

Appendix 5
Countywide Plans
By Government Agency

Hamilton County, Ohio Thoroughfare Plan Update (January 1993)

This plan was prepared for the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission and Hamilton County Engineer by Woolpert Consultants. This plan updates the master plan completed in 1964, which was no longer valid because of the great amount of development that happened since 1964. This plan was designed to provide long-range guidance in the development of a future transportation network capable of safely accommodating traffic volumes generated by growth and development. The plan include recommendations that identify all aspects of traffic flow including needed upgrades, road replacements, signalizations, and new roads and bridges.

Hamilton County Access Management Plan (2nd Draft September 2004)

In 2002, the Ohio General Assembly adopted House Bill 366, which is now Chapter 5552 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), to allow counties and townships to develop access management regulations for all county and township roads. Access management is the systematic control of the location, spacing, design, and operation of driveways, median openings, interchanges, and street connections to a roadway. It also involves roadway design applications, such as median treatments and auxiliary lanes, and the appropriate spacing of traffic signals. From Transportation Research Board's *Access Management Manual*. The Hamilton County Engineer and the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission have completed a 2nd Draft as of September 2004. This draft states that access management is important because it protects the public's investment in its road/transportation system and extends the life of roads and streets.

Hamilton County Emergency Operations Plan (October 2004)

The purpose of the Hamilton County Emergency Operations Plan is to develop, implement and maintain an integrated emergency management program for emergencies or major disasters, whether natural or manmade. This plan is intended to facilitate multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional coordination, particularly between local, state and federal agencies in emergency operations. This plan predetermines, to the extent possible, actions to be taken by responsible elements of the governments of Hamilton County, and of cooperating private organizations, to prevent avoidable disasters and reduce vulnerability of county residents to any disasters that may strike. When confronted with a minor emergency, county agencies normally carry out their responsibilities largely independent of other agencies. However, large-scale emergencies and disasters often generate situations requiring planned, coordinated responses by multiple agencies and jurisdictions. Such disasters and emergencies pose major threats to life and property and have long-term economic, political, and/or environmental implications.

QUEST Unsewered Areas of Hamilton County Master Plan MSD 1994

The Quality Upgrades for Effective Sewage Treatment (QUEST) program was initiated in 1993, after the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners and the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) determined that a plan was needed for wastewater management in areas of the County that lack sewers. In 1993, it

was estimated that the unsewered area of the County was approximately 35 percent, including areas that used on-site wastewater treatment systems. It was estimated that the total number of residential on-site systems in 1993 was 17,000 with possibly half of them not functioning properly, making them potential public health problems. The QUEST planning objectives were to “include planning for a network of future interceptors, trunk sewers, and treatment facilities for existing unsewered areas, providing a cost-effective alternative for sewer service to many of the existing on-site treatment systems in the County.” The QUEST Plan was developed to provide a comprehensive plan to accommodate both existing and future development.

City of Cincinnati, Ohio Department of Water Works Water Distribution System Master Plan September 1999

This master plan was prepared to provide Cincinnati Water Works (CWW) with a long-range plan for improvement and expansion of CWW’s water distribution system. The plan also includes an evaluation of improvements for CWW’s water transmission main system. The recommended improvements serve as the basis for the design, construction, and financing of facilities needed to meet anticipated population growth and commercial development. The recommended system improvements will be required during the study period (1995 through 2020) in order to provide an adequate and dependable supply of water to existing and future customers.

Hamilton County, Ohio 2000-2005 Consolidated Housing Plan

In response to regulation by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Hamilton County has prepared a Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Years 2005 through 2009, with an action plan for FY05, beginning March 1, 2005 and ending February 28, 2005. The Consolidated Plan for Hamilton County consists of six parts. Part 1 of the Plan consists of General Strategies to be followed within Hamilton County. Part 2 describes housing needs within the County, including a Housing Market Analysis and a Statement of Priority Housing Needs. Part 3 describes the homeless needs and priorities for the County. Part 4 focuses on General Community Development needs and priorities. Part 5 addresses non-homeless special need populations and their priorities within Hamilton County. Part 6 is an Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2005. The Action Plan describes all project activities that will be undertaken with 2005 funding from the Community Development Block Grant Program, the HOME Investment Partnership Program, and the Emergency Shelter Grant Program.

