



# Gahanna

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**PLANNING INITIATIVES UPDATE**

PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 21, 2025

# Planning Initiatives

Our Gahanna  
(Strategic Plan)



planning  
**NEXT**

Comprehensive Transportation  
& Mobility Plan



# Agenda

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1. Benefits of Planning
2. Our Gahanna Plan Framework
  1. Process
  2. Overview
3. Comprehensive Transportation and Mobility Plan Update
4. Upcoming Public Engagement



# Our Gahanna

TODAY. TOMORROW. **TOGETHER.**

# **Benefits of Planning**

## Why plan?

- Planning represents good stewardship (of land, resources, tax money, etc.)
- Communities do better with a “road map.”
- A good plan has clear metrics for success, ensuring that progress can be tracked and accountability is maintained.
- Local plans are the foundational implementation ingredient for local public policy.
- Plans are not to be placed on a shelf. They are living documents to be referenced daily, updated regularly, and implementation celebrated.





# Types of Plans

- Strategic Plans
- Comprehensive Plans
- Area Plans (downtown, neighborhoods)
- Transportation Plans (thoroughfare, active transportation, etc.)
- Parks and Recreation Plans
- Sustainability and Resiliency Plans
- Economic Development Plans



# What is a Strategic Plan?

- A Strategic Plan is a long-term framework that outlines a roadmap for the future of Gahanna.
- It often involves collaboration beyond the City elected officials and City staff.
- It is a guide for City decision-makers and is based on input from anyone in the community who cares about the future of the City as a place to thrive, succeed, and prosper.





# Gahanna's Moment

1. Leveraging this special moment
  - *Airport expansion*
  - *Intel*
  - *LinkUS*
  - *Central Ohio growth*
  - *City initiatives*
2. Identity within the region



# Plan Framework

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# Process



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## Vision

*The vision is the highest level – and most general – expression of a community's future. It reflects the community's values and sets the tone for more specific recommendations.*

**Gahanna aspires to...**

**Connect people and places that foster opportunities for all to thrive.**



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# Values

*Values reflect, at a high level, what the community cares about.*

The people of Gahanna value:

1. **Vibrancy:** Robust amenities, programs, and services that engage and enrich residents' lives.
2. **Connections:** A conveniently located community that provides ease of living for all with excellent connectivity to local and regional services and amenities.
3. **Stewardship:** Intentionally balancing the development of the built environment and necessary infrastructure with the conservation and preservation of green space.
4. **Community:** A welcoming, supportive, and safe community that builds lasting connections and fosters mutual respect, understanding, and belonging.

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## Strategic Focus Areas

*Focus areas will be developed into goal statements. A goal is a desired outcome expressed in simple terms.*

### 1. Elevating our unique places

Example topics include:

- Creekside
- Public spaces, parks, trails
- Neighborhoods

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## Strategic Focus Areas

### 2. Fostering our economic development

Example topics include:

- Strategic redevelopment areas
- Small business cultivation
- Incentives, promotion, and support (public-private partnerships, etc.)
- Relationships and communication
- Housing

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## Strategic Focus Areas

### 3. Serving our community

Example topics include:

- Government/internal operations
- Safety
- Services
- Stewardship (infrastructure, utilities, maintenance)



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## Strategic Focus Areas

### 4. Celebrating our identity

Example topics include:

- Sense of place
- Wayfinding
- Larger identity in the region
- Overall communications/promotions

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## Strategic Focus Areas

### 5. Connecting our community

Example topics include:

- Mobility
- People
- Partnerships (non-profits, community groups, schools)
- Events
- Unity

## Round 2 Engagement

- Vision Festival - multiple events in the week, focused on different populations (May 6-8)
- High School Engagement (May 1)
- Annual Economic Development Event (May 15)
- Gahanna Bananas Game on (May 17)
- Online Engagement (May 6-20) at [OurGahanna.com](http://OurGahanna.com)

You're invited to the

# Our Gahanna Vision Festival

Be a part of shaping Gahanna's future! Our Gahanna is a citywide initiative to develop a bold new Strategic Plan, ensuring our city grows in a direction that makes you proud to call it home. Your voice matters. Join us at the Vision Festival, where you have a seat at the table to present your ideas. Find an event that fits your schedule and get involved—this is your city, and your input will make a difference!

