

Anderson Plan Implementation Committee

November 12, 2025

Township Elected Officials Present: Trustee Dee Stone, Fiscal Officer Brian Johnson

Committee Members Present: Dan O'Rourke, Karl Sieber, Cindy Sieber, John Halpin, Jim Willis, Bruce Berno, Peg Fenner, Vicki Beck, Brian Gay, Jay Lewis, Stephen Feagins

Others Present: Vicky Earhart (Twp. Administrator), Steve Sievers (Asst. Twp. Administrator for Operations), Sarah Donovan (Asst. Director for Planning & Zoning), Stephen Springsteen (Planner I), Eli Davies (Planner I), Logan Vaughn (UC Co-op), Maddie Hart (WeTHRIVE), Cynthia Voss (The Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse HUB), Betsy Moore, Natalie Hastings

Members Absent: Katie Buchmann, Matt Chaffin, Kevin Comerford, Michael Doenges, Duane Donohoo, Andrea Granieri, Nicole Hunter, Phil Kiley, Jay Lewis, Elizabeth Maier, Anne Miller, Zach Peterson, Karen Schwamberger, Paul Sheckles, Paul Sian, Susan Wheatley

4:30 Committee meeting called to order

Welcome & Introductions

Mr. Davies opened the meeting and expressed his appreciation to the Committee for their hard work and continued dedication. He then invited Mrs. Stone to provide any comments or questions she might have.

Mrs. Stone thanked the Implementation Committee for their efforts and noted that their work has been significant in advancing the goals in the Township.

Subgroup Discussion Time

Mr. Davies gave the subgroups a few minutes to meet and reconnect on their various activities before reporting to the full committee.

4:50 Meeting Summary & Report Back

2.3.1 (Maintain, monitor and plan for Township streets and overall road network (including sidewalks, trails and bike lanes))

Mr. Davies reconvened the groups and offered an update on recent transportation initiatives. He summarized METRO's October 28, 2025, presentation at the Senior Center, attended by Mr. Drury, and announced that the Anderson Center Station ribbon cutting is scheduled for the week of December 7th. He noted that METRO updates its routes quarterly, with service to the new station beginning at the next update.

Mr. Sievers confirmed that the new quarter for METRO begins December 7th, which is when the new service route should become operational. He added that METRO is finalizing interior improvements to the Park and Ride facility before service begins.

Mr. Davies then provided a broader overview of sidewalk projects, announcing that Anderson Township received a SORTA grant for a new sidewalk along Sutton Road and has completed the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon at Clough / Endovalley / Juilfs Park. He noted that the upcoming Winter edition of *Anderson Insights* will highlight recent grant awards. He also reminded the Committee that an updated Project Sheet was provided during the meeting and was emailed for reference. He also reported that the Elstun Trail connection to the Little Miami Scenic Trail has been completed.

Mr. Sievers added that the ribbon cutting for the new connection will take place next Thursday, November 20th at 3pm.

Mr. Davies opened the floor for additional transportation updates.

Mr. Sievers shared that the Winter edition of *Anderson Insights* will be delivered to households next week and is now available online. The new issue includes several mentions of transportation initiatives and acknowledges the Committee's work.

Mr. Sievers also updated the group on two additional grant-funded projects. The first is the Newtown Road repaving project from Bartels Road to the Village of Newtown line, which is anticipated to begin in early 2027. Anderson Township was the only Southwest Ohio township to receive this grant, and the project will be managed by the Hamilton County Engineer's Office as part of an OKI Pilot Program, fully funded by OKI. The second project is a Hamilton County grant-funded resurfacing of Salem Road from Sutton to Beechmont in late 2026 / early 2027. He also noted that the Sutton Road repaving is under contract, with Cincinnati WaterWorks beginning work on December 1st, which will include multiple lane closures between Kellogg and Salem over coming months for waterline work, then leading up to roadway repaving next summer.

Mrs. Stone asked if the flyers given to the Transportation Subcommittee was the same material METRO presented at the Senior Center.

Mr. Davies confirmed that it was.

Mrs. Stone highlighted the OKI Van Pool Program that is referenced in the flyer and noted the possible opportunities to promote the program to employers, using Belterra as an example.

Mr. Halpin asked if the program was related to METRO Access.

Mrs. Stone clarified it was an OKI initiative, not a METRO service.

3.2.5 (Promote and support the development of a skilled workforce within the community)

Mr. Davies reported that the meeting with Great Oaks, Forest Hills School District, and the business community partners is scheduled for next Tuesday.

Mr. Springsteen added that attendees will include representatives from Forest Hills School District, the Anderson Township Chamber of Commerce, Great Oaks, Township staff, and members of the Workforce subgroup.

Mr. Halpin asked about the meeting time.

