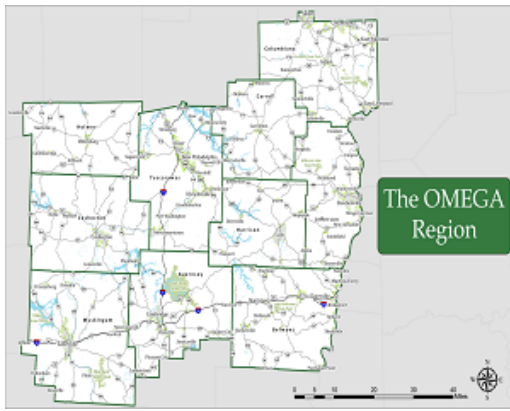

OMEGA Lays Out Plans, Ask for Public Input

by [Mary McClintock](#) | Oct 2, 2019 | [Breaking](#), [Homepage](#), [News](#)



Nick McWilliams reporting – A Regional Transportation Planning Organization laid out their short and long-term plans for improved roadways and infrastructure in their district.

OMEGA handles a district consisting of eight counties, including Tuscarawas and surrounding areas, and helps secure funding and collaborations through various programs.

Transportation Director Kevin Buettner says that in order to provide better commutes and growth for areas, OMEGA looks at a host of different factors in the hopes of improving daily life for residents and commuters.

“Your commute times will be less. Initially, during construction, it may get a little bit worse because it might go down to one lane, but the end goal is to make it a faster commute. A safer commute, we want to make it a safe for not just the motorists, but people who walk and bike [too.]”

Working to improve roads and infrastructure can also have a domino effect on trucking and other commerce, according to Buettner.

Under the program, Tuscarawas County would see around \$53.2 million worth of funds for improvements, including large-scale projects along U.S. 250 and I-77.

Public comments are welcome by contacting either Buettner or Geographic Information System Coordinator and Transportation Planner Megan Carmel.

“We do have a public survey that we’re asking [for response.] Public meetings are usually hard to get people to come to but if people have time, we’re just trying to get everyone to take our survey, it takes a little less than five minutes to take. Very broad questions. It’s anonymous.”

The survey is available at www.omegadistrict.org/survey along with more details about future plans.

The long-term planning period is expected to last until May of next year.

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Select OMEGA meetings canceled; rescheduled as webinars

Posted Apr 21, 2020 at 7:38 AM

Updated Apr 21, 2020 at 12:23 PM

Due to current state health concerns and efforts to be consistent with Gov. Mike DeWine's directives, the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association has made the decision to cancel all face-to-face Long Range Regional Transportation Plan Public Meetings.

In order to provide the general public with an opportunity to share insights and opinions regarding the long range plan, the public meetings will be held in a web-based format. These meetings serve to inform residents of OMEGA's eight RTPO counties of projects pertaining to road construction, safety and general transportation.

The counties include all OMEGA member counties with the exception of Belmont and Jefferson.

"While the decision to reformat the long range plan public meetings is disappointing, the safety and well-being of our member counties is of the utmost importance to OMEGA," said officials in a press release.



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Purchasing a gift card will provide your favorite businesses with much needed resources to manage through this challenging time.

[Buy a gift card now](#)

THE DAILY & Sunday
JEFFERSONIAN

support local.

Webinars are scheduled for 2 and 6 p.m. on Monday, May 4 via Facebook Live. Visit the OMEGA Facebook page to access the meetings. Presentations and all accompanying information will also be available on YouTube.

Contact Communications Manager Kennedy Webb, 740-622-6980 or kwebb@omegadistrict.org, for more information.



Public Meeting

Guernsey County

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANS

October 9, 2019

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. OMEGA Overview
3. Regional Transportation Improvement Plan Overview
4. Long Range Transportation Plan Overview
5. Comments

OMEGA: Who Are We?

- Local Development District
- Council of Governments
- Ten County Governments

Belmont*

Carroll

Columbiana

Coshocton

Guernsey

Harrison

Holmes

Jefferson*

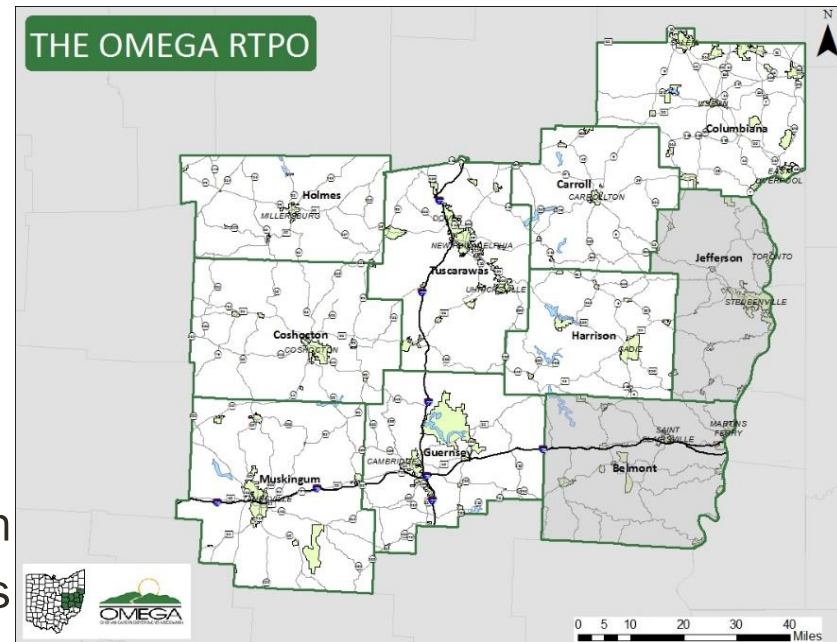
Muskingum

Tuscarawas

- Twelve City Governments

Cambridge, Coshocton, Dover, East Liverpool, Martins Ferry, New Philadelphia, St. Clairsville, Salem, Steubenville, Toronto, Uhrichsville, and Zanesville

*Not Included in RTPo



OMEGA's Services



- **Mission:** *Provide a pathway to enhance community and economic growth in our region.*
- Provide Planning Assistance to Local Governments
- Provide Funding Administrative Services
- Administer ARC/GOA Program
- Administer Revolving Loan Fund Program
- Administer Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Promote Collaboration
- Serve as District Liaison for the District 14 Natural Resource Advisory Council (Clean Ohio)
- **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

Connecting Communities to Resources

RTPO SERVICES

- Short Range Planning
 - Active Transportation Plans / School Travel Plans
 - Regional Safety Planning
 - Participation in Statewide Planning
- Regional Transportation Planning
 - GIS Database for Local Agencies
 - Regional Transportation Plan
 - Regional Coordinated Human Services/Public Transit Plan
 - US 30 Corridor
 - Columbus to Pittsburgh Corridor
- Technical Services
 - Road Safety Audits, Curve Speed Studies, Crash Analysis
 - Grant Writing, Traffic Counts, Workshops

Current RTP0 Goals

- Maintain and Improve Existing Transportation Systems
- Address Safety and Congestion
- Improve Quality of Life
- Facilitate Economic and Community Development



What is the RTIP/STIP?

What is the STIP?

The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, or STIP, is Ohio's four-year transportation planning document that serves two main purposes. First, it presents the transportation program for Ohio which includes both federally and state funded projects scheduled within the four-year period. Second, it serves as the reference document required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for use in approving federal funds for transportation projects in Ohio.

- ❖ Ohio Department of Transportation, Office of Program Management
- ❖ Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
- ❖ **Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs)**
- ❖ Local officials

Source:

<http://www.dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/Planning/STIP/Pages/default.aspx>

Rural Consultation

- Covers State Fiscal Years 2021-2024
- ODOT-programmed project maps on OMEGA website
 - <https://omegadistrict.org/programs/transportation/rtip>
- Opportunity to comment on ODOT-programmed projects
- Include Locally-Initiated Transportation Projects