	<b>TUE, MAY 6</b> 5-7 p.m. Hannah Park	<b>TACO TUESDAY FAMILY FEST</b> Bring the whole family for an evening of tacos, free for the first 100 attendees, fun activities, and community engagement! Stop by anytime!
	<b>WED, MAY 7</b> 7:30-9 a.m. Gahanna Library	<b>SMALL BUSINESS MORNING COFFEE NETWORKING</b> An opportunity to connect with fellow business owners from diverse backgrounds and engage with City representatives.
	<b>WED, MAY 7</b> 11:30-1 p.m. Senior Center	<b>SENIOR LUNCH</b> Seniors are invited to join for a delicious lunch and discussion at the Senior Center!
	<b>THU, MAY 8</b> 4-6 p.m. Edison Brewing	<b>YOUNG PROFESSIONAL HAPPY HOUR</b> An evening of networking designed for young professionals who live and/or work in Gahanna.

 **Our Gahanna**  
TODAY. TOMORROW. TOGETHER.

Learn more and get involved at  
[OURGAHANNA.COM](http://OURGAHANNA.COM)

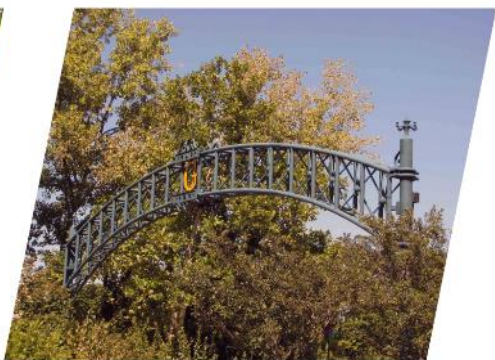


# THANK YOU!



**[OurGahanna.com](http://OurGahanna.com)**





# GAHANNA COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY PLAN

**City Council Presentation**  
**April 21, 2025**

# Comprehensive Transportation & Mobility Plan Overview

## What This Plan Is

- Updated Thoroughfare Plan:
  - Guides future roadway improvements and infrastructure needs.
- Modernized Policies (Last updated 2006):
  - Updates access management, traffic impact study requirements, and the Complete Streets Policy—giving the city stronger tools to manage development and align with state and federal standards.
- Complete Streets Focus:
  - Sets enforceable standards to prioritize safe, accessible walking and biking infrastructure in all new projects.

## What This Plan *Isn't*

- Not focused on intersections.
- Does not include neighborhood streets.
- Not a traditional thoroughfare plan focused on widening roads or adding lanes based on traffic forecasts.

## Why It's Important

- Creates policy tools and standards that Gahanna can use to help create the built environment residents want.
- Helps the city plan for the future with regional changes and growth.

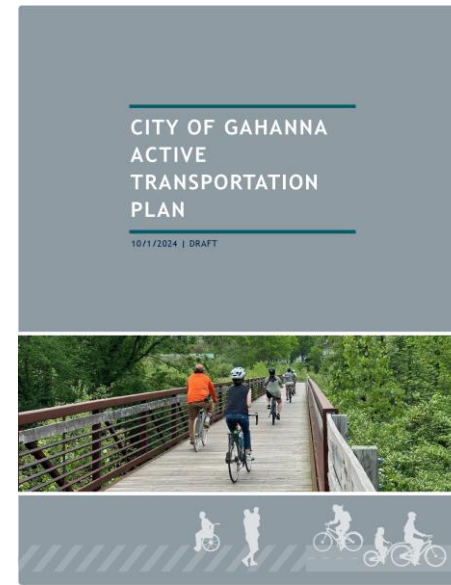
# Where Does this Plan Fit into Existing Planning Efforts?