Mr. Springsteen clarified that it will be held at 2:00pm next Tuesday.

Mr. Davies asked for an update on the economic development for the workforce initiatives.

Ms. Donovan reported that the Business Survey was featured in Anderson Insights. She is working with Mr. Sievers and Ms. Celenza to evaluate responses and identify businesses that may require follow-up regarding space needs or growth opportunities. She also noted that she and Mr. Sievers will be participating in the Forest Hills School District's business-focused breakfasts. The first breakfast was on November 13, 2025, at Anderson High School on Public Safety and Public Law, and another in March 2026 will be at Turpin High School.

Mr. Sievers reported that in October, the Township helped support the Forest Hills School District's inaugural Jump Start Day, where 45 high school sophomores and juniors explored post-graduation workforce opportunities at Anderson Center. Students participated in mock interviews, a job fair, and hands-on demonstrations with vehicles and equipment.

Mrs. Stone asked about workforce needs at the hospital.

Dr. Feagins responded that workforce needs are ongoing, particularly for technical positions, noting that Cincinnati State programs continue to support this workforce pathway.

Mr. Sievers expressed hope that the upcoming meeting with Forest Hills School District and Great Oaks will help clarify the best way to approach the current workforce challenges.

Dr. Feagins added that Cincinnati State ranks first in Ohio for return on investment in medical fields salaries.

Mr. Berno asked if these were roles that require technical certificates or associate degrees.

Dr. Feagins confirmed that positions such as EMS, paramedicine, radiology and MRI technician fit this category and offer opportunity for partnership.

Mr. Davies encouraged members to bring forward any questions related to sections 2.3.1 or 3.2.5 as the committee meeting continues moving forward.

8.1.3 (Preserve and protect the natural and environmental resources found throughout the community)

Mrs. Fenner announced that the 2026 Native Plant of the Year is the *Amsonia*, commonly known as Bluestar. She expressed excitement for next year's Kick-Off Event, scheduled for May 17, 2026, at the Heritage Center. She noted that last year's event, originally intended as an open house, experienced greater attendance than anticipated, with many staying for the whole event. Next year's event will incorporate more educational materials and information sessions.

Mrs. Stone asked for clarification on the plant name.

Mrs. Fenner confirmed it is the Amsonia, noting that Native Roots supplies varieties specific to the Township's region.

Mrs. Earhart shared that Ms. Donovan has been working with the Township's Facilities Manager to incorporate Amsonia into Anderson Center's landscaping.

Ms. Donovan told Mrs. Fenner that she and Mr. Springsteen will coordinate to update the Native Plants website, which currently centers on the Black-Eyed Susan.

Mrs. Fenner asked when they could meet.

Ms. Donovan replied that the scheduling was flexible.

Mr. Springsteen added that they will develop a draft design to share with both Mrs. Fenner and Mrs. Wheatley.

Mrs. Stone asked for confirmation of the Kick-Off Event date.

Mrs. Fenner confirmed it will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2026, from 1:00-3:00pm.

Mr. Halpin asked whether the Native Plant Program could be integrated into the Township's Fall Planting Program for street tree installations in neighborhoods where road work is taking place. He suggested that native plants could be installed around the bases of newly planted trees.

Mrs. Earhart noted that feasibility depends on tree placement and site conditions.

Mrs. Stone supported the idea, observing that combining the Plant and Tree Programs could create meaningful collaboration.

Mrs. Fenner added that Ohio highway rest areas have begun incorporating native plantings and suggested the Township take similar steps.

Ms. Beck asked whether the Committee could work with the Township and their contracted landscaper to introduce native plants into welcome sign landscaping.

Mrs. Stone noted the abundance of local landscaping companies and emphasized the importance of spreading awareness about native plants.

Mr. Davies shared that Anderson Hills Church is redesigning its landscaping and has incorporated Amsonia into its plans. He then mentioned ongoing discussions regarding the Tiny Forests initiative and asked whether there were any updates.

Ms. Donovan said efforts were underway to connect Tim from Tree Committee with Mrs. Wheatley and Mrs. Fenner.

A member asked for clarification about whether Tim Kloppenberg, a member of the Tree Committee, had planted the Tiny Forest in his yard.

Ms. Donovan confirmed that he had.

Mrs. Earhart asked whether the Committee wished to discuss the Homegrown National Park initiative.

Mrs. Fenner said she and Mrs. Wheatley had been focused on the Native Plant Program and would shift back to Homegrown National Park outreach as more residents register.

Mr. Springsteen noted an uptick in registrations within the area.

Mr. Sievers reported that edits for the next *Insights* edition will begin in January for release in March and added that the Township is shifting its focus from the Great American Cleanup to more on-demand cleanup efforts.

