

Cuyahoga County Sustainability Toolkit

Transportation

April 13, 2023

Sustainable Cuyahoga Update

A toolkit of recommended best practices for communities in Cuyahoga County



2021

Overview

Distinguishing a community through sustainable transport options

- Millennials are moving to the suburbs and cities and choosing to put down roots where communities are investing in bike lanes, walkable commercial districts, transit, trails and parks in close proximity to residents.
- Efforts to decarbonize transportation rank alongside retrofitting buildings as a high-impact opportunity.
- Communities that are redesigning transportation systems guided by principles of sustainability and policies like Complete Streets and Vision Zero are placing themselves at an advantage.
- Sustainable mobility has become a way for communities to distinguish themselves and remain inviting for all.

Leadership & Education

1. Encourage more multi-modal options for commuting

[Gohio Commute](#) is an online community that organizes and tracks biking, walking, transit use and carpools, including “[school pools](#)” that connect families who want to carpool.

2. Install traffic calming devices on streets where speeding is a concern

Lakewood has a [traffic calming program](#) and policy to install speed tables on residential streets; it is very effective in deterring speeding. Pepper Pike deployed a beautiful curb extension project at Brainard Circle.

- Shaker Heights completed a traffic calming program in the Moreland neighborhood

3. Consider a [Safe Routes to Parks](#) plan to improve parks access by bike

Leadership & Education

4. Host an adult bike safety class

Bike Cleveland offers its Silver Spokes program in Cleveland and its suburbs with a focus on older adults biking and driving around bikes safely. Senior-accessible bikes are available for practice.

5. Support flexible solutions for “first/last mile” connections to transit

Lake County public transit agency, Laketran, won a [Fund for Our Economic Future Paradox Prize](#) grant for a project where 50 businesses along Tyler Boulevard will introduce a pilot, fixed-route transit service.

6. Produce a trails and greenways plan with actionable steps

Orange Village worked with the real estate developers of Pinecrest to fund 8.75 miles of trail as part of their development, incorporating years of resident feedback into trail design and programming and connecting community assets.

Municipal Operations

1. Establish a parks access initiative to measure and improve who has access to parks and green space

Cleveland established a 10-minute walk team with members from City Planning, Capital Projects and its Office of Sustainability to coordinate efforts, gather community input and act according to the goal of a park within a 10- minute walk of every resident.

2. Invite an orderly introduction of shared mobility devices

3. Make a group purchase of shared mobility (eBikes and scooters) memberships for city employees to use

University Hospital Systems was an early supporter of bike share, with employee discounts and sponsorship. eScooters have supported 630,000 rides since launching in Cleveland in August, 2019.

Municipal Operations

4. Collaborate with local bike groups to repurpose impounded bikes

Bay Village partners with volunteers at Village Bicycle Coop to fix up bikes and deliver them to those in need. The Brecksville United Methodist Church runs a Bicycle Ministry where they fix up bikes and donate them to those in need.

5. Transition light duty fleet to EVs / adopt a requisition standard for EVs

Cleveland purchased 3 Chevy Bolts, will purchase 10 EVs in FY2021 and is exploring a policy to make EVs standard (combustion engines request only).

Cleveland Heights ordered 6 Bolts for the building department.

Policy & Ordinances

1. Focus on safety and speeding to reduce crashes

The City of Lakewood introduced a [Neighborhood Traffic Calming Policy](#) that is built around residents applying for, participating in and building support for interventions like speed tables and [chicanes](#) to reduce crashes and improve biking and walking on their street. A pilot resulted in a major reduction of speeding.

Cleveland Heights reduced speeds from 35 to 25 on several major roads.

2. Promote equity and shared mobility with an ordinance that requires operators to locate eBikes and scooters in locations with low-to-moderate income households

[Lime](#), the operator of an eBike rental program in Cleveland and the suburbs, has an Access Program geared toward low-income individuals with discounted rates. Euclid and South Euclid have passed ordinances allowing shared mobility devices and, with East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights, are [launching shared mobility](#) within their borders.

Policy & Ordinances

3. Support road diets that convert four-lane roads into three lanes (with center turn lanes and bike lanes)

The City of South Euclid is pursuing a [4-to-3 road diet](#) on South Green Road that will include [buffered bike lanes](#) and [bike boxes](#) at traffic signals.

- Shaker Heights is planning a road diet for Lee Road similar to South Green Road

4. Design for a multi-modal system with a [Complete Streets Policy](#)

Cleveland Heights adopted a complete and green streets ordinance in 2018 which won Best in the U.S — the city redesigned the Edgehill/ Overlook intersection with bike, pedestrian and green amenities.

5. Plan for climate resilience by investing in green infrastructure in key corridors

RTA partners with cities to install bus shelters which will become necessary infrastructure as extreme weather events and storms become more intense due to climate change. Green Streets policies and the County's [Healthy Tree Canopy Grants](#) (see Trees & Land Management) can be coordinated to plant shade trees near bus shelters and where pedestrian activity is higher.

Regional Collaboration

1. Support the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency ([NOACA](#)) [Environmental Justice](#) Policy. In 2021, NOACA's Board agreed to promulgate a racial equity in highway interchanges policy. Each interchange proposal will be evaluated for any unintended consequence of sprawl and furthering racial inequity and will include a greenhouse gas emissions analysis.
2. Support Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority converting gas-powered buses to electric buses. Lake County's transit operator, Laketrans, [secured federal funding](#) for EV buses and charging stations.
3. Support the use of state funds from the VW diesel settlement to build up electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across the region. NOACA completed a regional study on [priority locations for EV charging](#) stations.
 - Shaker Heights is one of the locations for NOACA chargers

Regional Collaboration

4. Support the Cuyahoga County Regional Lakefront Transportation Connection Study with the goal of creating connections to the lakefront and a trail system for all of Cuyahoga County.
5. Support equity in transportation. The City of Maple Heights added bike lanes, is increasing tree canopy and using environmental justice as a pillar of planning on its Dunham Road Greenway Project.
6. Support a countywide bike and greenway network. The [Cuyahoga County Greenway Partners](#) has a vision and resources to help communities build connected bike and hike infrastructure.