



CITY OF NEW FRANKLIN
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES PLANNING
GRANT APPLICATION
FEBRUARY 9, 2024



1. APPLICATION/SPONSOR

Community: City of New Franklin

Project Manager: Mayor Paul Adamson

Phone: (330) 882-4324

Email: mayor@newfranklin.org

Address: 5611 Manchester Road, New Franklin, OH 44319

2. PROJECT COSPONSOR

Not Applicable

3. PLANNING STUDY SUMMARY

List the planning study title and briefly describe the project. (150 words max.)

Planning Study Title: SR 619 Corridor Development Planning Study

Summary of Project: This project will involve a preliminary study of the current conditions, planned development, and prospective needs for design and implementation of measures necessary to provide multiple modes of transportation for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists and hikers in a busy, developing commercial/residential corridor of the city, while safely accommodating an anticipated increase in traffic to an already busy area. Included in the plan should be bike lanes and/or paths, pedestrian crosswalks, sidewalks, streetlights, and possibly turn lanes, among other safety features, all to serve a vibrant mixed-use, walkable neighborhood. The reintroduction of public transportation should also be considered and planned.

4. STUDY AREA & MAP

Please describe in detail the study area, including physical boundaries and limits. Include a map of the proposed project planning area, with limits of the study area clearly visible.

The study area is bounded by the New Franklin/Green Corporation limit to the East, New Franklin/corporation limit to the north, State Street to the west, and Turkeyfoot Lake to the south. Main emphasis of study is the SR 619 corridor and the SR 619/South Turkeyfoot Road/Point Comfort Drive intersection. Refer to Exhibit A for a study area map.

5. PURPOSE AND NEED

What are the transportation issues facing the area? How will this project address these needs to improve the community? List any current projects that demonstrate prior commitment to addressing these issues.

S.R. 619 (West Turkeyfoot Lake Road) in New Franklin traverses the heart of Portage Lakes region. The growing Portage Lakes region continues to attract new residents, visitors, and businesses. In particular, the SR 619 corridor is ripe for development. Development plans are in motion for a new residential development of more than 150 homes. The existing infrastructure is inadequate to support the existing need for multiple modes of transportation and for supporting additional growth. The city needs to develop a plan to support the existing users and allow for further growth.

The city has been proactive in preparing for this development. Several years ago, the city re-aligned the SR 619/South Turkeyfoot Road/Point Comfort Drive intersection to improve capacity and safety. The city secured funding through Ohio Public Works Commission in addition to a significant local investment. More recently the city has proactively collaborated with developers, County, and Aqua Ohio to position for the extension of sewer and water into the city. The proposal will run sewer and water from the eastern border west to State Street, approximately 0.8 miles. This project will serve the new residential development as well as position the city for more development.

The area is currently a lightly developed commercial corridor with a two-lane road without sidewalks and bike facilities, and no lighting. The area sees regular bike and pedestrian traffic despite the lack of facilities, proving a strong demand for infrastructure improvement. SR 619 is also the busiest in New Franklin, with an average of nearly 10,000 cars travelling it each day.

The introduction of sewer and water to this stretch of SR 619 will spur redevelopment not just on SR 619 frontage but also into the adjoining neighborhoods. The area already boasts restaurant and entertainment spots and is well positioned to grow with support businesses and more rededicated residential development. Rather than react to that growth after installing the infrastructure, the city looks to be proactive in providing a roadway and an environment safe, conducive, and attractive, as a collective venture.

The study will expand upon recent studies and reports. These documents include the New Franklin Comprehensive Plan 2022, AMATS Transportation Outlook 2045, and AMATS High Crash Roadway Section analysis. The recently completed comprehensive plan included extensive public engagement and highlighted a desire by the community for sidewalks and bike paths in the business areas. A Connecting Communities study can further build upon the public engagement and findings of the comprehensive plan. The AMATS Transportation Outlook 2045 named this stretch of SR 619 in the arterial and intersection recommendations for corridor improvements and sidewalks. Lastly, the recent AMATS High Crash Roadway Section ranked this segment 33rd.

6. OUTCOMES

The program is designed to provide communities with funding to develop transportation plans that will lead to projects eligible for AMATS funds.

What are the expected outcomes?

What does success look like?

The primary outcomes expected are (1) a plan for implementing alternative modes of transportation, such as sidewalks, bike lanes, or shared-use path and (2) a plan to manage increased traffic demands at SR 619, South Turkeyfoot Road, and study area intersections. Recommendations developed will be eligible for AMATS funding through Transportation Alternatives (TA), Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), or Carbon Reduction (CRP) programs. The projects developed will also be considered for funding sources outside of AMATS. The city has proven success in obtaining outside funding and has secured funding previously from many sources including, but not limited to, the Ohio Public Works Commission, Federal Congressionally Districted Spending, State of Ohio Budget Appropriations, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Ohio and Erie Canalway Coalition.

