Mayor Koci: Welcomed everyone to the Ward Meeting for Wards 3 and 4. They'll be saying a couple of words here in a minute, and I want to welcome and introduce our Council Members, they are Ward 3, Vic Fluharty, and Ward 4, Frank Smith; in the audience from Council are Jeff Asbury, Sandy Spinks, and Tony Longino. And our clerk, Mrs. Simons, does all our behind the scenes work in the Council Office. After the Council Members for Wards 3 and 4 speak, City Manager Mallis will introduce the administration and give us a short presentation on what's happening around the city.

Councilman Fluharty: Welcome; it's nice to see everyone who is here; because of the nice weather, maybe everybody's out cutting grass. We're done with paving Broadway Ave. and it is beautiful. I've been getting nice comments about Broadway Ave. It's nice going up and down Broadway, not having to put up with the holes and everything else. The construction under the Northfield Bridge should be finished in either the summer or fall. The repairs under the Union St. bridge will not happen until a year from now but when that comes, Union St. will be closed. We have some construction at Tinkers Creek Industrial Parkway. Lakeshore will be moving into the warehouse that they're building right now, and Cleveland Tank Company will be moving into the warehouse that's almost done. Once they move in, they will get ready to start things going there, which get employees working here in the city. City Manager Mallis will be starting the bids for the project down at the square real soon. We will be redoing the back of the train station and the parking lot. Behind the train station there will be a park, a splash pad for the kids, benches, picnic tables, and whatever else we can put in there to make it so people can enjoy the park. This project will probably start at the end of the summer. We have been checking into another spaces to solve the issue for parking.

Councilman Smith: Good evening, everyone. Thank you for coming out. It's great to see everyone. Within the next month or so Turney Road from Lee south down to the dip will be getting repaved. So when it starts, Turney Rd. will be cut down to one-way traffic only. I'm not going to be long-winded because this is a forum for you guys to let the city know what we're doing wrong, or if we're doing something right, please say it. Just don't badger us. We are trying. I don't make any promises because when you make promises, most times, or sometimes you have to eat crow, so you'll never hear me make a promise to you. I'll listen to you. I'll do the best that I can to handle whatever your problem is. I would like to say to my residents, please cut your grass. I don't want you to pay the \$200 to the City for cutting your grass when you can spend your money on something else. All you have to do is hire one of these young kids to keep them off the streets. I'm not saying the city needs the money. Our city workers could be doing something else.

City Manager Mallis: At this time, City Manager Mallis presented a Mini State of the City presentation. (Presentation is attached)

Present from the Administration: Service Director Bellar, Fire Chief Nagy, Lieutenant Stask, Finance Director Howland, Recreation Director Callahan, Building Commissioner Greer, Economic Development Director Kuzma, and Assistant Finance Director Chance

Mayor Koci: Now it's the residents' turn to ask questions. We have all our department heads here. If you wish to ask a question or have a comment, just raise your hand.

Member of the Audience: Behind my fence line where the trees are starting to fall over. The ditches are getting really bad, and we've been trying for five years to find out who we can call to control it, cut them, or do something about it. There is a tree hanging on the hot wire in the back, and I want to know what you can do about that; who owns that property, and how can we control it.

City Manager Mallis: Councilman Smith brought that up. We will try to get in touch with the Park System. We may come out and take some photos if they are on the line.

Member of the Audience: I'll compliment you on the recreation department I think that they are doing a great job. But I have a question I live on W. Glendale St., and I don't know how you determine what roads need to be fixed, but Turney Rd. is much nicer than West Glendale Street. So it's getting to where every eight feet the seams there is a bump, and that is all the way down the street.

