

## **The Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee**

held a meeting on **Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025** at 6:00 P.M.

### **Committee Members Present:**

Utilities: Chair Mitchell, Davis, Oswald, Armstrong, Stewart

Others:

Absent:

**Administration and Department Heads Present:** Safety Service Dir Pyanowski,  
Law Dir Deery, Engineer McKillips, WWPC Supt. Stewart, WWPC Asst. Supt. Derricotte

### **1. The matter of Approval of the Joint Utilities/Finance Meeting Minutes from November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 as Circulated.**

Motion was made by Mr. Oswald and second by Mr. Armstrong to approve.

**MOTION CARRIES**

### **2. The matter of revisions to Chapter 937 of Elyria Codified Ordinances, Sewer Use, Septic Tank Wastes.**

Referred By: WWPC Asst. Supt. Derricotte

Supt Stewart said his department has been working on the renewable energy plan over the past year. They've looked at cutting the cost of electricity and have found that what they were looking into was accepting fats, oils and grease, though not there yet for the digestors, but looked into accepting septage from septic haulers. They've looked at a few other treatment plants and they think it's very viable and could be an additional source of revenue. They've heard from the LC Health Board that there is a need for it. There is no where in Lorain County for them to be able to take the septic to. In order for the department to do this, they would have to change the 'Sewer Use' ordinance. Since this follows a lot of the pre-treatment standards, Asst Supt Shane Derricotte is Taking over this initiative, with the permitting and dealing with the haulers. Supt. Stewart said he will oversee the plant processes.

Asst Supt Derricotte began by thanking the Law Dept with helping him with the ordinance change. Everyone has, in front of them, the proposed changes. From the highlighted all the way down is completely new verbiage. As Shane mentioned this is just a small piece of the puzzle that they are looking to do at the plant. This will greatly change the landscape of Lorain County. They are looking to accept residential only, hauled waste. There are over a dozen registered with Lorain County Public Health. They're excited to get this up and running, the other closest to us is Huron and Sandusky and then south of Cleveland, so there is nothing in between. This will Change the landscape for Lorain County. They will issue this as a pilot study and will use just one company. They will analyze it by taking samples and will watch the plant to make sure nothing interferes with it. The changes to the ordinance are verbiage change. The cost for a 3500-gallon tanker is not to exceed \$250.

Anything more will be an additional 12 cents per gallon, which is in the middle of the market, a competitive rate.

He moved on to the registered conditional permit packet, which is what the haulers will be given to fill out. They will have to pay a \$25 fee once per year per vehicle per tanker. Those haulers will be issued guidelines to follow. Everything will get sampled and monitored and if there is an interference they won't be allowed to continue.

Mr. Oswald asked if they will be commercial haulers?

Supt. Derricotte said yes. They will accept what the plant treats on a daily basis.

Mr. Stewart asked if they have projections of what kind of revenue will be generated?

Supt Derricotte said the old superintendent who went to Vermilion generates between \$500,000 and \$800,000 per year. Medina did 1.2 million dollars last year. This is being rolled out as a study, but there is potential to bring income in to the department and to use it to maintain the plant.

Chair Mitchell asked how they will let other municipalities know that this is available?

Supt. Stewart said they will not advertise yet. After today's meeting they spoke with The LC Health Dept and since they are in communications with a lot of the haulers and since we're going to start off slow, they will get this out to those haulers.

Dir Pyanowski said the Health Dept licenses septic haulers so we have a direct line to them. This is exciting. Shayne and Shane have brought this forward and it's been in discussions for a couple of months. They've done a great job of gathering information and presenting it. They've agreed to roll this out as a pilot to make sure we understand how it impacts our system. Then will roll it out further once we're more comfortable and communicate directly with those folks who would need that service.

