



# Logan-Union-Champaign regional planning commission

Director: Bradley J. Bodenmiller

March 3, 2025

Senate Transportation Committee  
House Bill 54

**RE: Transportation Budget – Removal of RTPO Funding**

Chair Patton, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation Committee:

**I write today to encourage the Ohio Senate, that it reinserts \$5,000,000 (per fiscal year) for Ohio's Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs).** This is federal STBG money which can be used by Ohio's rural communities for construction projects identified as having a regional need.

The Logan-Union-Champaign-Regional Planning Commission (LUC) was formed in 1967 primarily because of the announcement that the Transportation Research Center (TRC) would locate in our three-county region. In partnership with the State and HUD, LUC created a regional plan which included land use and transportation changes. If you compare LUC's regional plan to the layout of US 33 and the land use (zoning) maps of local governments, you will see many recommendations were implemented successfully. **LUC has been a good partner in the State's transportation endeavors since the 1960s.**

In 2013, ODOT created the RTPO program. At the time, it was a two-year pilot program and, because LUC successfully executed the program's requirements, LUC was officially designated by the Governor as an RTPO beyond the pilot's two-year timeframe. **The program gives rural areas of Ohio a voice at the table when identifying and addressing important transportation issues identified on a local level.**

To remain an RTPO, LUC must create and update a transportation plan (which includes soliciting projects from local governments), creating/maintaining a public participation plan, creating/maintaining a Title VI plan, and creating/maintaining an environmental justice plan. LUC also assists the State with its Regional Transportation Improvement Program and an additional process the State is required to do called Rural Consultation. **LUC is the correct organization to do these activities because it is a membership-based organization and 67 of 73 local governments voluntarily join our regional planning commission, and LUC maintains good working relationships with each local government.**

LUC undertakes transportation planning efforts using a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and its Executive Committee. I mention this because I do not want anyone to think it is staff proposing or implementing these activities. You can find a list of the individuals who comprise our TAC and the larger Executive Committee at the link below:

- TAC: [https://www.lucplanning.com/files/ugd/540e57\\_a57c859ab35540a28f916d70e11fa81e.pdf](https://www.lucplanning.com/files/ugd/540e57_a57c859ab35540a28f916d70e11fa81e.pdf)
- Executive Committee (larger group): <https://www.lucplanning.com/luc-members>

You can find a variety of studies done by LUC as part of the RTPO at the link below:

- <https://www.lucplanning.com/rtpo>

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ODOT provides funding to RTPOs for transportation planning activities but not funding for actual construction projects. Around 2020, the State awarded funding for construction projects through the State transportation budget process (STBG dollars), for the first time, to RTPOs. A second round was awarded around 2022. **Funding for these construction projects sometimes requires extensions because the budgeting process is on a two-year timeline; RTPOs are not provided four years, as I understand Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) have, to complete projects.**

Federal monies come with permitting and review requirements that can take multiple years to complete unless a project is categorically exempt, and the relatively small money provided to RTPOs comes with the pressure to complete a project within two years. Even rebidding a project can take time because timing is a factor, as rebidding in the third or fourth quarters of the year tend to result in higher bids being more costly. RTPO projects tend to be within existing right-of-way limits, do not impact water, or avoid activities which trigger NEPA requirements. **RTPOs require flexibility with the two-year timeframe because the funding is new and because it is a challenge to work through federal requirements and deliver a completed project within 2 years.**

Now, the House Transportation Budget recommends eliminating the \$5,000,000 (per fiscal year) funding for future RTPO construction projects. **I am hopeful the Senate will see the work being done by rural areas to identify and study transportation issues (funds which are not being changed) and efforts by rural areas to address those transportation issues through use of construction dollars (funds which are proposed cut from the transportation budget).**

The funds remain important because the money provides more opportunities for rural areas. In continued and strong partnership with the State, RTPOs are committed to advancing solutions for rural transportation issues. **I urge you to continue providing these additional funds to RTPOs.**

For your review, I've included a copy of LUC's current roster of projects and will provide a copy of the RTPO Impact Report (2024) as requested. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bodenmiller", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Bradley Bodenmiller  
Director | LUC Regional Planning Commission