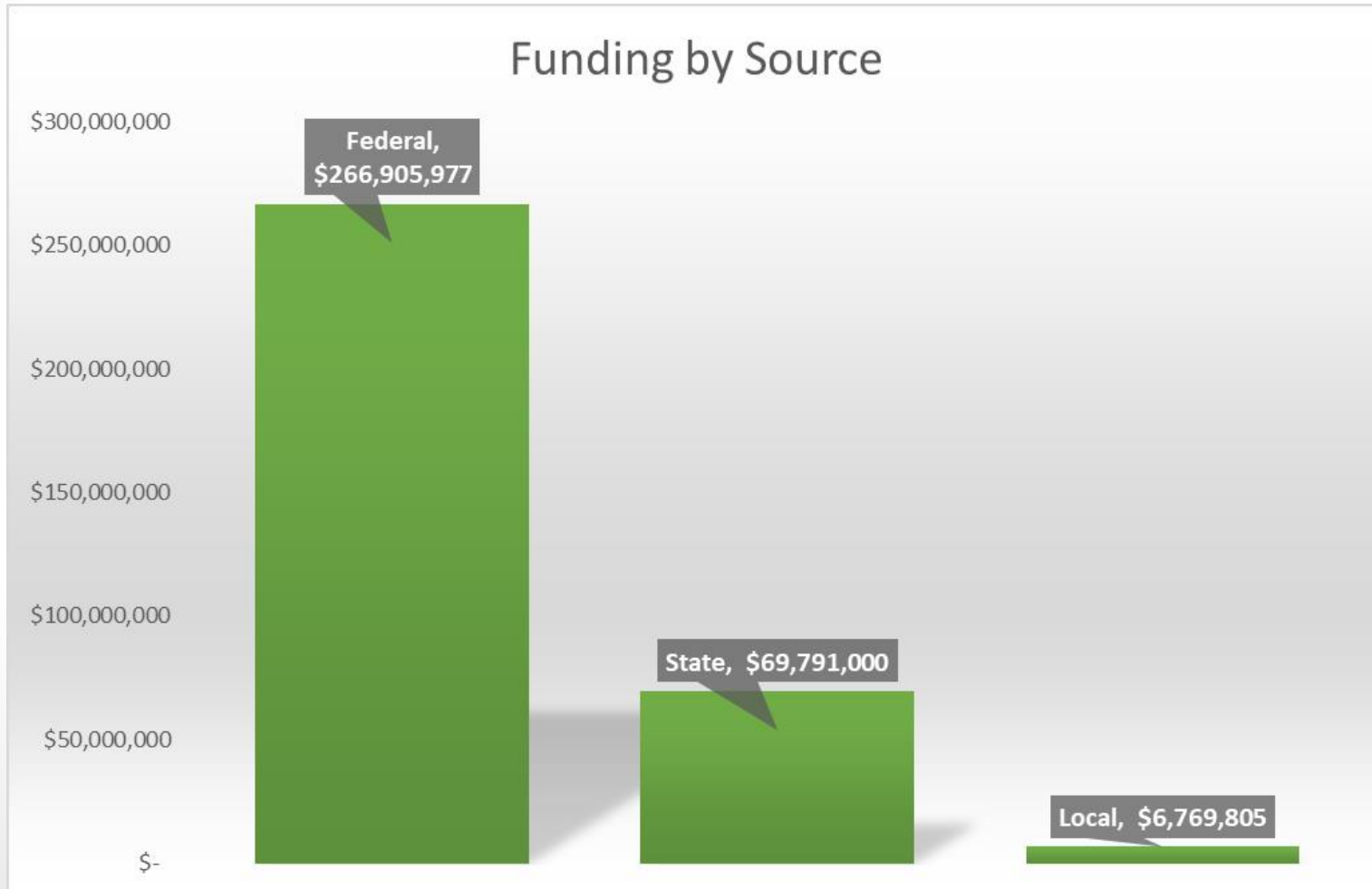
RTIP Process



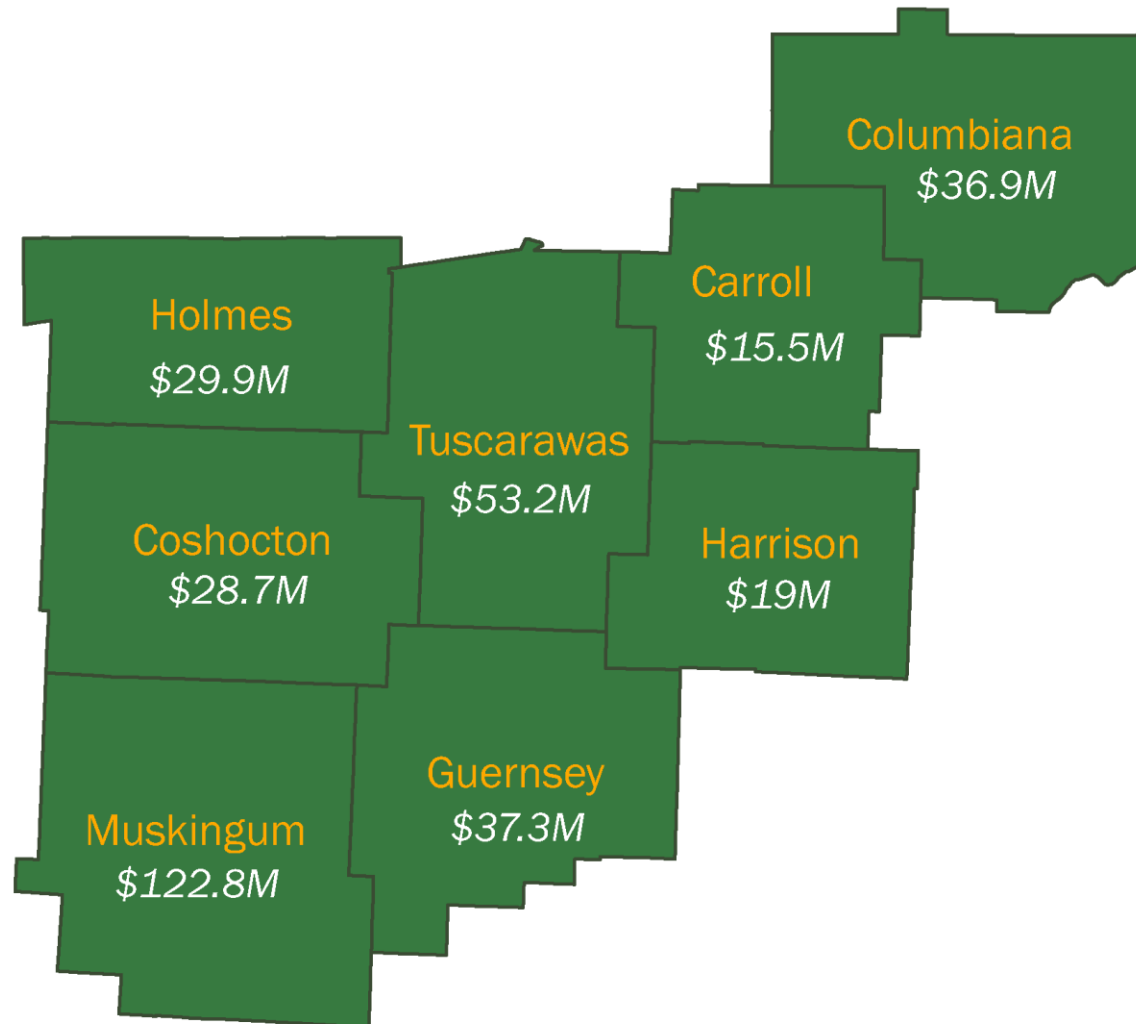
RTIP Development Timeline

- ❖ February 7, 2020 – Draft RTIP due to ODOT
- ❖ March 6, 2020 – Draft STIP available for comment by ODOT
- ❖ March 27, 2020 – Revised draft RTIP due to ODOT
- ❖ March 30-April 10, 2020 –Public Involvement Period
- ❖ April 30, 2020 – Final RTIP due to ODOT

Investment in OMEGA Region

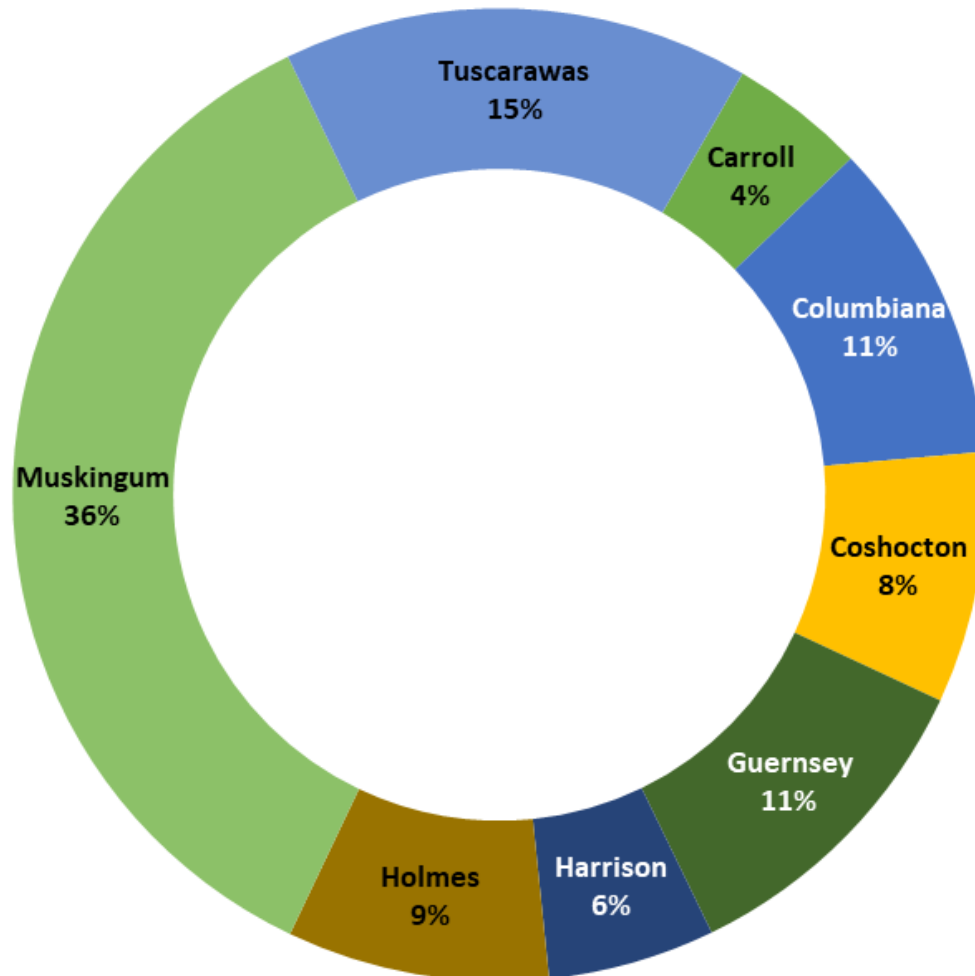


Breakdown by County



Investment in OMEGA Region

Allocation of Funds by County

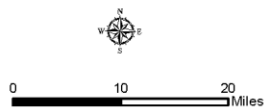
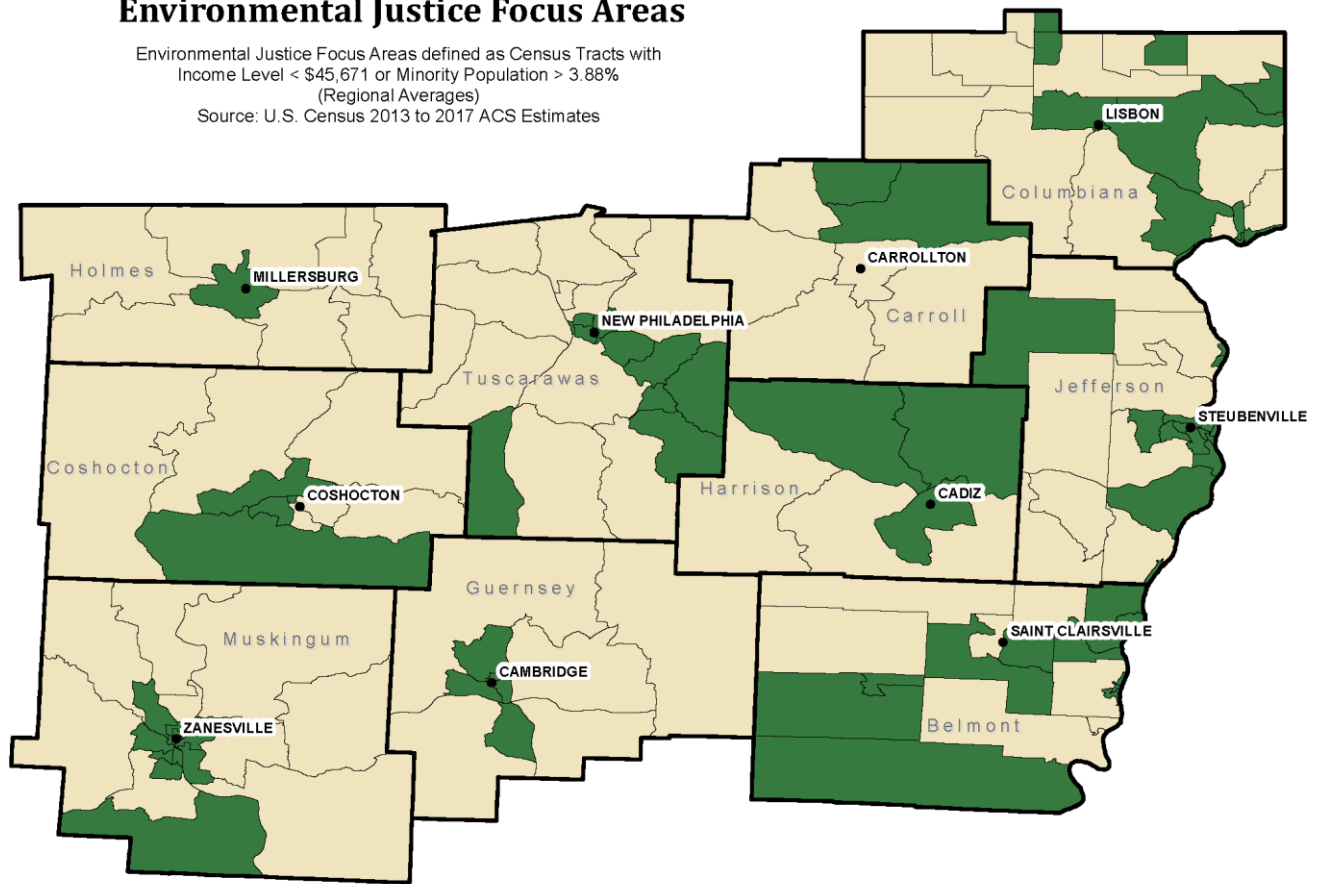


Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice Focus Areas

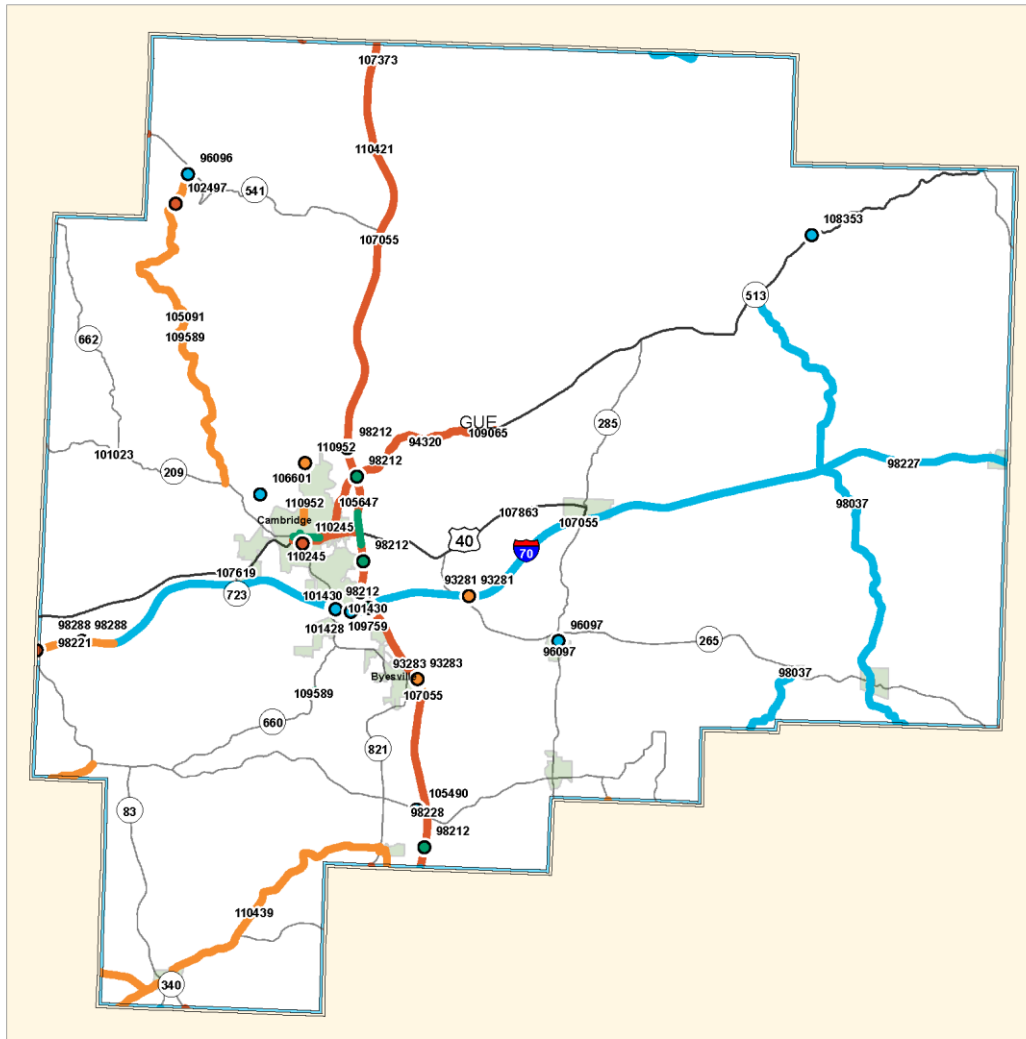
Environmental Justice Focus Areas defined as Census Tracts with
Income Level < \$45,671 or Minority Population > 3.88%
(Regional Averages)

Source: U.S. Census 2013 to 2017 ACS Estimates



- EJ Focus Area
- Non-EJ Census Tract
- County Boundary

2021 - 2024 Construction Projects GUERNSEY County



- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Interstate | STIP Period Work Locations | 2021 Bridges | 2021 Roads |
| State Route | | 2022 Bridges | 2022 Roads |
| US Route | | 2023 Bridges | 2023 Roads |
| City | | 2024 Bridges | 2024 Roads |
| County | | | |



Date: 8/5/2019

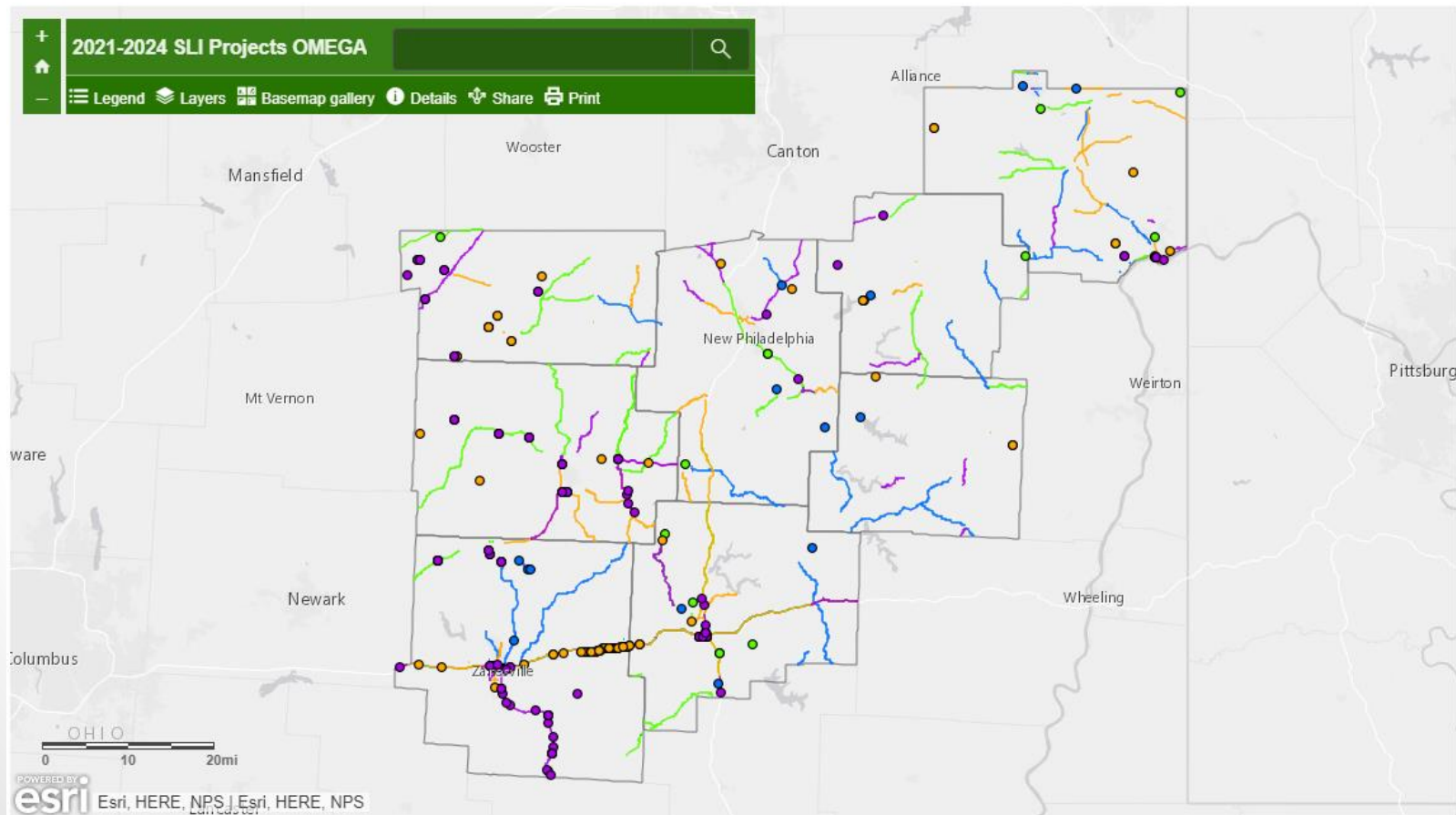


OHIO DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
Division of Planning
Office of Program
Management

