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 Columbiana 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 *process*, not only as a function of the regulatory driver governing completion of mitigation plans (as a requirement for mitigation funding) but also as an opportunity to support networking amongst key stakeholders. Further, the committee recognizes that postponing the plan update for four to five years results in an ineffective effort whereby the first half of the update consists of educating new members and the latter half is a hurried attempt to account for mitigation measures completed in the intervening period.

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:** Support the adoption process with all jurisdictions in Columbiana County. A local emergency planning committee (LEPC) meeting for the first year will review the planning process and consider updates to future processes.

- **Year 2:** Review the high-consequence hazards. An LEPC meeting can serve as a roundtable to discuss appropriate hazard profiles as well as consider if the hazard list in the plan is appropriate. Jurisdictional LEPC members should also report on efforts regarding education on building regulations.

- **Year 3:** Re-engage the public via survey and consider presentations to various groups throughout the county. An LEPC meeting will serve as a venue to reporting the results of this effort. The CCEMA will also begin the process of securing funding for the next plan update.

- **Year 4:** Complete a deep-dive on the project list (i.e., update status). An LEPC will serve as the forum at which the deep-dive occurs. Jurisdictional LEPC members should again update one another on efforts regarding education on building regulations.
- **Year 5:** Upon receiving funding to update the plan, the CCEMA will engage the planning committee in the update process.

Since many partners on the mitigation planning committee also sit on the county's LEPC, one of the quarterly LEPC meetings for the year will serve as the annual mitigation plan review. The CCEMA can include mitigation material for review and preparation in the invitation packet for the meeting serving as the annual discussion. The LEPC compiles minutes of its meetings, and thus the mitigation discussions will be documented. The CCEMA will ensure that any mitigation committee members <u>not</u> on the regular LEPC membership roster receive an invitation to the annual mitigation discussion.

The goal of the annual discussions 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 these discussions offer a prime opportunity to orient new members to what mitigation is, how the plan works, etc. The discussions thus support a more critical, in-depth formal update process.

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.

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

MITIGATION INTEGRATION		
Existing Program	*Participating Agencies*	*Narrative (and Goal Alignment)*
Floodplain Management	Columbiana County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Municipal Floodplain Administrators	According to FEMA's *Community Status Book* (current as of 09/24/2019), all jurisdictions in Columbiana County 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 Columbiana County currently participate in the Community Rating System (CRS) program (as of April 2019). GOAL ALIGNMENT 2. Promote coordination and partnership of key organizations tasked with maintaining the health and wellbeing of the Columbiana County population. 3. Protect vulnerable populations from negative effects of hazards in Columbiana County. 4. Reduce death, injury, illness, and damage to property, infrastructure, and the environment resulting from hazardous events or incidents.
Emergency Operations Planning	CCEMA Municipal Partners Response Agency Partners	The CCEMA 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). GOAL ALIGNMENT 1. Ensure the health and safety of first responders and the general population in Columbiana County before, during, and after an emergency event or incident. 2. Promote coordination and partnership of key organizations tasked with maintaining the health and wellbeing of the Columbiana County population.

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MITIGATION INTEGRATION		
Existing Program	*Participating Agencies*	*Narrative (and Goal Alignment)*
Stormwater Management	Municipal Partners Columbiana County SWCD OMEGA (see below)	The actions listed in Section 3.2 discuss stormwater management as a mitigation priority extensively. These actions include the creation of detention/retention ponds, ensuring storm drain systems are appropriately sized and working efficiently, etc. Additionally, several municipalities are looking at efforts to eliminate combined sewer overflows. Most stormwater management planning in Columbiana County occurs at the municipal level. The county supports stormwater efforts when replacing culverts in bridges via hydraulic analysis. Further, the SWCD supports various conservation efforts, some of which could be considered "low-impact development" or "green infrastructure" initiatives to manage rainwater better. GOAL ALIGNMENT 2. Promote coordination and partnership of key organizations tasked with maintaining the health and wellbeing of the Columbiana County population. 4. Reduce death, injury, illness, and damage to property, infrastructure, and the environment resulting from hazardous events or incidents.
Community & Economic Development	Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA)	OMEGA coordinates and supports regional economic and community development planning. Through its business development program, the agency manages a revolving loan fund and the Region 166 Loan Program. Under community development, OMEGA is involved in reclamation at abandoned mine lands as well as supports OPWC green space projects. GOAL ALIGNMENT 4. Reduce death, injury, illness, and damage to property, infrastructure, and the environment resulting from hazardous events or incidents. 5. Ensure the continued livelihoods of individuals and the community in Columbiana County prior to hazard events or incidents.
Public Health Planning	Columbiana County Health District (CCHD)	The CCHD maintains an emergency response plan to guide efforts during public health emergencies. Furthermore, the health department participates in the community health needs assessment process, which identifies what residents and other stakeholders feel are the biggest threats and needs relative to the public in Columbiana County. GOAL ALIGNMENT 2. Promote coordination and partnership of key organizations tasked with maintaining the health and wellbeing of the Columbiana County population.

MITIGATION INTEGRATION		
Existing Program	*Participating Agencies*	*Narrative (and Goal Alignment)*
Transportation Planning	Community Action Agency of Columbiana County OMEGA Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)	The Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association supports regional transportation planning for an area that includes Columbiana County. OMEGA maintains short- and long-range transportation plans (made manifest in the four-year regional transportation improvement plan). That document lists several road improvement projects that may increase or maintain access to the county's communities. In some cases, those projects can address slips and other hazard-related issues that typically appear in hazard mitigation plans. Goals 1 (Preserve, Maintain, and Improve Existing Transportation Systems) and 2 (Address Safety Concerns) are most relevant to the mitigation effort. The plan lists two "regionally significant projects," one to improve vertical and horizontal deficiencies on CR 430 and another to undertake horizontal curve correction to mitigate crashes on US 30 at SLM 11.70. The CAA maintains the coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan for Columbiana County. That document satisfied a regulatory driver: the FTA under the FAST Act. The document seeks to identify community resources and to identify and prioritize community transportation needs. Access to transportation may play a role in service to functional and access needs populations, particularly during responses. Access to transportation contributes to community resilience. Thus, the continuity of the transportation network, while most likely a preparedness initiative, does support the spirit of hazard mitigation. GOAL ALIGNMENT 3. Protect vulnerable populations from negative effects of hazards in Columbiana County. 4. Reduce death, injury, illness, and damage to property, infrastructure, and the environment resulting from hazardous events or incidents.

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 CCEMA. The CCEMA 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 CCEMA elected to utilize the county's LEPC as an administrative and participative vehicle throughout the five-year planning cycle. LEPC meetings are advertised and open to the

public; thus, the public can participate in mitigation planning at times when the LEPC discusses this plan. Additionally, in Year 3 of the cycle, the CCEMA will re-engage the public by distributing an online public survey via websites and social media. During that third year, the CCEMA will also offer to deliver presentations to community groups in an effort to garner greater public involvement in future plan updates.