**Motion made by Mrs. Davis, second by Mr. Oswald to authorize the 'said' revisions to Chapter 937. Emergency clause is requested.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

### **3. The matter of adopting Vision Zero and the Lorain County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.**

Referred By: Engineer Schneider

Engineer McKillips presented a Lorain County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, which is attached to these meeting minutes as Exhibit A. They are requesting for this this Safety Action Plan to be implemented. In Feb. 2023 Lorain County Public Health Received a \$200,000 Federal Grant as part of the new Safe Streets and Roads for All Program. A requirement is to create a county wide comprehensive safety action plan. Public Health has asked for communities to pass legislation in support of this. They will Utilize the information that is gathered by doing this will be used for future grants and programs. They are looking at getting some of that revenue her in the city. There is a need to create safer streets, roads, walkways for residents.

Between 2014 and 2023 207 lives were lost in crashes and 1300 serious injuries. Both on urban and rural roadways. With the grant received, they are able to access the data and come up with numbers and take those numbers to provide to safety forces and from there they look at what areas need improvement. Lorain county has committed to zero traffic deaths by 2040. They would make improvements to the infrastructure. The Vision Zero program started in Sweden in the late 90's and has spread throughout the world and the US and now Lorain County.

The action plan uses the safe system approach to lay the groundwork. This process acknowledges that humans make mistakes. Redundancy in certain safety aspects is needed and we want to be proactive and we want to participate and learn from past programs, accidents, other countries. It's a comprehensive program.

The planning process includes the 2024 active transportation organization and the Safe Streets for All steering committee worked on public engagement, one on one meetings with stake holders. There were online surveys and they gathered info from all these components to come up with the information that the study will provide.

There was a public meeting last year where several residents and business owners attended. They come up with 3 priorities; themes & actions, non-infrastructure related components, education, demonstration projects, organization for changing the mindset of things. Infrastructure corridors involves over 30 corridors and 4 intersections throughout the county and several are in Elyria. Lastly, the systemic practices are what we've already started in Elyria, example is road diets, on Cleveland St. went from 4 lanes to 3 lanes. Elyria has several corridors as recorded as input from the community last year, one is Cleveland St. which most is completed. They have started working on a demonstration project utilizing that grant. They will do a temporary road diet on Lake Ave between Rt 113 and Lorain Blvd. sometime in 2025.

Mr. Oswald asked what they are actually asking from council?

Engineer McKillips said the goal of this plan is to come up with programs and projects and use this plan as the foundation for future grant applications for funding. They want to gear these projects to be realistic to get funding. We're going thru a transition with the Federal Administration, so we don't know what will happen, but the goal was to receive grants. We're utilizing some of that funding that already received for the demonstration project on Lake Ave. They'll use that demonstration to apply for more funding, thru ODOT or NOACA. This will also benefit pedestrians and bicyclists.

Mr. Stewart asked if what's been recommended thus far are what you think could be used for potential grants applying for in the future.

Engineer McKillips said this is the list that came from the public comment gathered from meetings and surveys. These are what they would look at to see what improvements need to be done. Using what was done on Cleveland Street with the road diet is the basics of what we're going to utilize to look at projects that will help improve safety. Once that plan is solidified they'll utilize that to apply for the grants.

Mr. Stewart asked if what we're just applying to be a part of the visionary & comprehensive plan? Is there a breakdown of what the grant would be based off what the estimate of what the projects will be? Is each community who adopts this going to get something? Is the ranking of these streets or projects going to be based on what's available?

Engineer McKillips said it would be based on the community and the willingness of the community to push a project forward. Elyria and Lorain are considered disadvantage so we do have an advantage when it comes to pulling grant funds from a certain pot of money. Speeding and distracted driving are the cause for most accidents.

Mr. Oswald said on route two heading toward Sandusky he's seen signs that say 'Safe Corridor' Zero Tolerance, are they part of this?

Engineer McKillips said that could be one of the systemic practices that is a part of this program.

Mr. Oswald thinks once we started the traffic division the accidents went down because of enforcements.

Dir Deery asked if there is an exhibit of the action plan from The Public Health? Is there specific language or a template resolution that's required in order to adopt this plan?

Engineer McKillips will forward the template for the draft resolution. They are hoping to have this legislation by the end of March. This legislation will support the plan, going forward. Once they get into the plan and start working on specific projects and programs, then they will use that plan to go out for funding.