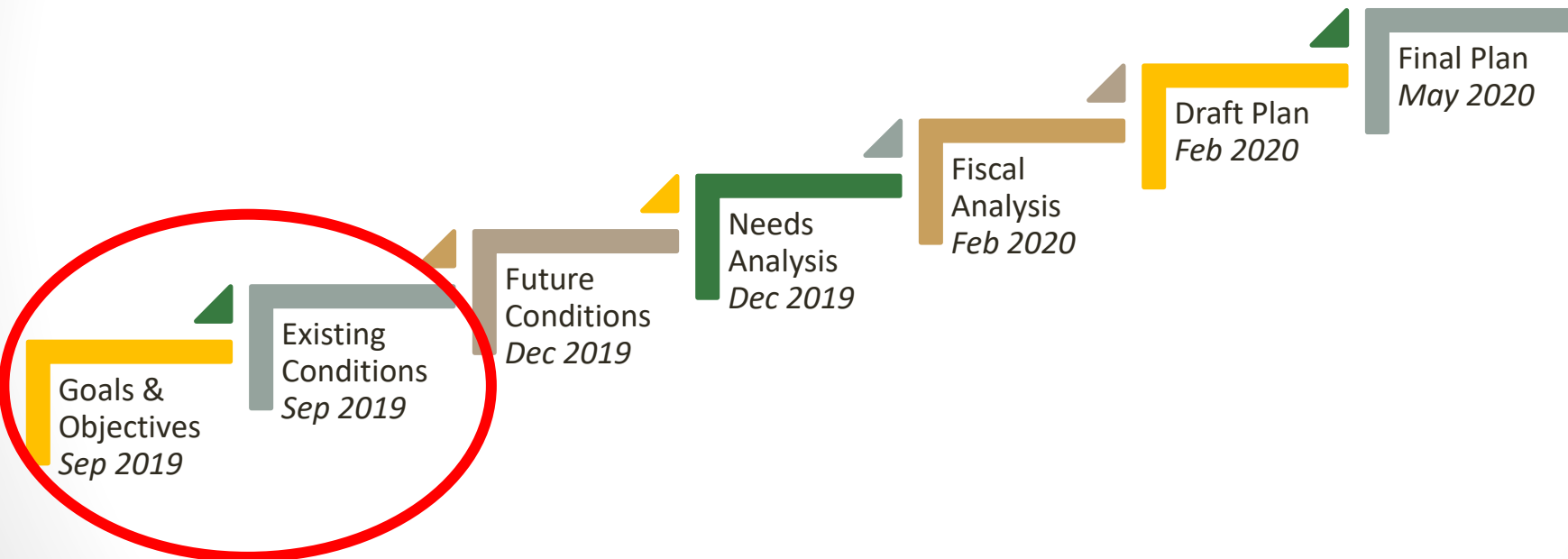
State Line Items

- <http://omegadistrict.org/state-line-items/>

State Line Item Projects



Long-Range Transportation Plan Update



Goals & Objectives

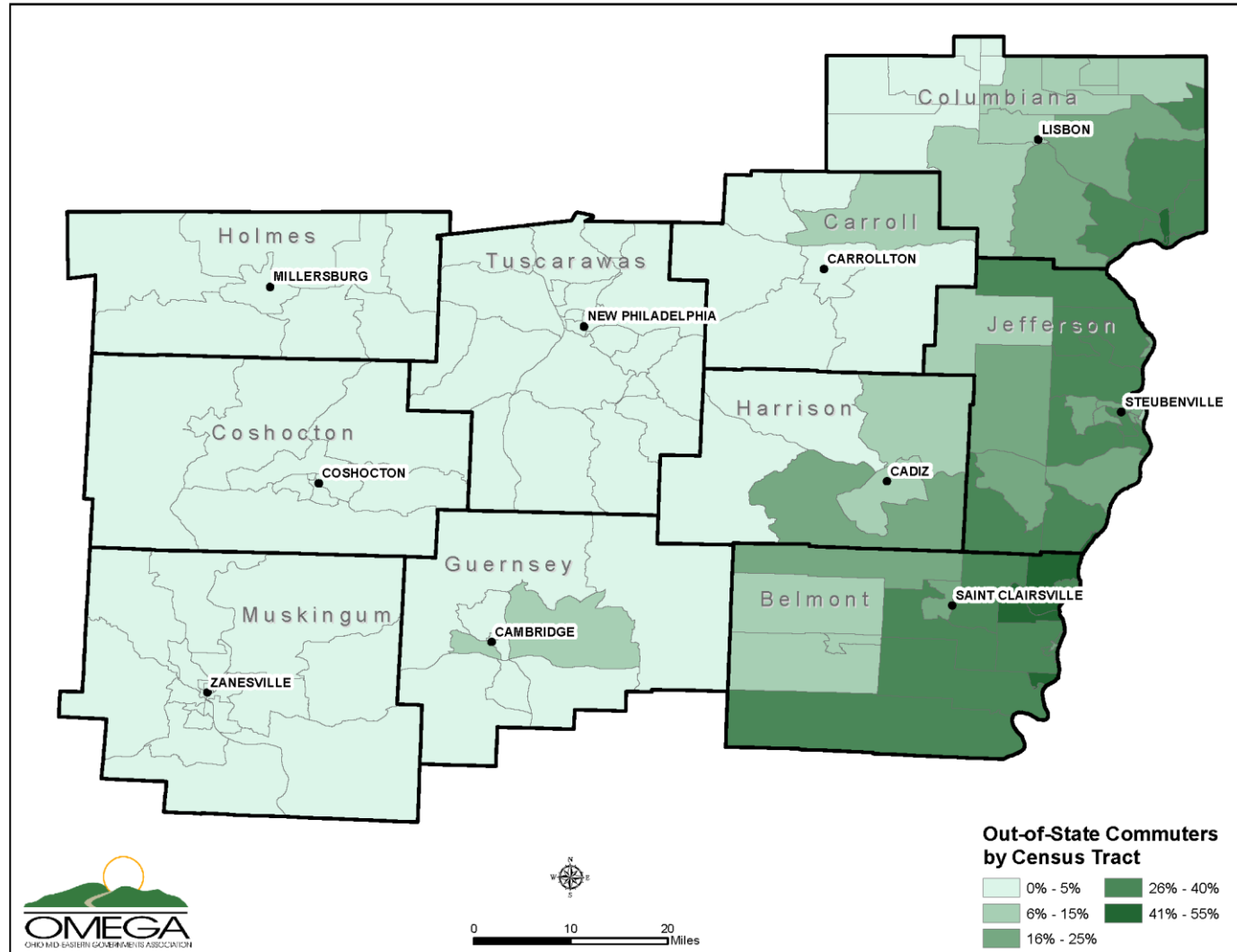
2015 Goals

- Maintain & Improve Existing Transportation Systems
- Address Safety & Congestion
- Improve Quality of Life
- Facilitate Economic & Community Development

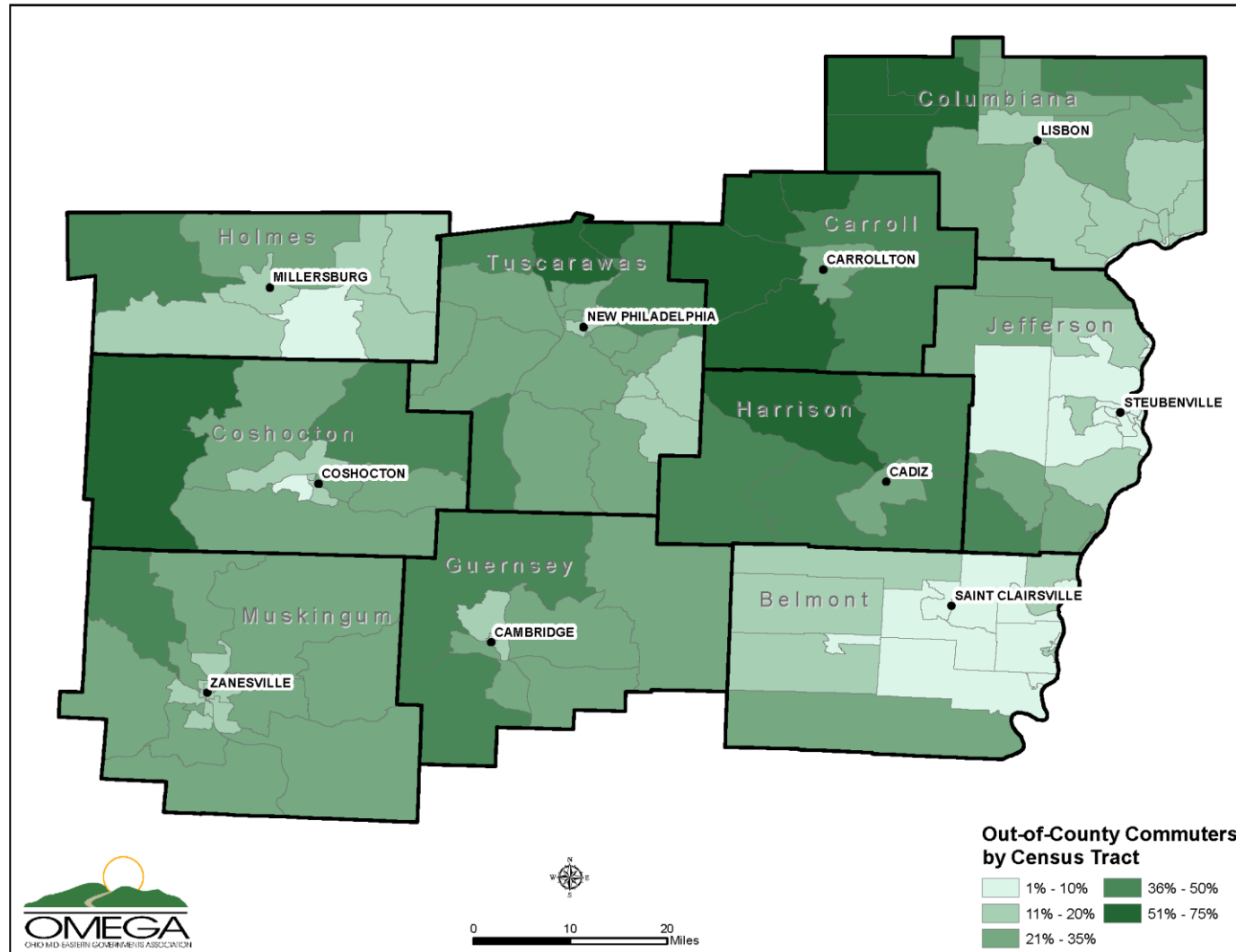
Proposed 2020 Goals

- Preservation of Regional Assets
- Increase Safety of Regional Infrastructure
- Facilitate Economic & Community Development
- Develop / Maintain Regional Resiliency
 - (Weather & Economic)

