

2023 ►

Active Living Program Summary



**Department of
Health**

Creating Healthy
Communities (CHC)





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2023 ACTIVE LIVING PROGRAM SUMMARY

VISION

Vibrant Ohio communities where everyone has access to healthy food and opportunities for active living.

MISSION

Activating community-led solutions to create sustainable change in policies, places, and population health.

COMMITMENT TO EQUITY

Health equity is achieved when all people in a community have access to affordable, inclusive and quality infrastructure and services that, despite historical inequities and contemporary injustices, allows them to reach their full health potential.

INTRODUCTION

The Ohio Department of Health's (ODH) Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) program promotes policy, systems, and environmental changes that increase opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity throughout Ohio. Funding comes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant and the State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) Grant. Additional funding was provided by the Building Resilient Inclusive Communities (BRIC) program from the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) for certain communities.

CHC supports 22 counties through a competitive grant process to implement healthy eating and active living strategies. In 2022, ODH released a new grant program known as Capacity Building for Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) to expand the program into additional counties; 18 new counties received funding through this initiative, with four of these working on active living strategies.

The ODH CHC Program contracts with Toole Design to provide technical assistance and develops resources to support the work of communities funded through these programs, specifically those addressing physical activity and active living. This document summarizes the activities and outcomes provided by Toole Design from October 2022 through September 2023. Toole Design continued to support CHC Communities with a range of personalized technical assistance and introduced new monthly office hours where coordinators could ask questions and share ideas with each other. Toole Design also worked with newer HEAL-funded communities to build their knowledge and capacity for delivering active living projects.

CHC ACTIVE LIVING STRATEGIES

In 2023, CHC communities worked on a total of 50 active living projects across nine strategy areas:

Number of Projects (Grant Year 2023)				
Strategies				
18	10	4	2	3
Parks/ Playgrounds	Bike Infrastructure	Pedestrian Infrastructure	Multi-Use Trails	Safe Routes to School
Accessible places to play within communities. This includes improving or rehabilitating existing playgrounds, or building new ones.	Supportive physical infrastructure that allows people to safely, conveniently, and comfortably use bicycles for transportation. Examples include on- and off-street bikeways, secure bicycle parking, fix-it stations for bicycle maintenance, and bikeshare programs.	Supportive physical improvements that allow people to safely, conveniently, and comfortably walk or use a mobility device to get to their destinations, regardless of age or ability. Examples include walkways, crossings, accessible pathways, and wayfinding signage.	Shared, accessible pathways for exclusive use by nonmotorized users including walkers, runners, people with mobility devices, bicyclists, electric scooter riders, skaters, horses and buggies, and more.	Programs and infrastructure that make it safer and easier for students to walk and bike to school. Examples include infrastructure improvements, safety education, and participation incentives.

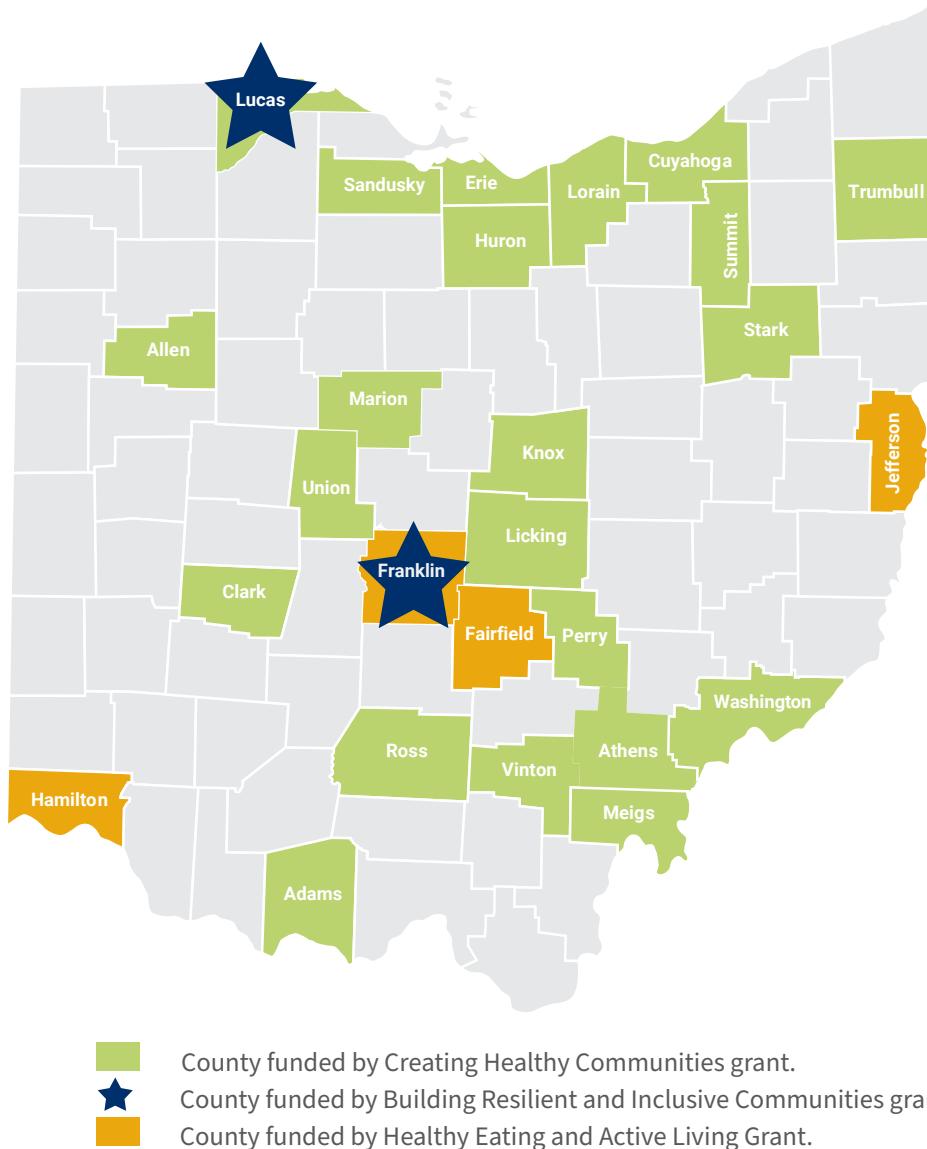


CHC ACTIVE LIVING STRATEGIES

Number of Projects (Grant Year 2023)			
3	8	1	1
Strategies			
Complete Streets Policy	Active Transportation Plan(ATP)	Land Use Policy	Active Commute Support
Policies that establish a commitment to ensuring that all streets in a community are designed and built for all travelers.	A roadmap for improved walking and bicycling conditions in a community. Active transportation planning can take place at the regional, county, city, village, or neighborhood level.	The practice of how communities manage and modify their physical space, including both the places that people occupy for living as well as natural habitats, open space, and agricultural land. This includes comprehensive planning, zoning, and other regulations.	Programs to promote ways of getting to work that result in higher levels of physical activity than driving a car – such as walking, bicycling, and taking public transit.