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Item #	PID	County-Route-Section/ Location/Termini/Description	Total Construction Cost	ELLIS Funding						Air Quality	Congestion Mitigation	Regionally Significant	Future Construction	EJ Target Area	LPA Non-Traditional	System Preservation	Safety & Security	Economic Vitality	Fiscally Balanced	Env Doc Complete	Local Let PS&E to District/ Tracing Complete ODOT Let	Sale	Award
				Source	Type	Phase/ SubPhase	SFY	Quarter	Amount														
Cancelled Projects																							
1	115980	LOG-TR179 00.85  Widen TR 179 in Logan County, Jefferson Township by two feet to improve roadway safety.	217	F O O	STBG L L	CO CC CO CC CO CE	2025 2025 2025	1 1 1	151 46 20	E				M L	X	X	X		X	1/19/2024 Clear	3/28/2024 Complete	5/14/2024 Sold	7/1/2024
Sold/Awarded Projects																							
2	115979	LOG-CR18 Profile Improvements  Improve roadway safety by performing profile improvements on CR18 to increase the line of sight for vehicles on CR18 and for vehicles approaching CR18 from TR216, TR200, and CR200. Total length of profile improvement is 1,000-feet.	179	F O O	STBG L L	CO CC CO CC CO CE	2024 2024 2024	4 4 4	158 9 12	E				M L	X	X	X		X	8/11/2023 Clear	12/22/2023 Complete	4/2/2024 Sold	5/6/2024 Awarded
3	112484	CHP-PAVE-FY25  Resurface state routes within the village of Mechanicsburg and perform full depth repairs on SR 4	1,312	F S F S F O F S F S O	PRESERV PRESERV PRESERV PRESERV STBG L LABR LABR LABR LABR LABR	CO CC CO CC CO CC CO CC CO CC CO CC CO CE CO CE CO CE CO CE CO CE	2025 2025 2025 2025 2025 2025 2025 2025 2025 2025 2025	3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	439 110 479 120 72 18 26 7 29 7 5	E					X	X			X	10/31/2024 Clear	11/1/2024 Complete	2/13/2025 Sold	2/21/2025 Awarded

All funding amounts listed in thousands

Green = Encumbered Funding

Green = Complete  
Red = Late

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				Source	Type	Phase/ SubPhase	SFY	Quarter	Amount														
4	115978	CHP-Urbana Bike Trail  Improve bike trail crossings with signage, stripings and flashing beacons.	806	F	STBG	PE DD	2024	2	4	F				M	X	X	X		X	7/21/2023 Clear	12/16/2024 Complete	2/25/2025	3/27/2025
				O	L	PE DD	2024	1	1	F				L									
				F	STBG	RW SVC	2024	2	27	F													
				F	STBG	RW ACQ	2024	2	12	F													
				F	HSIP	CO CC	2025	4	661	F													
				O	L	CO CC	2025	4	73	F													
				F	HSIP	CO CE	2025	4	50	O													
				O	L	CO CE	2025	4	5	F													
				F	STBG	CO CE	2025	4	17														
5	115394	CHP-Court St. Bridge  The proposed project will replace the existing structurally deficient concrete beam bridge located on West Court Street between North High Street and North Russell Street In the City of Urbana with a new precast, circular reinforced concrete pipe; surface restorations will be made within the project area and bridge approach, including sidewalk replacement, drive approach replacement, curb and gutter replacement, and pavement restoration.	684	O	L	PE DD	2024	1	28	E				M	X	X			X	6/13/2023 Clear	1/3/2025 Complete	3/3/2025	4/15/2025
				F	BRDG	CO CC	2025	1	379					L									
				F	STBG	CO CC	2025	1	243														
				F	STBG	CO CE	2025	1	19														
				O	L	CO CE	2025	1	43														
6	121427	LOG-VAR GR Upgrade  Upgrade existing guardrail sections on county roads	207	F	STBG	CO CC	2025	4	19	E				M	X	X	X		X	1/21/2025 Clear	2/15/2025	4/1/2025	5/1/2025
				F	STBG	CO CC	2025	4	28					L									
				F	STBG	CO CC	2025	4	144														
				O	L	CO CE	2025	4	1														
				O	L	CO CE	2025	4	2														
				O	L	CO CE	2025	4	13														
7	114353	CHP-CR 216/2/223  Resurfacing of various county roads	3,098	F	STBG	PE DD	2024	2	7	E				L	X	X			X	8/8/2023 Clear	4/1/2025	8/1/2025	9/15/2025
				F	HSIP	CO CC	2026	1	2,000														
				O	L	CO CC	2026	1	500														
				O	L	CO CC	2026	1	508														
				O	L	CO CE	2026	1	90														
8	121449	LOG-Brown Ave. Sidewalk Imp  Sidewalk Improvements	261	O	L	PE PD	2025	4	15	E				M	X	X	X		X	9/1/2025	2/15/2026	4/15/2026	5/1/2026
				F	STBG	CO CC	2026	4	193														
				O	L	CO CC	2026	4	48														
				O	L	CO CE	2026	4	20														

All funding amounts listed in thousands

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# Ohio Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO)