8.3.1 (Encourage recycling and the safe use of appropriate disposal of solid waste and hazardous materials by all generators in the Township)

Mr. Davies reviewed the progress made since the last meeting.

Ms. Griffis shared updates on several recycling pilot initiatives, beginning with drop-off locations for pill bottles through the Reuse Hub.

Mr. Sievers stated that the program is ready but requires more public education. The pill bottle collection box will be located at the District 5 Sheriff's Office, which is open Monday–Friday.

Mrs. Stone noted that the Senior Center already collects pill bottles.

Mr. Sievers acknowledged this but clarified that their materials are taken to a different facility.

Ms. Griffis continued, explaining that volunteers would collect the filled pill bottle boxes weekly or monthly. She also described the ongoing effort to collect temporary signs from both the recycling drop-off and what Township staff remove from roads, which will be delivered to The Hub for recycling. The group has collected 140 signs as of last week.

Mr. Sievers clarified that the collected signs include all temporary signs, specifically those attached to utility poles. He noted that this year's election season was the cleanest in recent memory related to illegally placed temporary signs.

Ms. Donovan added that more holiday-themed and "Mole Guy" signs were collected than the tagging of political signs.

Ms. Griffis reported continued work on expanding recycling access for apartments, condos, and multifamily developments. They are also exploring ways to incorporate The Hub's recycling accessories at these sites, with a target of launching a collection effort in May 2026.

Mrs. Stone asked whether The Hub's van would be used for collection.

Mrs. Voss clarified that it would not; volunteers are managing collections independently.

Mrs. Voss noted that The Hub indicated the committee would be responsible for both event support and collection. She also mentioned interest in taking a field trip to Loveland to learn more about the community's sustainability and recycling initiatives.

Mrs. Earhart raised a question about planter pots and whether the Anderson Township Historical Society's annual Mother's Day flower sale could include messaging about reusing or recycling the pots.

A member asked whether the Society reuses the pots.

Mrs. Earhart clarified that her suggestion was to provide flyers or educational information encouraging pot reuse or return.

Mr. Davies asked whether non-corrugated plastic signs from elections could also be recycled.

Mr. Berno confirmed that both corrugated plastic and flexible plastic signs are accepted.

Mr. Gay asked whether pharmacies accept pill bottles similar to how grocery stores accept plastic bags.

Mrs. Voss responded that, to her knowledge, pharmacies do not collect them. She added that individuals can purchase sharps containers for disposal, but these typically go to landfill after use.

Mr. Sievers noted that IHM may still run a pill bottle drop-off, and Matthew 25 Ministries has historically done so as well.

Mr. Berno confirmed that Matthew 25 Ministries continues to collect pill bottles.

A member asked whether Matthew 25 sends those bottles to The Hub.

Mrs. Voss responded that HUB recycles through Matthew 25, but the HUB handles cleaning, sanitizing, and removing the labels. She noted that blue and green veterinary bottles can often be returned to pet-related organizations such as Pet Pantries.

Mr. Sievers asked whether the subcommittee had heard back from The Hub about lithium battery recycling.

Mr. Berno  said they had shared his contact information with The Hub.

Mr. Sievers noted he had not received updates and expressed safety concerns based on feedback from fire and rescue departments and from experiences in other communities.

Mr. Berno asked for clarification on those fire and rescue concerns.

Mr. Sievers explained that other jurisdictions' experiences provided valuable insight into both risks and best practices.

Mr. Davies reported that he and Mr. Sievers had been in contact with Hamilton County ReSource, which oversees a program providing financial assistance to multifamily communities for recycling infrastructure. The program offers \$2,000 toward recycling enclosures and dumpsters.

Mr. Sievers added that Township staff are preparing outreach materials for apartments and condos to promote the program. Currently, around 13% of Township households are multifamily units, while 87% are single-family homes. Of those single-family homes with Rumpke service, 90% already use curbside recycling; the remaining 10% either decline to

participate or are unaware of the service. Postcards were sent to those customers this summer and we now have posted large signs (same format as the postcards) at the Recycling Center highlighting the program's benefits. He noted that a significant nationwide push exists for expanded multifamily recycling, reinforced by discussions at a recent OKI meeting.

Mrs. Stone asked for a reminder of when Hamilton County previously contributed more funding to Anderson's recycling program.

Mr. Sievers stated that this occurred approximately six years ago and that program costs and revenues have shifted dramatically since then.

Mrs. Stone recalled that the Township initially generated revenue from recycling.

Mr. Sievers said that revenue from that period funded litter cleanup programs and contractor support. Without those contractors, he noted, the Township's 20 miles of right-of-way would see much higher debris. He added that the Township no longer receives significant revenue from recycling; 90% of the Township's recycling revenue now comes from residents who actively recycle. He also reported that Hamilton County ReSource recently notified the Township that the Household Hazardous Waste Day event, previously funded, will now require payment from the Township to continue. He emphasized that expanding recycling, particularly multifamily communities, is the key.