Complements the Strategic Plan, aiming to accomplish similar goals but focused on the roadway network



Considers past planning efforts



Incorporates and expands upon the ATP to improve bicycle and pedestrian network through Complete Streets policies and corridor recommendations



Informs the Capital Improvement Plan

# Plan Schedule





# Existing Conditions Assessment

- Analyzed
  - Existing roadway classifications
  - High crash locations and trends
  - Disconnected or underserved communities
  - Vehicle volume and capacity
  - Active transportation network
  - Public transportation system
  - National best practices

# Engagement and Visioning

- Jeff Speck Event October 2024-Walkable Gahanna
  - Provided plan overview and presentation of existing conditions
  - Gathered feedback on existing conditions, transit-oriented development, and walkability
- Stakeholder workshops to interpret existing conditions and envision the future of transportation and mobility in Gahanna



## Where Are Your Concerns?

Please use stickers, markers and post-it notes to indicate your traffic concerns, safety concerns, or wanted active transportation connections.

### Traffic/Congestion

Use a blue marker or sticky dot to indicate a traffic/congestion concern.

### Traffic Safety

Use a red marker or sticky dot to indicate a traffic safety concern.

### Active Transportation

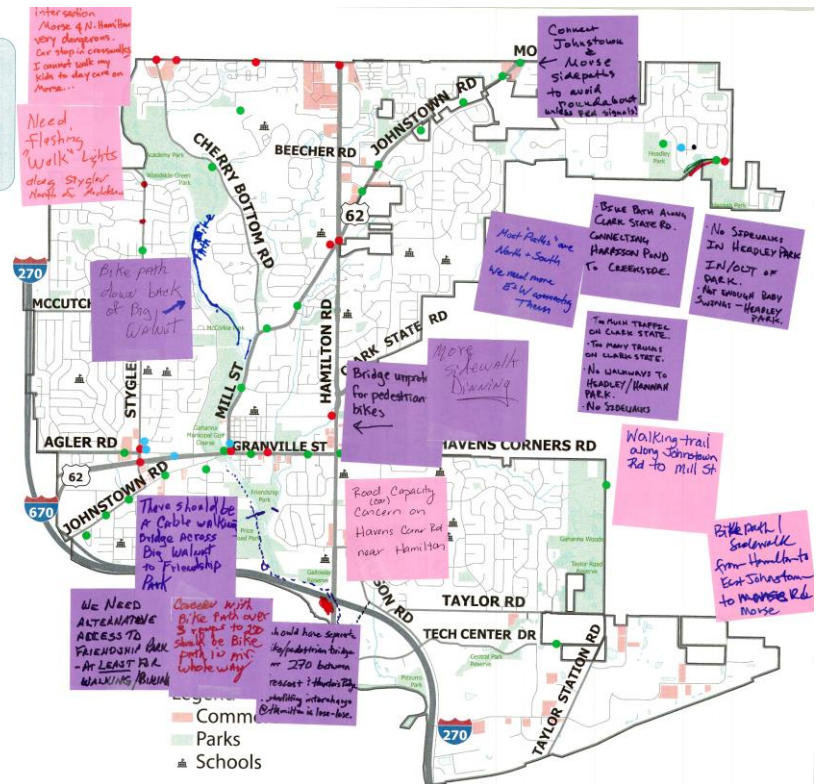
Use a green marker or sticky dot to indicate where you would like a walking or biking connection.

### Other

Use a black marker to indicate any other comment or concern.

