



July - September 2025

Volume 62 Issue 3



Planning Progress

Stark County Fair Housing Department Sponsors Event in Alliance

Mayor Andrew Grove gave the opening remarks at the Fair Housing and Landlord-Tenant Seminar on May 20, 2025. Valerie Watson, Fair Housing Manager, and Ryan Maxwell, Managing Attorney at Community Legal Aid, were the speakers. Watson gave an overview of the Fair Housing Act and discussed how Criminal Background Screening relates to the law while Maxwell provided information on Landlord and Tenant Rights and Responsibilities under the Ohio Landlord-Tenant Act.

Event Speakers discuss the Fair Housing and Landlord-Tenant Laws



Community Development



In late April, Chief of Community Development, Diane Sheridan and Community Development Administrator, Lisa Snyder attended the Region V National Community Development Association (NCD A) conference in Columbus, Ohio. Staff had an opportunity to connect with other community development professionals from across the region and attend thought-provoking sessions. To learn more about NCD A, visit their [website](#).

Community Development Block Grant

Is your organization seeking grant funds to support new or current programming for low-income Stark County residents? Does your community need upgrades to sanitary sewer or water lines? Stark County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) may be an option. Plan to join us on August 8, 2025 at 9:00 AM for the virtual FY 2026-2028 CDBG application workshop. If you have a potential project that you would like to discuss, contact Lisa Snyder at Lcsnyder@starkcountyohio.gov or Diane Sheridan at Dmsheridan@starkcountyohio.gov.

HOME Investment Partnerships

The HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) provides funding to states and local communities exclusively for the development of affordable housing. Stark County primarily utilizes its HOME program allocation for rehabilitation of existing housing and new construction of affordable units. If you would like to hear more about the HOME program and the FY 2026 application process, join us for the virtual application workshop on October 3, 2025 at 9:00 AM.

Reminder e-mails with each meeting link will be sent prior to the workshops. If you would like to be added to our e-mail list, contact Lcsnyder@starkcountyohio.gov.

Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

The department's 2024 program year concluded June 30, 2025. Part of the county's requirements as recipients of CDBG and HOME funding is to submit the CAPER to HUD within 90 days of the end of its program year. This annual report summarizes the performance and accomplishments for the program year. A draft report will be available for public comment from August 27, 2025 through September 12, 2025 and will be reviewed during a public hearing on September 9, 2025 at 7:00 pm at Stark County Regional Planning Commission, 201 Third Street NE, Suite 201 Canton, OH 44702.

ATTENTION CONTRACTORS

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission is searching for contractors who are committed to undertaking quality housing rehabilitation work under federally funded programs.

If you're interested in bidding on upcoming home improvement projects, SCRPC has grant funds available!

Work May Include:

Plumbing	Electric
Heating	Roofs
Siding	Gutters
Insulation	Windows
Doors	...and MORE

Minority, Women-Owned and Section 3 Businesses are encouraged to apply.

To learn more about contracting with the SCRPC on our upcoming home rehabilitation projects, visit, call or email us today!



201 3rd Street NE, Suite 201
Canton, OH 44702

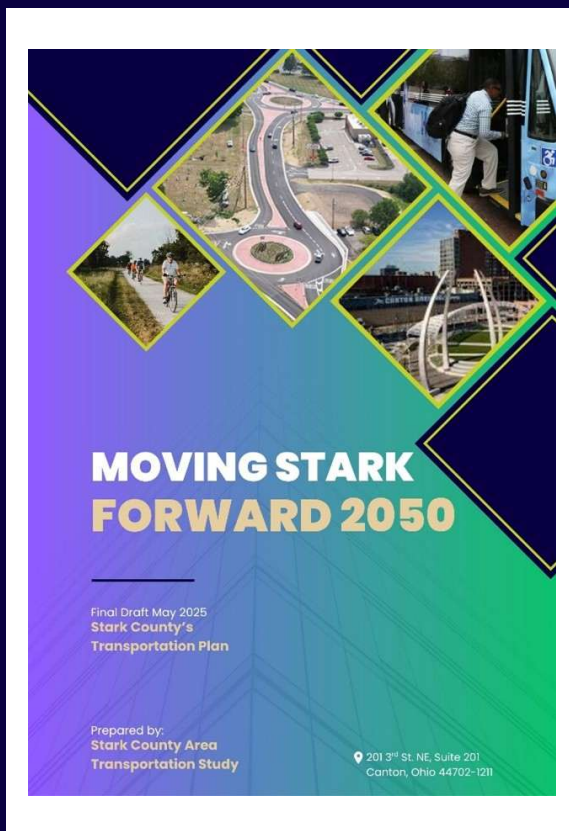
Call Us at 330-451-7302

Email Us at spwilliams@starkcountyohio.gov

Visit Us Online at www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov

“Moving Stark Forward 2050”

The Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS) recently completed an update of its long-range transportation plan, “Moving Stark Forward 2050”. The plan outlines a comprehensive vision for the region’s transportation system through 2050. Adopted on May 27th by the SCATS Policy Committee, the plan addresses current and projected transportation needs across multiple modes, including highways, public transit, freight, and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. It serves as a strategic blueprint to enhance mobility, safety, and economic development while securing federal funding for proposed projects. The plan is the tenth update since SCATS’s initial transportation plan in 1971.