FUNDED COMMUNITIES FOR ACTIVE LIVING STRATEGIES, GRANT YEAR 2023



CHC GRANTEE DIRECT ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT

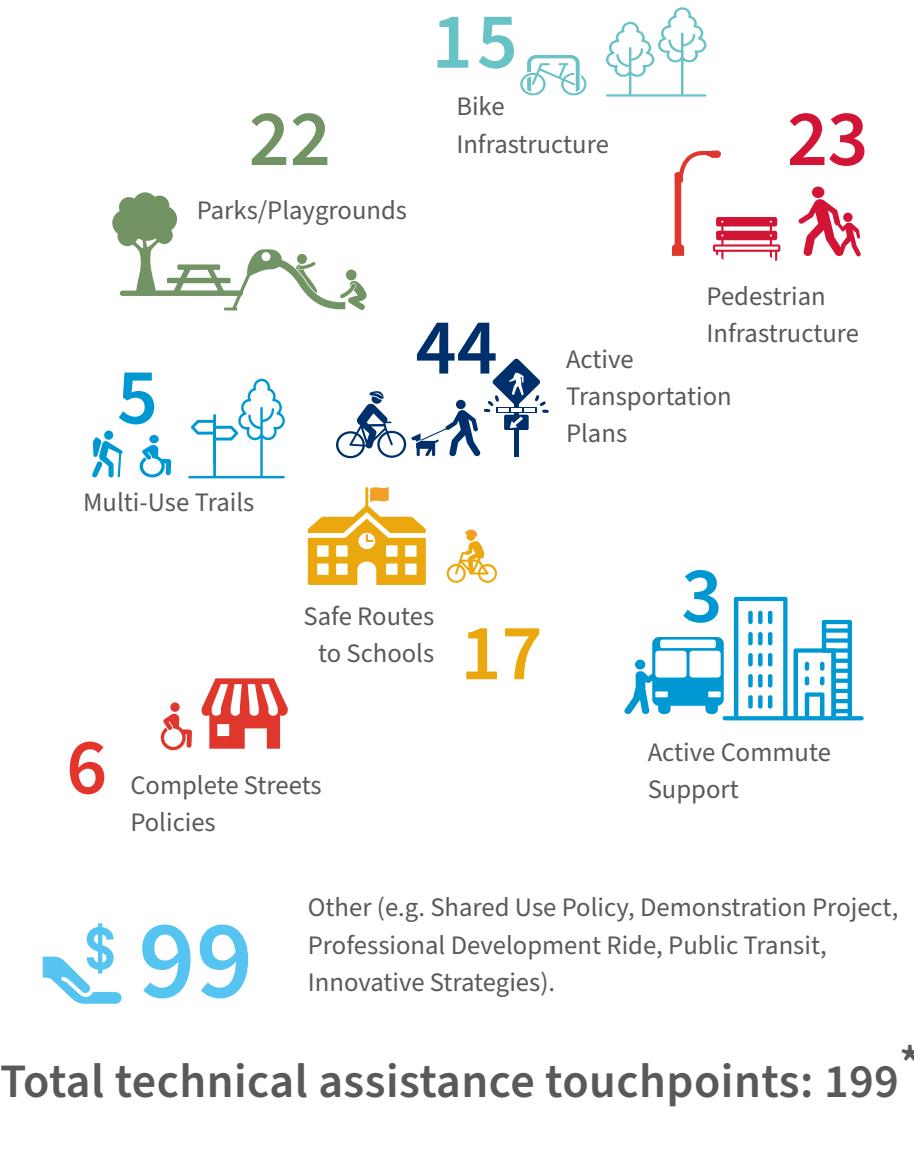
Toole Design worked with CHC coordinators to advise them on projects in their work plans and provide resources and expertise to advance their work.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Between October 2022 and September 2023, Toole Design assisted CHC coordinators nearly 200 times. Toole Design staff tracked each contact by subject of technical assistance, resources provided, and whether a follow-up was needed to offer continued assistance. The topics that Toole Design most commonly advised CHC coordinators on were active transportation planning, pedestrian infrastructure, parks and playgrounds, bike infrastructure, and Complete Streets policies.

Examples of specific requests and support included:

- Reviewing draft and final workplans.
- Discussing specific funding opportunities.
- Brainstorming potential pedestrian crossing treatments.
- Reviewing and scoring Complete Streets policies using the National Complete Streets Coalition rubric.
- Supporting funding applications for plans and infrastructure projects.
- Advising on options for adaptive bicycles.
- Sharing resources on bicycle library programs.
- Preparing City Council presentations for Active Transportation Plan adoption.
- Compiling guidance on accessible trail design.
- Downloading and mapping crash statistics.
- Reviewing draft Vision Zero, Safe Routes to School, and Active Transportation Plans.
- Providing guidance on Active Transportation Planning.



Total technical assistance touchpoints: 199*

*Some touchpoints covered multiple topics.

LOCAL SUPPORT

In addition to one-on-one technical assistance, some coordinators sought additional support for implementation of their projects. Local support took on a broad variety of topics and needs this year, such as in-person workshops, development of communications materials, grant application advice, and concept engineering. Toole Design supported six projects in this way, described below.

1
Successful funding application

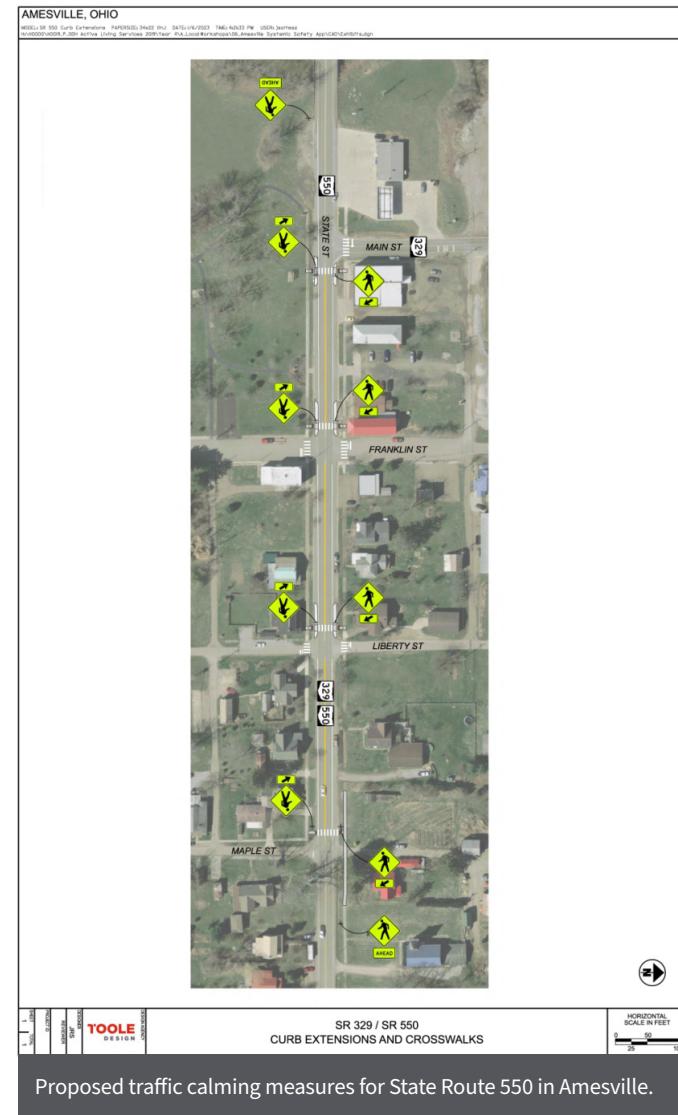


152
Local workshop participants

3
Draft plans supported

Athens County
Amesville Systemic Safety Application and Traffic Calming Workshop

Following a successful Complete Streets workshop in 2022, Toole Design assisted the Village of Amesville in submitting a Systemic Safety funding application to the Ohio Department of Transportation to install traffic calming measures along the state route running through the center of town. The application was successfully funded for approximately \$260,000. Following that funding announcement, residents also had concerns about speeding in other parts of the village. Toole Design hosted a walking workshop to discuss potential traffic calming and funding approaches for village roads.



Washington County Beverly Outdoor Recreation Plan



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the Northern Border Regional Commission, and the Appalachian Regional Commission selected Beverly as a recipient of the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities Program (RERCP). This funding source helps communities enhance outdoor recreation opportunities and strengthen downtowns through technical assistance in a planning process and by bringing federal and state partners to the community for a two-day planning process.

