

**St. Clair Township  
Planning Advisory Committee  
March 24, 2008  
Summary of Discussion**

**ATTENDED BY:**

Marjorie Angst	Steve Bartels	Gary Couch
Kevin Fall	Pearl Hicks	Bonnie Hobbs
Jerry Lanich	Tim McLelland	Eric Pottenger
Mike Price	Bobby Rice	Joe Schmidt
Terry White	Ray Williams	

Staff: Bill Miller, Larisa Sims, Jane Wittke, OKI; Mike Ekberg, Miami Conservancy District

**In a discussion about the following aspects of St. Clair Township and data and analysis presented in draft form by staff, those attending responded with the following points and issues:**

**Transportation**

- What is the status of the Washington Boulevard extension?
- Even though the proposed SR-63 extension has not moved forward, that still has a higher priority than the Washington Boulevard extension.
- For example, the Washington Boulevard extension is in the City of Hamilton's thoroughfare plan, but not in Butler County's thoroughfare plan.
- What about the status of a new river crossing in south Hamilton (as an extension of Grand Boulevard)?
- Even if that happened, it wouldn't affect the township that much.
- Is there any chance that St. Clair Township will ever get more transit service that's affordable, given the rising cost of gas and commuting patterns?
- It all comes down to money available for transit, given the defeat of transit levies in the county and the \$400,000 annual budget for the Butler County Regional Transit Authority.
- What's the status of the SR-63 extension?
- The SR-63 extension's been deferred because adequate funding is not available.
- If the SR-63 extension is deferred for too long, the corridor for it might become developed so that it's no longer possible to build.
- Even though the SR-63 extension is in OKI's Long Range Transportation Plan as a prerequisite for receiving federal funding, how long can the extension stay on the books and how realistic is it to think that it can be built if several years go by?
- There are three areas within St. Clair Township that have sidewalks: 1) on the south side of SR-73 from Edgewood School going east into Trenton; 2) on the west side of U.S. 127 from the New Miami School Complex going south into New Miami; and 3) throughout the Sharon Park subdivision in the part of the township south of Hamilton.
- For future, Butler County Planning Commission regulations require sidewalks in new subdivisions.
- Even without sidewalks, people in the township still walk in certain areas, particularly along local streets in Williamsdale, and from the Cedar Grove subdivision along West Elkton Road north into Seven Mile and back, or even along U.S. 127 from Cedar Grove north or south to Seven Mile.
- Yes, and people walking there don't know which side of the road to walk on, which is a safety issue.
- In terms of expenses for township road maintenance, even though Warwick Road has never been dedicated as a public road and has relatively low usage, it requires a lot of maintenance.

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--Local officials are proposing to install signs at railroad crossings in the township with a telephone hotline number, so that when people are stuck at crossings, they can call the township hotline and document vehicle delays and related problems caused by trains.

--Delays at township railroad crossings can be a matter of life and death when life squads can't get through.

**Intergovernmental Coordination**

--The township has a mutual aid agreement with all the other jurisdictions in the county for emergency service and fire service.

--The life squad based in the township serves both the village of New Miami and St. Clair Township, but it has to get through a railroad crossing to serve most township residents.

--There's fiber optic cable already laid along SR-73 between Middletown and Oxford, which means it's already available at the northeast border of the township or could be extended south into the township, and could be a draw for business development.

**Existing Land Use**

--Why is no area for railroads shown as a land use category?

--It wasn't included in the base data used for the analysis of land uses.

--We should know how much of the township is occupied by railroads.

--Bert Brown in the tax map office may have additional information that could be helpful.

--Why is gravel mining grouped with agricultural use on part of the zoning map?

--It's a permitted use.

--How about putting an intermodal freight terminal on the AK Steel site, since it can't be used for anything else?

--Federal Superfund restrictions probably wouldn't allow the land to be used that way.

--Locating an intermodal freight facility over the aquifer would raise source water protection issues such as the presence of hydraulic oils and fuels and the risks of a spill from loading and unloading.