City Manager Mallis: The Service department and the City Engineer does a street-by-street assessment every year. The ones that we have to address are what's at the top. And fortunately, I wish we could say, oh, we'll get caught up. I don't know why we'll get caught up, especially with the cost of asphalt. Everything is significantly increasing. I remember when we had \$400,000 or \$500,000, where we were able to knock out five streets. What we're seeing now is we'll maybe get one and maybe a short one. That's been a challenge. I don't believe that West Glendale allowed us to qualify for the \$250,000 we received from the county. So because we were able to secure that money and knowing we were going to need to do Turney Rd., going all the way from Lee Rd. to the dip, our focus was to do that one this year. I would 100% agree with you that West Glendale does need to be addressed. As a matter of fact, Clint and Sean brought that up when we were meeting last week; we were looking at the bid openings when we held back. I believe that street is probably near the top. It won't be this year, but it's going to be soon.

Member of the Audience: I wanted to ask regarding Interstate Park and what the City plans to do there because the test of time has taken its toll on that area. I was wondering if there are any plans for economic development/redevelopment in that area.

City Manager Mallis: So, obviously, at the end of the street, there was a fire that took out the towing company. We have a number of different programs for businesses for investment. It's one if they want to sell some of the properties; two, if they do, we will work with any interested buyer to help push the property.

Member of the Audience: You see where I'm going to this because that's at the north end of the scrap yard over there, and that facility is right in the middle of complete economic redevelopment. And I'm not saying they don't do a great business there, but what I'm saying is that you could tie in that whole area to Interstate Street and actually tie it into Tinker Creek Commerce Park.

City Manager Mallis: I would agree, but unfortunately, I don't know if we'll be able to, at one point. I think it was 2007; we were having some discussion with the owner of that property because, at that time, Ben Venue Laboratories was running out of space. It was a challenge, so I don't think that they are going to relocate. But on some of the other properties, once they become available, we track that, and then if we get information about a business looking for a certain square footage, and it fits, that's how we did.

Member of the Audience: You could take that right down West Interstate just like it used to be, back in the day, and go all the way down to the L there and work. That's the first street down there. You could have a nice area down there on Interstate.

Member of the Audience: I live on Greencliff Dr., and several years ago, trees were planted in the tree lawn. There is one in the yard next to us that has been dead for two years, so I don't know if it can be replaced or if it can just be removed. But there are no signs of life for a couple of years.

City Manager Mallis: Do you know the address by chance?

Member of the Audience: It's the one on the corner of Brune Rd. and Greencliff Dr.

City Manager Mallis: We'll take a look at it.

Mr. Bellar: It'll be removed but not replaced.

Member of the Audience: After the recent storms, the storm drain at the bottom of our driveway has been up to the street level. Greencliff Rd. is on a slop and I live on the higher end, and I actually walked down, and none of the other storm drains are backed up, but that one is. I don't know what can be done.

Mr. Bellar: Do you have an address for that one?

Member of the Audience: 70 Greencliff Rd.

Mayor Koci: We can take a look at it.

Member of the Audience: I mean, there's nothing in it right now, but when it storms it's at street level. The last thing is the trash from the dip from Glendale up to the Colony Club apartment. The trash is on the tree lawn, goes into Colony Club gully, and then back into the Metroparks. That's. It won't be a problem when they start construction, but it's just on going.

City Manager Mallis: We will add that to the list. The county has picked up, and I'm working on a program with Clint and Shawn to send various streets where they bring out and court community service that is run through the county. We've done Rockside Rd., Broadway, and Maple Dale, which are some of the common ones. We'll add this to the streets where they can go on weekends.

Member of the Audience: In terms of taxes you said that they were going to be reappraising and going up, mine went up quite a bit this year, and I understand that it didn't include the school level yet.

Mayor Koci: It did include the schools.

City Manager Mallis: That is the schools. The schools went into place, and what you received this year was the full impact of the school's bond issue.

Member of the Audience: I was told that it wasn't added yet into

Mayor Koci: Originally, they said that as they use the money, the tax would go on. Well, it changed for whatever reason. I don't know if the state made them do something different.

