

2020 MUSKINGUM COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Compiled by: Muskingum County Planning Commission

Transportation Report

Transportation

Bus Service

Muskingum County is fortunate to have county wide transportation. Currently, the Southeast Area Transit (SEATBus) not only provides bus service within the county but also to Guernsey and Noble Counties, as well. The transit service provides essential transportation for a variety of needs, including workforce development, medical transport, and public service. Workforce development is a vital part of the transit service. By working with employers and establishing partnerships, the bus service can provide commuters with alternative transportation to travel back and forth to their workplace. This affords workers a reliable means to their place of employment, while employers benefit by having dependable employees, who do not miss work due to vehicle breakdowns, etc. Fixed route commuters would benefit from workforce development because scheduled routes could be established to connect workers with future employers. This could be extended out of the area by coordinating with other transit agencies in order to provide workers travel options in other parts of the state. Non-emergency medical transportation is another emerging need for the county, with its aging population. This service transports residents to medical, dental, optical, and other healthcare appointments, giving them a dependable way to travel. Encouraging greater non-emergency medical transportation will provide options for residents throughout the county in order to connect citizens with their healthcare providers. Finally, public service through regular bus routes is an essential part of the county's transportation network. With significant increases in ridership recently, it is clear that the bus service is being utilized and must continually evolve to provide the best options for its end users.

Highway System

County-Wide

The rural highway system within Muskingum County consists of more than 1,200 miles of county and township roads. Improving the safety of these roads continues to be a high priority. This would include widening of roadways, including shoulders, improving sight distance for motorists, providing proper drainage from road surfaces, installing adequate signage, resurfacing roads, replacing deteriorated culverts and bridges, as well as controlling vegetation along these highways. The challenge will be to discover adequate funding to not only maintain existing highways but to complete capital improvements, as well. Partnerships and shared services should be encouraged among the county, state, townships, and municipalities in order

to stretch already strained budgets. Officials should work to identify roads that can be improved to safely accommodate bicycles and pedestrians, while exploring funding options for greater recreational opportunities.

East

Some major improvements are needed in the eastern portion of Muskingum County. The Airport Rd/Sonora Road interstate interchange is already experiencing high volumes of traffic, including many trucks, which will likely increase with a new business park under development just south of the interstate along East Pike. Improvements, such as upgrading or installing traffic signals on the I-70 exit ramps and at Airport Road and East Pike, as well as widening these roadways to establish turn lanes, would be beneficial as traffic congestion increases. Improvements to Sonora Road and Norfield Road to accommodate increased truck traffic from I-70 to SR 93 are needed.

Interstate 70 and SR 93, Adamsville Road, is another area in need of improvement. Safety improvements, including road widening, of SR 93 at the I-70 interchange and Adamsville Road to the East Pointe Business Park, which has experienced growth.

West

Improve access from West Pike (US 40) to Newark Rd (SR 146) and North Pointe Drive by improving the Dillon Falls Road corridor. Widening and safety improvements on Dillon Falls Road are needed to establish an essential link between West Pike, Zanesville's northern limits and Falls Township.

North

In order to foster development and provide additional routes to vital businesses, it would be beneficial to support a new bridge crossing the Muskingum River north of the City of Zanesville linking North River Rd West and SR 666 with access to the East Pointe Business Park.

South

Southern Muskingum County is home to the only two county maintained bridges, which cross the Muskingum River. The river bridge linking Duncan Falls and the Village of Philo is currently under construction with a new structure being built just south of the existing bridge. The second bridge south of Duncan Falls near the town of Gaysport is currently in the planning stages and is programmed for replacement in 2022. Support of the completion of these bridges is essential to the county's highway system. In addition to the support of the two river crossings, it is important for officials to consider alternatives for a designated route, which links

