



*Lake County, Ohio*



## Lake County Board of Commissioners

105 Main Street  
Painesville, OH 44077

# PRESS RELEASE

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DATE: January 11, 2014

Lake County Commissioner Daniel P. Troy announced today that a local community collaboration earned a \$75,000 grant to forge a vision for the future to enhance access to the lakefront.

The Central Lake County Lakefront Connectivity Plan, a concept conceived by a consortium of communities and local agencies, was awarded \$75,000 by the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative Program, which supports transportation infrastructure improvements.

According to the application, the study encompasses 24.34 square miles, and includes 201 linear miles of roadway, 13.6 miles of existing bike lanes trails, multipurpose pathways, water trails, and limited transit access. The aim of the project is to improve connectivity among a series of shared coastal recreational and scenic destinations, including Headlands Beach State Park, Fairport Harbor Lakefront Park, and Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve.

The consortium includes the cities of Mentor and Painesville, the villages of Fairport Harbor and Grand River, Painesville Township, Laketran, the Lake County Planning Commission, Lake Metroparks, and the Lake County General Health District which led the initiative.

Commissioner Troy applauded the work of the consortium to submit a strong, cohesive and cooperative plan for improving transportation routes throughout the surrounding area to access the lakefront.

“I salute the collaborative effort of local governments and other public entities in putting the winning proposal together; we eagerly look forward to seeing the solutions the consortium devises to enable all citizens a path to enjoying our most prominent, and certainly, our most precious regional resource – Lake Erie.”

Commissioner Troy, part of the NOACA leadership team currently serving as second vice-president, urged approval of the project by the 45-member NOACA Governing Board at its meeting on Friday, where the grant award later passed unanimously.

Commissioner Troy said the success of the application demonstrates the forward-thinking teamwork that can and does enable Lake County to achieve positive results.

“Since we have built such a strong collaboration, it is certainly feasible that the consortium would be eligible to seek and receive future grant funding to further its vision for the region.”

Deputy Health Commissioner Ron H. Graham had this to say about the recent grant award by NOACA for the Central Lake County Lake Front Connectivity plan.

“Our goal is to support and bring back all modes of transportation to our citizens, whether it is cars, bicycles, feet or kayaks. We need to make sure that people have the opportunity to use all modes of transportation to promote a healthier lifestyle.”

“The Central Lake County region has numerous recreation and natural areas, entertainment and dining venues, businesses, and neighborhoods that provide a unique character and a rich quality. By connecting them through a cohesive alternative transportation network of pedestrian, bicycle and water trails, it will enhance the region’s identity as a place to live, work, visit, and play,” Graham said.

“The implementation of this connectivity will not only benefit the personal health of our citizens, but also the overall image of our great Lake County and the Great Lake that it borders.” Commissioner Troy concluded.

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