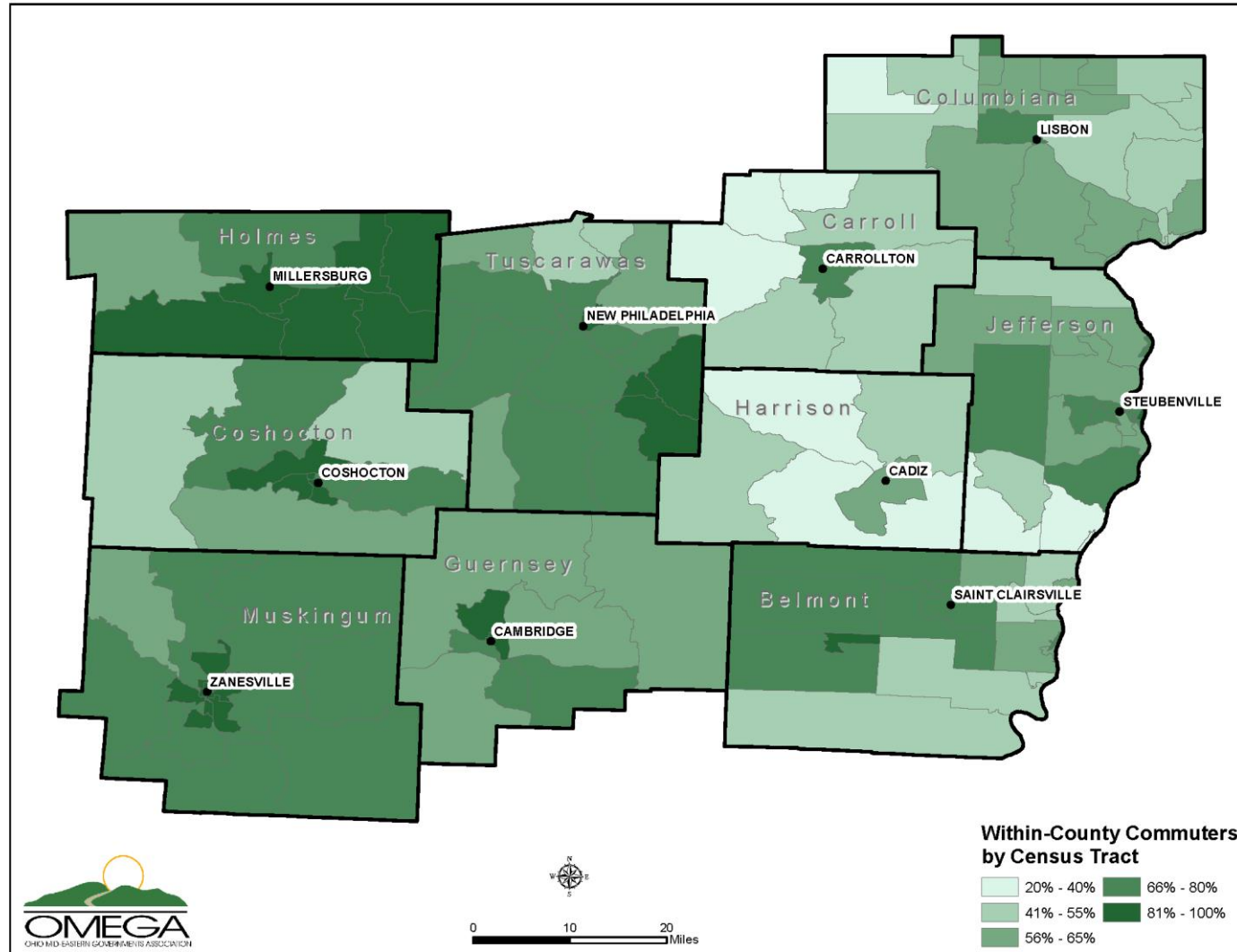
Existing Conditions



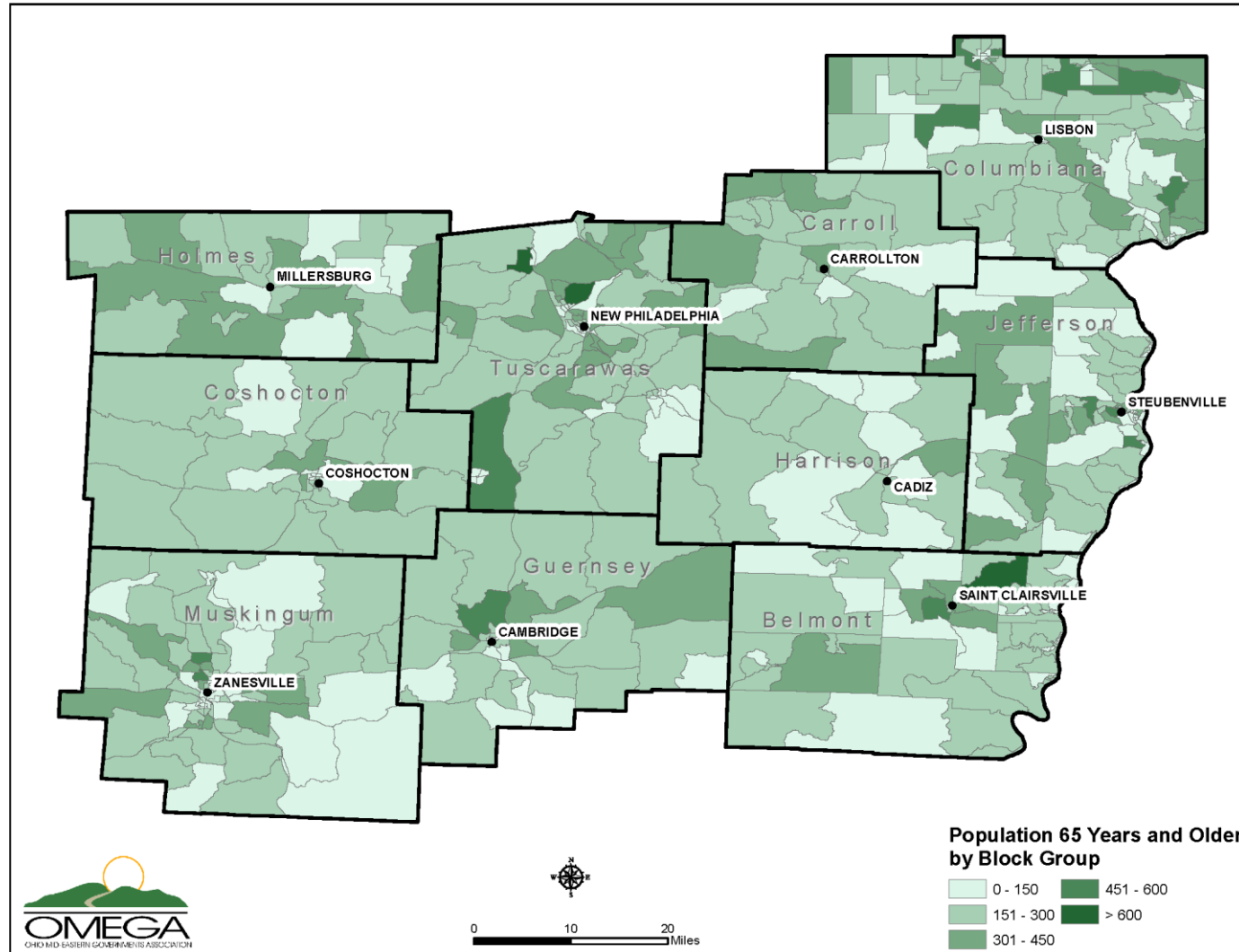
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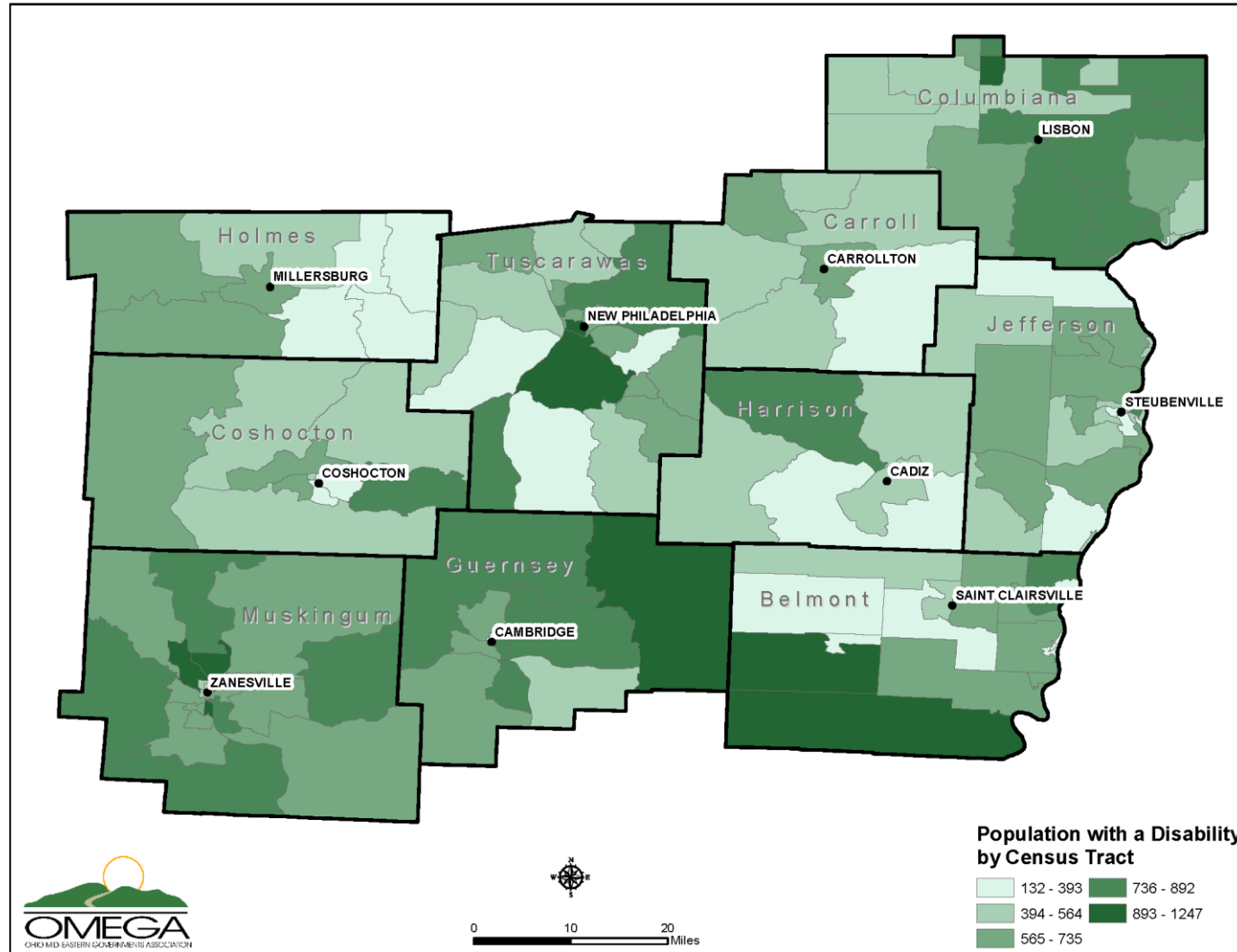
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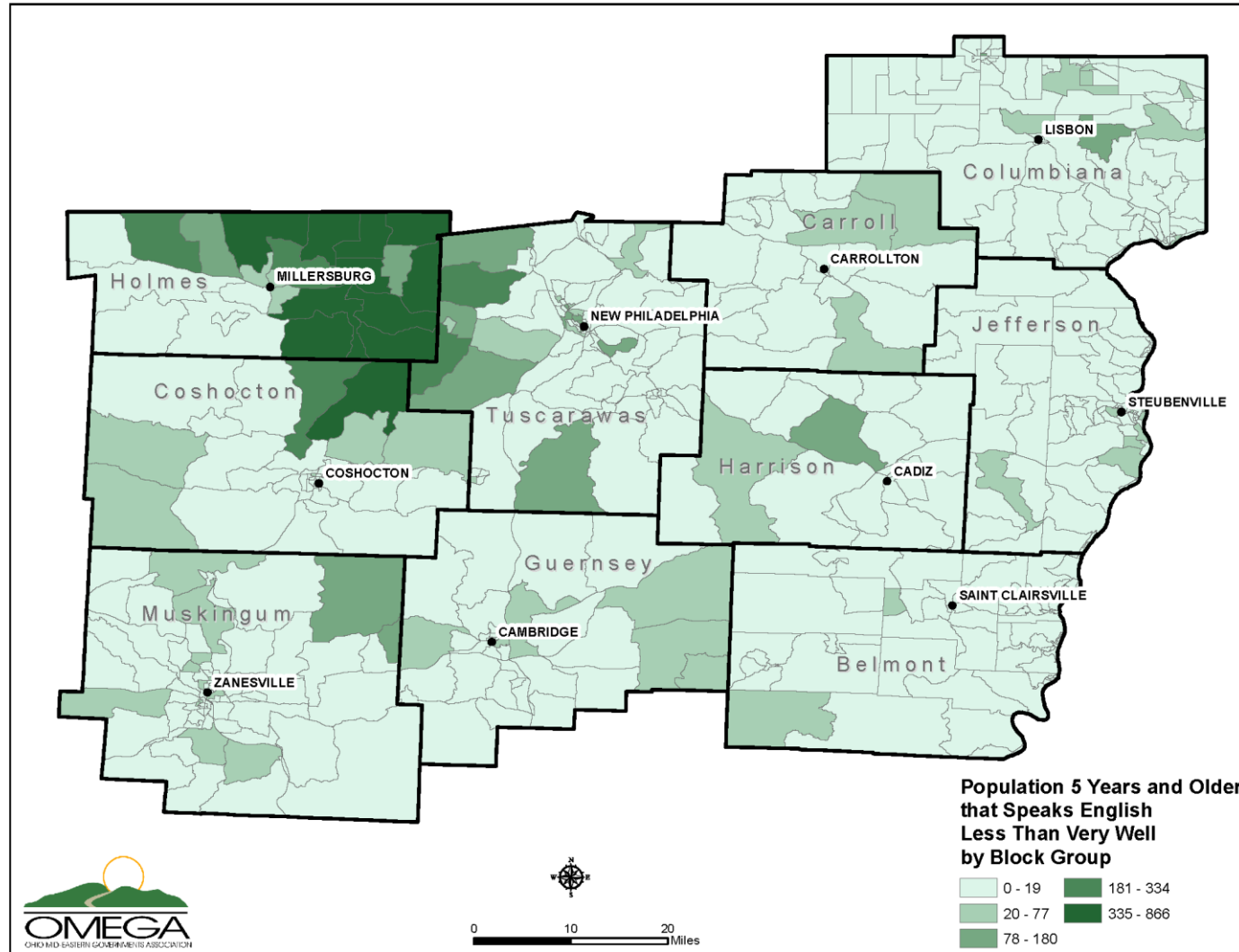
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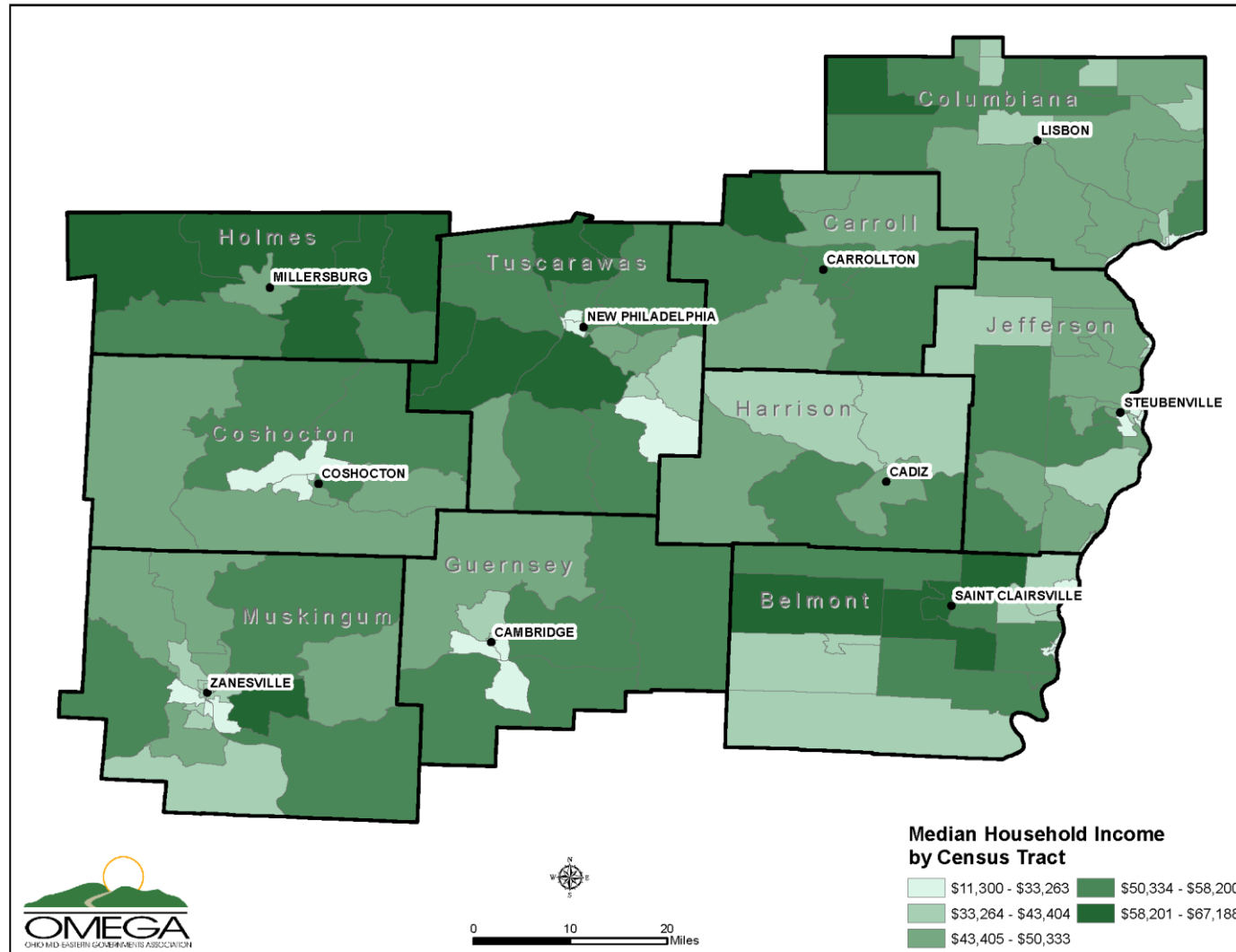