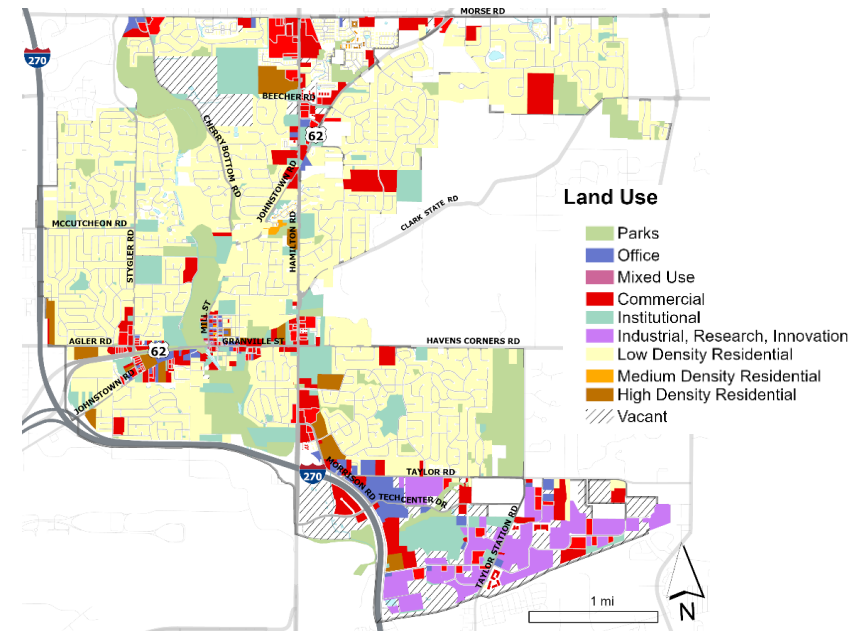
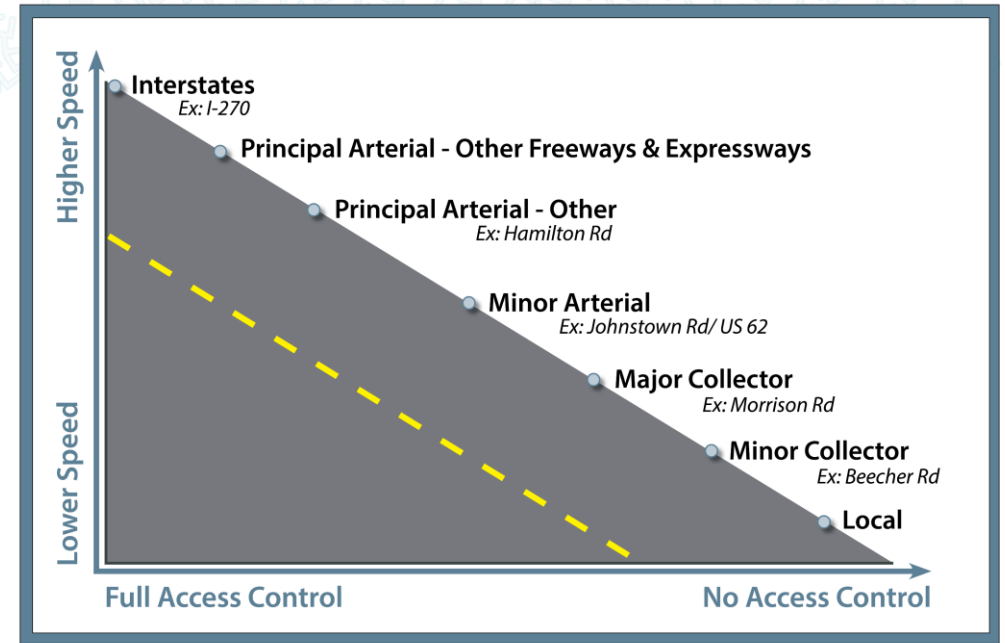


GAHANNA  
COMPREHENSIVE  
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# Thoroughfare Plan Definitions

