

Agenda

1. Call to Order Oral
Roll Call
2. Meeting Minutes Attachment 2a
Minutes from August 26, 2021, Meeting (Motion Required)
3. Guest Communications (2-minute limit) Oral
4. General Manager's Report Attachment 4
5. Committee Reports Did Not Meet
 - a. Administration Scheduled to Meet 10/26
 - b. Finance Did Not Meet
 - c. Operations Scheduled to Meet 10/28
 - d. Personnel
6. Old Business
7. New Business
 - Presentation
8. Resolutions - Roll Call Approval Required

#2021-10-01: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (OHIO EPA) FOR THE 2021 OHIO DIESEL EMISSIONS REDUCTION GRANT (DERG) PROGRAM.

#2021-10-02: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER, OR HER DESIGNEE, TO PURCHASE FIVE (5) TURTLE TOP LIGHT TRANSIT VEHICLES (LTVs) OF WIDE BODY CONSTRUCTION, OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT, AND SPARE PARTS FROM TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT SALES CORPORATION (TESCO).
9. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting:

November 18, 2021 @ 7 p.m.
IN PERSON

PARTA
PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MINUTES

August 26, 2021

Board Members Present:

Karen Beck
Marge Bjerregaard
Jeff Childers
Debbie Davison

David Gynn, President
Virginia Harris
Mike Lewis, Vice President
R. T. Mansfield

Jack Murphy
Morgan Tipton
Karen Wise, TPO
Marvin Woods

Staff Present:

Claudia Amrhein
Denise Baba
Marcia Fletcher

Kelly Jurisch
Justin Markey, Roetzel & Andress
Clayton Popik

Rebecca Schrader
Brian Trautman

Board Members Not Present:

Richard Brockett (2nd excused absence)

Frank Vitale (1st excused absence)

Guests Present:

Michelle Reese, Roetzel & Andress

CALL TO ORDER

President Dave Gynn called the August 26, 2021, PARTA Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7 p.m. and asked for a roll call. After roll call, it was determined that **a quorum was participating.**

Mr. Gynn expressed his thanks and appreciation for everyone attending the meeting tonight. He said the minutes from the July 22, 2021, meeting were distributed and he asked for a motion for approval. Ms. Marge Bjerregaard made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, which was seconded by Mr. Marvin Woods.

Mr. Gynn asked if there was any discussion or questions. Hearing none, he asked all those in favor to say aye. He asked any opposed to say no. Hearing no opposition, he said the **motion to approve the minutes, as presented, passed unanimously.**

GUEST COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Gynn said there were no Guest Communications.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Gynn said he hoped Board members read everything in the packet because it included a lot of information. He then called on Ms. Claudia Amrhein to give her report.

Ms. Amrhein thanked Mr. Gynn and everyone for coming out tonight. She said it's nice to have a full house and be back in person. For the sake of everyone, please feel free to wear a mask or not wear a mask. She asked those who are not vaccinated to wear a mask but said there is no specific protocol in

place at this moment. She said the Board packet included an interesting update from Mr. Brian Trautman about what happens behind the scenes to keep everything running. Take a moment to look at it and thank Mr. Trautman because he and his team have done a tremendous job during a difficult summer. The other notable thing in the report is that she met with Mr. Gynn and discussed recommending not holding a September meeting for a variety of reasons. The primary one is that there are no resolutions that need to be brought forward. However, the Finance Committee has decided to meet as they normally do on the Tuesday before the Board meeting. President Gynn has appointed new members to committees starting with this year, which began with the July Board meeting. He is also going to be asking for volunteers to serve on an Ad Hoc By-Laws Committee. In connection with that, he asked for a brief presentation tonight about what the committees are, what their duties are, and what it means to serve on the By-Laws Committee. Finally, also noted in the report is that PARTA received another clean financial audit from the state of Ohio. This is the 19th consecutive audit without findings. It was also learned this week that PARTA received a StaRS recognition from the state of Ohio, which is a new way to evaluate how PARTA is complying with open meetings and public records requirements. She asked if there were any questions before her presentation.

Mr. Gynn added that in September, PARTA will be helping to run the statewide annual Ohio Public Transit Association (OPTA) conference in Akron. There's a lot of work to be done and he told Ms. Amrhein to reach out to Board members if any help was needed.

Ms. Amrhein thanked Mr. Gynn and introduced Ms. Michelle Reese from Roetzel & Andress, who has been representing PARTA in the RLB Phoenix Master Tenant Lease Agreement matter. She said Ms. Reese agreed to come out tonight to talk in executive session about the status and options. She asked if there were any questions about her report. Hearing none, she presented her PowerPoint, which is attached. Following her presentation, she asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Gynn thanked Ms. Amrhein and said her presentation was a lot more than he expected. The committees are the core of the operation. The Board meeting is to move things along. He hoped everybody was happy with their new committee assignments.

Ms. Karen Wise said the ACT acronym in Ms. Amrhein's presentation was very helpful and asked if the information in the presentation came out of training and onboarding for new Board members.

Ms. Amrhein said yes, this information is part of onboarding for new Board members. The last time this was presented to the full Board was in early 2019.

Mr. R. T. Mansfield said several years ago, an excellent training program was conducted by Ms. Carla Lakatos. He learned a lot from it, and she presented the best, most easily understood explanation of the Sunshine Laws that he has ever heard. He wondered if Ms. Lakatos was still doing that.

Ms. Amrhein said she thinks Ms. Lakatos retired some time ago; however, she'd be happy to put together something about the Sunshine Laws. It's something from the open meetings perspective that Mr. Justin Markey could certainly speak about. She and Ms. Kelly Jurisch both have quite a bit of experience with the public records side. She used to manage it, but Ms. Jurisch manages it now.

Mr. Gynn said four (4) or five (5) years ago, Mr. Bill Nome provided a brief presentation on the Sunshine Laws. He suggested scheduling a review for all Board members. For the By-Laws Committee, he is looking for volunteers to attend two (2) or three (3) meetings. He would like at least one person from the Administration Committee to be on the By-Laws Committee. It was reviewed three (3) years ago, but there are some awkward places.