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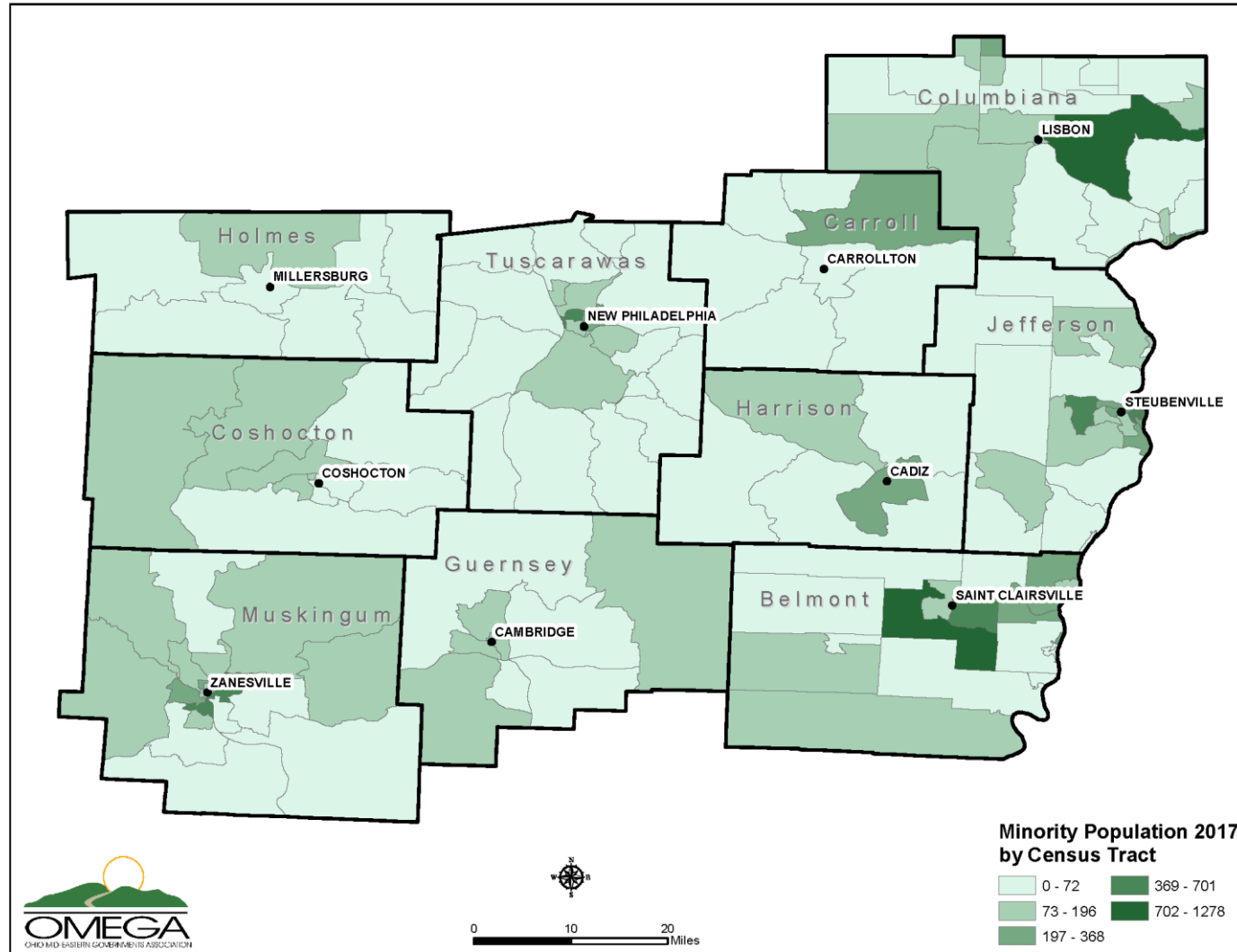
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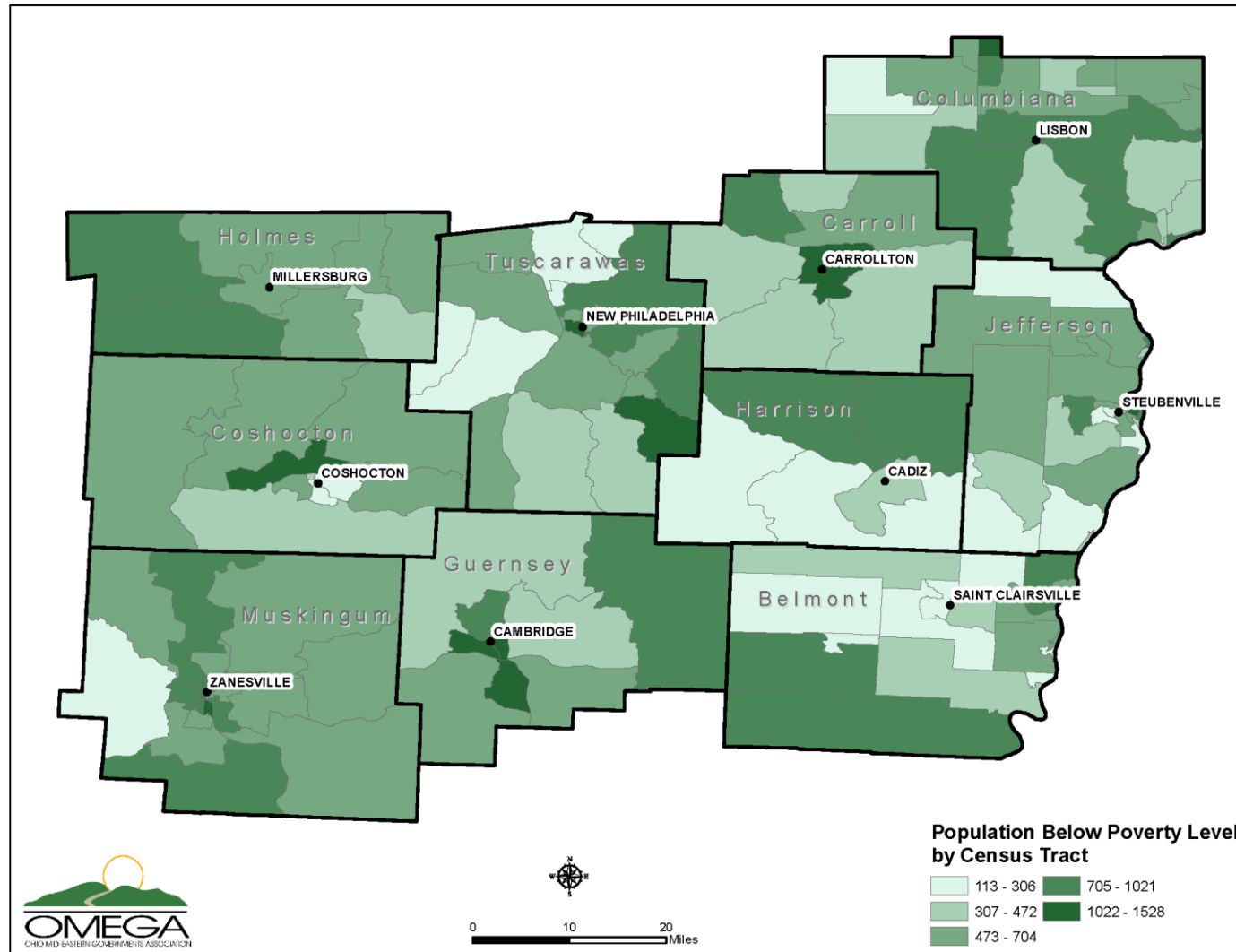
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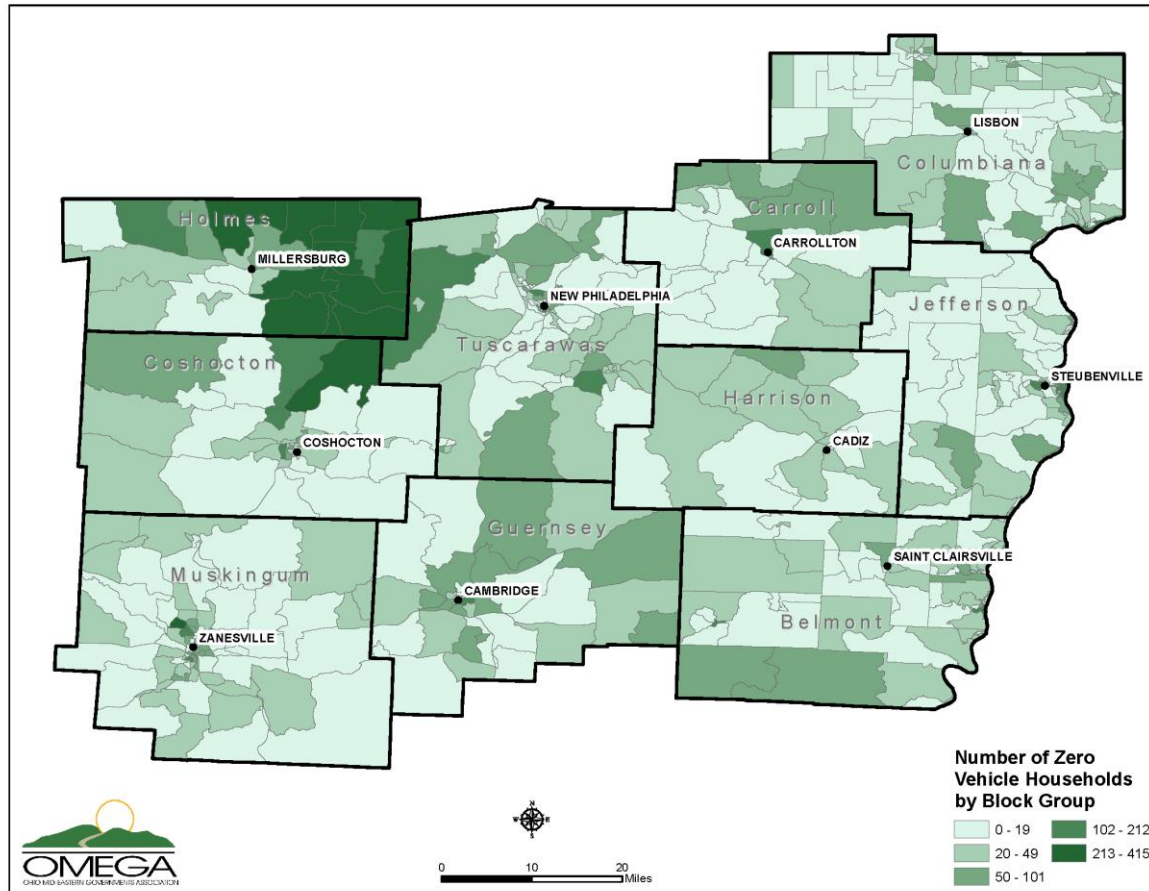
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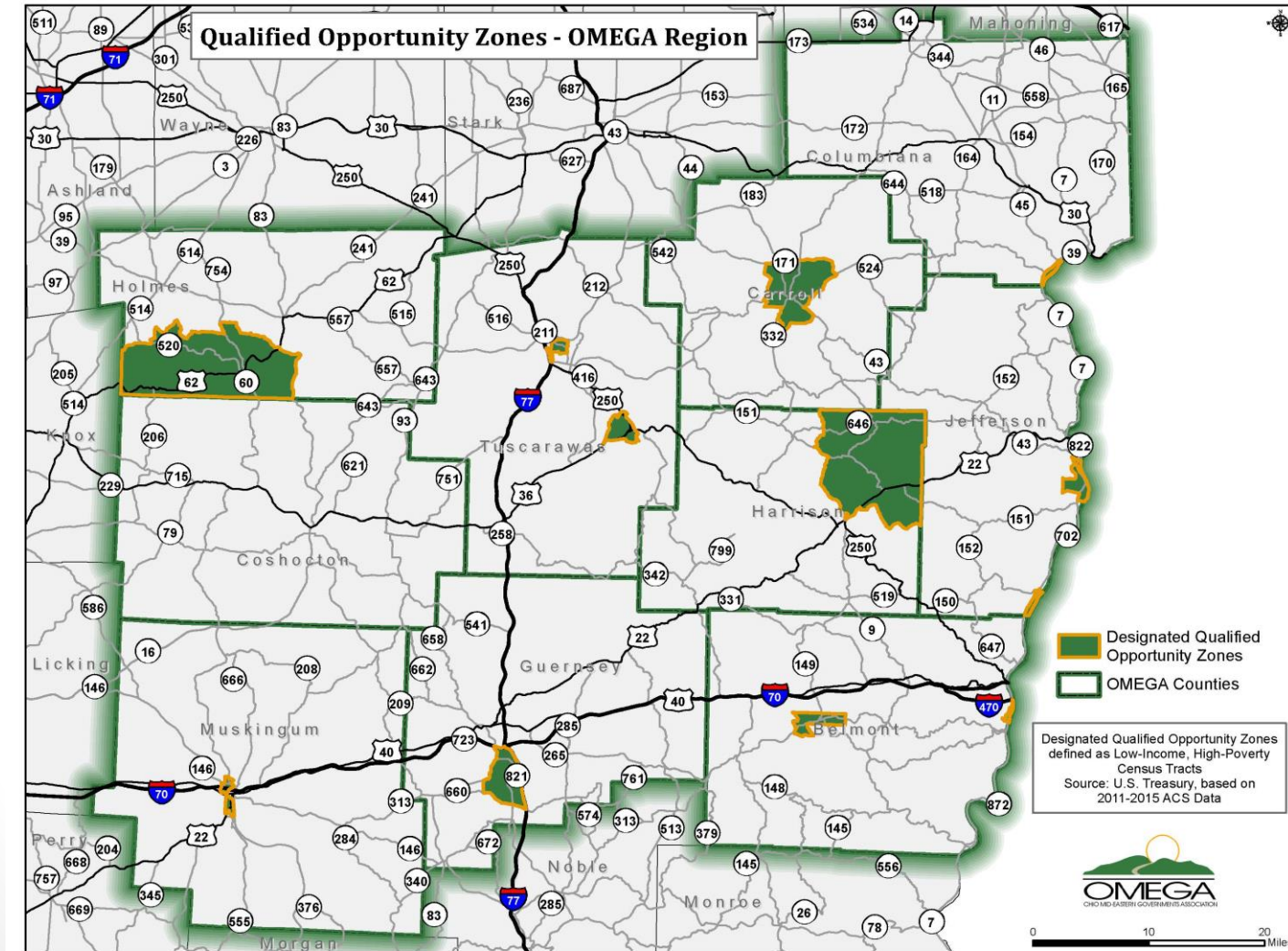
