that are located in the Ottawa – Erie County region (Marblehead Lighthouse and Cedar Point). The completed video was made available on ODOT's website, youtube, facebook, and ERPC's website.

Additionally, Ohio Magazine conducted an interview with ERPC staff on the byway which was highlighted in their May 2021 issue. Staff also worked with NOACA to set up advertisements for the byway's mobile application that were ran in the July/August editions of Lake Erie Living Magazine and Ohio Magazine.

Finally, coordination with the Ohio Department of Transportation occurred on an as needed basis and membership in the Ohio Byway Links group was continued. Staff will continue to serve as a stakeholder on the committee into SFY 2022 and support efforts related to promotion and preservation of the Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail.

Element 665.2 U.S. 6 (Cleveland Road) Corridor Study – PID 105803: The US 6 (Cleveland Road) corridor serves as a very important route for the region. Not only is it a main route to Cedar Point Amusement and Sports Force Parks, it also provides access to retail, restaurants, commercial lodging, residential, and park and recreational facilities.

In 2018, ERPC staff coordinated efforts with ODOT District 3, City of Sandusky, Perkins Township, the City of Huron, and Huron Township to hire a consultant to conduct a study along the corridor. The study was paid for with FHWA State and Planning Research Funds (SPR) matched with funding from the local jurisdictional project partners.

The study was finalized in November of 2019 and recommendations from the study were developed into four separate safety project applications and were submitted to ODOT's safety program for consideration of funding in April of 2020. In August 2020, the improvements along the corridor located in the City of Sandusky were selected for funding. The project includes lengthening of left turn lanes, signal upgrades/removals, and installation of a roundabout at the US 6 and Cedar Point Drive intersection. Project construction is slated for SFY 2024. ERPC plans to continue working with ODOT District Three personnel in identifying sources of funding to implement the remaining improvements.

On Schedule Yes X No

Delays/Problems Encountered/Corrective Action: Staff completed all identified products in Subcategory Number 665 without any problems during SFY 2021.

**TRANSPORTATION FINAL PROGRESS REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2021
UPWP SUBCATEGORY NUMBER: 674
TITLE: Public Transportation - Sandusky Transit System**

<u>FUNDING SOURCE/AGENCY</u>			
	ODOT/FHWA/FTA	LOCAL	TOTAL
Original Amount:	\$15,652	\$1,740	\$17,392

**Subcategory Number 674 Public Transportation –Sandusky Transit System
Work Products:**

Element 674.1 Transit Planning Services

Marketing Efforts: As requested by STS

1. Serve on Transit Technical Advisory Committee: As requested
2. Continue monitoring and updating of the Human Services Public Transportation Coordinated Plan (CTP): Underway for CY 2021 with Great Lakes Community Action Partnership
3. Coordinated Plan Review: Annually
4. Participate in Mobility Management Meetings: Quarterly, or as requested
5. Support efforts to maintain a mobility manager: Continual

Element 674.2 Capital Planning

1. Capital and Operations Plan: 2021, City of Sandusky Staff

Element 674.3 Specialized Transportation Program

1. Technical Planning Assistance: Continual
2. Support efforts to maintain a mobility manager: Continual
4. Coordinated Plan Review with Coordinated Transportation Plan Steering Committee: Quarterly, or as requested
5. Update of the Coordinated Transportation Plan: Annually, or as requested

Element 674.4 Transit System Efficiency

1. Public Transportation Management System Report update: Ongoing by STS staff
2. Certification of Data: Ongoing by STS staff
3. National Transit Database Report: Ongoing by STS staff
4. Support efforts to maintain a mobility manager: Continual

REPORTING PERIOD 07/01/20 – 06/30/21 EXPENDITURE & PERCENT WORK COMPLETED:

AMOUNT BUDGET EXPENDED SFY 2021	PERCENT BUDGET EXPENDED SFY 2021	EST. % WORK COMPLETED SFY 2021
\$1,154	6%	100%

PROGRESS:

Element 674.1 Transit Planning Services: The transit program was designated a rural from an urban program after the results of the 2010 Census yielded that the Sandusky urbanized area fell beneath the 50,000 population threshold.

The city markets the transit system on a continuing basis in order to try and continue to meet the needs of the community and increase ridership levels and local revenues. The MPO staff offers marketing assistance and expertise to the city whenever requested to promote and provide for the delivery of safe, efficient, reliable and cost effective operation of public transportation services. Staff has assisted by providing transit information, flyers and handouts at the MPO staff offices and meetings. During SFY 2021, staff continued working with the new Sandusky Transit Systems Manager to provide information and technical assistance relative to past efforts to increase ridership throughout the system.

Staff has also continued to support area transit through its participation on the Transit Technical Advisory Board/Coordinated Transit Plan (CTP) Steering Committee. Meetings are administered by an ODOT grant funded Mobility Manager from the Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP) located in Fremont, Ohio. The mobility manager works with stakeholders in the transit community to assist with CTP goal achievement.

CTP's are required to be reviewed on an annual basis with full plan updates due every five years. The next full plan update is due in 2023. As such, ERPC staff has participated in CTP steering committee meetings during SFY 2021 to assist with the plan

update. Work on the CTP update will continue into SFY 2022 with completion anticipated by the end of CY 2021.