The plan established three goals:

- Establishing a multi-use trail to connect to the Marietta River Trail.
- Highlighting Beverly/Waterford as a waterway recreation destination and improving the island at the dock to create a destination.
- Enhancing the appeal of downtown Beverly to visitors, specifically river and trail users.

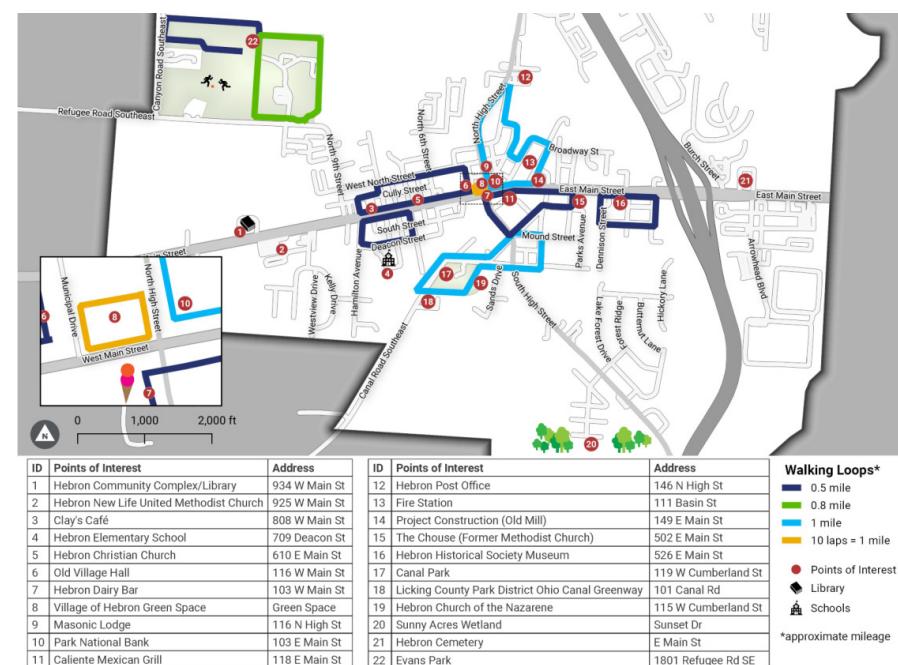
The Washington County CHC Coordinator invited Toole Design to participate in several virtual planning meetings to prepare for a community workshop, and to attend the two-day community workshop. Toole's focus was to assist with moving the active transportation related goals forward for the Village of Beverly and the larger Washington County area. Toole supported the process by providing context for this planning effort from the Beverly Active Transportation Plan; inviting additional community partners to assist in helping Beverly achieve active transportation specific goals; inviting other CHC Coordinators who may want to consider RERCP as a source for assistance in their communities, and making sure the entire multi-use trail was included in action items.

[The final plan can be accessed here.](#)

Licking County Hebron Walking Map



In support of ongoing pedestrian infrastructure projects, the Village of Hebron requested help to develop a public-facing map highlighting several comfortable walking routes to important village destinations. Toole Design worked with the village and CHC staff to design a map pamphlet which highlights nine suggested walking loops ranging from 0.1 mile to 1 mile in length. It also includes 22 community points of interests including churches, cafes, libraries, parks, and historical locations. The map is being distributed throughout the community. In addition, the village is exploring the installation of temporary wayfinding signage to help people navigate the walking routes in the real world.



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Hebron walking map.

Sandusky County Clyde Complete Streets Policy Workshop



Toole Design hosted a two-hour workshop with the Sandusky County Health Department and partners to collaboratively draft a Complete Streets Policy for the City of Clyde. The workshop participants included a variety of stakeholders from key partner agencies in the region, including City staff, economic development, mobility management, and more. Toole Design facilitators gave an introductory presentation to Complete Streets Policies and their benefits. The group then used a version of the Complete Streets Policy Development Workbook that was created for the 2022 Action Institute to walk the participants through a series of questions related to the ten Complete Streets policy elements. In the second half of the workshop, the group took a walk through the community to discuss the current conditions of streets for walking and biking. Following the workshop, Sandusky County Health Department and partners have continued to work through the policy workbook and draft a policy, along with conducting walk audits and planning for a temporary demonstration project. The City of Clyde expects to present the policy for adoption by the end of 2023.



City staff and partners from the City of Clyde Complete Streets Policy committee.

Allen County Lima Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park Workshop



The Allen County CHC coordinator is working to install park improvements at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park in Lima. Toole Design staff provided ongoing support to brainstorm stakeholder engagement strategies and how to ensure that the desires of community parkgoers are reflected in the facility recommendations. Challenges faced for the project included communicating and engaging with the community, engaging partners and keeping them involved, and ongoing vandalism leading to reluctance and apathy towards investments in park infrastructure.

Perry County Perry County Progress Workshop



Perry County is facing ongoing and increasing development challenges due to growth in neighboring counties but does not have a comprehensive plan or land use controls to help shape outcomes. The CHC coordinator was looking for ways to help community leaders understand the benefits of zoning and land use to support development as well as active living goals. Toole Design helped plan and deliver a workshop bringing together nearly 100 community leaders to discuss their vision for the future of the county, along with a presentation on the economic impacts of supporting a recreational tourism economy. The participants talked about what they loved in the community, as well as what types of housing, businesses, and amenities were missing from the county and where they would and wouldn't like to see development occur in the future.



Attendees of the Perry County Progress workshop.

Union County

North Union County Active Transportation Plan Kickoff and Recommendations Development



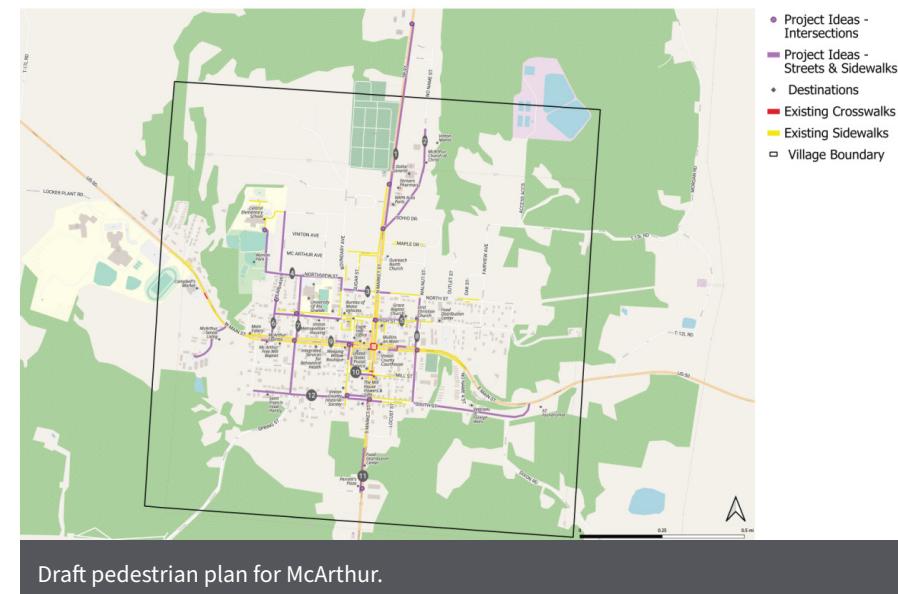
Toole Design hosted a two-hour workshop with community members from Richwood and Magnetic Springs to kick off the North Union Active Transportation Plan. The workshop participants included a variety of stakeholders from key partner agencies in the county, such as Village staff, Township staff, Richwood Library, and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) District 6. Toole Design facilitators walked through what an active transportation plan is and why it's important, the project timeline, and engagement results. In addition, they facilitated a discussion on vision and goals and conducted a mapping exercise with participants to identify destinations and gaps/barriers to walking and biking. Participants unanimously wanted to see more walkable villages and identified the new walking trail around Richwood Lake as a popular destination. Streets without sidewalks were identified in both Richwood and Magnetic Springs as well as destinations that residents would want to walk or bike to, such as the baseball fields, the high school, and a local farm, Red Fox Farms. Following the workshop, Toole Design worked with the Union County Health Department to create a first draft of preliminary infrastructure recommendations and helped inform the vision and goals for the Plan.