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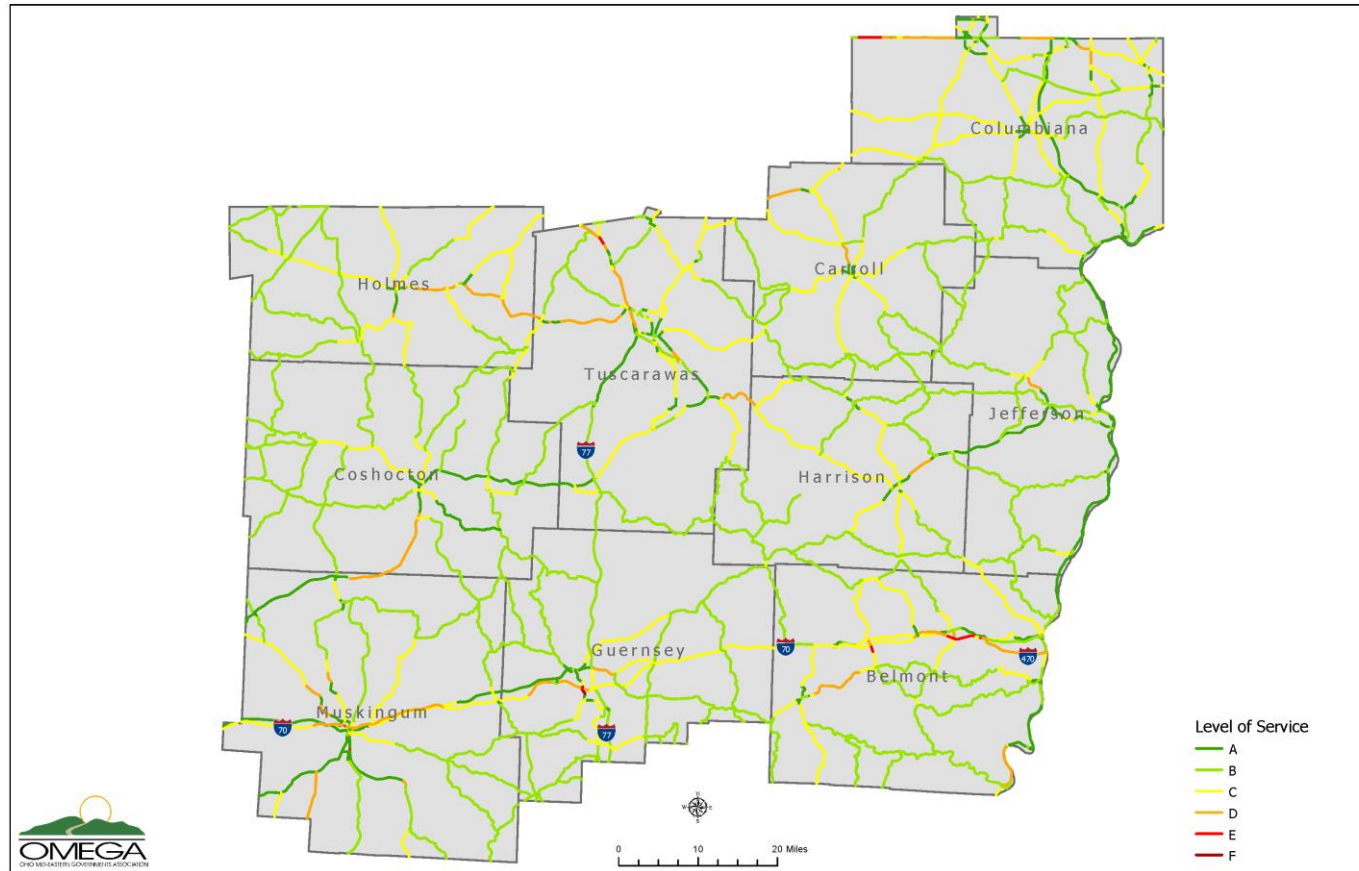
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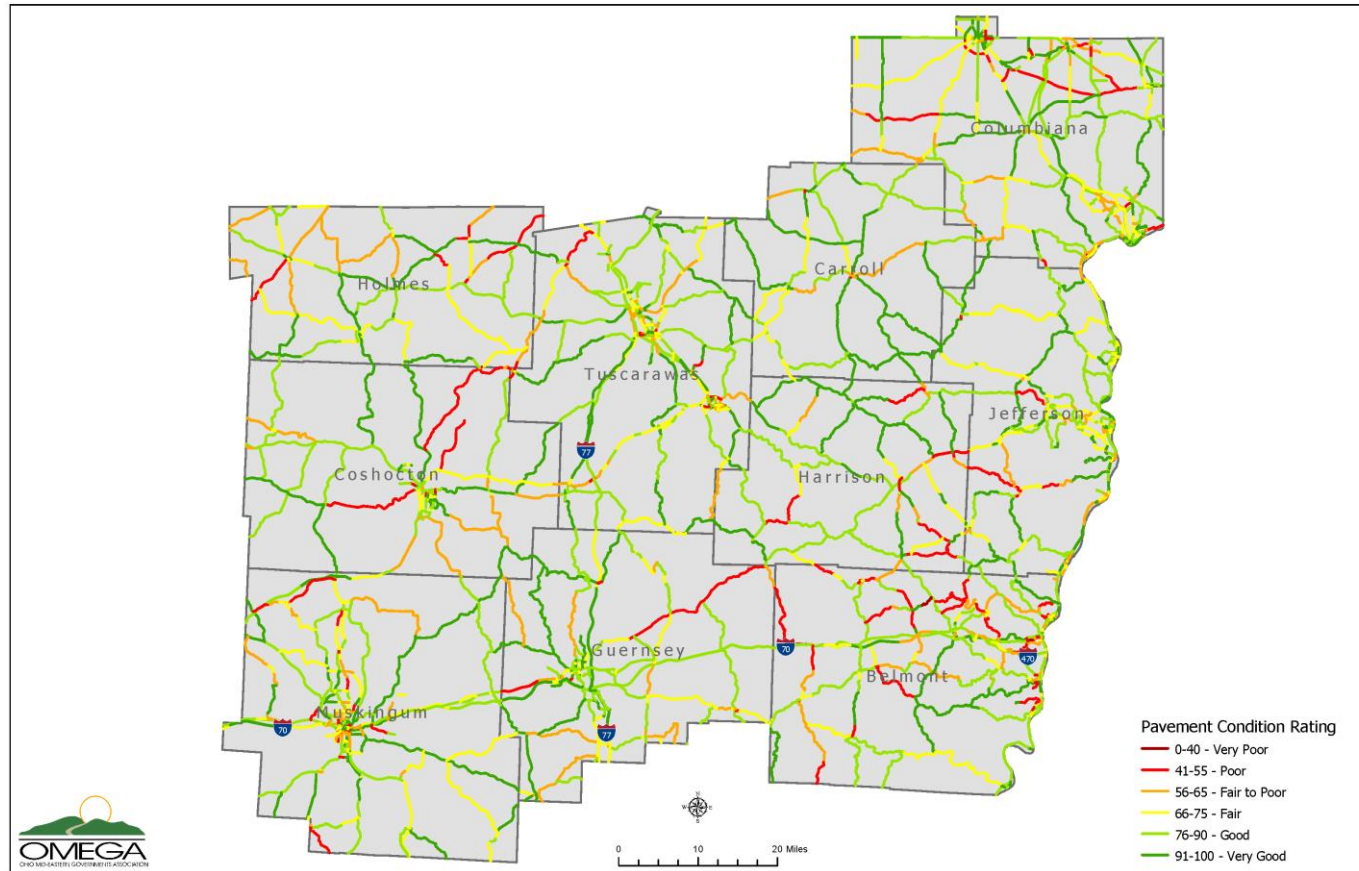
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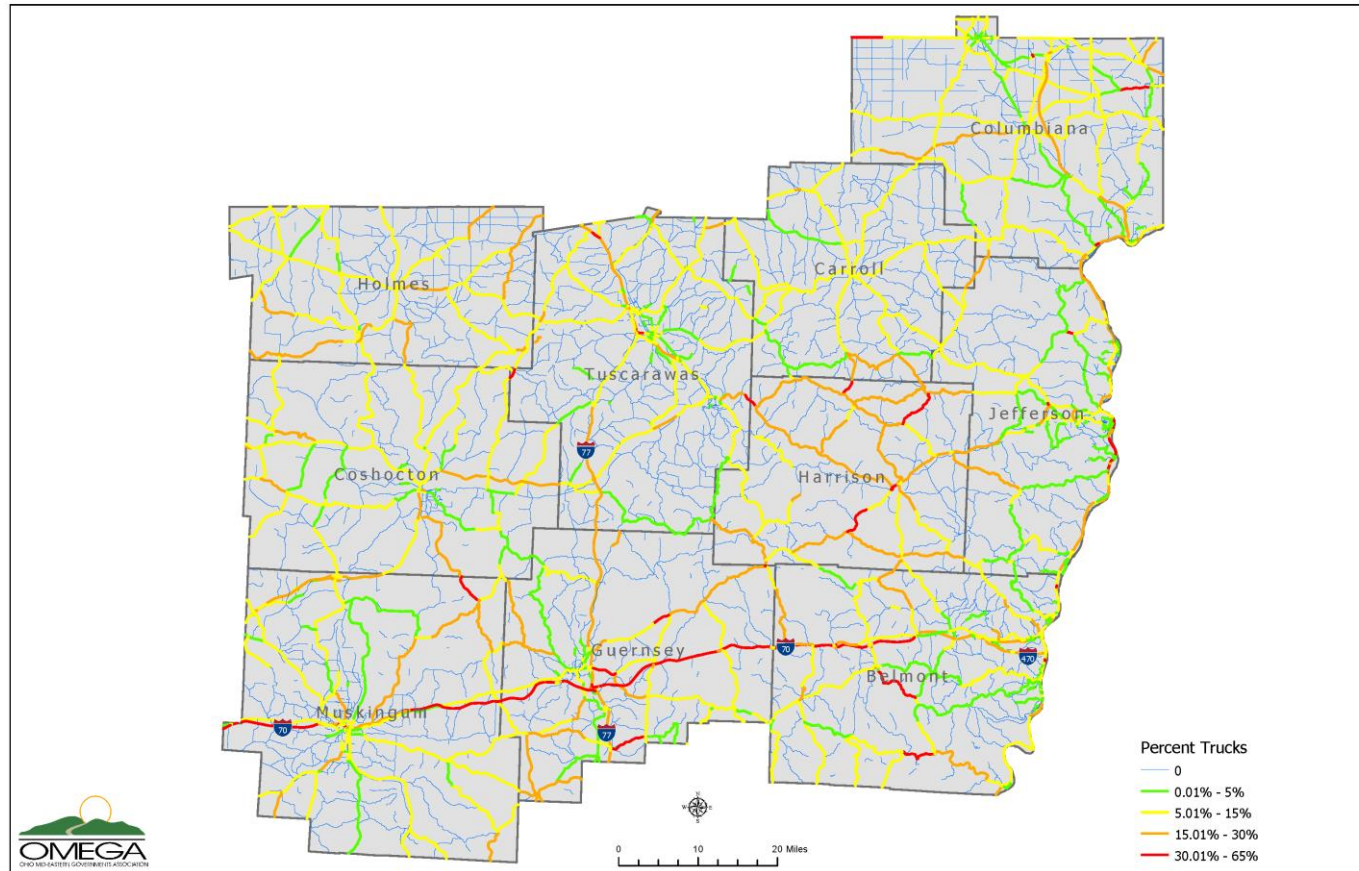
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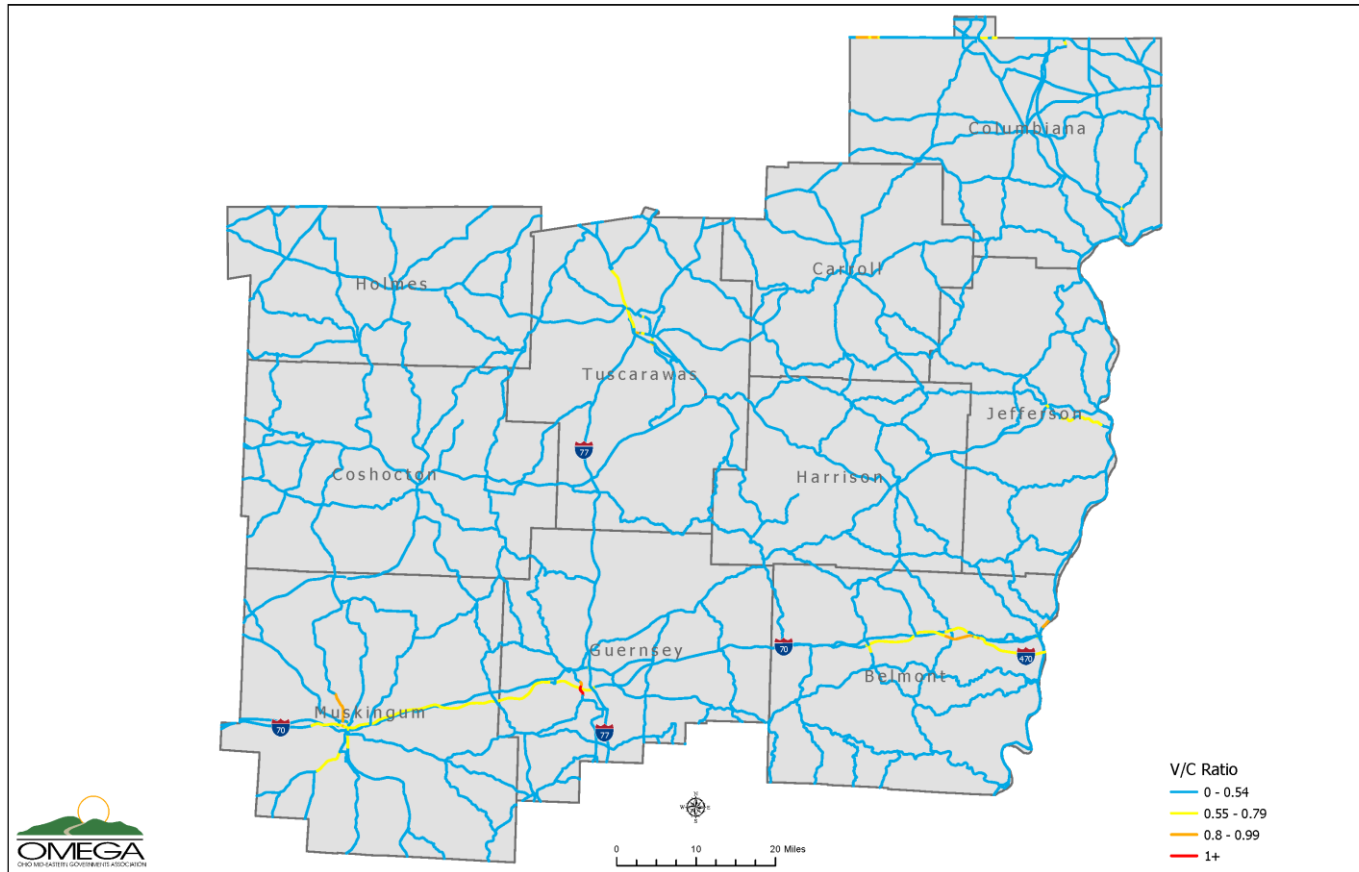
Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions



Transit

- Coming Soon!

Next Steps

- Send comments to OMEGA
 - Email: kevinb@omegadistrict.org or mcarmel@omegadistrict.org
 - Call: 740-439-4471
 - Mail: 326 Highland Avenue, Suite B; Cambridge, OH

Next Steps

- Take public survey and share on social media!!

Public Survey



The screenshot shows the top portion of a website. At the top left is the OMEGA logo, which consists of a stylized green mountain range with a yellow sun rising behind it, and the text "OMEGA" in a bold, sans-serif font, with "OHIO MID-EASTERN GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATION" in a smaller font below it. To the right of the logo, the text "OHIO MID-EASTERN GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATION" is displayed in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below this is a dark green navigation bar with white text for "Home", "About OMEGA", "Our Programs", "Upcoming Events", "Reports", "Maps", and "Contact Us". Underneath the navigation bar is a grey header section with the text "PUBLIC SURVEY" on the left and the OMEGA logo on the right. The main content area has a light green background and features a dark green rectangular box. Inside this box, on the left, is a small map of Ohio with a green square highlighting a specific county. To the right of the map, the text "OMEGA Transportation Survey" is written in a white, sans-serif font. Below the map and title, a paragraph of white text reads: "This survey should take approximately 5-7 minutes to complete. Survey answers will help guide the development of OMEGA's 2020-2045 Transportation Plan." Below this text, there is a red asterisk followed by the word "Required". The first question is "1. In what county do you live? *", followed by a dropdown menu icon.

www.omegadistrict.org/survey

OMEGA Contacts

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Megan Carmel

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