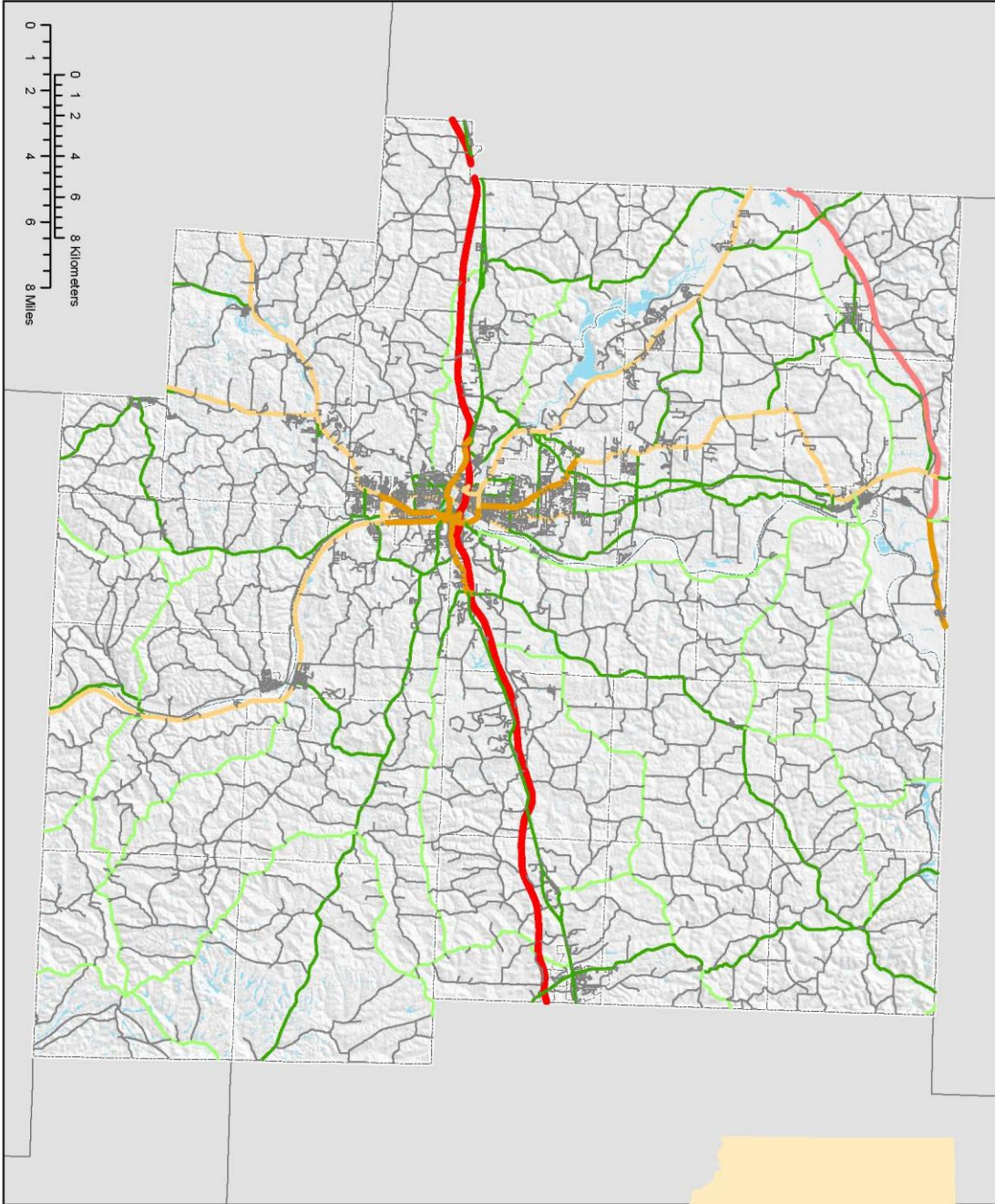
Maysville Pike and West Pike (US 40) near Interstate 70 to provide an efficient means of travel for motorists.

Air

The Zanesville Municipal Airport is an often underestimated resource within the county. Although the current size of the airport is considered a strength, expanding the airfield by extending the runway would help to support larger aircrafts, which would be key to building growth.

Rail

With railroad availability in the county, it is important to encourage greater utilization of rail for businesses throughout the county. Many grade crossing throughout the county need safety improvements to provide safer conditions for the traveling public.