Vinton County

McArthur Pedestrian Infrastructure Inventory and Recommendations



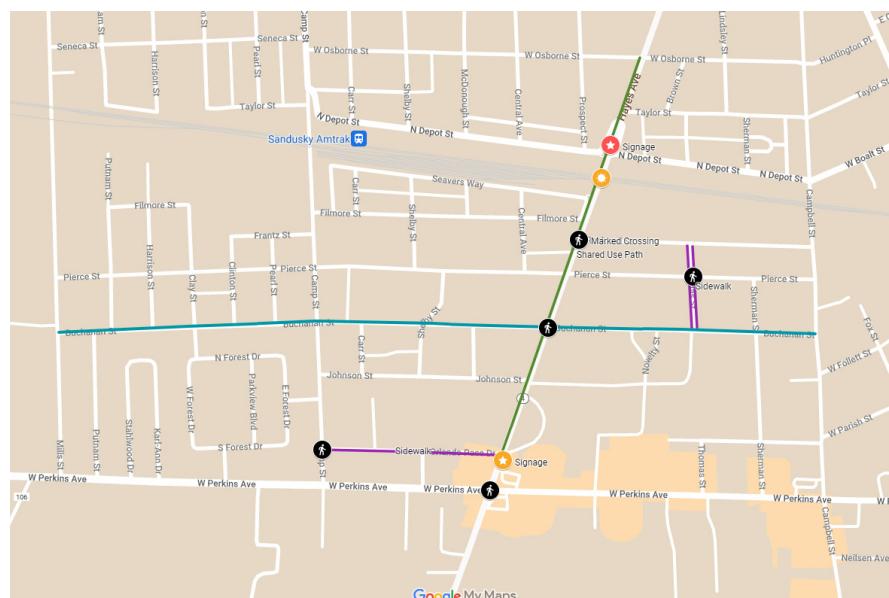
The Village of McArthur needed a plan for potential pedestrian improvements in order to pursue potential funding opportunities. Toole Design worked closely with the CHC Coordinator to develop a streamlined process to identify needs, make infrastructure recommendations, and prioritize projects. Activities included using aerial imagery to create a digital inventory of existing sidewalks and crosswalks and conducting walk audits with community partners to assess conditions. Based on these assessments, they came up with a list of 12 potential projects, such as adding new sidewalks or shared use paths, repairing existing sidewalks, and adding crossing enhancements. The CHC coordinator is now presenting the proposals to the community to receive feedback on which projects should be pursued first.



Erie County Sandusky School Travel Plan



The CHC coordinator for Erie County led an initiative to update the School Travel Plan for three schools on the southern side of the City of Sandusky, identifying ways to improve and promote walking and biking to school. The planning process involved members of the school community, City staff, and regional partners. Some key areas of concern around the schools included missing sidewalk sections, high volumes of traffic on surrounding streets, and poor lighting through a railroad underpass. Toole Design worked with the CHC coordinator to review and refine the plan, coordinate with City staff, and develop cost estimates for the proposed projects.



Draft recommendations for the Sandusky School Travel Plan.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RIDES AND TRAININGS

Professional Development Rides are an opportunity for decision makers and professionals working in the active transportation field to experience bicycling in their community. The guided route is typically four to eight miles long and highlights various roadway types between everyday destinations. The group makes several stops throughout the ride, during which participants discuss what they've witnessed and reflect together. Toole Design delivered one traditional professional development ride, and also trained leaders in five communities to develop and lead their own community rides.

1	2	19	415	38
Professional development ride	Ride leader trainings	Participants	Collective miles of roadway ridden	Hours of instruction

Athens County Gloster Professional Development Ride

Toole Design staff traveled to Athens County to deliver a professional development ride in the Village of Gloster and Trimble Township. The ride was organized in support of the ongoing development of the Athens County Active Transportation Plan and focused especially on the topic of transit connectivity for Trimble Township. The ride was attended by five community partners, including elected officials from Athens County, Athens City, and Gloster, as well as the Hocking Athens Perry Community Action (HAPCAP) mobility manager. A major topic of the ride was that Trimble Township residents need and want to be able to travel to other communities, especially Athens, for business services, medical offices, and personal reasons. Conversations were started on how each community can contribute to achieving this goal. In addition, an unpaved trail was identified that could provide a crucial first and last mile connection to transit if it were to be paved.



Participants on the Gloucester Professional Development Ride.

Summit, Ross, Huron, Knox, and Delaware Counties Ride Leader Training

Several CHC communities have new or long-running bike libraries and were interested in promoting the service through community rides or safety training. This led to the idea to develop and deliver an in-depth ride leader training to empower coordinators and community partners to deliver this service promoting active transportation. Toole Design staff led a three-day ride leader training with 11 people, featuring a mixture of classroom sessions, role play exercises, bicycle mechanics demonstrations, and group bicycle rides. By the end of the training participants had already planned and led several rides with each other and left with a plan to work together to deliver a series of local rides in the following year.

Delaware County | Capacity Building Delaware Professional Development Ride Training

Toole Design staff designed a mini ride leader training for the Delaware Public Health District and a partner from the United Way of Delaware. The goal of the training was for United Way's Transitional Living Program Site Manager to lead educational rides for young adults who have aged out of foster care and are currently residing in a residential facility while working towards independent living. Participants were trained to ride a variety of road types and teach others to do the same. The training involved a combination of interactive classroom sessions and on-bike experience. The group connected and deepened relationships with existing community partners. Those who were on the ride were excited about ride programming and one offered to volunteer to assist in leading future rides.



Bicycle mechanics lesson during the Ride Leader Training.

Ride Leader Training Participant Testimonials

Great training, can't wait to put it into practice!

The Training Team was exceptional. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I liked that you made us practice, practice, practice in front of the group to really soak in the information.

This event was **LIFE CHANGING** for me personally. Learned valuable information and SOOOOO many ideas for CHC and how to implement them into my county!



Image: © Toole Design Group LLC



Image: © Toole Design Group LLC

HEAL GRANTEE DIRECT ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT

In 2022, ODH used SPAN funding to create a new grant opportunity, known as Capacity Building for Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL). This was open to all non-CHC funded communities in Ohio to apply to build capacity for SPAN strategies, including local community engagement and assessment, food service guidelines, Complete Streets policies, and active transportation planning. Eighteen applicants received funding; of those, communities in five counties (Jefferson County/Steubenville, Fairfield County, Hamilton County/Mt Healthy and Lincoln Heights, and Franklin County/Reynoldsburg and Franklin Township) are working to develop a Complete Streets Policy or Active Transportation Plan. Ongoing technical assistance is offered to these communities through the Active Living Services contract throughout the course of the grant.

4 Active Transportation Plans in development

1 Complete Streets Policy in development

3 Partner workshops



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Between October 2022 and September 2023, Toole Design assisted HEAL grantees more than 60 times. Toole Design staff tracked each contact by subject of technical assistance, resources provided, and whether a follow-up was needed to offer continued assistance.

Examples of specific requests and support included:

- Providing feedback on workplans and timelines.
- Sharing resources on planning for walk audits.
- Reviewing stakeholder engagement results and discussing how these could lead to active transportation recommendations.
- Helping draft outreach emails to partners.
- Reviewing and scoring draft Complete Streets Policies.

Technical assistance provided by topic:

18 Complete Streets Policy

54 Active Transportation Plan

12 Capacity Building

67* Total technical assistance touchpoints:

*Some touchpoints covered multiple topics.