Mr. Gynn then moved on to the committee reports.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Gynn said the Administration Committee met this evening and he asked Ms. Wise to give her report.

Ms. Wise said the Administration Committee met, "ACTed," and convened a legal meeting with a quorum. The committee talked about the two (2) resolutions and recommended them to the Board. Ms. Jurisch did a great job of explaining them and fielding questions.

Mr. Gynn asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Wise and her committee for meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Gynn said the Finance Committee met on Tuesday and he asked Mr. Mike Lewis to give his report.

Mr. Lewis said he was also going to mention the 19 consecutive clean audits with no findings, which is quite an accomplishment, and the Highest Achievement award. Moving on to the monthly report, PARTA looks good. There were two (2) variances to the budget in July. One was the State Capital Maintenance Assistance and the other one was State Operating (RCI) Rides for Community Immunity. RCI was new and \$89,955 was received in July. The total grant was for \$97,000 and it must be kept separate from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act or Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSAA) funds.

Ms. Rebecca Schrader said PARTA was the first to completely spend all its funds.

Mr. Lewis said the first draw down will occur in August for Federal Operating (CRRSAA), which is \$2.5 million.

To clarify, Ms. Schrader said the total grant was \$4 million, of which \$2.5 million has been drawn down. There is \$1.5 million left to be drawn down, of which \$773,000 was drawn down in August to be used up in the next two (2) months.

Moving on, Mr. Lewis said expenses were right in line. There was an increase in legal expenses but that was expected. Overall, July had a surplus of \$159,493 and year-to-date had a surplus of \$3.27 million. There were a couple small expenditures on the capital report. One was for \$11,045 for door access for the storage facility and the other one was \$11,593 for a phone system upgrade that was needed. There were no changes to the Restricted funds and not a lot on the Net Position month to month. There were some prepaids in July that balanced out the month but other than that, everything else was in line. He asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Mr. Lewis moved on to the Kent Central Gateway (KCG). He said KCG saw a pretty good improvement. There were 7,762 people who used the facility in July. Just as a comparison, there were 3,730 last year. Things are starting to get back to normal. With school coming in and everything going on downtown, those numbers are expected to be strong moving forward. Looking at the finance report, revenues were above budget and expenses were below budget. Hotel Overnight Parking was up by \$3,915. Daily Parking Revenue was up \$3,495. Overall, July had a surplus of \$23,417 over budget. Year-to-date Actual was a surplus of \$42,369, which was a vast improvement compared to last year. It's good to see KCG bouncing back and hopefully getting stronger with activity yet to come. There was not a lot of difference on the Statement of Net Position. He asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Mr. Gynn thanked Ms. Schrader and her staff for the wonderful reports.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Gynn said the Operations Committee was not needed this month but will be meeting in the future.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Gynn said the Personnel Committee will be meeting in the next few months.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Gynn asked if there was any Old Business. Hearing none, he moved on to New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Gynn said there were two (2) resolutions under New Business.

Resolutions

Mr. Gynn introduced Resolution #2021-08-01.

#2021-08-01: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AMENDING THE PASSENGER POLICY.

Mr. Gynn asked for a motion to adopt the resolution.

Motion: Karen Wise

Second: Marvin Woods

Mr. Gynn said this was discussed at the Administration Committee meeting. He asked if anybody had any questions or anything else to add. He noted the revised policy was in the packet. Hearing nothing further, he asked Ms. Marcia Fletcher to call the roll.

Roll Call:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Virginia Harris	<u>X</u>	___	Marvin Woods	<u>X</u>	___
Debbie Davison	<u>X</u>	___	Karen Wise	<u>X</u>	___
Jeff Childers	<u>X</u>	___	Frank Vitale	EXCUSED	
Richard Brockett	EXCUSED		Morgan Tipton	<u>X</u>	___
Marge Bjerregaard	<u>X</u>	___	Jack Murphy	<u>X</u>	___
Karen Beck	<u>X</u>	___	Mike Lewis	<u>X</u>	___
R. T. Mansfield	<u>X</u>	___	David Gynn	<u>X</u>	___

Mr. Gynn said the motion passed unanimously. He then introduced Resolution #2021-08-02.

#2021-08-02: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE ADDITION OF TWO (2) POSITIONS TO EXEMPT EMPLOYEE JOB CATEGORIES.

Mr. Gynn asked for a motion to approve this resolution.

Motion: Karen Beck

Second: Morgan Tipton

Mr. Gynn said this was discussed thoroughly at the Administration Committee meeting. This is not adding two (2) people but adding to the potential list of jobs. He asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Jeff Childers asked how these positions would impact the budget.

Ms. Amrhein said there will be no budgetary impact, as mentioned in her Board report. PARTA will operate within the approved budget for 2021.

Mr. Gynn asked if there were any other questions. Hearing none, he asked Ms. Fletcher to call the roll.

Roll Call:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jack Murphy	<u>X</u>	___	Karen Beck	<u>X</u>	___
Mike Lewis	<u>X</u>	___	R. T. Mansfield	<u>X</u>	___
Virginia Harris	<u>X</u>	___	Marvin Woods	<u>X</u>	___
Debbie Davison	<u>X</u>	___	Karen Wise	<u>X</u>	___
Jeff Childers	<u>X</u>	___	Frank Vitale	EXCUSED	
Richard Brockett	EXCUSED		Morgan Tipton	<u>X</u>	___
Marge Bjerregaard	<u>X</u>	___	David Gynn	<u>X</u>	___

Mr. Gynn said the resolution passed unanimously. Before executive session, he would like Mr. Markey to talk a little bit about executive sessions. The Board hasn't been in an executive session for some time and with some new Board members, it would be good to preview why it is necessary to go into an executive session.