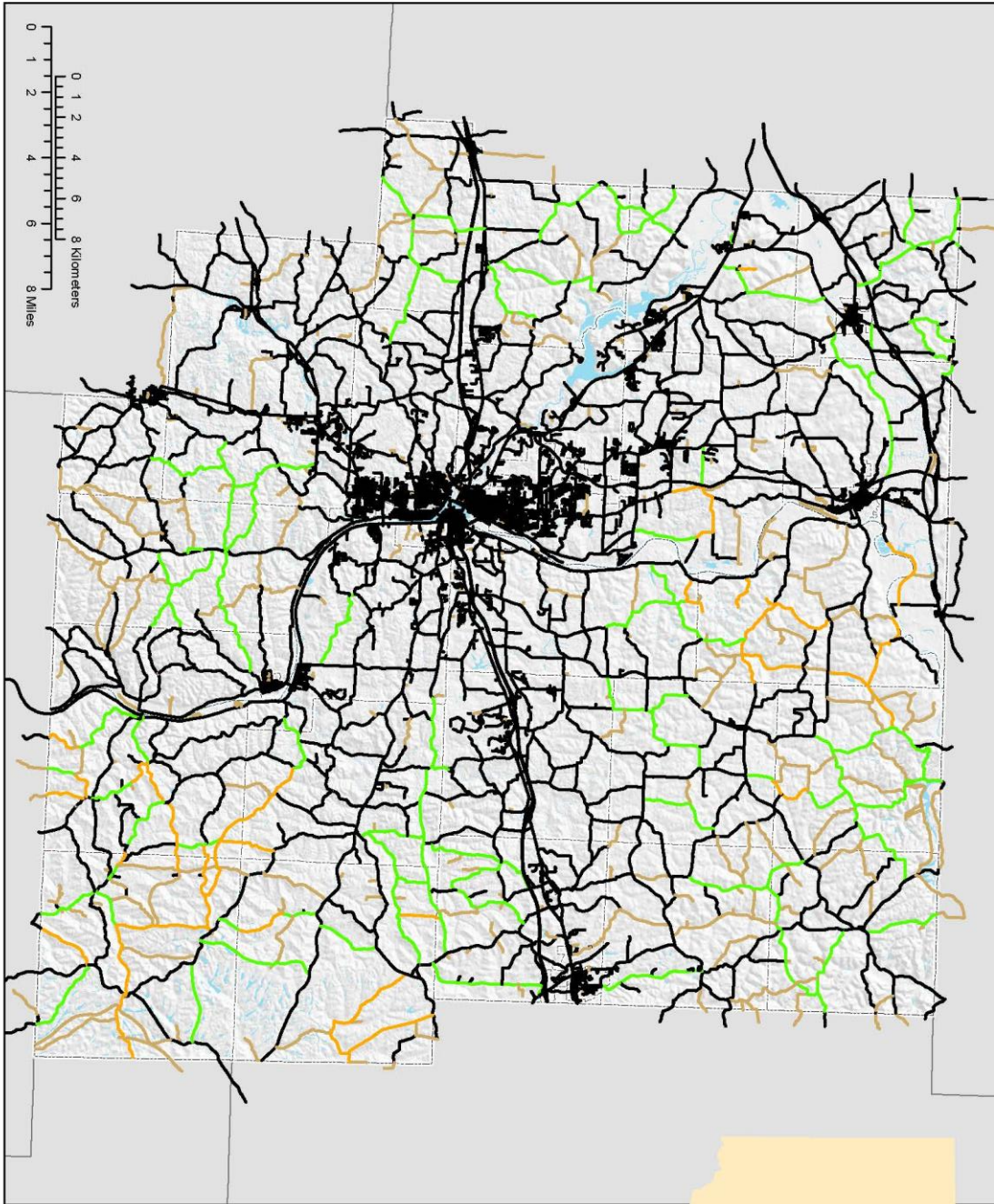
MUSKINGUM COUNTY, OHIO

ROAD FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS

Muskingum County
Planning Commission



Legend	
FUNCTION, C	
—	Interstate
—	Other Freeways
—	Principal Arterial
—	Major Collector
—	Minor Collector
—	Local