LOCAL SUPPORT

Franklin County

Reynoldsburg Complete Streets Policy Workshop & Draft Policy



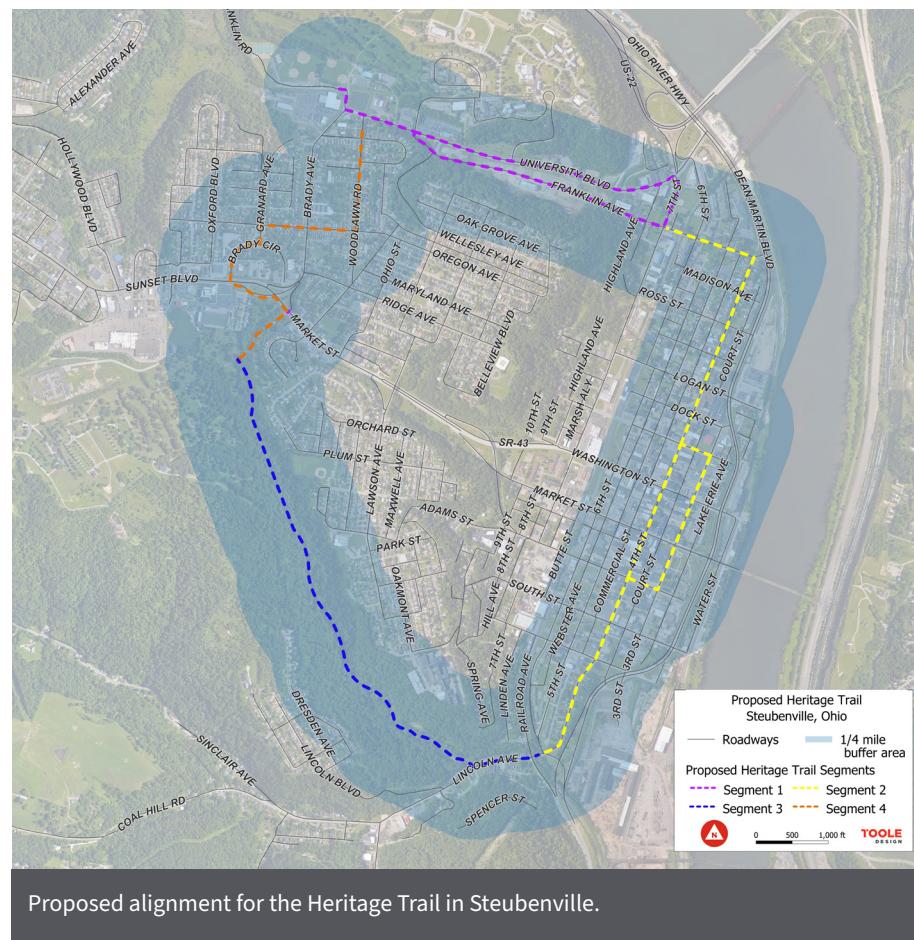
Toole Design hosted a two-hour workshop with HEAL grantee, Franklin County Public Health, to collaboratively draft a Complete Streets Policy for the City of Reynoldsburg. The workshop participants included a variety of partners from key agencies in the region, including the transit agency, Metropolitan Planning Organization, school board, City staff, and elected officials. Toole Design facilitators used the Complete Streets Policy Development Workshop to walk the participants through a series of questions related to the ten Complete Streets policy elements. Following the workshop, Toole Design worked with Franklin County Public Health to draft and revise the policy, which has been officially adopted by Reynoldsburg City Council.

Jefferson County

Steubenville Heritage Trail Charette & Report



Jefferson County General Health District (JCGHD) is leading the development of an Active Transportation Plan (ATP) for the City of Steubenville. Through stakeholder engagement the Heritage Trail was identified as a priority because if implemented, the trail would provide residents and visitors with transportation and recreation opportunities through four distinct areas of Steubenville. As part of the ATP process, Toole Design and JCGHD hosted a workshop to discuss the Heritage Trail. Workshop participants included local elected officials, Steubenville City staff, representatives from the Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission, as well as many engaged community members who live and/or work along the Heritage Trail. Participants discussed the various needs, challenges, and opportunities along all four distinct segments of the Heritage Trail. The workshop led to a proposal for each segment of the trail, including a description of location, a list of key community destinations along or nearby the trail, a list of important stakeholders needed to move forward with implementation, and a list of key infrastructure recommendations.



Fairfield County Lancaster East Main Street Walk Audit

Toole Design assisted Fairfield County Health Department in carrying out a walk audit of a three-block segment of East Main Street in Lancaster. Through discussions with partners from the City and County, this street was selected due to the large number of destinations often frequented by walkers and bikers, and concerns about the history of crashes. During the two-hour walk audit, the participants broke into two groups to survey each segment of the road, stopping at intersections to discuss their observations. The full walk audit report was provided to the City of Lancaster to assist in potential future planning efforts and funding applications.



Hamilton County Hamilton County Plan and Policy Review

The Hamilton County Health Department is developing Active Transportation Plans for two small communities to the north of Cincinnati: Mount Healthy, a city of around 7,000; and Lincoln Heights, an historically Black village of 3,000. A crucial first step in starting a new planning process is to understand what plans have already been made in the past, so that new efforts can build on progress and avoid conflicting messaging. Toole Design helped the Health Department gather and review a variety of past plans for the two communities, including regional trail and transit plans, land use and development plans, and school travel plans. The plan review included identifying which key issues and which projects previously proposed by the communities might be relevant in an active transportation plan. Combined with the community engagement and fieldwork conducted by the Health Department, these will help form the basis for active transportation recommendations for each community.



Table 2. Existing Plans and Policies

Plan/Policy	Lead Agency	Year Completed	Key Takeaways (what proposed projects/policies will impact the active transportation)
Comprehensive Plan	City of Mt. Healthy	2007	Lays out plan for safe, walkable, environmentally sensitive community.
Recreation and Trails Plan	City of Mt. Healthy		Bike trail plan.
Safe Routes to School Plans	Hamilton County Public Health/ Mt. Healthy City School District	2017	School transportation plan.
Complete Streets Policy	n/a		
Vision Zero Policy	n/a		
Bicycle and Pedestrian Development Regulations	City of Mt. Healthy		All new housing developments require sidewalks.
Street Revitalization Plan	City of Mt. Healthy/Urban Fast Forward	2021	Helps revitalize major thoroughfare to increase mobility and walkability within the community.

Table 3. Existing Supportive Programs

Program Name	Program lead (organization)	Target Audience	Key Takeaways (how does this program support active transportation?)
Walk/Bike to School Days	n/a		
Open Streets	n/a		
Trail/Bicycle Maps	City of Mt. Healthy	Mt. Healthy residents	Trail maps being posted at local parks.

Existing plans, policies, and supportive programs for Mt. Healthy, Ohio.

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITY

Toole Design developed a series of resources to help coordinators and partners build their knowledge about active living topics and to facilitate their activities. These were distributed to CHC coordinators via email and the CHC Engagement Hub internal peer networking site.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Inclusive Playgrounds FAQ

People of all ages and abilities have an innate need to engage in playful activities as a part of healthy development. Inclusive playgrounds are universally designed, sensory-rich environments built not only for those who have physical disabilities, but also for those with varying intellectual abilities or sensory needs, ultimately providing a rewarding play experience for all users. Several CHC communities have built successful inclusive playgrounds or included inclusive elements in updated playgrounds. Toole Design created a resource with information on the benefits of play, elements of inclusive playgrounds, safety considerations, and funding opportunities.



A wheelchair-accessible swing in Adams County.

