

4.0 PLAN MAINTENANCE AND INTEGRATION

§ 201.6(c)(4)(i)	[The plan maintenance process shall include a] section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.
§ 201.6(c)(4)(ii)	[The plan shall include a] process by which local governments incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate.
§ 201.6(c)(4)(iii)	[The plan maintenance process shall include a] discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process.

This section of the plan outlines the process by which Ashtabula County and the municipalities therein will update and maintain this document.

4.1 Monitoring, Evaluating and Updating the Plan

The planning committee recognizes the importance of a plan maintenance procedure, not only as a function of the regulatory driver governing the completion of plans as a requirement for mitigation funding but also as an opportunity to support networking amongst key stakeholders in the county. The committee (and the Ashtabula County Emergency Management Agency [ACEMA]) understand that it is not feasible to dedicate a full-time effort to maintaining this plan. To this end, the committee agreed to a maintenance process based on FEMA's five-year update cycle graphic (i.e., "the wheel"). That process is as follows.

- **Year 1:** Upon receipt of "approved pending adoption" (APA) status, begin the formal (i.e., by resolution) adoption process.
 - **Year 1 / 2 Mid-Point:** ACEMA will compile a progress report on the adoption process and any known project implementations and submit it to committee members.
- **Year 2:** The EMA will reconvene the planning committee to review the hazard list and to brainstorm ideas to garner greater local governmental (i.e., city, village, and township) participation (where needed).
- **Year 3:** The EMA will engage with the public via an online survey. The EMA will also coordinate with the planning committee to review the current asset inventory.
 - **Year 3 / 4 Mid-Point:** The ACEMA will compile a progress report on project implementation and seek funding to update the plan.
- **Year 4:** The EMA will reconvene the planning committee to begin reviewing the project list and updating status narratives where appropriate.

- **Year 5:** The EMA will engage the planning committee in the update process.

The goal of the annual planning committee meetings will be to generate content for the next plan update and educate new stakeholders as they enter the process. Representatives on the planning committee could change, and the maintenance meetings offer a prime opportunity to orient new members to what mitigation is, how the plan works, etc. The annual maintenance meetings then support a more critical, in-depth formal update process. One to two weeks before the annual meeting, the ACEMA will provide committee members with an agenda and other preparatory information. Further, the ACEMA will compile minutes for all meetings.

The planning committee also recognizes that the post-disaster period following incidents that generate a federal disaster declaration offers an opportunity to review this document while impacts are fresh in the minds of committee members. As such, the committee intends to meet within one month of the occurrence of a declared disaster to determine mitigation measures that could have directly impacted the losses stemming from the declared event. The committee also understands that post-disaster periods serve as a chance to review the predictive accuracy of the mitigation plan. The ACEMA will attempt to reconvene the committee within the one-month timeframe following declared incidents. The ACEMA will also compile minutes for these meetings.

4.2 Implementation through Existing Programs

Most local leaders are aware of and understand traditional hazard mitigation funding programs (e.g., the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program [HMGP], Pre-Disaster Mitigation [PDM] program, etc.). However, the key to the widespread implementation of the mitigation plan is the recognition of opportunities for integrating opportunities for mitigation into other planning and community development initiatives. For instance, highway or streetscape projects present opportunities to address runoff and potential flash flooding. The development of parks and other open spaces can also mitigate weather hazards. Even substantial preparedness for the inevitable hazard occurrences can double as mitigation efforts in that a more efficient and effective response can lessen the overall loss the community experiences. As such, many other funding sources and programs beyond HMGP and PDM enable hazard mitigation.

Five existing mechanisms can support mitigation in Ashtabula County: (a) floodplain management, (b) stormwater management, (c) coastal management, (d) transportation planning, and (e) emergency operations planning. The following table describes the potential integration of these elements with hazard mitigation in detail.