Mr. Markey said Ohio law requires that all public bodies meet in an open public meeting. That means *PARTA* Board members cannot deliberate on any issue that could lead to a decision in a private meeting. Recognizing that there are some things that are sensitive, the General Assembly has permitted *PARTA* Board members to go into executive session to openly discuss those topics. One of them is discussions with attorneys, which is what the motion will be tonight. Those discussions will remain confidential and should not leave executive session. Any questions can be asked, and the recording will stop during executive session. Once executive session is over, the meeting will go back on the record and the meeting will be adjourned.

Mr. Gynn said the Board can go into executive session for several different reasons, but the reason named is the only business that can be discussed in executive session. It is highly confidential. The Board has the right to invite anybody else to join the executive session. If there were visitors at the meeting, they would be excluded from executive session.

Mr. Markey said that's a great point. Anyone who is not within the Board itself should not be invited to the executive session.

Mr. Gynn entertained a motion to enter executive session to confer with an attorney concerning disputes that are the subject of pending or imminent court actions in accordance with Section 122.22(G)(3) of the Ohio Revised Code.

Motion: <u>Jeff Childers</u>			Second: <u>R. T. Mansfield</u>		
Roll Call:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
R. T. Mansfield	<u>X</u>	___	Virginia Harris	<u>X</u>	___
Marvin Woods	<u>X</u>	___	Debbie Davison	<u>X</u>	___
Karen Wise	<u>X</u>	___	Jeff Childers	<u>X</u>	___
Frank Vitale	EXCUSED		Richard Brockett	EXCUSED	
Morgan Tipton	<u>X</u>	___	Marge Bjerregaard	<u>X</u>	___
Jack Murphy	<u>X</u>	___	Karen Beck	<u>X</u>	___
Mike Lewis	<u>X</u>	___	David Gynn	<u>X</u>	___

Mr. Gynn said the motion passed unanimously. He invited legal counsel and all staff members present to stay for executive session.

The Board went into executive session at 7:26 p.m.

Mr. Gynn returned the meeting to public session at 8:12 p.m. and asked if there were any comments. Hearing none, he said there was no action to take because of the executive session.

Ms. Jurisch thanked everyone for working at the fair.

Mr. Gynn asked if anybody else had a comment. Hearing none, he reminded everyone that there will not be a Board meeting next month unless a special notice is sent out, but there will be a Finance Committee meeting. He then asked for a motion for adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Marge Bjerregaard made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Virginia Harris. Mr. Gynn asked all in favor to say aye. He asked any opposed to say no. Hearing no opposition, the **motion to adjourn passed unanimously**.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marcia Fletcher
Executive Assistant



The Board and its Committees

August 26, 2021

1

The Board's Job : To ACT

Appoint

- GM to run the authority

Convene

- Public meetings of committees and board of trustees

Transact

- Business by verbal motion or written resolution



2

The Board's Job: To ACT

Appoint

- GM to run the authority



3

The Board's Job: To ACT

Convene

- Public meetings
- Assemble a quorum of members
- In person (virtual meetings not permitted)



4

Board Governance Duties: To ACT

Transact

- Business by verbal motion or written resolution



5

Is this recommendation consistent with PARTA's mission?

Adopt policies

Authorize management to act in accordance with regulations

Award large purchase contracts

Transacting Business

6



Committees

7

Why have board committees?

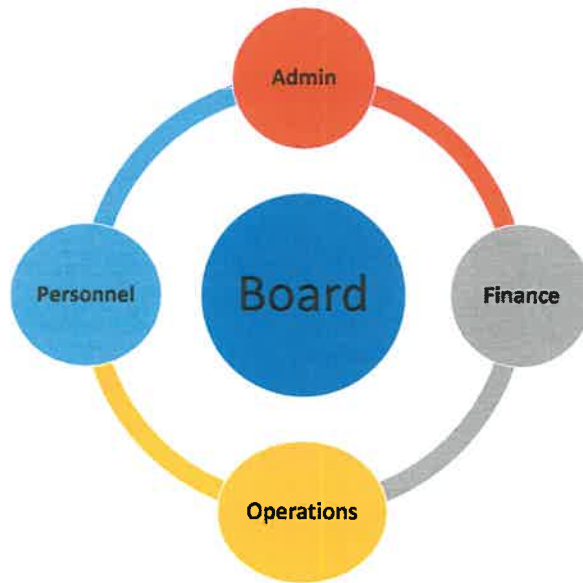


Defined in the By-Laws

By-laws revised in 2018

Streamlined to 4 committees
with 3 members each

8



9

What's the purpose of committees?



- Help to fulfill the board's duty to ACT
- Review recommendations of management in public meetings
- Hear in more detail rationale and background information
- Ask questions to clarify purpose and intent

10

- Review/recommend budget, recommend fiscal policies, review monthly financial status
- Review annual operating resolutions
- Review capital contract recommendations

Finance Committee

11

- Review & recommend policies and salary & benefit plans
- Screen bids for program contracts
- Nominate candidates for offices of President, VP, and TPO

Administration Committee

12

- Evaluate & recommend building needs, maintenance, safety, & space utilization
- Evaluate programs and service priorities for transit, parking, fuel station, and other operational activities
- Plan new programs and services

Operations Committee

13

- Screen candidates for GM
- Review GM's performance annually
- Develop annual goals for GM
- Work to negotiate contracts for the GM

Personnel Committee

14

- President Gynn to appoint ad hoc by-laws committee
- Are we doing what the by-laws describe?
- Are the by-laws working for us?
- Draft recommendations for board consideration

2021 By-Laws Review

15



Questions?


Thank You!

- Claudia Amrhein
- General Manager
- Amrhein.c16@PARTAonline.org

16

PARTA
2000 Summit Road
Kent, Ohio 44240

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: **PARTA Board of Trustees** 
FROM: **Claudia B. Amrhein, General Manager**
DATE: **October 2021**

Committee Meetings and Resolutions. The October meeting agenda includes resolutions to authorize the submission of an application for Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant (DERG) funding to support the replacement of (3) buses and a resolution to authorize the purchase of five (5) light transit vehicles.