Downtown Redevelopment FAQ

Revitalizing main streets and the downtown areas they travel through can provide many benefits to communities, like attracting visitors, improving economic growth, expanding cultural engagement, and increasing public health and wellbeing. Over the years, small and rural communities have struggled to maintain their main streets and downtowns, but these spaces play a vital role in serving household needs, providing jobs, attracting visitors, and providing opportunities for physical activity. Toole Design created a resource highlighting the benefits of main street revitalization, design elements to include, the role of main streets in an active transportation network, local revitalization examples, and funding sources.



Public art and green space on a main street in Washington Courthouse.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Wayfinding FAQ

A wayfinding system is a set of signs or information that helps people navigate to where they want to go. Providing wayfinding systems in a community welcomes and orients bicyclists and pedestrians, provides rules and regulations, promotes destinations and amenities, and encourages people to be more active. Wayfinding systems can be used to orient travelers within downtown areas, along trails and bicycle routes, and elsewhere in a community. They are an important aspect of active transportation infrastructure. This FAQ describes the guiding principles and basic process of wayfinding, types of signs, destination selection, and sign design.



Wayfinding signs on a trail.

Process Objectives Menu Rewrite

In previous years of this contract, Toole Design had developed a Process Objectives Menu for Complete Streets Policies and Active Transportation Planning. This menu was intended as a resource for coordinators as they developed workplans in these two key focus areas, giving them a set of potential steps they could include to meet their objectives. Several years had passed since the original resource was produced, so this year it was updated to better reflect the workplan guidance provided to CHC coordinators and to include additional steps and updated resources.

Active Transportation Funding Matrix

To assist coordinators in finding funding opportunities for their projects, Toole Design maintains a database that is updated annually and provided to CHC coordinators and other partners. In addition to updating the relevant information in the database, Toole Design added several additional funding sources, including new federal grants authorized in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and several grants specific to parks and playgrounds. CHC coordinators can reach out to Toole Design to request support in using the database to find funding for specific projects.

3 New resources

3 Webinars

55 Webinar attendees

9 Office hours sessions

WEBINARS AND OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours

Recognizing a need to provide casual opportunities for CHC coordinators to ask active living questions and discuss challenges and ideas, Toole Design began hosting monthly online “Active Living Office Hours” in December of 2022. These one-hour sessions were open to any coordinator who wished to join; they could send questions ahead of time or bring questions to the meeting. When coordinators didn’t have specific questions, they shared updates on their successes, or Toole Design staff shared information on current topics. Not only could Toole Design staff provide technical assistance from their perspective, CHC coordinators also used the time to share ideas and experiences directly with each other. Nine office hour sessions were held throughout the contract year, with attendance varying monthly. The topics covered throughout the year included setting up bike libraries, understanding specific funding opportunities, getting started on active transportation or Safe Routes to School planning, ideas for engaging community members and stakeholders, and much more.

Community Engagement Webinar – “Making Engagement Work” (HEAL grantees)

Toole Design facilitated a webinar training with HEAL grantees on planning community engagement activities for active living projects. The interactive webinar covered the goals of public engagement, a deep dive into several potential engagement activities, and how to develop a plan using the previously developed Community Engagement Plan Template. The HEAL grantees then broke into small working groups to discuss an ongoing project being planned by one of their peers, taking the opportunity to help each other brainstorm ideas and discuss challenges. They were encouraged to discuss questions such as “what feedback do you want from the community,” “what makes you uncomfortable in this process,” and “what strategy might work best?”. Participants were encouraged to follow the Community Engagement Plan template and lessons from the webinar to put together their own plans for engaging the community on their workplan goals.

Community Tours

- Tours engage groups of up to ten people by walking, biking, or taking transit.
- Gather qualitative information rather than quantitative information.
- Routes should highlight the discussion topic at hand.



Presentation slide from the Community Engagement webinar.



Engagement techniques highlighted in the Community Engagement Webinar.

Active Transportation Implementation Webinar – “How a Line Becomes a Trail” (CHC grantees)

In order to demystify some of the process of how active transportation projects get designed and built, Toole Design used a regularly scheduled office hours session to deliver a webinar on active transportation project implementation. The training covered topics such as the engineering project life cycle, selecting projects from the plan, facility design and selection, estimating costs, funding sources, and more.

Funding Webinar – “Active Transportation Funding Basics” (HEAL grantees)

Understanding the wide variety of funding options for active transportation projects can be an intimidating mix of acronyms and agencies. Toole Design presented a webinar on Active Transportation Funding Basics for HEAL grantees focused on describing how transportation money flows to local communities. It also detailed the top sources of active transportation funding currently available in Ohio, including grant amounts, deadlines, and where to apply; as well as some of the newer federal grant programs available.

CROSSING SELECTION EXAMPLE:

Making Recommendations

Example Recommendation 1:

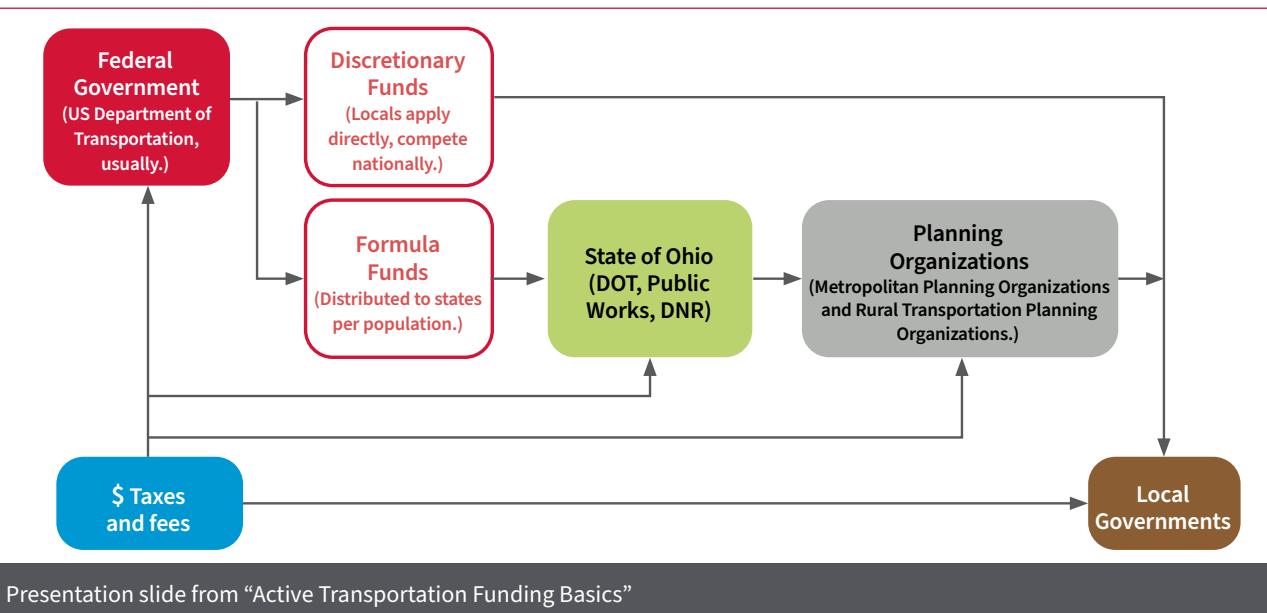
- Crossing warning signs.
- Advance yield lines.
- Curb extensions.
- Rectangular rapid flashing beacons.

Example Recommendation 2:

- Crossing warning signs.
- Advance yield lines.
- High-visibility crosswalk markings.
- Pedestrian refuge island.



Presentation slide from “How a Line Becomes a Trail”



Presentation slide from “Active Transportation Funding Basics”

All Project Meeting – “Practicing Approaches to Real-World Scenarios” (CHC grantees)

This year’s Creating Healthy Communities All Project Meeting was held in person at the State Library of Ohio in Columbus. The full day meeting allowed coordinators to practice a variety of scenarios they might encounter in their work with partners. The day was designed to allow everyone an opportunity to practice responding to something unexpected, apply a new set of skills, and see one another as resources in their work with communities.

