Lake Erie West Regional Council
300 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Toledo, OH 43697
Phone 419.241.9155

Active Transportation Advisory Group

Meeting Date & Time: Aug. 18th, 2026: 9:00 AM – 11 AM

Meeting Location: W.W. Knight Nature Preserve Hankison Great Room, 29530 White Road Perrysburg, OH 43551

1. Welcome & Introductions

- The meeting started with introductions.

2. Topics

- The Regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP) was approved by the Technical Advisory Committee on June 3rd and the MPO policy board on June 17th.
    - Goals, Objectives, and Strategies relevant to the Active Transportation Advisory Group will be talking points on the agenda during future advisory meetings to track progress
- Lake Erie West is working on a regional bike user map that will support continuous reporting. A dynamic map will benefit the entire region and will be updated to reflect feedback derived from the advisory group and the public.
    - This will include paper/printable maps as options related to the online maps. Website to be remapped near end 2026/beginning 2027.
    - Lake Erie West staff are working on cleaning up redundant and outdated maps on the website as the data team works to develop a dashboard to serve as a centralized location for active transportation data needs. Raj will provide updates during November 2026 ATAG.
    - Needs to be addressed: Regional trails signage; Wood County has some "dead zones" such as connecting to BG from the north in the LRTP; Hall Prairie, connect to Whitehouse, Muamee on the AW trail
- An internal after-action review of this year's Bike Month yielded good feedback and improvements to better efficiency next year.
    - The goal is to maximize regional coordination during Bike Month to preserve resources; more help necessary, one big month with many smaller events; ATAG to help with coordinating events.
    - Bike Month Kickoff event more consistent; Bike Month shirts cadence changes every 2 years, can use same design in 2027; Tiara Gonzalez is the staff point of contact for event materials.
    - Ride of Silence will have porta potties next year. The event will include 3 ways to participle: (1) Attend as a supporter for 30 minutes. (2) Participate in a shorter ride – led by Andrew Sankowoski. (3) Participate in the full ride. ROS in 2027 will be held May 19th @ 7pm.
    - The group is currently working on ways to encourage families of riders to ride along, make Andrew more visible to participants of the short ride and attract more people to Bike to Work Day.
- Trail maintenance update
    - Verdantas has diligently fulfilled Lake Erie West's requests to assess the trails on foot, by UTV, and drone footage. They are completing the spreadsheet we provided for all assessment categories. The end product will include the map they're helping us build out, a 20-year cost estimate for trail maintenance, and all media materials to be stored and available. They are waiting to get out on their last trail segment on the Slippery Elm trail and will be completed at the end of August. Lake Erie West staff are meeting with Verdantas bi-weekly to gather updates

and information.

- TARTA's BRT project will include bike accommodations to support cyclists. TARTA staff mentioned a design will be approached and drafted by an estimate in the 1st quarter of 2027.
- The Waterville-Perrysburg Connector is one of three of the main central pieces left to finish out the regional network. Visibility issues and lack of pedestrian-cyclist infrastructure along a 3-mile section southwest of Levis Commons along River Road between the bridge and a roundabout have created safety risks for users.
    - Students at Hull Prairie Intermediate School have been seen climbing the curb railing to access the roundabout and get to school. Perrysburg does plan to install a crosswalk for school in the summer of 2027.
    - Issues are the road has a narrow shoulder, lack of signage, no cross markings, and the road speed limit is 55 mph. There have been a couple accidents with pedestrians in the last couple of years.
    - Staff recommended coordinating with correct personnel, ODOT is required, possibly an LPA. Find out the ownership of the path between the split jurisdictions (Waterville to Whitehouse); this may include Wood Co Engineers, cities, townships, Wood Co Parks Districts. Can be beneficial to explore alternate routes, a path of least resistance.
- The Safe Roads Initiative will be a permanent agenda item moving forward, replacing the regularly scheduled meetings at Lake Erie West Offices. This topic will roll into the ATAG regularly. Raj mentioned developing an incident reporter map to track near misses and accident hotspots, goal by end of 2026.
- Lake Erie West staff are currently working on developing a historic trails narrative for the annual ATP update. The project focuses on the history, development, partnerships and impact of the Wabash Cannonball Trail, Chessie Circle Trail and the University/Parks Trail. In addition to the final draft, Lake Erie West will publicize a story map to view.
    - Anyone that has any information or historic media on the University/Parks trail, please contact and share with Lake Erie West staff.
- E-bike safety concerns were raised, including two trail collisions that took place on trails. E-bikes are grouped in 3 classes. Classes 1 and 2 e-bikes do not require a helmet, and class 3 e-bikes are prohibited from bike paths and trails. With three e-bike classes, it's hard to tell a bike's capability in real-time, making enforcement difficult, and raising safety risks for other trail users.
    - Lake Erie West staff is internally exploring the most optimal direction, which may include the creation of a toolkit, involving data collection, analysis, and a comprehensive community education for the benefit of public safety.
    - A special caucus on e-bikes will be determined at a later date. E-bikes research and best practices can remain as an agenda item going forward.

3. Advisory Group Roundtable

- Lake Erie West is accepting submissions to inform future transportation, housing, workforce, and economic development planning across Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan.
    - Take this short 11-minute survey and share with us how your transportation access influences your employment and housing choices. https://tinyurl.com/2vfvkfxs
- Middletown Township is hosting a Community Safety Day on September 12 from 10:00 am – 2:00pm at 21745 N. Dixie Highway, BG.
- TARTA's BRT site includes planned routes details and station concepts with bike infrastructure: Bus Rapid Transit | TARTA - Toledo Area Regional Transportation Authority.
- A grassroots project is helping build a low-stress bike network, letting users vote on the most feasible routes www.bikestreets.com/oh/toledo

- The Metroparks is aware of the lack of signage announcing resurfacing at University/Parks Trail in Wildwood

4. Next Meeting

- With Lake Erie West staff out of office on the date of the next Active Transportation Advisory Group meeting, the meeting has been **rescheduled for November 24th, 2026 at 9:00 am** at the Lake Erie West Boardroom.