The finance committee will meet on **Tuesday October 26, at 11:30 a.m.** to review Resolutions #2021-10-01 and -02 and September financial reports. Lunch will be provided.

The personnel committee will meet on **Thursday, October 28, at 6:30 p.m.** to complete the annual GM performance evaluation. As always, all board members are welcome to attend committee meetings.

#2021-10-01 A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (OHIO EPA) FOR THE 2021 OHIO DIESEL EMISSIONS REDUCTION GRANT (DERG) PROGRAM.

Resolution Supports DERG Grant Funding Application. We continually seek state and federal grant funding to replace fleet vehicles that have exceeded their useful life. Resolution #2020-10-01 will accompany an application requesting funding through the 2021 Ohio Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant (DERG) competitive funding program. The 2021 program makes \$10 million in competitive funding available to public transit agencies for replacement of diesel-powered public transit buses. DERG supports reduction of diesel emissions in priority counties, including Portage and Summit. In 2020, we received partial funding for two (2) CNG replacement buses. If awarded, the 2021 program funding will support the replacement of buses in 2024 with at least a 20% local match requirement.

#2021-10-02 A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER, OR HER DESIGNEE, TO PURCHASE FIVE (5) TURTLE TOP LIGHT TRANSIT VEHICLES (LTVs) OF WIDE BODY CONSTRUCTION, OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT, AND SPARE PARTS FROM TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT SALES CORPORATION (TESCO).

Replacing Light Transit Vehicles. Resolution #2021-10-02 authorizes the purchase of five (5) LTVs, optional equipment and spare parts from TESCO for a cost not to exceed \$510,000. This is the third purchase from the small bus contract awarded to TESCO in May 2020. The new vehicles will replace small buses running beyond their useful life that are programmed for replacement in the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

ODOT FY 2022 Grant Awards. I am pleased to report that PARTA will receive \$819,918 Ohio Transit Partnership Program (OTP2) funding to offset local match for the purchase of six (6) LTVs and (4) transit buses. The two-year 2022-23 state fiscal year transportation budget includes \$70 million annually that is awarded on a competitive basis for qualifying projects. It is the funding OPTA lobbied the General Assembly to restore after the governor's initial budget proposed a 90% cut in transit funding.

Service Reports. Ridership. (Coronavirus closures began March 2020). Ridership. Total county fixed route and DART ridership decreased by 20.88% through September, as compared to September 2020 with total county service performing 143,060 trips as compared to 180,817 trips performed through September 2020.

County fixed route service has decreased by approximately 24.59% as compared to last year, with 113,508 trips completed through September as compared to 150,515 trips completed through September 2020.

DART service has decreased by 2.48% through September as compared to September 2020, with 29,552 trips completed as compared to 30,302 trips completed through September 2020.

Overall ridership, including campus service, decreased by 37.87%, with campus down by 54.85%. Total system ridership totaled 233,449 as compared to 375,752 through September 2020.

On-Time Compliance. ADA Complementary Paratransit Service. ADA on-time compliance was 92.99% in August as compared to 96.41% in July. Of 628 trips, 44 were performed late. In September, on-time compliance dipped to 89%, with 77 trips performed late of 700 ADA trips performed.

General Public (non-ADA) DART. On-time performance for general public, non-ADA trips was 79.44% in September as compared to 82.27% for August.

Vehicle Preventative Maintenance (PM). On-time compliance with established PM inspection schedules was 99% in September as compared to 100% in August.

Parking Deck. Parking deck usage continues an upward trend, with the number of cars increasing in August by 19% as compared to July and by 5% in September as compared to August. Cars totaled 9,665 in September as compared to 9,248 in August and 7,762 in July. Year-to-date totals reflect an increase of 46% through September as compared to September 2020.

November and December Meetings. The regular November and December meetings move up a week to accommodate the holidays. Enclosed please find an overview of the schedule and planned agenda items for the remaining meetings in 2021.

Veterans Day Ceremony ~ Thursday, November 11, at 2:00 p.m. We will hold a Veterans Day Ceremony at the Kent Central Gateway on Thursday, November 11, at 2:00 p.m. Last year's ceremony was not held due to COVID-19. The event will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery and honor all veterans for their service and sacrifice.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. If you have any questions prior to the Board meeting, please feel free to contact me by calling (330) 676-6315, or by e-mail at Amrhein.c16@partaonline.org.

2021 November and December Meeting Schedules

The November and December meeting schedules adjust for the holidays and include agenda items necessary to prepare for the 2022 calendar year.

November Schedule

- Finance Committee
 - Wednesday, November 10, at 3 p.m. – Draft 2022 Budget Presentation
- Veterans Day Ceremony
 - Thursday, November 11, at 2 p.m. – Kent Central Gateway
- Board of Trustees Meeting
 - Thursday, November 18, at 7 p.m.
 - Board Attorney Justin Markey will present an overview of Ohio Sunshine Laws

December Schedule

- Finance Committee
 - Thursday, December 14, at 11:30 a.m.
- Board of Trustees Meeting
 - Thursday, December 16, at 7 p.m.

Planned Agenda Items

We expect to bring forward the following items during November or December:

- Budget Resolutions for *PARTA* and the Kent Central Gateway
- Resolution to ratify annual fuel contract following bid opening
- Annual resolutions to authorize large purchase items in 2022