The group was divided into teams of three to role play a series of scenarios. Scenarios were based on actual examples from coordinators and focused on moments when people described feeling challenged in their work. Between each role play, the entire group discussed the experience in a facilitated conversation. Participants described what went well and what was stressful and assisted one another with strategies they might use in the future. The group conversation also allowed Toole Design staff to present information on useful skills including active listening, finding common preferences, persuasive communication, identifying the right messenger, and joyfully engaging potential new partners.

CHC Coordinator Responses

■■■ The discussion time with other coordinators was helpful to me. It is beneficial to hear other perspectives from the people that do the same job as me. I love bouncing strategy ideas off people and hearing their strategies as well. ■■■

■■■ I loved when we talked about challenges we were having and hearing other counties’ ideas. . . Overall such a great meeting! ■■■



CHC Coordinators practice having real-world conversations at the All Project Meeting.

■■■ I loved this format – very useful to have other CHC coordinators teach me how to approach issues that I haven’t even encountered yet! ■■■

■■■ The facilitator is so good at listening and making people feel heard. Great to divide roles by partner, note taker, and coordinator! The day went so fast—an excellent way to learn from other coordinators. ■■■

DIVING DEEP

ADAMS COUNTY ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Adams County is a rural county that currently has little infrastructure available for walking and biking, but which features beautiful natural resources, a considerable Amish population that uses bicycles for transportation, and lower income residents who could benefit from access to more transportation choices. Growing interest in the topic and agreement among several County departments that it was time to pursue further active transportation growth led to the decision to create an Active Transportation Plan. Using SPAN funding, ODH was able to offer the county consultant assistance from Toole Design to develop the plan. A scope for the plan was developed based on the one offered through the ODOT's planning assistance to ensure it would follow a similar format to other plans currently in development around the state.

The process kicked off in the fall of 2022 and was completed in October 2023. A wide variety of community organizations were engaged to take part in the steering committee to help broaden the reach of the plan; these included County departments, social services organizations, natural resource and tourism organizations, and village and township leaders. Due to limits on broadband internet access in the county, the public engagement approach focused on in-person engagement opportunities, through pop-up events and survey distribution. One especially successful tactic was to distribute surveys along with Meals on Wheels deliveries.

Major topics addressed in the plan include:

- Connecting people to primary destinations such as schools, libraries, parks, shopping, and jobs.
- Connecting the villages within Adams County.
- Enhancing safe connections for the Amish community, who rely on walking, bicycling and horse-drawn buggies to get around.
- Providing opportunities for recreation and healthy activity.

The plan focuses on identifying "regional routes" which could support longer-distance travel by bicycle or buggy; and "local routes" that could provide

shorter distance connection within villages and would emphasize walking, biking or using mobility devices. From a larger visionary network, the community identified 10 key priority projects which could be advanced in the shorter term and would make the biggest impact on residents' abilities to incorporate active transportation into their daily lives. In addition, the plan identifies sixteen programs and policies that could help encourage residents to try active transportation or support villages in building out their networks. The plan was adopted in December of 2023.

156 Survey responses

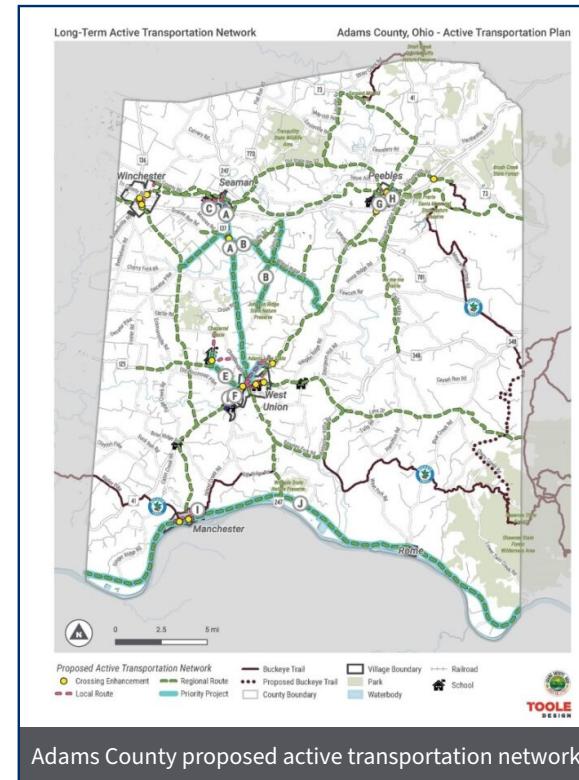
284 Prioritization votes

26 Miles potential local routes

194 Miles potential regional routes

10 Priority projects

16 Proposed programs and policies



■ Vision: Adams County Active Transportation - Creating Choice and Opportunity. ■



PROGRAM IMPACTS – FY 2023

During the five years of the CHC grant cycle, there is the potential to have significant impact on the more than five million residents within the CHC communities, and the entire state of Ohio. During this time, Toole Design tracked performance metrics to understand the reach of the program and the impact of the resources provided. These include the total population reached, additional funding leveraged by CHC coordinators, plans and policies adopted, and awards and recognition received by CHC communities. While Toole Design did not contribute to every success, their technical assistance supplemented CHC coordinators' capacity to achieve these accomplishments.

Estimated total population reach:

- 26 Counties (CHC + select HEAL)
- 6.7 Million Ohioans

Estimated funding leveraged (2022):

- \$2.2 Million for Parks and Playgrounds
- \$2.2 Million for Active Transportation

Policies and plans adopted:

- 2 Active Transportation Plans
- 3 Complete Streets Policies

13+ Media coverage examples (local news articles)

- [Hometownstations.com \(Bluffton\)](http://Hometownstations.com (Bluffton))
- [The People's Defender \(Adams County\)](http://The People's Defender (Adams County))
- Athens Messenger
- Perry County Tribune
- City of Toledo
- Fremont News Messenger
- Scioto Valley Guardian

Athens Messenger

Proposed path would make Strouds Run beach accessible

By Nicole Bowman-Layton | Athens Messenger Staff Writer | Mar 21, 2023 Updated Mar 22, 2023 0



Fremont News Messenger.

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LOCAL

Agencies join to install new TRIPS bus shelters

More shelters in the planning

Sheri Trusty Special to The News-Messenger
Published 10:00 p.m. ET May 25, 2023



The Chamber of Commerce of Sandusky County hosted a ribbon cutting for the new TRIPS bus shelter on North Street near Ross High School on May 18. Sheri Trusty/Correspondent

