

Village of Lakemore, Ohio  
2023 Connecting Communities — Planning Grant Application  
"Living in Lakemore" Planning Study  
September 30, 2022



"The Progressive Village"

Village of Lakemore  
1400 Main Street  
Lakemore, Ohio 44250

Lakemore, Ohio  
Living in Lakemore

## Connecting Communities — 2023 Planning Grant Application

1. Applicant/Sponsor (Implementing Government Agency Only)

Community/Agency	Village of Lakemore, Ohio
Community Project Manager	Tracy Sayers, Village Administrator
Phone Number	330-733-6125 ext.
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E-mail Address	tfast@lakemoreohio.org
Mailing Address	1400 Main street, P.O. Box 455 Lakemore, Ohio 44250

2. Project Co-Sponsor — NA

3. Planning Study Summary — List the planning study title and briefly describe the project.

The Village of Lakemore is a residential community that has some commercial and recreational properties within its borders. The Village would like to improve connectivity between its residential neighborhoods and the commercial, recreational and governmental sites within the community by adding safe alternatives to the current travel modes. The "Living in Lakemore" study will help the Village to develop a plan for locating sidewalks in the Village in order to provide residents with a safe option for traveling to these locations. It will also look at adding bikeways and increasing accessibility to the existing Metro transit system.

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 clearly visible.

The study area is a major portion of the Village of Lakemore. Lakemore lies southeast of Akron and abuts Springfield Lake. The area is bounded by Sanitarium Road on the south,

2<sup>nd</sup> Street to the west, Kenny Ray, Jr. Parkway to the north and Canton Road to the east. Currently, there are no sidewalks to connect residents with the Spartan Trail on the east side of the Village, Springfield Lake, on the northwest side, and the commercial plaza on the east side of the Village.

See Figure 1 for the study area.

## 5. Purpose & Need (25 points)

The purpose of the "Living in Lakemore" study is to improve connectivity within the Village. Connecting the residents of Lakemore to facilities in the Village, that will have a positive impact on their health, welfare and safety, is a high priority for the Village.

Lakemore is a village located southeast of Akron, abutting Springfield Lake. Originally serving as a vacation community for people from Akron, the area was developed with access to the Lake in mind. Future development spread away from the lake with the residential area maintaining its original features. The residential area wraps the southern portion of the Lake and is made of narrow, meandering roads. The commercial area is located on the east side of town and is primarily accessed using Sanitarium Road, which runs east/west through the Village. There are parks, a golf course and trails within the Village as well.

Other than at the west end of Sanitarium Road and one newer development, there are no sidewalks within the Village. Most resources within the Village are within one mile of the main residential area, however, the only walking access is on the roadways. The lack of sidewalks also limits residents' access to the nearby Spartan Trail, which connects to Springfield Lake, a large commercial plaza on Canton Road, a park, and Springfield High School and Junior High.

Springfield High School and Junior High are located at the Canton Road end of Sanitarium Road with the SUPER Learning Center at the other. Sanitarium Road has an average daily traffic of 4,650 vehicles. With over half of Sanitarium Road lacking sidewalks, this puts students and parents in close proximity to this high volume of traffic on a regular basis.

Lakemore is served by the Metro regional transit authority. Metro Bus Route 6 has stops on Sanitarium Road, Lake Road, Park Street, Main Street, Springfield Lake Drive and at the Lakemore Shopping Plaza. None of these stops are currently accessible by sidewalks or has an accessible boarding area. The study will coordinate with Metro to ensure the bus stops locations are coordinated with the Village's needs.

While the Spartan Trail runs through the Village, there are currently no dedicated bicycle facilities within its limits. Although the narrow right of way and roadways may limit opportunities, bicycles are another method of transportation which can be studied to expand access to the residents of Lakemore.

The Village recently completed two projects that involved planning for future sidewalks. These include the Spartan Trail project and the development of Kenny Ray, Jr. Parkway. These projects were developed with the goals of connecting the community and providing safe walkways where residents can pursue healthy activities.

## 6. Outcomes (15 points)

The expected outcome from this study is to find the best routes for sidewalks, bikeways, and transportation connections to connect residents and school children in the Village of Lakemore to areas that will promote health, welfare and safety. These items are currently not available to all residents due to the lack of safe walkways. Providing sidewalks to connect the residents to the Spartan Trail, Springfield Lake, Springfield Local Schools, Kenny Ray, Jr. Parkway, the commercial plaza and Metro Bus stops will provide much safer transportation to these destinations. Besides providing a safe place to walk, a sidewalk on Sanitarium Road will also give more access to the Hinton Humiston Park. This is where the Village's baseball fields and fitness park are located.

The addition of sidewalks and possible bikeways will also allow better connectivity to the surrounding area. Not only will residents be better able to reach the neighboring communities, but people from those communities can better access Lakemore, its businesses, and parks. The plan will help to prioritize the development of a sidewalk network in the Village.