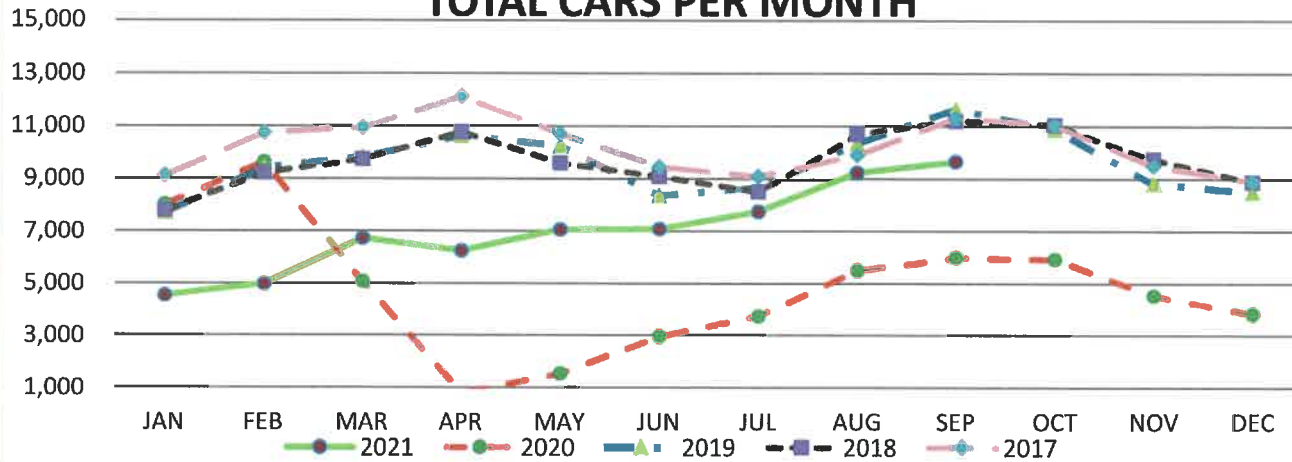
KENT CENTRAL GATEWAY PARKING SUMMARY - September 2021

6 Month Lookback						
	Monthly	Transient	Total	Cars/Day	Last	Last Year
Apr-21	3,703	2,546	6,249	208	-7%	696%
May-21	3,445	3,622	7,067	228	13%	360%
Jun-21	3,474	3,610	7,084	236	0%	139%
Jul-21	3,537	4,225	7,762	250	10%	108%
Aug-21	4,082	5,166	9,248	298	19%	68%
Sep-21	5,123	4,542	9,665	322	5%	61%

Annual Comparison

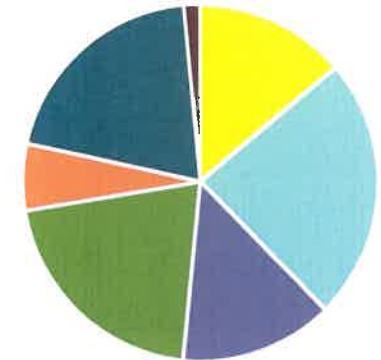
	2021	2020	2019
JAN	4,534	8,024	7,707
FEB	4,982	9,642	9,424
MAR	6,738	5,082	9,836
APR	6,249	785	10,639
MAY	7,067	1,535	10,268
JUN	7,084	2,961	8,371
JUL	7,762	3,730	8,672
AUG	9,248	5,502	10,352
SEP	9,665	5,996	11,657
OCT		5,938	10,888
NOV		4,538	8,812
DEC		3,828	8,505
TOTAL	63,329	57,561	118,373
	-27.1%	46.4%	-50.0%

TOTAL CARS PER MONTH

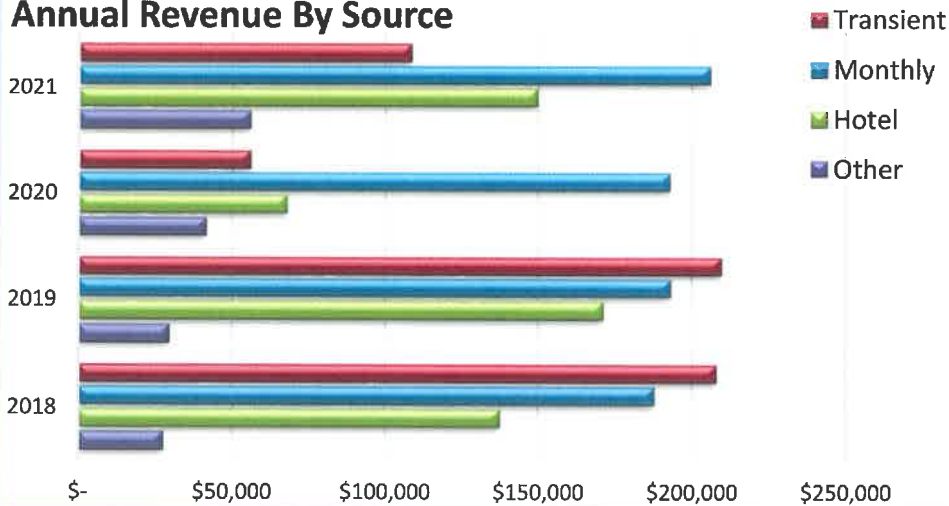


Rate Types Collected

- \$1.00
- \$2.00
- \$3.00
- \$4.00
- \$5.00
- \$6 - \$9
- \$10 - \$15
- >15

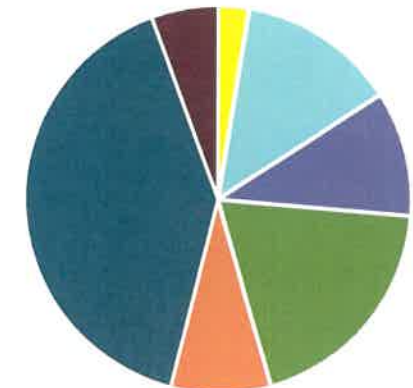


Annual Revenue By Source



\$ Rate Types Collected

- \$1.00
- \$2.00
- \$3.00
- \$4.00
- \$5.00
- \$6 - \$9
- \$10 - \$15
- >15



RESOLUTION #2021-10-01**A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (OHIO EPA) FOR THE 2021 OHIO DIESEL EMISSIONS REDUCTION GRANT (DERG) PROGRAM.**

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has set aside monies for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) projects through the 2021 Ohio Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant (DERG) program; and

WHEREAS, the DERG program is jointly administered by the State of Ohio, Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), and the State of Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT); and

WHEREAS, the Ohio EPA awards CMAQ funds to support projects that reduce air emissions from diesel fleets in priority counties; and