Anticipated projects may include:

1. Implementing complete street principals to SR 619 to provide pedestrian facilities, bicycle facilities, place-making, appropriate lane widths, and appropriate lane configurations. The project will likely include widening of the bridge over the Turkeyfoot Lake channel. Potential funding sources include STBG.
2. Sidewalk and sidewalk construction along SR 619 with connections to businesses and residential side roads. (TA)
3. Shared use path or bike lanes along SR 619 with connections to businesses and the state park. Project will likely require widening of the bridge ~~over~~ on SR 619 over the channel. (TA & STBG)
4. Intersection improvements at SR 619, South Turkeyfoot Rd, and Point Comfort Drive to address the increased vehicular traffic and to safely accommodate pedestrians, bicycles, and golf carts. (STBG, CMAQ, CRP)

A successful study will recommend complete street concepts to provide safe travel for all users within a plan that can realistically be implemented based on any funding or timeline constraints. All recommendations will be rooted in the Connecting Communities principles. The recommendations will include detailed funding strategies focusing on the available local share that the city can commit, potential outside funding sources (including AMATS), and timeline to implementation. Ultimately success will include implementation of the study recommendations and result in a corridor filled with activity all year where people can safely live and play, with multiple modes of safe transportation available.

7. CONNECTING COMMUNITIES' PRINCIPLES

How does this project further the goals of Connecting Communities outlined below?

- *Increase alternative transportation options to connect people and places.*

The study area consists of multiple land uses; recreational, residential, businesses, and restaurants/entertainment. A new housing development consisting of approximately 150 homes is currently in planning. The study area provides opportunities to create an area in which someone can live, work, dine, shop, and enjoy recreational opportunities. The study will identify options to implement transportation alternatives to provide multiple modes of transportation for the residents to access the lake and businesses. The options will include a comprehensive sidewalk and bike network to encourage the movement of people without requiring an automobile.

The business and recreation options are a draw to visitors. Creating a connected business district will allow visitors to enjoy many amenities in one trip without the need to park multiple times. Visitors already walk and bike through this area proving a need for this infrastructure. Providing dedicated facilities for bikes and pedestrians will improve the safety of these users and encourage more to engage in walking and biking.

The study will also evaluate reintroducing public transportation to New Franklin. As the area continues to develop, more visitors may be drawn to visit the lake and surrounding businesses. Adding public transportation will allow riders to arrive in a walkable district without the need for car.

- *Promote Complete Street principles to create vibrant and safe places for all users.*

The improvements on the SR 619 corridor will follow the complete streets principles to provide a safe and comfortable experience for all users. Sidewalks will allow pedestrians to safely flow from business to business and for residents to walk home. Bicycle infrastructure will allow bikes to safely travel to and from as well as within the area. Streetlights will help illuminate the corridor making it a safe and comfortable place to be in the evening hours. An emphasis on design (such as decorative streetlights and pavements, landscaping) will encourage place making and help residents and visitors feel the district as its unique and vibrant place.

- *Leverage transportation projects/funding to develop places which support alternative transportation and complete streets through land use and design.*

The study area provides the opportunity to both leverage a transportation project to further development and leverage a development project to further fund additional transportation projects. The study recommendations will focus on generating projects eligible for AMATS funding, as outlined in the “Outcomes” section of the report. These fundable projects will coordinate with the surrounding land use to further enhance the potential walkable nature of this district. The potential for large-scale developments, such as the 150-home residential development, will also allow the city to leverage private funding and creative funding and financing options to further improve the existing infrastructure.

The planning study will build upon the city’s most recent comprehensive plan and will encourage development in conjunction with a zoning code update. Leveraging the planning study with the comprehensive plan and zoning code update provides the city an opportunity to create the framework for this district to create a fully holistic district in line with Connecting Communities principals in both public infrastructure and private developments.

8. LEVEL OF USE

As a result of the project, what is the anticipated level of use/positive impact you expect to have? Please describe and include any data which supports how many people will be served by the project.

The main roadways in the study area are SR 619 and South Turkeyfoot Road. Users of the roadway include commuters to and from New Franklin to the greater Akron metro area, patrons of the restaurants and businesses in the study area, and recreational users to the golf course and state park. The following key statistics summarize the current levels of use:

1. Approximately 9,800 average vehicles daily travel SR 619. *
2. Approximately 3,748 average vehicles daily travel South Turkeyfoot Road. *
3. Imminent increase in traffic due to the upcoming 150 residential homes located off of Point Comfort Drive
4. Summer sees increased recreational traffic from the boat launch on State Park Drive, golf course, and dining and entertainment establishments.
5. No pedestrian and bike infrastructure currently present in study area suppressing other modes of transportation.
6. The SR 619 roadway segment ranks 33rd on the recent AMATS High Crash Roadway Sections analysis.

Additional modes of transportation, such as sidewalks and bike infrastructure, will generate new users within the area currently not served. These modes may contribute to a reduction in the vehicular traffic by providing alternate modes of transportation, particularly for the many residents traveling the recreation and commercial facilities within the study area.