Hamilton County Overall Economic Development Plan (1997/1998 Update)

The *Hamilton County Overall Economic Development Plan (OEDP Plan)* identifies and prioritizes major economic development challenges and opportunities for Hamilton County. It is a guide for implementing and funding creative economic development programs throughout the County. The OEDP Plan is used as the basis for funding major economic development, public works, and planning projects through the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). It also is utilized to justify the need under other state and federal grant programs, such as the Empowerment Zone Program. The OEDP Plan is developed by the committee of representatives from a cross section of economic development and planning officials from the Hamilton County Area, under the direction of the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. The OEDP Committee’s recommendation for the 1997/1998 Update were: 1.) Deliver site to the marketplace through redevelopment of Brownfield sites and underutilized facilities and through development of Greenfield sites; 2.) Retention and re-engineering of maturing manufacturing; 3.) Facilitation of entrepreneurs and emerging industries and technologies; 4.) Workforce Development; 5.) Encouraging conventions and tourism; 6.) Expansion of export trade; 7.) Commercial business district revitalization and 8.) Improve the region’s transportation network.

Hamilton County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (2004)

The Hamilton County Development Company (HCDC), as part of its contract with Hamilton County, will develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) for Hamilton County, to be completed by mid-2005. HCDC will incorporate the findings of the *Assessment and Recommendations To Improve the Effectiveness of Economic Development Efforts in Hamilton County, Ohio September 2004* and guidance from the Board of County Commissioners, as it is configured based on the election in November 2004. The Hamilton County CEDs 2004 will replace the *Hamilton County Overall Economic Development Plan (1997/1998 Update)*, as the requirement for qualifying for U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) assistance. The CEDs will include four main elements: Analysis, Vision, Action Plan and Evaluation. The analysis will assess the state of the regional economy, the opportunities and threats posed by external trends and forces, and the availability of partners and resources for economic development. The community's visions and goals, together with an appraisal of the region's competitive advantage, will set the strategic direction for the action plan. The action plan will establish program priorities for implementation. Finally, the CEDs will establish criteria and performance measures for evaluation of the process and for periodic update of the document.

Assessment and Recommendations To Improve the Effectiveness of Economic Development Efforts in Hamilton County, Ohio September 2004 Submitted by the International Economic Development Council for the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners.

At the request of the County Commissioners, the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) completed an assessment of the County's economic development policy and programs and provided recommendations for improving their effectiveness in the summer of 2004. The IEDC identified economic development strengths for the County as: regional growth; a civic-minded business community; a wealth of cultural, arts and entertainment resources; Hamilton County's place as the core county of the region; the riverfront and its development potential; a renewed emphasis on economic development in Cincinnati; a strong county organization in HCDC; and strong educational and research institutions. The County's challenges were competition from outlying counties; highly fragmented system of government; limited supply and high cost of undeveloped land; some school systems in the county performing poorly; population loss; stadium debt; organizational challenges; public safety; public perception; and loss of hotel room nights. The IEDC's recommendations to the County are: 1.) Develop a strategic, comprehensive economic development plan for the county; 2.) Engage in joint branding efforts; 3.) Expand the scope and strategic role of the Hamilton County Development Company; 4.) Partner with the City of Cincinnati to boost key projects including helping to transform Over-the-Rhine into an arts district and continuing efforts to redevelop The Banks; 5.) Strengthen powers to assemble and redevelop land and 6.) Establish a formal process for managing TIF districts.