WHEREAS, Portage County is defined as a priority county, and PARTA is eligible to apply for funding through DERG for a CMAQ eligible project; and

WHEREAS, the purchase of CNG-fueled vehicles to replace outdated 35' diesel buses is an eligible project under the DERG grant program, and the replacement of vehicles is consistent with PARTA's fleet replacement schedule; and

WHEREAS, in November 2021, the General Manager, or her designee, will file a grant application on behalf of PARTA to replace three (3) outdated 35' diesel buses with three (3) new CNG-fueled vehicles through the 2021 DERG program; and

WHEREAS, if requested funds are granted, PARTA shall be responsible for at least twenty percent (20%) of the eligible costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED by the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) Board of Trustees that:

1. The 2021 DERG application to be filed in November 2021 by the General Manager, or her designee, to replace three (3) outdated 35' diesel buses with three (3) new CNG-fueled vehicles at a total project cost of \$1,579,638 be authorized and approved.
2. The information contained in the project application is accurate, to the best of its knowledge, that it intends to diligently pursue that project, and that a local share of at least twenty percent (20%) is required to match federal funds.

CERTIFICATION:

The undersigned duly qualified Board President, acting on behalf of the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA), certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Board of Trustees held on October 28, 2021.

Date

David Gynn, President
Board of Trustees

Attested

RESOLUTION #2021-10-02

A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER, OR HER DESIGNEE, TO PURCHASE FIVE (5) TURTLE TOP LIGHT TRANSIT VEHICLES (LTVs) OF WIDE BODY CONSTRUCTION, OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT, AND SPARE PARTS FROM TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT SALES CORPORATION (TESCO).

WHEREAS, the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) has identified the need to purchase replacement Light Transit Vehicles (LTVs) of wide body construction for LTVs that are beyond their useful life and are included in the AMATS approved Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and

WHEREAS, PARTA conducted a formal procurement through RFP#LTV2020-1, which was issued on February 18, 2020, and after reviewing the RFPs, found that Transportation Equipment Sales Corporation (TESCO) LTVs represent the best overall product and price for PARTA; and

WHEREAS, PARTA plans to place a third order under RFP#LTV2020-1 with TESCO for five (5) Turtle Top LTVs, optional equipment, and spare parts to be delivered in 2022; and

WHEREAS, funding for this third order will come from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) through the 5339 formula program and from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) through the 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities program and the Ohio Transit Partnership Program (OTPP); and

WHEREAS, PARTA will utilize local sales tax revenue as local match and to supplement the grant funding in the event unexpected contingent expenses arise; and

WHEREAS, PARTA's plan is to order LTVs, optional equipment, and spare parts from TESCO, in accordance with PARTA's TIP, each year beginning in 2020 through 2025 depending on the availability of funds. This represents the third order placed in accordance with this plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED by the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) Board of Trustees that:

The General Manager, or her designee, is hereby authorized to execute said contract with Transportation Equipment Sales Corporation (TESCO) for the third order under this plan for five (5) Turtle Top LTVs, optional equipment, and spare parts, for a cost not to exceed \$510,000, to be delivered in 2022.

CERTIFICATION:

The undersigned duly qualified Board President, acting on behalf of the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA), certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Board of Trustees held on October 28, 2021.

Date

David Gynn, President
Board of Trustees

Attested

Raven Awards honors best of Ravenna



Vince Coia and Bryan Coia accepted the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of their parents, Joe and Regina Coia, who owned Coia Implement Sales in Ravenna Township. Joe Coia died in 2020 and Regina Coia died in March.

NICHOLAS MCLAUGHLIN, SPECIAL TO THE RECORD-COURIER

Residents, businesses recognized during outdoor ceremony

Diane Smith

Ravenna Record-Courier
USA TODAY NETWORK

Raven Award recipients gathered on the football field at the Ravenna High School stadium Wednesday, as the Ravenna Area Chamber of Commerce held an outdoor ceremony to recognize two years worth of honorees.

Ryann Kuchenbecker, executive director of the chamber, said the annual award ceremony, traditionally hosted at the Ravenna Elks Club, was canceled last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This year, we decided no matter what, we are doing it," she said.

The ceremony included a performance from the Ravenna High School

band. Award recipients were seated in chairs on the football field, while observers watched the ceremony from the bleachers. Instead of a dinner, attendees were told that their ticket would serve as a gift certificate for various restaurants in the days ahead.

Joe and Regina Coia were posthu-

See RAVEN AWARDS, Page 3A

Raven Awards

Continued from Page 1A

mously honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for 2019, while Rick Coe of Portage Community Bank received the same award for 2020.

Vince Coia, a Ravenna Township trustee, accepted the award for his parents, along with his brother, Bryan. Vince Coia said his parents had been high school sweethearts who were married for 58 years. Joe Coia died in March 2020 after a battle with cancer. Regina Coia died the following spring after sustaining a stroke.

The Coia family started a mower repair business in 1980, which later changed its name to Coia Implement Sales. The whole family was involved in the business, Vince Coia said. After Joe Coia was diagnosed with cancer, he decided to sell the business, and the sale closed just after his death.

He said his parents were involved with the community behind the scenes.

"They were big believers in the things we all take for granted today," he said.

Rick Coe paid tribute to his wife, Heather, who he said has been by his side for 37 years. He also thanked the chamber, and congratulated the other honorees.

Kuchenbecker said Coe always focused on serving people.

"Rick always said it's the people who make up our community, and it's up to us to serve them any way we can," she said.

Coe, who led Portage Community Bank since its beginning in Ravenna in 1998, retired on July 1. He continues to serve on the bank's board of directors.

Ray and Ann Harner, the "dynamic duo" responsible for the Chestnut Commerce Center at Ravenna's former GE plant, were the 2019 Citizens of the Year. Dennis Honkala, former superintendent of the Ravenna School District, was the 2020 Citizen of the Year.

Portage Community Chapel was recognized as Volunteer of the Year for 2019. Patricia Dennison, a recent retiree from Kent State University and a recent appointee to the Ravenna Board of Education, was Volunteer of the Year for 2020.