The plan evaluates existing transportation conditions and forecasts future demands, identifying strategies and specific projects to improve the county’s infrastructure. Key components include road and highway improvements, transit enhancements, and expanded pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Notable projects include widening Applegrove Street NW to five lanes (from Frank to Whipple avenues, \$13 million by 2030), widening Edison Street NW to four lanes (from Cleveland Avenue to State Route 43, \$5 million by 2030), widening Harmont Avenue NE to four lanes (from State Route 153 to US Route 62 by 2040), building an interchange at US Route 62 and Harmont (\$50 million by 2050), and extending US Route 30 from Trump

Avenue to the county line (\$800 million by 2050). These projects aim to reduce congestion and improve safety. The plan also incorporates access management strategies, such as eliminating driveways and creating service roads to streamline traffic and reduce conflict points.

Public transit initiatives, led by the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA), emphasize rapid transit corridors to improve connectivity and accessibility. Additionally, Stark Parks contributes recreational trail proposals to promote alternative transportation and enhance quality of life. The plan aligns with federal requirements for metropolitan planning organizations, ensuring eligibility for funding to implement these projects.

The table below shows the expected costs for these projects.

Project Cost Estimates			
Time Period	Highway & Trail	Transit	Total
2026-2030	\$ 374,848,657	\$ 26,437,294	\$ 401,285,951
2031-2040	\$ 1,320,867,503	\$ 61,876,535	\$ 1,382,744,038
2041-2050	\$ 382,579,241	\$ 76,169,904	\$ 458,749,145
Total	\$ 2,078,295,401	\$ 164,483,733	\$ 2,242,779,134

Keep in mind, these numbers include all local projects, ODOT projects, and Ohio Public Works Commission projects, as well as SCATS projects. In addition, these numbers include spending on maintenance projects, like paving, as well as new construction.

Public engagement was a critical part of the plan's development. The draft list of projects was open for public comment late in the summer of 2024, allowing residents to provide feedback through an interactive virtual tour on the plan's official website. This participatory approach ensured the plan reflected community needs and priorities. The document, available on the Stark County Regional Planning Commission website, serves as a repository of proposals and a guide for local municipalities and transportation agencies to foster coordinated development.

Overall, "Moving Stark Forward 2050" is a forward-thinking strategy to create a safer, more efficient, and sustainable transportation network for Stark County, addressing the challenges of growth and modernization over the next three decades.

Land Bank Updates

Last June the Stark County Land Bank, in partnership with Canton for All People, Inc., was awarded a \$2,000,000 grant out of the Ohio Department of Development's Welcome Home Ohio Program for the purchase and resale of ten (10) new construction residential properties in the Greater Shorb Neighborhood of Canton, Ohio.

Canton for All People is a Community Development Corporation formed by Crossroads United Methodist Church whose vision is to bring quality housing and opportunities for all people to downtown Canton.

Excavation of the foundations is now underway on three of the ten homes to be constructed! The grant deadline to construct and sell all ten homes is May 1st, 2026.



Future funding for the Welcome Home Ohio Program is currently included within the next operating budget currently pending/under consideration with the State Senate. If passed, there will be nearly \$90 million available in grant funding along with some programmatic changes to the program which would increase flexibility, expand eligibility to qualified nonprofit developers, and allow for a more realistic approach to resale and affordability enforcement.

FIRST LAND BANK REHAB PROJECT SOLD

In early December 2023, the Land Bank acquired its first residential property with the intent to rehab the existing home and then sell it to a new homebuyer. The 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom bungalow with bonus room is located on 0.72 acres in Perry Township.

After extensive rehabilitation work was completed on the house in 2024 the Land Bank hired a real estate agent to assist in the listing/sale of the property. The property went on the open market, was pending by the end of the year, and sold to the new homeowner at the end of February.

Updates and renovations to the home included a new roof, siding repair, new exterior doors, gutted/renovated bathroom and kitchen, all new fixtures and appliances, new hot water tank, new septic system installed, updated electrical, all new flooring throughout, and a new vinyl privacy fence.



Stark Parks Comprehensive Plan Update

As part of the update to the Stark County Park District's Comprehensive Plan, SCRPC staff hosted nine public meetings for the community members to gather input and suggestions on future needs and park planning and operations. Additionally, a stakeholder session was held before each meeting for community officials to discuss local issues and topics to incorporate within the plan as well as discuss future opportunities for partnership with the Stark County communities and the park district.