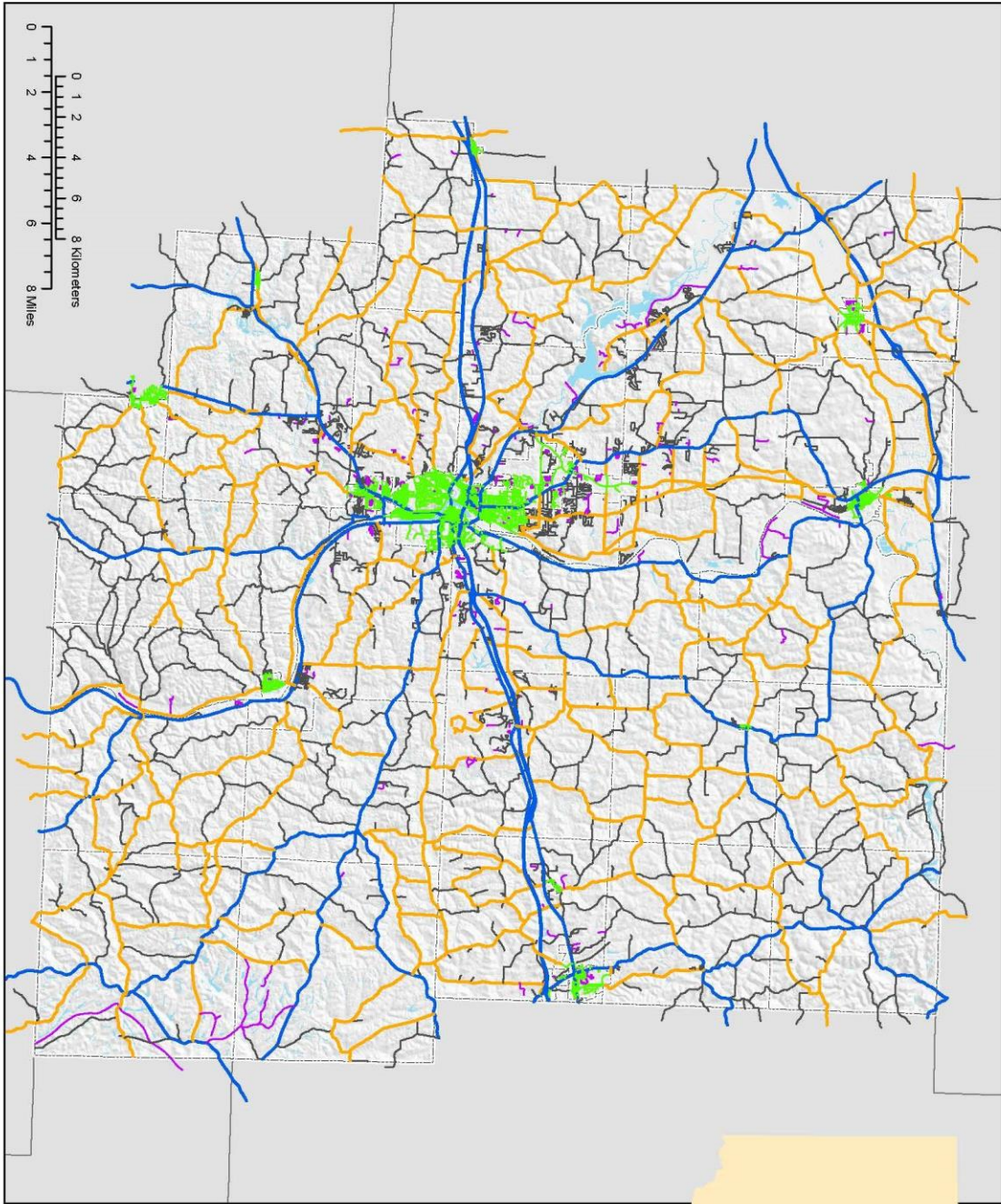
MUSKINGUM COUNTY, OHIO

ROAD PAVEMENT TYPES

Muskingum County
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Legend	
	Asphalt
	Chip & Seal
	Gravel
	Unpaved