**Motion made by Mr. Oswald, second by Mr. Armstrong to authorize a resolution to adopt the Vision Zero and Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

*Chair Mitchell asked for a motion to adjourn.*

**Mr. Oswald moved to adjourn the Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee Meeting and that motion was seconded by Mrs. Davis at 6:40 P.M.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

Respectfully Submitted by,



Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant

"EXHIBIT A"

# Lorain County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan



CITY OF ELYRIA  
UTILITIES, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE MEETING

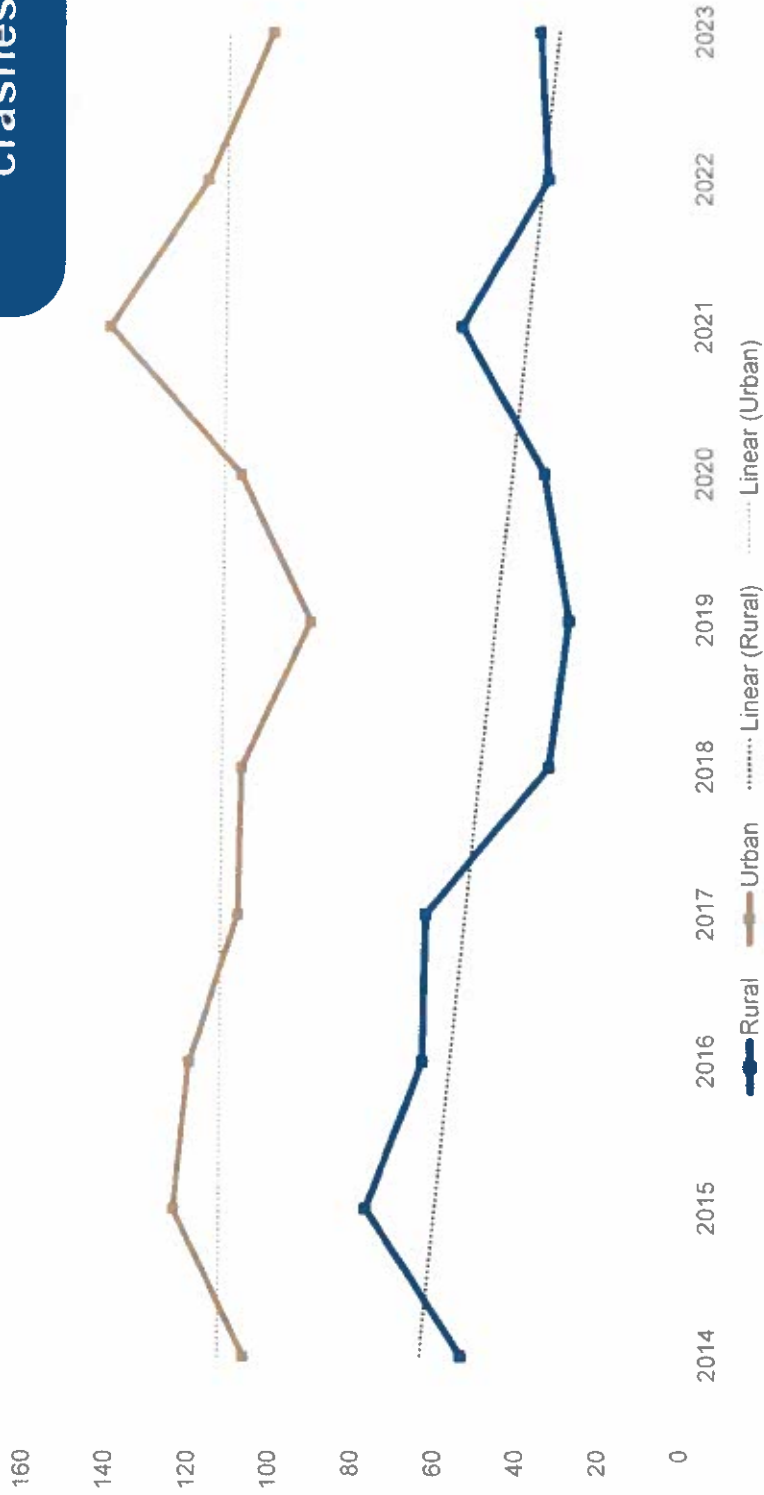
February 5, 2025



# The Need

207 lives lost  
1,356 life-altering crashes

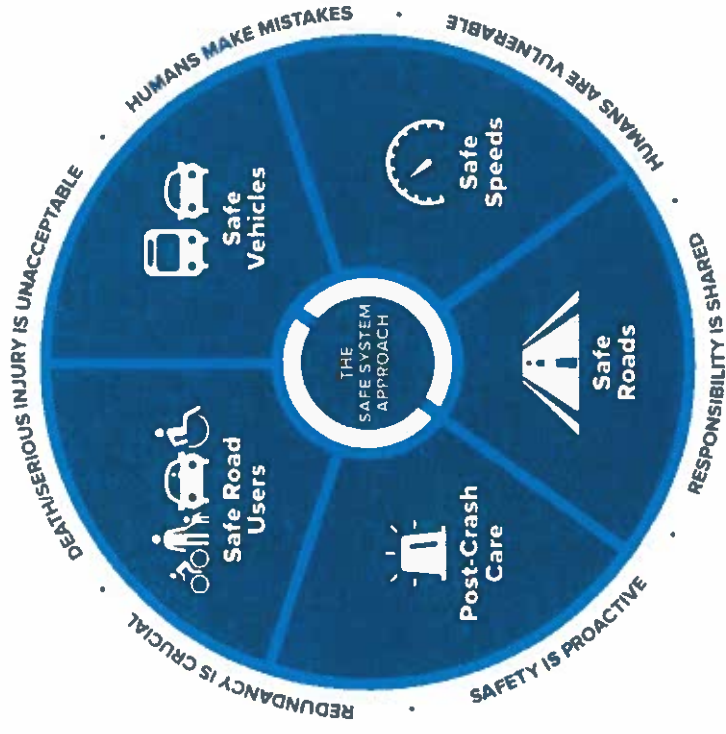
Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes by Year, 2014-2023



**Lorain County has committed  
to a goal of zero traffic deaths  
by 2040.**

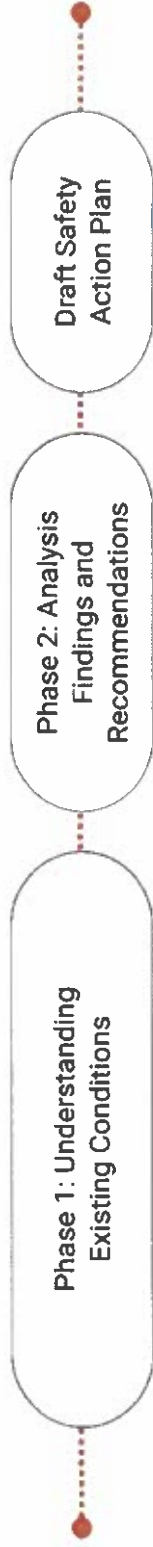
# The Safe System Approach

- The Safe System Approach aims to **eliminate fatal and serious injuries** for all road users by:
  - Accommodating human mistakes; and
  - Keeping impacts on the human body at tolerable levels.