The meetings were held throughout Stark County from March through May. An online survey was also made available for public input through June 30th, emphasizing the continued belief that public input is essential to formulating plans and visions.

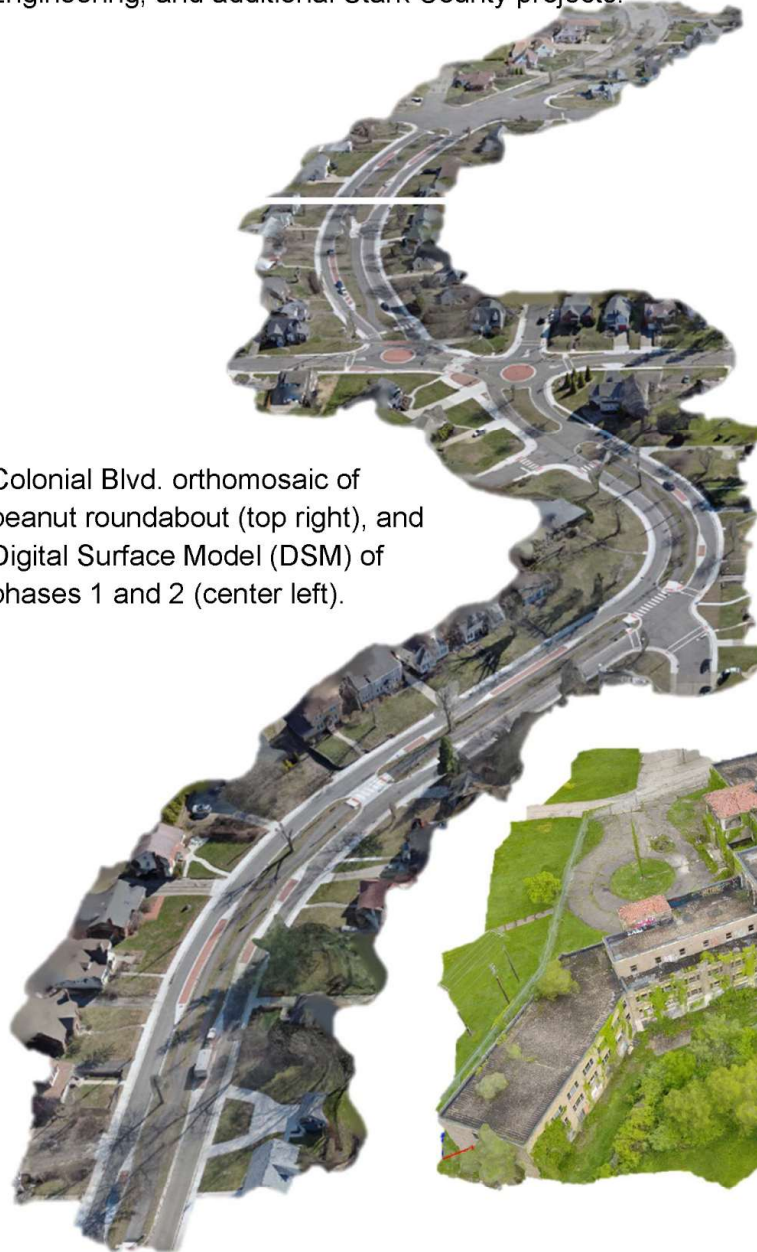
SCRPC staff will continue to gather data and work through the completion of the update. Next steps include draft plan meetings for the public scheduled for this fall.



RPC GIS Drone Update

The SCRPC GIS Department created an up-to-date aerial map of Colonial Blvd., reporting progress on the completion of phase 1, and additionally including a beforehand overview of phase 2.

The department continues to provide such before, during, and after progress mapping for SCATS, Subdivision Engineering, and additional Stark County projects.



Colonial Blvd. orthomosaic of peanut roundabout (top right), and Digital Surface Model (DSM) of phases 1 and 2 (center left).



Overview 3D model of Molly Stark Sanitarium (bottom right), and a single face detailed scan (center right).

An ongoing collaboration between SCRPC and Stark Parks is also taking place at Molly Stark Park. The project goal is to complete a detailed 3D building scan of the Molly Stark Sanitarium before it is demolished. Although rough models can be completed with data from a single short flight, a more detailed model requires many flights of data collection with further processing to merge together the individual faces of the building pieces at a time.

July

7	Subdivision Review	1:30 AM
8	SCRPC	7:00 PM
28	SCATS	1:30 PM

August

4	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
5	SCRPC	7:00 PM
25	SCATS	1:30 PM

September

8	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
9	SCRPC	7:00 PM
29	SCATS	1:30 PM

Visit our website:
www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov

Stark County Regional Planning Commission
201- 3rd St. N.E., Suite 201
Canton, Ohio 44702
330-451-7389



Executive Director: Robert Nau

President: Joseph Skubiak