Projects funded through HB74 - RTPO Planning Grant Program

SFY22/23 Budget

RTPO	Applicant Agency	Project Name	PID	ODOT District	County	Ttl Project Cost	STBG Ttl	Project Phase
OMEGA	East Liverpool	Riverfront Trail (Phase 1.1)	117785	11	Colubina	\$ 1,750,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	PE
OMEGA	Uhrichsville	3rd St Bridge	116211	11	Tuscarawas	\$ 1,896,999.00	\$ 247,909.00	DD/RW/CO
OMEGA	Berlin	Berlin Elementary Sidewalks		11	Holmes	\$ 702,644.00	\$ 351,322.00	CO
OMEGA	Port Washington	Sidewalk Improvement	120042	11	Tuscarawas	\$ 1,425,000.00	\$ 233,794.00	PE/DD/CO
CORPO	City of Marysville	UNI-SR31- 0.77	114102	6	Union	\$ 4,417,146.00	\$ 200,000.00	CO
CORPO	City of Mount Vernon	Edgewood Road Improvements	120233	5	Knox	\$ 9,758,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	PE/DD
CORPO	City of Lancaster	Memorial Drive Pedestrian Crossings	120594	5	Fairfield	\$ 315,532.00	\$ 252,426.00	PE/DD/RW
CORPO	Village of Plain City	Plain City Uptown Intersection Modification	121878	6	Madison	\$ 52,500.00	\$ 42,000.00	DD
CORPO	Madison County Engineer	MAD-CR0004-09.07 overOpossumRun,BridgeReplacement	121878	6	Madison	\$ 359,610.35	\$ 287,688.00	CO
CORPO	Village of Gambier	Gambier Trail Connection		5	Knox	\$ 124,000.00	\$ 99,200.00	DD
CORPO	Knox Area Transit	KAT Transit Facility		5	Knox	\$ 8,380,625.00	\$ 500,000.00	CO
OVRDC	Village of Greenfield	Jefferson St Pedestrian Bridge & Sidewalk Project	115219	9	Highland	\$ 617,370.00	\$ 291,633.00	CO
OVRDC	Pike County	Wakefield Mount Rd Retaining Wall	120347	9	Pike	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 360,000.00	CO
OVRDC	Ross County	ROS159 & US23 Interchange & growth Study Area	120344	9	Ross	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	PE
OVRDC	Portsmouth	Coles Blvd Safety Improvements	117315	9	Scioto	\$ 577,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	PE
OVRDC	Scioto County	CR503 Ohio Rive Rd Safety Improvements - Phase 1	120345	9	Scioto	\$ 880,008.54	\$ 500,000.00	CO
OVRDC	Wellston	Pennsylvania Ave Reconstruction	121797	9	Jackson	\$ 210,438.00	\$ 189,394.20	PE
OVRDC	Portsmouth	Coles Blvd Safety Improvements	117315	9	Scioto	\$ 4,985,950.00	\$ 500,000.00	CO
OVRDC	Scioto County	CR503 Ohio Rive Rd Safety Improvements - Phase 2	120345	9	Scioto	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	CO
LUC	Village of Mechanicsburg	CHP-PAVE-FY25	112484	7	Champaign	\$ 5,256,756.00	\$ 82,080.00	CO
LUC	City of Urbana	CHP-Urbana Bike Trail	115978	7	Champaign	\$ 718,233.00	\$ 18,140.00	CO
LUC	City of Urbana	CHP-Court St. Bridge	115394	7	Champaign	\$ 760,634.11	\$ 168,570.00	CO
LUC	Logan County Engineer	LOG-VAR GR Upgrade	121427	7	Logan	\$ 177,249.91	\$ 161,136.29	CO
LUC	City of Bellefontaine	LOG-Brown Ave. Sidewalk Imp	121449	7	Logan	\$ 241,493.30	\$ 164,722.40	CO
BHRC	Noble County Engineers Office	CEVSD Campus Connectivty	120193	10	Noble	\$ 3,632,359.00	\$ 357,359.00	PE/DD/RW
BHRC	Village of Racine	Active Transportation Sidewalk Ext		10	Meigs	\$ 210,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	PE/DD/RW
BHRC	City of Nelsonville	Canal Street and Burr Oak Blvd Resurfacing	116910	10	Athens	\$ 4,108,499.00	\$ 200,000.00	PE/DD/RW
BHRC	Monroe TID	MOE Woodsfield SR 78 Multi-Use Path	119860	10	Monroe	\$ 1,236,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	PE/DD/RW
BHRC	Village of Crooksville	Industrial Drive Sidewalk Improvements		5	Perry	\$ 834,700.00	\$ 175,000.00	PE/DD/RW
BHRC	Village of Coolville	Culvert Replacement		10	Athens	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	PE/DD/RW
BHRC	Murray City	Milling and Paving		10	Hocking	\$ 410,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	PE/DD/RW
BHRC	Hocking County	Master Plan		10	Hocking	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	PE/DD
MVPO	Defiance County Engineer	Christy Road Repaving	119766	1	Defiance		\$ 125,000.00	CO
MVPO	Defiance County Engineer	Banner School Rd Connection	117664	1	Defiance		\$ 304,548.00	CO
MVPO	City of Bryan	SR 15/127 Repairs		2	Williams		\$ 512,000.00	CO
						<b>Total Project \$\$</b> <b>\$ 56,038,747.21</b>	<b>Total RTPO Funds</b> <b>\$ 9,273,921.89</b>	<b>Total Leveraged</b> <b>\$ 46,764,825.32</b>