# The Planning Process



## Steering Committee Meetings 2024



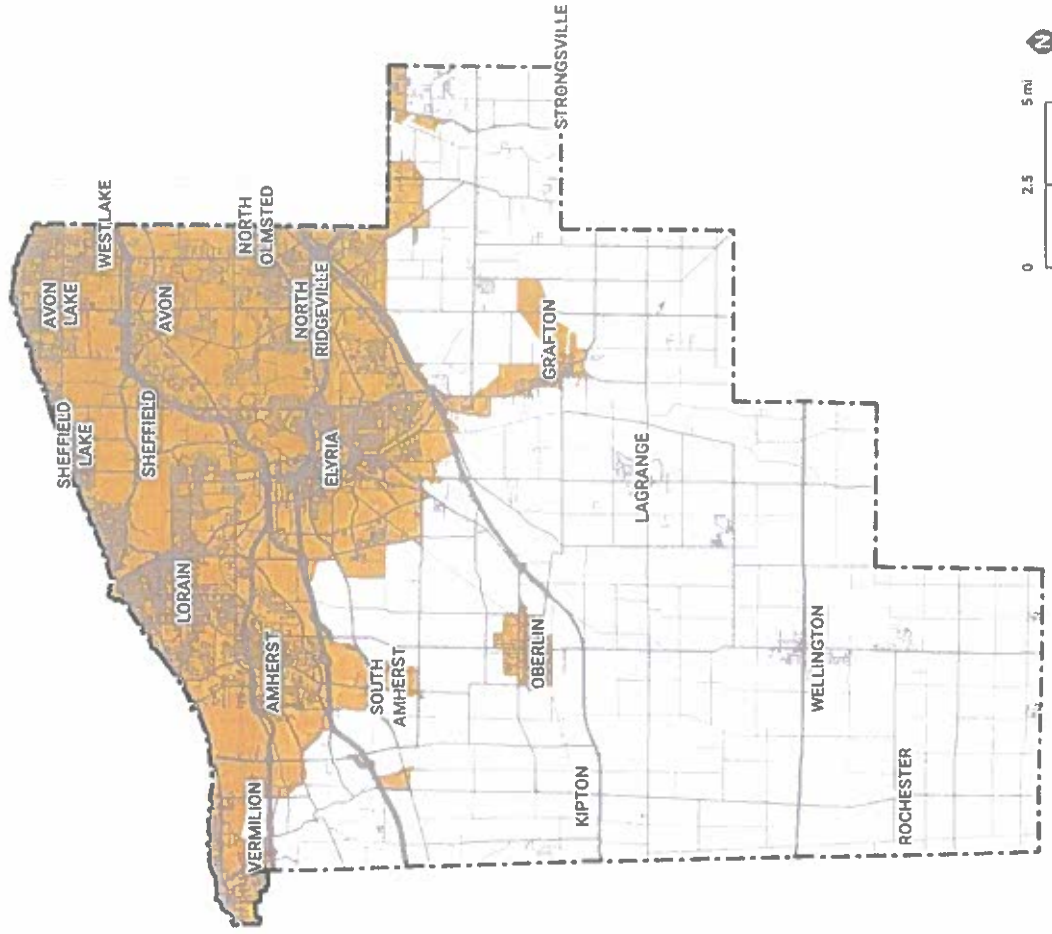
## Community Engagement



# Study Area

Rural and Urban Areas in Lorain County and Vermillion

 Study Area Boundary  Adjusted Urban Area



# Engagement

- Online survey
- Stakeholder Meetings
- 3 in-person engagement events

**Make your mark!**

We can't make Lorain County safe without you!

Do your part to keep everyone, such as yourself, loved ones, children, those with disabilities, and older adults safe.

Read the pledge and make your mark!

**PLEDGE**

1. Keep your eyes on the road - no texting, phone talking, or driving
2. Drive slowly near schools, parks, and recreational areas
3. If you're driving, look for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists
4. When a person in the car won't wear their seat belt, they drive slower and "hand-boost"
5. Support roadway design changes that will improve safety for everyone using the street

Lorain County Campaign for Safer Safety Act Just Plan  
LorainCountyHealth.com

# Priority Recommendations

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## 1 Themes and Actions

This includes non-infrastructure or policy and program recommendations that are categorized in four themes with associated actions.