Ms. Griffis asked if the dumpsters in larger communities would be collected just as curbside is.

Mr. Sievers confirmed saying that the roll-off bins provided are the same bins that households have and will accept more than the current drop-off center.

Mrs. Earhart provided historical context, recalling that Anderson Township's recycling program began in 1996 under Suzanne Parker (now the Township's Assistant Township Administrator for Human Resources). The original drop-off site was located at the current Christ Hospital / former Kroger location. Early program revenue helped fund essential fire department equipment, including cribbing for vehicle entrapments, and supported newsletters and other Township needs. She noted frustration that today, taxpayers who recycle heavily are unintentionally subsidizing recycling by businesses or out-of-jurisdiction users.

Mr. Sievers added that expenditures have increased significantly since 2018, noting a 60% rise overall, with Rumpke's costs growing by 100. He clarified that these figures do not include the Public Works Department's efforts to clean the center three times per week, as Rumpke will not service dumpsters in poor condition. He then commended the collaborative work of various organizations, emphasizing that the program initiated in 2017 helped increase the percentage of households in Anderson who recycle from 60% to 90%. Mr. Sievers stated that the issue can only be effectively resolved if Rumpke implements a cap on trash collection. He concluded by noting that the introduction of multi-family recycling will be a "game changer," and that next year the Township plans to convene discussion groups with condominium associations to gather meaningful feedback.

Mr. Davies added that the Hamilton County ReSource program also includes educational outreach and provides recycling bins to tenants, helping to expand the reach without using too much Township resources.

Next Steps – Staff

Mr. Davies wrapped up the subgroup discussion and asked if there were any further comments or questions.

Mr. Gay asked whether the Committee would return to a broader approach, similar to the initial implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Davies responded that with several projects nearing completion, the Committee will have opportunities to explore additional goals aligned with the Comprehensive Plan. He referenced the Implementation Matrix sent earlier via email, noting that the Committee originally selected four priority goals but may expand its focus as new opportunities come to light. He also said that any ongoing projects will continue into next year.

Mr. Sievers requested that Mr. Davies resend the PDF of all the recommendations from the 2022 Plan. He noted that members who cannot attend meetings are encouraged to connect individually to continue advancing projects. He added that the current Comprehensive Plan, adopted in January 2022, is now entering Year 4. The Township recently closed the RFP for the Comprehensive Plan update, led by Ms. Donovan, and will soon select a consultant. He explained that community volunteers will be needed to serve on the steering committee, offering an opportunity for anyone with long-term ideas or vision for the Township to participate in shaping the next five-year plan.

Mr. Sievers added that several current members will likely be invited to serve on the steering committee. He also shared that the plan framework has been consistent across six updates since 2005 and will draw participation from neighborhoods, the school district, the park district, and the chamber to support robust engagement. If adopted in 2027, the updated plan will guide Implementation Committee priorities for the following five years.

Mrs. Earhart encouraged residents who do not join the steering committee to participate in public engagement opportunities, noting strong community involvement during the last update.

Mrs. Stone commented that the previous update occurred during COVID-19 and relied heavily on Zoom and other remote tools. She asked whether this approach would be replicated to accommodate residents who cannot attend in person.

Mr. Sievers said there would be a balanced approach.

Mrs. Stone noted strong participation through online platforms and supported offering both in-person and virtual opportunities.

Mr. Sievers added that the Township has been in contact with the school district, Senior Center, and other community partners to support comprehensive engagement.

Mr. Davies added that one positive outcome of COVID-19 was the introduction of more flexible, innovative engagement models. He referenced Oxford's recent planning process,

which included webinars, in-person open houses, comment boards, and web-based feedback tools. He said the consultant selected for Anderson Township will likely incorporate similar strategies. He confirmed that the Committee will continue implementing the 2022 plan until the 2027 plan is adopted.

Mr. Gay asked whether there would be a five-year update to the Trails Plan.

Mr. Sievers responded that the Trails Plan is three years old and still within its effective timeframe, and an update would likely begin in 2027

Mr. Gay acknowledged the Township and Committee's accomplishments and noted that members should be proud of their work.

Mr. Davies reminded the Committee that next year's meetings will return to a quarterly schedule. He asked members to notify staff regarding whether they intend to return next year.

He added that the next meeting will be held in February and encouraged returning members to review the Implementation Matrix and consider goals for future discussion.

Mr. Sievers confirmed that he has received responses from all members and asked that they reach out if their plans change.

Mr. Davies opened the floor for free discussion before adjourning the structured portion of the meeting.

The work session began at 5:45pm.