Analyzing the sidewalks relation to public transit stops, and in concert with Metro, will enable the village to plan for upgrades to living in Lakemore. Having a safe and accessible route to and at bus stops increases the ability and willingness to utilize this amenity.

This study and the resulting sidewalks will be a major boost to the quality of life for the Village's residents. The Village hopes to maintain a small-town atmosphere by allowing safer access to local places where they can exercise, take part in recreational activities and safely walk to schools and the commercial businesses in the community. This will have the additional benefit of reducing emissions, creating a cleaner, healthier community.

Success will look like students walking to and from school safe from interactions with vehicles, people walking to Springfield Lake and enjoying the view. It will be people jogging to the nearby parks and enjoying a baseball game. With a plan for "Living in Lakemore", success will look like a community coming together.

## 7. Connecting Communities Principles (30 points)

Increasing alternative transportation options to connect people and places:

The new sidewalks in the Village will provide an alternative mode of travel for residents to get to recreational, commercial and school areas in the Village without having to drive. It will be a boost to the Village to keep residents in the area for their recreational activities, instead of driving to other parks and walking areas outside of the Village. By connecting to the Spartan Trail, residents will be able to easily access more of Springfield Lake as

well as nearby businesses. It will also provide better access to Metro stops within the Village, connecting the residents with the surrounding area.

Looking at the feasibility of bikeways will also provide additional opportunities for residents to connect with the surrounding area, as well as travel with the Village.

Promote Complete Street principles to create vibrant and safe places for all users:

Additional sidewalks, in a Village that has few, provides a safe place for all users. Being able to walk safely on the heavily traveled Sanitarium Road to get to Springfield Local schools, Hinton Humiston Park, Metro Bus stops and the Spartan Trail will be a boon to the residents and school children. The other sidewalks will also make it safer to walk through the Village where the streets can be narrow. Bikeways can be considered on road sections when improvements are made.

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

The Village needs this study to help them to develop a plan for sidewalks that will connect residents in the Village to areas that will be beneficial to health, welfare and recreation. Lakemore administrators would like to include new sidewalks in their street repaving projects, but the Village does not have the funds to handle paying for sidewalks. They came out of fiscal emergency in 2016 and have been working diligently to upgrade roads, waterlines and storm sewers by increasing water rates and obtaining grant funds from Summit County (CDBG), AMATS (ODOT) and the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC). Having this study will help the Village obtain funding from AMATS and will improve the quality of life for people "Living in Lakemore."

#### 8. Level of Use (10 points)

The Village of Lakemore has approximately 3,100 residents. The improvements that can be accomplished with this study grant will benefit all of them. It will allow them to connect to recreational areas at Springfield Lake, the Spartan Trail and Hinton Humiston Park and commercial areas at the plaza on Canton Road. It will also allow school children and their parents to travel safely on Sanitarium Road to get to Springfield Local schools at Sanitarium Road and Canton Road. Improving access to public transportation facilities will make it easier and safer to connect to and from Lakemore.



FIGURE 1 – STUDY AREA MAP



SPRINGFIELD HS PARKING  
LOT ENTRANCE

- PROPOSED SIDEWALK
- SPARTAN TRAIL
- METRO BUS STOP





**Village Council**  
Mrs. Laura Cochran  
President Pro Tempore  
Mr. Sam Ray  
Ms. Anne Snyder  
Ms. Heather Anderson  
Mr. Jon Strittmatter  
Mrs. Nicki Coontz

1921 - 2021



Richard Cole, Jr.

Mayor

Mrs. Tracy Sayers  
Village Administrator

Megan Pitman  
Fiscal Officer

Benjamin G. Chojnacki  
Law Director

Mr. Brett Reinbolt  
Fire Chief

Mr. Roy Smith  
Police Chief

[www.lakemoreohio.org](http://www.lakemoreohio.org)

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September 27, 2022

Ms. Heather Reidl  
Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study  
Suite 1300  
1 Cascade Plaza  
Akron, Ohio 44308

Re: Planning Grant

The Village of Lakemore and Springfield Township are collaborating with Springfield Local Schools to create a safe means for students and families to reach Springfield Sr / Jr High School. A trail could provide this safe area to travel to and from the school, as walking on Sanitarium Road can be dangerous.

Springfield Township is actively improving an already used Ohio Edison right of way to become the Spartan Trail. This trail travels through a portion of Springfield Township through the Village of Lakemore and has a stop at the rear of the school. Both communities want to obtain the funding to develop the plans for this trail. Only portions of the trail are completed; the remaining areas hoping to become part of the trail require further research and development.

The Village of Lakemore Council agrees this trail will benefit both communities and provide our students a safe area to travel for school. Village of Lakemore Council will vote on legislation on Monday, October 3, 2022. Please accept this letter of intent as supporting documentation with the 2023 Connecting Communities Planning grant application.

Respectfully,

Mayor Richard Cole

[Rich.cole@lakemoreohio.org](mailto:Rich.cole@lakemoreohio.org)