ReBuild Hamilton County Ten Year Plan

This Plan, proposed by County Commissioner Todd Portune in July 2004, includes a leadership agenda in response to recommendations from the International Economic Development Council Report and recent census figures on population loss. The Plan addresses challenges and opportunities for Hamilton County in three areas: Housing, Economic Development/Job Creation, and partnership with the City of Cincinnati in the downtown basin (including Over-the-Rhine). The Plan recommends action to achieve eight results:

1. 10,000 new homes constructed in the next decade
2. Condo Conversions in the downtown and Over-the Rhine
3. Renewing the County Campus proposal to complete the OTR transformation

4. Provide major support for small business facility improvements, employee benefit assistance for small business and the working poor
5. Generate a \$20 Million to \$110 Million economic development investment tool for businesses and community/neighborhood business districts – especially targeted to the First Suburbs Communities
6. Coordinate and leverage existing and planned investments in community public works projects
7. Promote business retention, expansion and relocation within Hamilton County by designating Hamilton County as Ohio’s investment Capitol
8. Provide support for the major employee benefit of health insurance in ways that promote small businesses.

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County Strategic Plan 2004-2008

This Plan was adopted in October 2003. With the many evolving technologies, changing demographics, the reduction in traditional funding sources and the general economic downturn, the Library was motivated to develop a strategic plan that would address the public’s changing needs and assure a viable future funding plan to accommodate those needs. The Plan included a large public involvement component which included: 1.) 68 public focus group sessions involving 700 participants; 2.) 559 households responding to mail surveys; 3.) 431 individuals responding to a WEB survey; 4.) 8 staff focus groups involving 95 staff members and 5.) interviews with 22 Planning Steering Committee Members. The identified priorities include Priority I- Relevant Services which recommended for some of its potential strategies to: 1.) Identify community needs; 2.) Define/Identify core services; 3.) Develop current staff; 4.) Develop a masters facilities plan. For Priority II-Financial Strength, some of the potential strategies include: 1.) Secure ongoing State support; 2.) Develop a long-rang Financial Plan; and 3.) Develop a Fund-Development Plan. For Priority III-Community Awareness, some of the potential strategies are 1.) Develop a Marketing Plan and 2.) Increase the Library’s visibility in the Community. For Priority IV-Dynamic Organization some the potential strategies are: 1.) Communicate Mission, Vision and Institutional Values to the community and 2.) Develop a plan for managing change. During 2004, the Library initiated the planning process to develop its Masters Facilities Plan, to be completed in February 2005.

The Land Use Policy Plan for the Unincorporated Territory of Hamilton County, Ohio 1995 (LUPP) This plan was developed with the intention to give direction to the substance and form of revisions to land use regulations. Its objectives and policies reflect the public interest in development issues and can be used by the Regional Planning Commission, Rural Zoning Commission and Board of County Commissioners as benchmarks or criteria for evaluating the comprehensive revision of a revised zoning resolution as well as future zoning text and map changes. The LUPP evolved from a citizen participation process in 1987 to identify land use and zoning issues in the unincorporated areas of Hamilton. County. ...

Hamilton County Parks Plan (Park District Strategic Plan)

The Hamilton County Park District is currently updating a strategic plan that will guide the agency during the next three to five years. The proposed objectives and corresponding goals of the plan include increasing revenue production and securing alternative funding sources, strengthening the identity of the Park District, attracting, retaining and developing high performing employees, preserving regionally significant natural resources for conservation and compatible outdoor recreation, creating a best practices program to enhance effectiveness, and preparation of infrastructure maintenance strategies in anticipation of the growth of the Park District.

Hamilton County Park District Open Space Study -3/22/01

In 2001 the Hamilton County Park District completed an analysis of all open space in Hamilton County through the application of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. The goal was to create a tool to assist Park District planners when contemplating potential purchase of greenspace. The criteria evaluated in the study included slopes, soils, floodplains, forest cover quality, parcel land area versus parcel building area, and man-made corridors (abandoned rail corridors, sewer easements, surface drainage systems, gas lines, electric lines). A composite map was created indicating the highest rated groups of parcels with potential for acquisition and protection. The Park District staff continues to use the information from the study as it purchases land throughout the county.

Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District Plan 2000-2014 (1999)

This plan is required to be updated every five years. This Update identified that there was adequate disposal capacity and funding available throughout its 15-year planning period (2000 through 2014) to manage Hamilton County's solid waste and provide programs to reduce the waste system. After the Introduction (Section 1) and the Executive Summary (Section 2), the Plan Update is divided into 7 sections: Inventories (Section 3), which utilized 1996 as a reference year to identify the existing waste reduction and recycling services operating in Hamilton County; Reference Year Population and Residential/Commercial Waster Generation (Section 4); Planning Period (2000-2014) Projections and Strategies (Section 5); Methods of Management (Section 6); Measurement of Progress Toward Waste Reduction Goals (Section 7); Cost and Financing of Plan Implementation (Section 8) and District Rules (as required by ORC) (Section 9).

Hamilton County Storm Water Management Plan 2003

This document outlines the Hamilton County Storm Water District's plan to develop, implement, and enforce a storm water management program designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the "maximum extent practicable", to protect water quality, and to satisfy the appropriate requirements of the Clean Water Act in accordance with the Ohio EPA NPDES Phase II program.

Flood Insurance Study For Hamilton County (and Incorporated Areas) (FEMA May 17, 2004)

This Flood Insurance Study investigates the existence and severity of flood hazards in Hamilton County, Ohio and aids in the administration of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973. Periodically, the U.S. Corps of Engineers (COE), Louisville District, completes hydrologic and hydraulic analysis for FEMA of needed areas in Hamilton County, Ohio in order to update and revise the Flood Insurance Rate Map for Hamilton County, Ohio. The most recent updates of the Flood Insurance Study and Map were published by FEMA on May 17, 2004. The updated Study and Map were included as part of the recently amended Flood Damage Prevention Regulations for Unincorporated Hamilton County, Ohio, adopted by the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners on April 12, 2004.

Open Space Element Hamilton County Land Use Plan (September 1977)

The Synopsis for this plan is presented here:

This is the initial report of the Open Space Element Update to the Hamilton County Land Use Plan. Its purpose is to develop an open space priority framework based on significant environmental and development pressure variables operating in Hamilton County, Ohio. The variables considered are topography, geology, floodplains, sanitary sewers, major roads, land use and size. The study concentrates on four urbanizing/urbanized townships (Green, Colerain, Anderson, & Delhi) where the development of fragile environmental settings is evident. Selected parcels in each

township are prioritized relative to the need for public policy action to protect unique and sensitive environmental conditions which exist on them. It is recommended that further work be initiated by the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, in cooperation with other public regulatory agencies, to develop a comprehensive set of public policies relative to the prioritized land identified in the study.

Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Hamilton County, Ohio (December 2003)

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires that local communities develop a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) to mitigate natural disasters such as flooding, severe storms, tornadoes and landslides. The Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) received a grant from the FEMA in 2002 to prepare an HMP for Hamilton County, to be completed by November 2003. The planning process included meetings held in 2003 of officials from County, Municipal, and Township governments, emergency service agencies and the Red Cross to establish: overall goals, hazards to be evaluated, problem statements, alternatives, action steps, and implementation. The plan's findings determined flooding as the most serious and costly hazard facing the County. The Action Items identified in the Plan include developing Public Service Announcements (PSA's) for educating landowners on stream maintenance, educating residents on use of weather radios, evaluating the potential for consistent floodplain regulations county-wide; and preparing watershed studies to address areas of localized flooding concerns.

Hamilton County Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan (October 2004)

Originally developed in 1991 under the auspices of the Hamilton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), this plan addresses requirements pertinent to the federal Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act – Title III and subsequent Ohio enabling legislation, ORC Chapter 3750. The purpose of the plan is to provide policy and procedures under which Hamilton County and its political jurisdictions will operate in the event of a hazardous materials emergency. The plan further defines the roles, responsibilities and inter-organizational relationships in response to a hazardous materials incident including the appropriate response to protect the population of Hamilton County.