Element 674.2 Capital Planning: The Transportation Development Plan (TDP) has been focused on the LRTP and the role of transit over the next 20-years. Likewise, the TDP is considered in the development of the MPO's long-range transportation plans. Staff continued to be available to assist STS with the Transportation Development Plan (TDP) as requested by coordinating projects and completing budget adjustments within the TIP process.

Element 674.3 Specialized Transportation Program (STP): Staff is required to conduct a vehicle inspection on vehicles purchased through ODOT's Specialized Transportation Program. Vehicle inspections are completed upon receiving an ODOT request.

Since SFY 2018, there has been considerable changes within the state transit program. Staff has continued to adapt and work with these changes some of which have included assisting the mobility manager provided through GLCAP as requested and arranging committee meetings, tracking amendments and renewal deadlines.

In SFY 2019, ODOT requested that applicants for their transit programs apply directly for funding through the BLACK CAT software system. MPO staff was involved with assisting applicants in gathering application materials and writing support letters during the 2020 State Fiscal Year and in SFY 2021.

Element 674.4 Transit System Efficiency: The Sandusky Transit System indicated that they no longer complete a PTMS Report Update, Certification of Data and National Transit Database Report as ODOT now completes these. The MPO staff assists with the preparation of route maps as requested.

On Schedule Yes X No

Delays/Problems Encountered/Corrective Action: Staff completed all of the products identified in Subcategory Number 674 without encountering any problems or delays.

**TRANSPORTATION FINAL PROGRESS REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2021
UPWP SUBCATEGORY NUMBER: 697
TITLE: Annual Report – Transportation**

FUNDING SOURCE/AGENCY

	ODOT/FHWA/FTA	LOCAL	TOTAL
Original Amount:	\$16,264	\$1,807	\$18,071

Subcategory Number 697 Work Products:

Element 697.1 Biannual Newsletter

1. *The Planning Press* Newsletter – June 2021 (Summer) and December 2020 (Winter)

Element 697.2 Annual Report

1. 2020 Annual Report- June 2020

Element 697.3 Work Plan

1. SFY 2020 Annual Progress Report- September 2020
2. SFY 2022 Annual Work Plan Document- May 2021

REPORTING PERIOD 07/01/20 – 06/30/21
EXPENDITURE & PERCENTAGE WORK COMPLETED:

AMOUNT BUDGET EXPENDED SFY 2021	PERCENT BUDGET EXPENDED SFY 2021	EST. % WORK COMPLETED SFY 2021
\$6,576	36%	100%

PROGRESS:

Element 697.1 Biannual Newsletter: Staff prepares a biannual newsletter to inform local governmental agencies and the general public on updates to transportation planning and results of the work performed by the MPO and ERPC. Traditionally, the newsletters were quarterly, but the Erie County Commissioners have requested that departments now write biannual reports. Two editions of the newsletter were prepared during SFY 2021. The goal of the newsletter is to bring readers into the planning process by providing updates as to activities and issues confronting the community with respect to traffic, transit, paratransit, and the overall urban long and short range transportation planning process. Both editions of SFY 2021 Planning Press newsletters were circulated among the MPO committees, presented to the County Commissioners, and posted on ERPC's website for public viewing.

Element 697.2 Annual Report: Staff has worked to document the issues and activities confronting the community with respect to traffic, transit, paratransit and the overall urban planning process. In addition, staff continues to keep its fiscal reporting in conformance with ODOT requirements. Fiscal reports are generated and used in the production of the various annual reports and work plan documents submitted to ODOT. The MPO Annual Report document gives an overview of the MPO as well as all of the traffic and transportation planning related activities undertaken during the state fiscal year.

Element 697.3 Work Plan: In September 2020, the final SFY 2020 progress report was completed and submitted to ODOT. The progress report documents the work the MPO staff has completed and funding expenditures for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. The MPO's Policy Committee approved the SFY 2020 Progress Report in September 2020.

During SFY 2021, the SFY 2022 Work Plan was completed. The Work Plan included an outline by category of activities staff will complete during the SFY 2022. The Work Plan incorporates budgetary components such as the MPO's cost allocation plan. The MPO's Policy Committee approved the Work Plan in April 2021.

On Schedule Yes X No

Delays/Problems Encountered/Corrective Action: All products identified in Subcategory Number 697 have been completed without problems or delays during SFY 2021.

ERIE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION WORK PROGRAM SUMMARY FOR S.F.Y. 2021 ANNUAL REPORTING PERIOD 07/01/20-06/30/21					
Work Element	Annual Budgeted Amount	Expended to Date	Percent Expended	Percent Work Completed	On Schedule
601	\$94,705	\$42,417	45%	100%	Yes
602	\$60,778	\$29,906	49%	100%	Yes
605	\$39,098	\$31,713	81%	100%	Yes*
610	\$81,188	\$31,561	39%	100%	Yes*
665	\$3,128	\$2,114	67%	100%	Yes
674	\$17,392	\$1,154	6%	100%	Yes
697	\$18,071	\$6,576	36%	100%	Yes
Total	\$314,360	\$145,441	46%	100%	Yes

***Note--Traffic Counts and Freight Inventory and Profile Report update to be completed in SFY 2022 with SFY 2021 Carryover Funding**