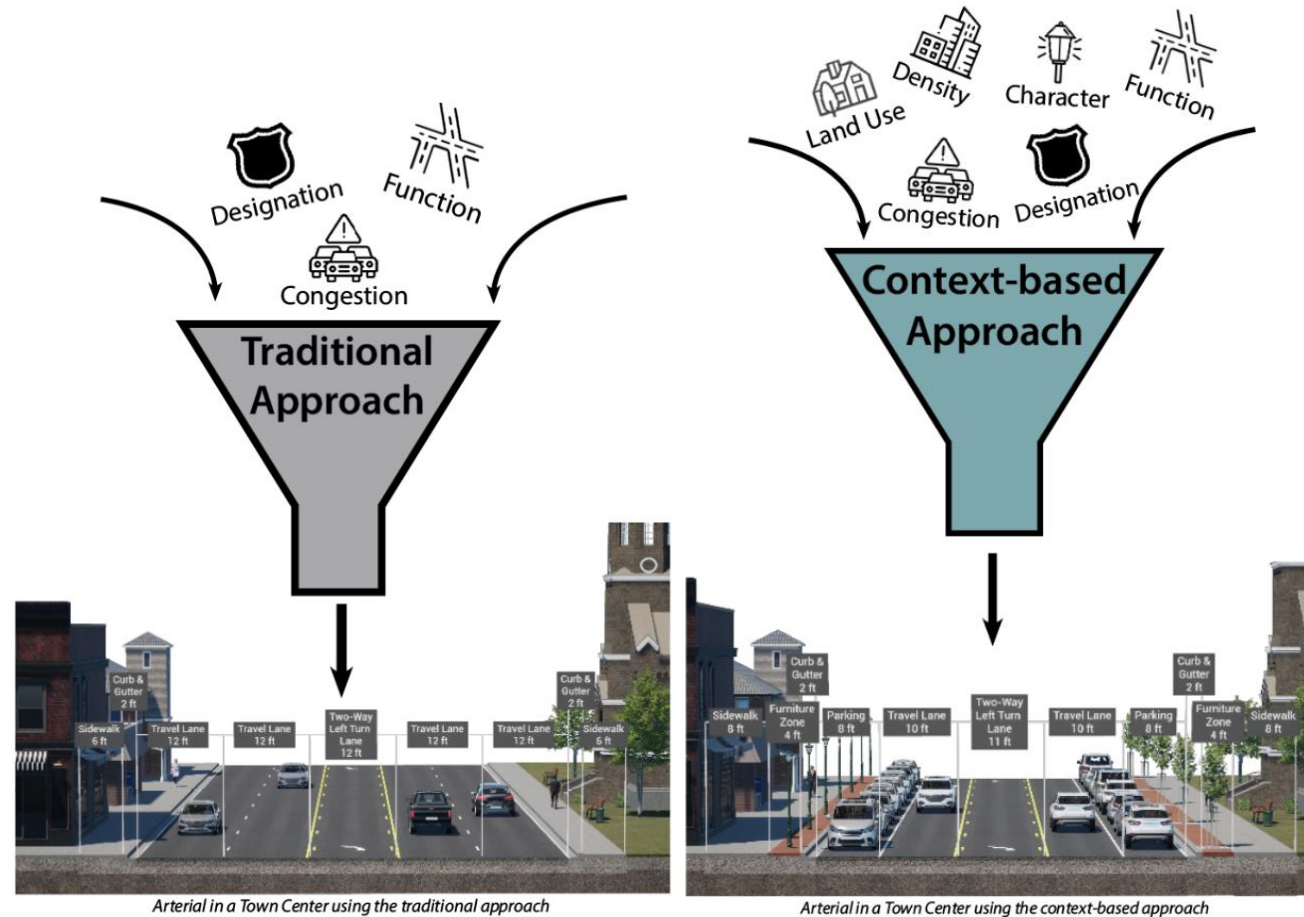
- What is a thoroughfare?
  - Main road used to connect longer distances or to major roads/highways
- What is functional classification?
  - FHWA standards that define how a road is used, balancing speed and access
  - Tied to state funding
- What is context classification?
  - The land use surrounding the roadway





# Transportation and Mobility Plan Components

- Updates road functional classifications and future right-of-way needs
- Identifies surrounding land uses, character, multimodal connections, and other components to develop road “typical” sections
  - Typical sections guide the character of the roads, safety components, and modes of transportation considered



# Transportation and Mobility Plan Components

## ■ Policy Documents

### — Complete Streets Policy

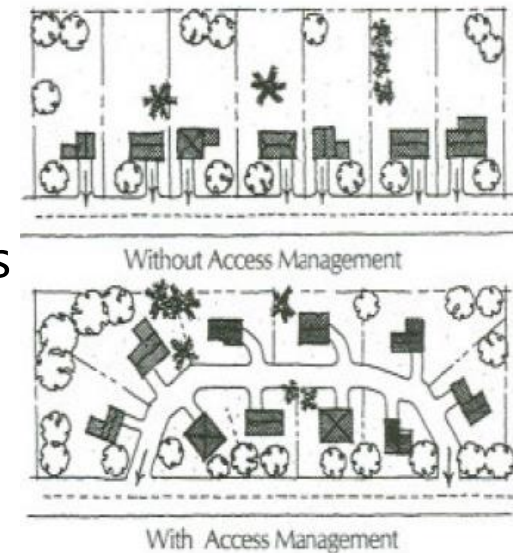
- Creates requirements for consideration of active transportation elements in infrastructure projects.
- The update will add plan review procedures, technical guidance, and design requirements.