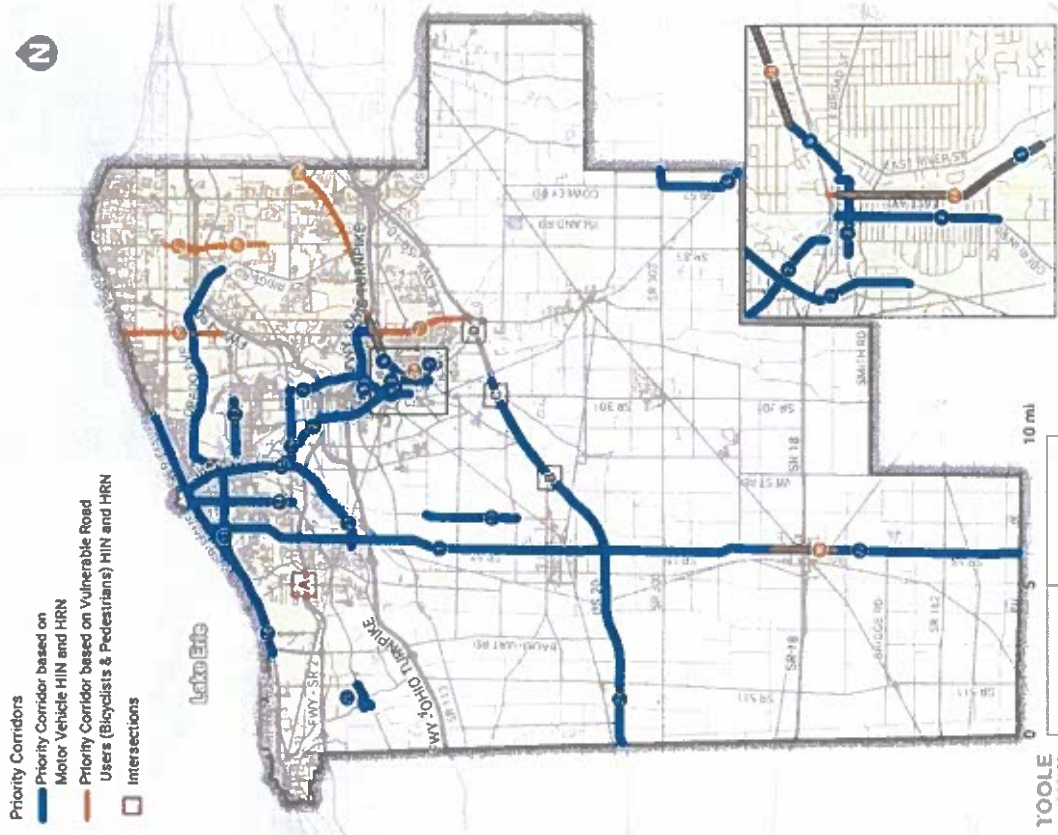
## 2 Infrastructure Corridors

Thirty corridors and four intersections have been identified as high priority.

## 3 Systemic Practices

These are engineering practices and safety countermeasures that can be widely recommend in various contexts.

# City of Elyria Priority Recommendations



CORRIDOR						
ID	Context/Type	Road Name	Start	End	Posted Speed Limit	# of Travel Lanes
2*	Urban	Lake Avenue/ West Avenue	North Ridge Road	Kerster Way		4
3	Urban	2nd Street	Chestnut Street	Broad Street		4/2
4	Urban	Middle Avenue	Broad Street	17th Street		4
5	Urban	East Avenue	Broad Street	Fuller Road		4
6	Urban	Bridge Street/ Cleveland Street	Broad Street	Elyria Eastern Boundary		4
7	Urban	W River Road North	N Ridge Road East	Blake Street	35	4/2
8	Urban	JFK Memorial Parkway	Lorain Boulevard	Center Ridge Road	50	4
24	Pedestrian	East Avenue	Fuller Road	North of Depot Street		4
25	Pedestrian	SR 57/SR 303	Cleveland	.3 miles north of SR 10		
26*	Pedestrian	SR 113/Center Ridge Road	Gulf Road	North Ridgeville Eastern Boundary		

\*Identified in May 2024 Planning and Demonstration Funding Application

**Sign a resolution to  
support the  
Comprehensive  
Safety Action Plan.**

**ZERO** IS OUR **GOAL**  
A SAFE SYSTEM IS HOW WE GET THERE

Source: FHWA Office of Safety