Milke Tontimonia, a longtime member of the Ravenna Board of Education, received the chamber's Honorary Award for 2019. Theodore Manfrass, a longtime architect, received the Honorary Award for 2020.

New businesses recognized for 2019 were Canine Couture, Chestnut Convenient, Chipotle, Popped!, Vance's Carriage House Creamery and War Horse Ink. New businesses for 2020 were Arrow Industrial Solutions, Lugapha's Smoked BBQ, Pinnacle Treatment Center, Ravenna Nutrition, VISTA IT Systems and Zillxcuts Barbershop.

Those recognized for New Renovation for 2019 included Darrah's All Star



The 2021 Ravenna Chamber of Commerce's Raven Awards ceremony was held Wednesday evening at Ravenna High School's Portage Community Bank Stadium.

PHOTOS BY NICHOLAS MCLAUGHLIN, SPECIAL TO THE RECORD-COURIER

Academy, Maplewood Career Center, Saint Gobain and Stepping Stone Community Services. New Renovation honorees for 2020 were Children's Advantage Family Center, It's All Fine Consignment and Leeda Northeas, and M&J Medical Supply.

New Construction honorees for 2019 were Allen Aircraft Products, Independence of Portage County and The Wilds at Harvest Rose. PARTA was recognized for new construction in 2020.

Because the 50/50 raffle at the Raven Awards funds scholarships for Ravenna High School graduates, scholarship recipients for 2019, 2020 and 2021 were recognized. 2019 scholarship winners were Lauren Calhoun, Nick Rainone and Reilly Full. Scholarship recipients for 2020 were Caitlyn Skilton, Lucas Spiker and Tessa Gabriel. Scholarship winners for 2021 were Amelia Walton, Hali Matulka, Katherine Miller and Margaret Remley.

Got Ravenna news? Contact reporter Diane Smith at dsmith@record-pub.com.

Citizen of the Year award recipients Ray & Ann Harner were honored at the Ravenna Chamber of Commerce's Raven Awards ceremony Wednesday evening.

Meetings set on \$20M street redesign

Bob Gaetjens
Ravenna Record-Courier
USA TODAY NETWORK

Two public meetings have been set to gauge the community's reaction to a plan to remake East Main Street be-

tween Willow Street and Horning Road in Kent.

The meetings are Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Kent Student Center, 1075 Risman Drive, Room 306 and Sept. 21 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Kent United Methodist Church, 1435 E. Main St.

The project proposal currently envisions round-a-bout intersections at the corner of East Main Street, Haymaker Parkway and Willow Street and at the corner of East Main Street, Horning Road and Overlook Drive.

Most of the length of the project, with

the exceptions of intersection approaches, will feature a tree-lined median and street trees on the north side of East Main Street, creating a tree-lined boulevard.

See REDESIGN, Page 2A

Redesign

Continued from Page 1A

Sidewalks on the north side of the road and a path set farther back from the road on the university side also are included as part of the current plan. There are also about a half dozen crosswalks planned at key points along East Main Street.

The planned \$20 million redesign of this three-quarter-mile portion of East Main Street involves the university, the city of Kent, PARTA, the Akron Area Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Ohio Department of Transportation.

According to the city of Kent, the design of the project is slated to be completed by 2024. Construction would begin in 2025 and last about three years.

The goals of the project, as laid out on the city's website, include:

- Improving safety and aesthetics for all users
- Balancing vehicular congestion with improvements to other modes of transportation
- Enhancing adjacent neighborhoods
- Integrating with KSU's Gateway Master Plan
- Providing reasonable access to adjacent properties and side streets.

According to the city, this stretch of road is one of the worst crash corridors in Summit and Portage counties, and city officials have said they'd like to knock the road segment off the top of that list.

Do you have a business or healthcare story you'd like to share? Reporter Bob Gaetjens can be reached at 330-541-9440, bgaetjens@recordpub.com and @bobgaetjens_rc.



These map segments show, from west to east, what East Main Street in Kent may look like after a \$20 million upgrade. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CITY OF KENT

Kent wants 2 roundabouts on East Main

City, KSU will host meeting about \$20M upgrade

Bob Gaetjens

Ravenna Record-Courier | USA TODAY NETWORK

Two roundabouts and a tree-lined median can move traffic more quickly, reduce crashes and improve pedestrian safety along the busy north edge of Kent State University, Kent's city engineer

said Thursday.

Plans call for East Main Street to undergo a \$20 million upgrade between Willow Street and Overlook Drive in Kent from 2025 to 2027.

About 20 to 25 community members gathered Thursday to hear details at the Kent State University Student Center,

where several stations presented different aspects of the project. But the main event was Kent City Engineer Jim Bowling's presentation that outlined the project and explained the rationale behind the design.

"This area, and the front of campus was the worst crash corridor in Kent, Portage County and all of Summit County," he told the audience. "That is not a distinction we'd like to have. Also,

we had several intersections, along this corridor that were also on the list for worst crash areas in Summit or Portage County."

The most obvious features are roundabouts at the west and east ends of the project.

Don Schnee, who said he lives nearby, questioned whether a roundabout is

See UPGRADE, Page 2A



A community forum took place Thursday at the Kent State University Student Center during which city and university officials outlined a \$20 million upgrade to East Main Street in front of the campus. About 20 to 25 people attended the event. BOB GAETJENS/RECORD-COURIER

Upgrade

Continued from Page 1A

necessary where Horning Road, Overlook Drive and East Main Street come together.

"My own traffic study says 90% of the traffic there is east to west," he said, explaining he doesn't think Horning and Overlook would generate enough traffic to justify a roundabout.

Bowling said the roundabouts will not only improve safety and reduce congestion, but also provide turn around locations for motorists limited by the median.

Although it's not legal in some spots, motorists still turn left on to East Main Street from roads and properties to the north, Bowling said.

"Okay, I can't stop somebody from turning left coming out of Wendy's even though there's a sign that says no left turn," he said.