### — Access Management Requirements

- Regulations that control the location, design, and number of driveways and access points along roadways to enhance safety, reduce congestion, and maintain efficient traffic flow.
- The update will reflect current standards and include more multi-modal considerations.

### — Traffic Impact Study Requirements

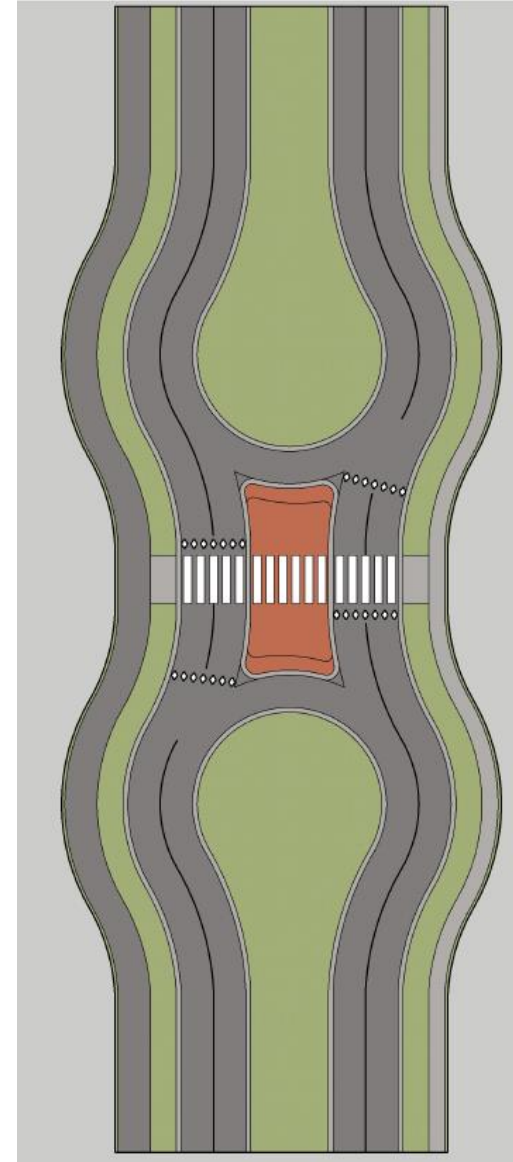
- A requirement for developers to assess how a proposed development will affect the existing transportation network, including traffic flow, safety, and capacity to mitigate negative impacts.
- The update will reflect current standards and include more multi-modal considerations.



Graphic from Existing Access Management Requirements

# Roadway Design

- Developing planning level concepts for key corridors
- Staff workshops with Gahanna engineering, B&N engineering, and city representatives
- Reviewing proposed concepts, modeling of alternatives, traffic analysis





# Next Steps

- Update functional and context classifications network
- Develop typical cross-sections for classifications that define:
  - Lane widths
  - Number of lanes
  - Streetscaping
  - Active transportation elements
  - Speed limit
- Conduct public engagement with Strategic Plan
- Incorporate feedback and finalize recommendations and policy documents with steering committee and City Council input

# Questions?

- **Scan the QR code for the project website or search “Gahanna Transportation Plan”**
- Website includes:
  - Project overview
  - Existing conditions information
  - Thoroughfare plan definitions
  - Public comment form/survey
- Contact Shannon Salvadore (Fergus) for any additional questions:  
Shannon.Fergus@burgessniple.com



[www.gahanna.gov/ctmp/](http://www.gahanna.gov/ctmp/)

# Next Steps: Public Engagement

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**YOUNG PROFESSIONAL HAPPY HOUR**  
An evening of networking designed for young professionals who live and/or work in Gahanna.

## ONLINE SURVEY AT OURGAHANNA.COM (MAY 6 – 20)

**THU, MAY 15**  
11-1 p.m.  
Franklin Peak

**Economic Development Annual Event** with keynote speaker Josiah Brown

**SAT, MAY 17**  
9-1 p.m.  
Lincoln Elementary

**Gahanna Bananas Baseball Game** versus the Ohio Village Muffins

# Comprehensive Transportation & Mobility Plan

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- May 6 – Taco Tuesday Family Fest
- May 8 – Young Professionals Happy Hour
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- Visit website to provide feedback
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