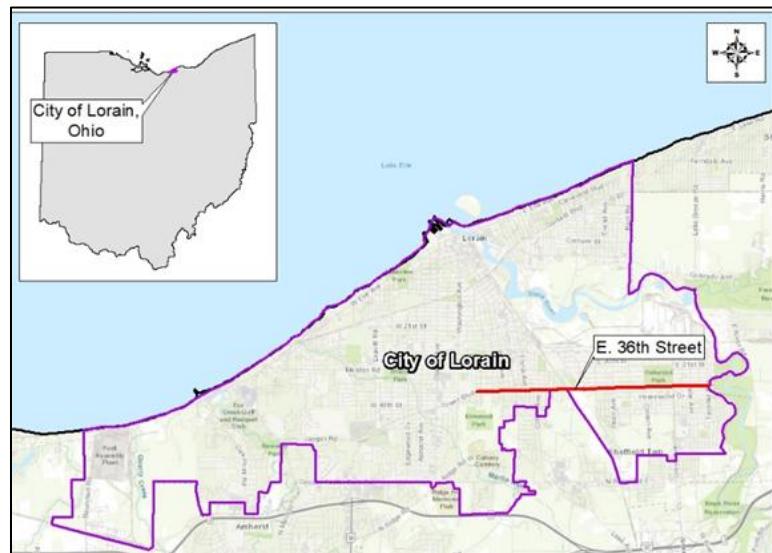


# City of Lorain E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street Improvements

## 2021 RAISE Grant Application to Connect and Transform South Lorain

**Project Overview:** The City of Lorain is looking to obtain a \$1,500,000 RAISE Planning Grant to design a series of upgrades to the E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street corridor in South Lorain. This project will design approximately 3.3 miles of new and improved roadway and multi-use path, as well as addressing over a mile of a degraded stormwater channel that causes significant local flooding. South Lorain is a diverse neighborhood that is considered an Area of Persistent Poverty. Within the primary census tract, almost 80% of the population is Hispanic or African American and almost 43% of the population is below the poverty line. The proposed

improvements provide an opportunity to transform the neighborhood, mitigate flooding, increase connectivity to jobs and education, and create increased biking and walking opportunities for residents and students.



The City's recent active transportation plan, developed with local stakeholders, identified this project as a high priority to safely increase connectivity to economic and educational centers. **The E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street corridor is a critical component for the City of Lorain, as this east-west transportation corridor is a main artery that connects the underserved neighborhood of South Lorain to the local education and business centers in the City to the west and the recreational opportunities to the east.**

This project includes four distinct sections designed to maximize the benefits of the overall project. A new multi-use path will be constructed the entire length of the project while a new roadway will be constructed in the western section from Tower Blvd to Elyria Ave. A stormwater greenway will be constructed from Globe to Grove Ave along the E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street ditch, including a new roadway section and expanded floodplain designed to mitigate the flooding along E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street and the neighborhood to the north. The project will also include public outreach and the development of a neighborhood transformation plan; this plan will examine how the investments occurring in South Lorain can be coordinated and leveraged into a cohesive neighborhood revitalization effort moving forward. **E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street can be a catalyst for ongoing restoration and redevelopment in South Lorain, resulting in an enhanced neighborhood that is actively connected to the economic, education, and recreational opportunities available within Lorain.**



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### Project Benefits:

- ✓ **Increased Safety** – Multi-use path construction will provide safe routes to schools for students, reducing the number of pedestrian and cyclist crashes. Current flooding along E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street is a safety hazard that will be addressed and improved with the creation of an expanded floodplain.
- ✓ **Environmental Sustainability** – Creating a connected E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street will eliminate current longer traffic patterns, resulting in almost 100,000 fewer miles traveled per year. Flood mitigation, water quality improvements, and increased walking/biking will all provide substantial environmental benefits. Given the high levels of poverty and primarily-minority makeup of the project area, reducing emissions, and mitigating flooding is an issue of environmental justice required to address the increasing impacts of climate change.
- ✓ **Quality of Life** - An improved E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street will offer a significant quality of life improvement to the residents of South Lorain; it will offer significant walking and cycling opportunities to connect to existing transit and allow for improved connectivity to the education and business centers in Lorain.
- ✓ **Economic Competitiveness** – Improving E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street, an important Federal Aid route ensures that vehicles and trucks accessing the Lorain Central Business District and Port of Lorain have appropriate roadways for transport. A neighborhood transformation plan, developed as part of this project, will identify how to leverage this project into increased job opportunities for residents, additional investments and development in South Lorain, and economic impact from visitors in the Black River Restoration Metro Park.
- ✓ **State of Good Repair** - The existing roadway is in poor condition; it is a collection of patchwork improvements and minor repairs. The required improvements can be completed by restoring the original channel floodplain and moving the roadway out of the floodplain. The roadway can be returned to a state of good repair and will reduce future maintenance costs.
- ✓ **Partnership** – Local community partners are supportive of this project and will be involved in the planning and design process, including Lorain County Metro Parks, Lorain County Public Health, City of Lorain Schools, and El Centro de Servicios Sociales. Support from regional and state transportation agencies NOACA and ODOT District 3 demonstrates that this project fits in with the larger transportation plan for the region.
- ✓ **Innovative** – The project will design an innovative stormwater greenway along E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street, creating a new boulevard with an expanded floodplain, multi-use path, and natural water quality treatment.



*Existing programs such as the City of Lorain Girls in Gear program and the GO LORAIN bike share will be enhanced with the new multi-use path along E. 36th*



*The project will design a mile-long stormwater greenway along E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street that will address the poor condition of the current E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street, construct an expanded floodplain to alleviate local roadway flooding, provide enhanced biking and walking opportunities, provide local water quality improvements, and create a signature feature for South Lorain that can serve as a community centerpiece for social, economic, and recreational activities. This project provides an opportunity to create a transportation corridor that is able to assist in transforming the South Lorain neighborhood.*