Because of a tree-lined boulevard, he said motorists coming from several streets to the north will have to turn right, toward downtown.

"So you're not going to sit waiting as long for a gap in the traffic; you have to turn right and then go to the nearest place to do a U turn," Bowling explained.

Traffic turning right from the south side of East Main Street would be able to do same thing at a roundabout at Horning and Overlook.

There's also a third place motorist will be able to make a U turn — at the signalized intersection at Luther Avenue, which is about in the center of the project area.

Bowling said there would be small paved areas on either side of East Main Street at Luther Avenue to give larger vehicles more space to execute a U turn safely.

Bowling said safety for cars, bicyclists and pedestrians were some of the factors driving the design of the project. He also said he hopes to improve neighborhoods to the north and mesh with Kent State University's Gateway Master Plan to the south.

Fewer left turns from the north side of the street and the roundabouts should help ease congestion and will hopefully attract more people to use East Main Street rather than cutting through neighborhoods.

"If you're driving down the road, and you're not waiting, that's the carrot," he said. "The other thing we would do is put in these gateway treatments along those entrances to the neighborhoods."



Kent City Engineer Jim Bowling provided an overview and rationale for some of the changes coming to East Main Street between Haymaker Parkway and Overlook Drive at a forum Thursday at the Kent State University Student Center.

Those entrances tend to deter motorists who recognize them as entrances to residential areas, Bowling said.

For bicyclists, Bowling said a hike and bike trail would wind along the south side of East Main Street set back from the road. The path would connect to other regional bike paths.

"We want people to have the option to leave their house on their bike and go anywhere they want," he said. "The destination doesn't need to be a bike trail; it could be downtown; it could be the university."

Bowling said the project would be paid for with a mix of grant money and city funding. So far, the city is planning to contribute about \$3.1 million while various grants will cover about \$16.3 million. The city plans to seek additional grants to make up the difference.

Another public meeting is planned for 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Kent United Methodist Church, 1435 E. Main St.

Do you have a business or healthcare story you'd like to share? Reporter Bob Gaetjens can be reached at 330-541-9440, bgaetjens@recordpub.com and @bobgaetjens_rc.

Kent wants two roundabouts on East Main

City, KSU will host meeting about \$20 million upgrade

Bob Gaetjens
Record-Courier
USA TODAY NETWORK

Two roundabouts and a tree-lined median can move traffic more quickly, reduce crashes and improve pedestrian safety along the busy north edge of Kent State University, Kent's city engineer said Thursday.

Plans call for East Main Street to undergo a \$20 million upgrade between Willow Street and Overlook Drive in Kent from 2025 to 2027.

About 20 to 25 community members gathered Thursday to hear details at the Kent State University Student Center, where several stations presented different aspects of the project. But the main event was Kent City Engineer Jim Bowling's presentation that outlined the project and explained the rationale behind the design.

"This area, and the front of campus was the worst crash corridor in Kent, Portage County and all of Summit County," he told the audience. "That is not a distinction we'd like to have. Also, we had several intersections, along this corridor that were also on the list for worst crash areas in Summit or Portage County."

The most obvious features are roundabouts at the west and east ends of the project.

Don Schnee, who said he lives nearby, questioned whether a roundabout is necessary where Horning Road, Overlook Drive and East Main Street come together.

"My own traffic study says 90% of the traffic there is east to west," he said, explaining he doesn't think Horning and Overlook would generate enough traffic to justify a roundabout.

Bowling said the roundabouts will not only improve safety and reduce congestion, but also provide turn around locations for motorists limited by the median.

Although it's not legal in some spots, motorists still turn left on to East Main Street from roads and properties to the north, Bowling said.

"Okay, I can't stop somebody from



A community forum took place Thursday at the Kent State University Student Center during which city and university officials outlined a \$20 million upgrade to East Main Street in front of the campus. About 20 to 25 people attended the event. BOB GAETJENS/RECORD-COURIER

turning left coming out of Wendy's even though there's a sign that says no left turn," he said.

Because of a tree-lined boulevard, he said motorists coming from several streets to the north will have to turn right, toward downtown.

"So you're not going to sit waiting as long for a gap in the traffic; you have to turn right and then go to the nearest place to do a U turn," Bowling explained.

Traffic turning right from the south side of East Main Street would be able to do same thing at a roundabout at Horning and Overlook.

There's also a third place motorists will be able to make a U turn — at the signalized intersection at Luther Avenue, which is about in the center of the project area.

Bowling said there would be small paved areas on either side of East Main Street at Luther Avenue to give larger vehicles more space to execute a U turn

safely.

Bowling said safety for cars, bicyclists and pedestrians were some of the factors driving the design of the project. He also said he hopes to improve neighborhoods to the north and mesh with Kent State University's Gateway Master Plan to the south.

Fewer left turns from the north side of the street and the roundabouts should help ease congestion and will hopefully attract more people to use East Main Street rather than cutting through neighborhoods.

"If you're driving down the road, and you're not waiting, that's the carrot," he said. "The other thing we would do is put in these gateway treatments along those entrances to the neighborhoods."

Those entrances tend to deter motorists who recognize them as entrances to residential areas, Bowling said.

For bicyclists, Bowling said a hike and bike trail would wind along the south

side of East Main Street set back from the road. The path would connect to other regional bike paths.

"We want people to have the option to leave their house on their bike and go anywhere they want," he said. "The destination doesn't need to be a bike trail; it could be downtown; it could be the university."

Bowling said the project would be paid for with a mix of grant money and city funding. So far, the city is planning to contribute about \$3.1 million while various grants will cover about \$16.3 million. The city plans to seek additional grants to make up the difference.

Another public meeting is planned for 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Kent United Methodist Church, 1435 E. Main St.

Do you have a business or healthcare story you'd like to share? Reporter Bob Gaetjens can be reached at 330-541-9440, bgaetjens@recordpub.com and [@bobgaetjens_rc](https://twitter.com/bobgaetjens_rc).