MUSKINGUM COUNTY, OHIO

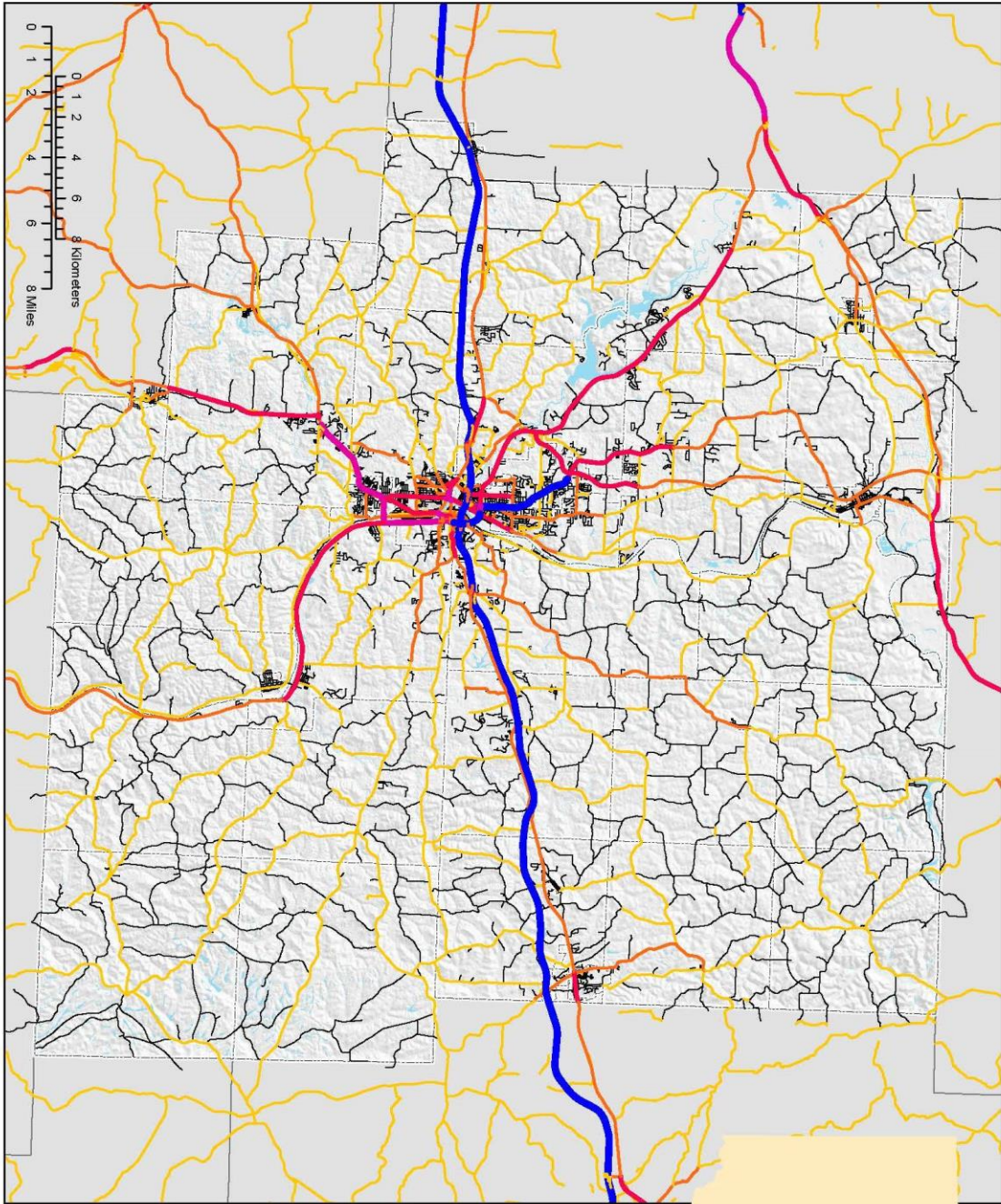
ROAD JURISDICTIONS



Muskingum County
Planning Commission



Legend	
Blue line	State
Orange line	County
Green line	Municipal
Purple line	Township
Pink line	Private



MUSKINGUM COUNTY, OHIO

AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC COUNTS