MITIGATION INTEGRATION		
<i>Existing Program</i>	<i>Participating Agencies</i>	<i>Narrative (and Goal Alignment)</i>
Floodplain Management	Ashtabula County Building Department Municipal Floodplain Administrators	<p>According to FEMA's <i>Community Status Book</i> (current as of 04/02/2019), all jurisdictions in Ashtabula County (except for Andover and Orwell) participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and thus maintain floodplain regulations that at least mirror the state's regulations. Jurisdictional "designated floodplain administrators" (DFPAs) enforce ordinances locally. No communities in Ashtabula County currently participate in the Community Rating System (CRS) program (as of October 2016).</p> <p>GOAL ALIGNMENT</p> <p>4. Proactively reduce the cost of recovery operations by preventing the destruction of property and infrastructure.</p> <p>6. Promote awareness and education of all potential hazards to the public in Ashtabula County regarding personal hazard mitigation strategies.</p> <p>8. Become an increasingly self-sustainable county during emergencies from all potential hazards.</p>
Stormwater Management	Ashtabula County Planning Commission	<p>Stormwater management planning can aid in the identification of site-specific flooding concerns and other water quality issues in a variety of communities. These conversations typically include options for low-impact development to mitigation flood concerns.</p> <p>The Ashtabula County Planning Commission indicates that updates to the county's comprehensive plan and subdivision regulations are forthcoming. One of the intentions of those updates is to include additional restrictions on development near riparian corridors, which could help reduce flood risk. These changes would be enforceable in the unincorporated areas of the county.</p> <p>Significantly, Ashtabula City is the only MS4 community in Ashtabula County. The city's stormwater program includes public involvement and public education components.</p> <p>GOAL ALIGNMENT</p> <p>4. Proactively reduce the cost of recovery operations by preventing the destruction of property and infrastructure.</p>

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Coastal Management	<p>Ashtabula County Planning Commission</p> <p>Coastal Management Plan Steering Committee</p> <p>Eastgate Council of Governments</p>	<p>Ashtabula County's coastal management plan examines a variety of issues surrounding the development and preservation of the coastal areas in the county. These include natural areas management, brownfields redevelopment, tree and woodland protection, steep slope protection, agricultural land protection, and scenic protection. The coastal management plan is a multi-jurisdictional effort, and its steering committee includes representation from Ashtabula County, Ashtabula City, Conneaut City, Geneva-on-the-Lake, Conneaut Township, and Geneva Township. It further references the Saybrook Township Comprehensive Plan.</p> <p>The existing plan identifies several compatible planning efforts. This plan is not on the current list, and adding it to the next version of the coastal management plan would be beneficial to mitigation.</p> <p>GOAL ALIGNMENT</p> <p>2. Protect Ashtabula County's vulnerable populations before, during, and after emergency events or incidents from all hazards.</p> <p>4. Proactively reduce the cost of recovery operations by preventing the destruction of property and infrastructure.</p>
Transportation Planning	<p>Ashtabula County Planning Commission</p> <p>Municipal Partners</p> <p>Ashtabula County Transit</p> <p>ODOT</p>	<p>Two plans guide transportation developments in Ashtabula County: the <i>Ashtabula County Coordinated Transportation Plan</i> and the <i>ATB 534 Corridor Study</i>. These documents identify transportation infrastructure enhancements, and they ensure an adequate transportation system is available to residents and visitors. Both plans include considerations for numerous upgrades, ranging from capacity expansions to public transit opportunities to tourism considerations. All upgrades could include stormwater runoff measures, which could reduce flood risk in some areas. Further, these documents ensure an emergency egress capability that is as efficient as possible.</p> <p>GOAL ALIGNMENT</p> <p>7. Reduce or avoid the displacement of people and animals due to hazardous events in Ashtabula County.</p>
Emergency Operations Planning	<p>Ashtabula County EMA</p> <p>Municipal Partners</p> <p>Response Agency Partners</p>	<p>The EMA incorporates mitigation principals into the county's emergency operations plan to predetermine the hazards to which responders may respond. This plan works primarily to address the negative effects of natural, technological, and human-caused hazards (as an all-hazards framework).</p> <p>GOAL ALIGNMENT</p> <p>3. Increase the ability to coordinate and communicate before, during, and after a disaster.</p> <p>5. Encourage partnerships and networking opportunities for jurisdictional officials and first responders within Ashtabula County and across the county and state borders.</p>

4.3 Continued Public Involvement

All adopting jurisdictions maintain copies of this plan. Citizens can review the plan and provide comments at any of these locations. Citizens may also access the plan through the ACEMA. The ACEMA will maintain a copy of the document on its website.

Though the plan is available at these locations, citizens may not be aware of that availability or understand the nature and purpose of a hazard mitigation plan. As such, additional means of public education and involvement are important. The county EMA periodically sponsors education efforts and often works with partner agencies in the county to release public information. Much of this information educates the public about actions to take before an emergency occurs. The ACEMA can modify its content to include basic information about risk reduction.

The planning committee had success disseminating a public survey via social media during the 2019 plan update process (i.e., well over 500 participants). In addition to sharing the survey via its own social media channels, the ACEMA coordinated with other agencies represented on the planning committee to share it via their websites and social media outlets. In the third year of the planning cycle, the ACEMA will release a similar survey to garner public comment on hazards and risks. Utilizing this venue will enable a targeted discussion with the public about the types of projects it would support during the next plan update process.