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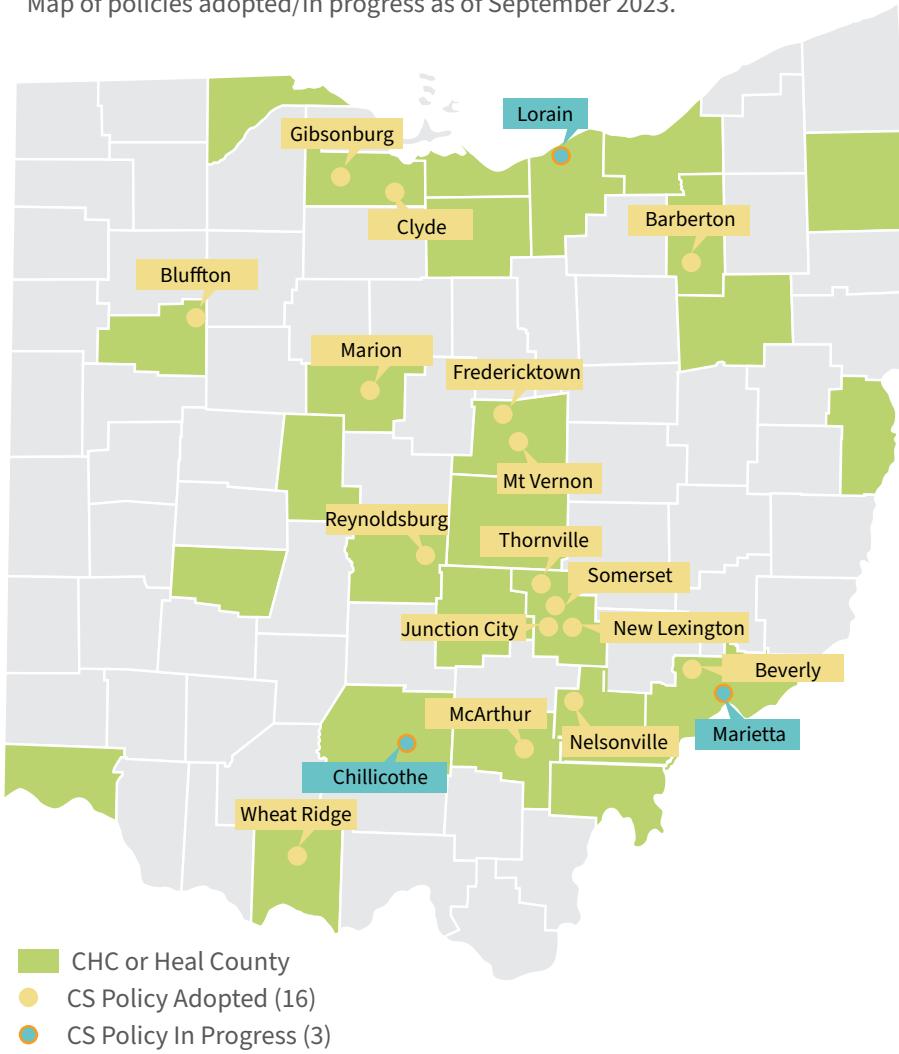
SPAN CUMULATIVE OUTCOMES

OCTOBER 2018 – SEPTEMBER 2023

ODH has received funding from the State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) grant since October 2018. This section tracks the cumulative achievements directly relating to the goals of that program over the course of the grant.

COMPLETE STREETS POLICIES

Map of policies adopted/in progress as of September 2023.



Number of policies adopted/in progress

Adopted (16)

- Barberton.
- Beverly.
- Bluffton.
- Clyde.
- Fredericktown
- Gibsonburg.
- Junction City.
- Marion.
- McArthur.
- Mount Vernon.
- Nelsonville.
- New Lexington.
- Somerset.
- Thornville.
- Wheat Ridge.
- Reynoldsburg.

In progress (3)

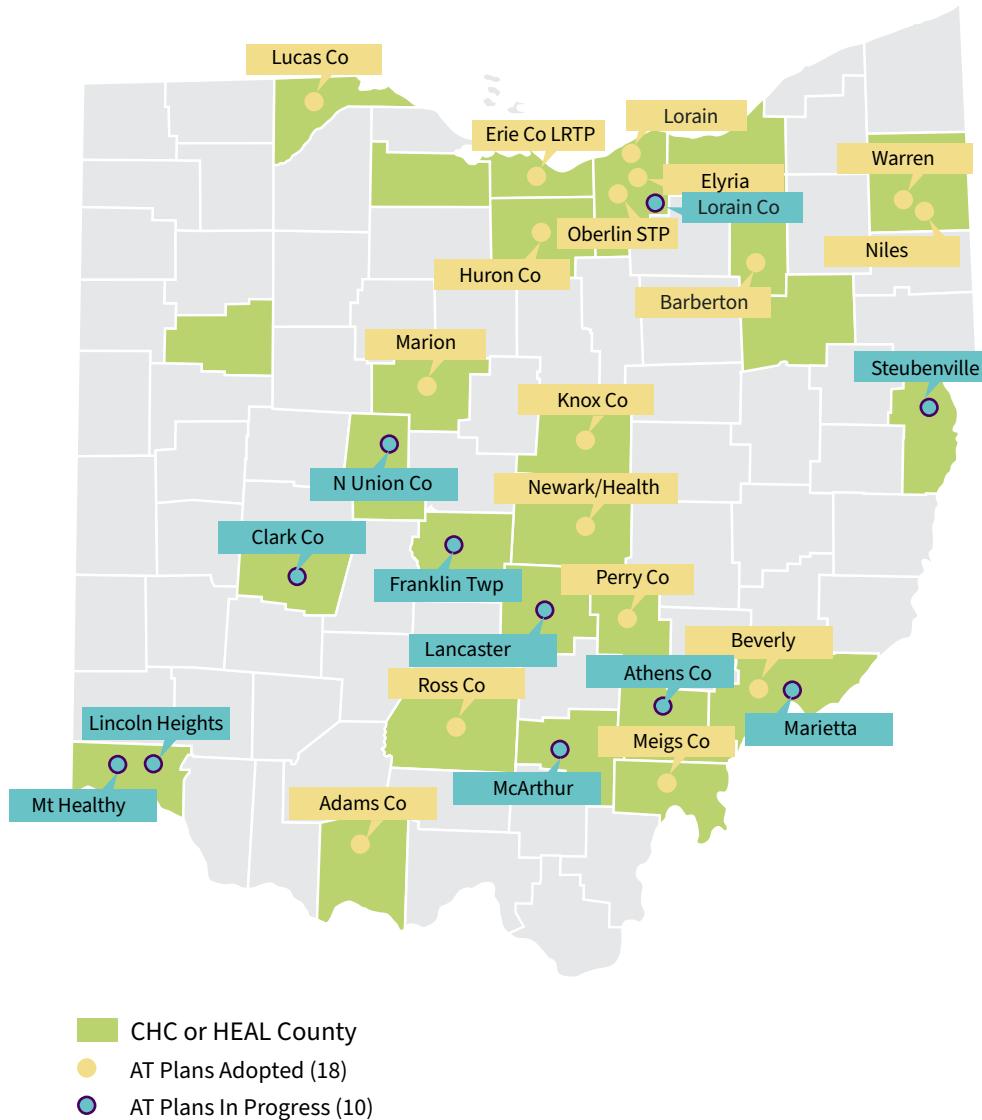
- Chillicothe.
- Lorain.
- Marietta.

Activities carried out for CS planning (FY 23)

- Complete Streets policy writing workshop in Reynoldsburg.
- Complete Streets policy writing workshop in Clyde.
- Review and scoring of draft policy for Amesville.
- Review and scoring of draft policy for Reynoldsburg.
- Reynoldsburg policy adoption.
- Fredericktown policy adoption.
- Bluffton policy adoption.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Map of policies adopted/in progress as of September 2023



Number of plans adopted/in progress

Adopted (18)

- Adams County.
- Beverly.
- Chillicothe / Ross County.
- Elyria.
- Erie County.
- Huron County.
- Knox County.
- Lorain.
- Marion County.
- Meigs County.
- Newark-Heath.
- Niles.
- Oberlin.
- Perry County.
- Warren.
- Barberton.
- Lucas County.
- Clark County.

In progress (10)

- North Union County.
- Marietta.
- Athens County.
- Lorain County (update).
- McArthur.
- Franklin Township.
- Lincoln Heights.
- Mt. Healthy.
- Lancaster.
- Steubenville.

Activities carried out for AT Planning (FY 23)

- Adams County plan development.
- Lucas County plan adoption.
- Launch and community engagement for Athens County plan.
- North Union County plan kickoff and recommendations development.
- McArthur Pedestrian Plan walk audits and recommendations development.
- Lancaster walk audit.
- Mount Healthy and Lincoln Heights plan and community engagement review.
- Steubenville Heritage Trail charette.
- Athens County professional development ride.

POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS



CONSTRUCTED IMPROVEMENTS





► For more information:
odh.ohio.gov/chc

Prepared by: **TOOLE**
DESIGN