The project will directly impact the nearly 10,000 average daily users of the study area. Upcoming development will increase the strain of the existing transportation network. The study and future implementations of the recommendations will provide transportation alternatives to reduce the vehicular strain and provide safe means of travel for bikes and pedestrians to serve the increased demands. Improvements aim to reduce crashes to remove the segment from the AMATS High Crash Roadway Section list.

* Traffic data from AMATS Traffic Count Map, 2022 data

Attachments

Site Photos

Project Map

Authorizing Resolution

Letter of Support – City of Green

Site photos



Lack of sidewalks and crosswalks for pedestrians crossing the SR 619/South Turkeyfoot Road/Point Comfort Drive intersection.



Lack of pedestrian or bicycle facilities to connect both sides of the channel. Pedestrians and cyclists must share a narrow bridge with vehicles when trying to cross channel.



Example of limited access management control on SR 619 and lack of pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

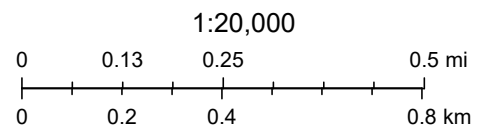


Existing light commercial frontage with limited access management, sidewalks, and bicycle facilities.

New Franklin Connecting Communities



- Primary Study Limits**
- Planned Residential Development**



Stark County GIS, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS

Parcel Viewer by County of Summit
Disclaimer: Users of this map accept all risk, not intended to serve as professional advice.

RESOLUTION NO: 24-R-02
SPONSOR: MAYOR ADAMSON
INTRODUCED: JANUARY 3, 2024

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO MAKE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (AMATS) CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER 2024 PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, State Route 619 (West Turkeyfoot Lake Road) has been recognized as one of New Franklin's commercial corridors; and

WHEREAS, New Franklin Council has been advised of further potential residential/commercial development along this corridor; and

WHEREAS, New Franklin Council has been advised that traffic flow along this corridor currently exceeds ten thousand vehicles per day, and future development is likely to increase those numbers; and

WHEREAS, this corridor borders the City of Green to the east and Coventry Township to the north; and

WHEREAS, Council is sensitive to safety concerns for those traversing this corridor by vehicle or on foot; and

WHEREAS, AMATS Connecting Communities Planning Grant has been created to provide communities with funding to develop transportation plans to promote effective transportation principles and lead to projects eligible for AMATS funding, and Council wishes to authorize application to AMATS for this grant funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUMMIT, AND STATE OF OHIO, THAT:

SECTION ONE:

The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to submit a grant application to the AMATS Connecting Communities 2024 Planning Grant Program for funding to develop a transportation plan for the State Route 619 corridor.

SECTION TWO:

The City of New Franklin finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were taken in open meetings of this Council and

any deliberation of this Council and any other Committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements.

SECTION THREE:

Council declares this to be an emergency immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the citizens of New Franklin. Provided that this legislation receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members elected or appointed to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force at the earliest time allowed by law.

ADOPTED: January 3, 2024

Kelly Kepler
Kelly Kepler, Clerk

Mr. Daniels, President
24-R-02

APPROVED: January 3, 2024

Paul F. Adamson
Paul F. Adamson, Mayor

ENACTED EFFECTIVE: January 3, 2024

ON ROLL CALL:	Allman	<u>Yes</u>	Cotts	<u>Yes</u>	Daniels	<u>Yes</u>
	Jones	<u>Yes</u>	Powell	<u>Yes</u>	Shaffer	<u>Yes</u>
	Wolff	<u>Yes</u>				

Publications on January 6, 2024 and January 19, 2024

Kelly Kepler
Kelly Kepler, Clerk



1755 Town Park Boulevard
PO Box 278
Green, OH 44232-0278
PHONE: (330) 896-6602
EMAIL: mayor@cityofgreen.org

Rocco P. Yeargin
Mayor

January 31, 2024

Curtis Baker, Director
Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study
1 Cascade Plaza, Suite 1300
Akron, OH 44308

RE: City of New Franklin – SR 619 Corridor Study
Connecting Communities Grant Application

Dear Curtis,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Green to express our strong support for the City of New Franklin's Connecting Communities funding request to explore improvements to the SR 619 Corridor. A shared transportation asset, this east-west highway physically connects our neighboring communities and has significant impact to our region's environmental and economic vitality. The City of Green recently invested nearly \$6 million dollars to construct 3 roundabouts along this corridor, an improvement that has resulted in substantial private investment.

We are especially enthusiastic about the timeliness of New Franklin's efforts as it coincides with connectivity discussions taking place within our own community. The "Lakes District" – a vision for the revitalization of the S. Main Street corridor – would encourage investment and revitalize existing neighborhoods by prioritizing active transportation, vehicular safety, and other complete street principles. A key piece of this vision is the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of S. Main & SR 619. This project offers strong possibilities to connect our communities and leverage the shared natural asset that is the Portage Lakes.

The City of Green wholly supports the efforts of the City of New Franklin to explore strategies to create a more connected and livable community and commits to partnering with them to create a more vibrant region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Yeargin".

Rocco P. Yeargin, Mayor
City of Green

Cc: Mayor Paul Adamson, City of New Franklin