Member of the Audience: It went up because of the schools but it may go up again?

City Manager Mallis: So there was a renewal from Cuyahoga County in March, which had a Health and Human Services issue that passed. And so you'll most likely see an increase from that on your next bill. Then next year, I believe, is for the reappraisal. Don't quote me on that. That's why there's something else here. You can challenge it or dispute it. Whatever the county is recommending doesn't necessarily mean what the increase is going to reflect, but that is going through later this year. I would expect that there would be some form of increase next year, but there's a process to go through and challenge that. All of the increases that happened over the last ten-years still did not us at the valuation where we were in 2007. So when everything collapsed after the housing crisis

values in this area dropped either 24% or 27%. If you add up all the increases that have gone up have not even brough us back to that. It was a substantial drop years ago, but there's a concern. And that's why throughout this, there's a concern that there's going to be a significant increase in values.

Member of the Audience: With those values are we expect in inspections rather than just drive-by.

City Manager Mallis: I believe they're doing a drive-by. They're not going into anyone's home or anything like that. But yeah, there's q&a stuff there.

Member of the Audience: I want to say that I think we are doing really well with our businesses. We don't have a lot of vacancies. It makes me feel comfortable that you have a place that you can drive to, whereas, in some of the other cities, I was surprised that those small businesses are not doing as well as we are.

Mayor Koci: You know, everybody still suffering from 2008, you know, the recession and then into the Covid. And it's been tough for a lot of businesses to keep going. A couple of businesses want to open. The restaurant used to be Chris's restaurant on Broadway and Rockside up there. They own two restaurants. They own another one. And the guy that was going to run this one had to stay at the other one to help run them because they couldn't get help and everything else. So he can't open the new one at Chris's stuff like that. Just various setbacks and, Jay Honda, I think you were going to mention that that, they're still planning on opening over there at Rockside and Bartlett, but they're waiting for interest rates because when you're spending millions and millions of dollars, a couple of points in interest can really impact you. I talked to the gentleman who owns it and uses it. We've got all the plans. Everything's ready as soon as we hit whatever their magic point is they'll be building. So stuff like that's happening and, and, and kudos. We have some new businesses moved in down on Broadway, which is good.

Member of the Audience: The garbage cans by the school. There needs to be a garbage can by the bus stop, but there is no garbage can; that would be great. Then, as a safety hazard, I don't know the address, but the veterinarian building. As I was walking, some of the wood looked like it was going to fall on someone's head, and right now, it is hanging out on a piece of wire. But it's really becoming a safety hazard. And I don't understand how things are deteriorating. I don't know if people are going in there because I don't see kids or anyone around it, but as I'm walking, and I'm looking it amazes me how windows are missing, doors are gone. I mean, it's a bad spot. I mean, when you're talking about certain houses being demolished, is that part of the demolished plan? Because, I mean, it's deteriorating on its own.

City Manager Mallis: On 97 Broadway Ave., nobody's been inside there. I mean, the one area is secure. The building department and PD did go in there to make sure no one was in there, and there was no evidence of anybody being in there or taking anything out. It was secured. That was provided to the Land Bank. I believe Mr. Greer was also able to obtain quotes in taking that down. Now, if they take it down, that's fantastic because that's money that we don't have, and then we have to assess it. So it may take a little bit longer, but if we know they're going to do it great. I will say though, they did meet the gentleman responsible for the property, finally contacting the city and certainly securing quotes. Could he say that just to appease us, who knows. We have a backup plan if he does move forward in getting it down.

Member of the Audience: The other thing. Charles St., that's where I stay. At first, I thought it was a test or something about the pavement or the surfacing of that street. It was said that it was on test, that you guys were doing it as a test run. I don't know what, but there are two potholes over on Charles and Paul; if they can just get filled, that would be great.

Mayor Koci: Is that where Benedetti went down? Was that one of those streets?

Mr. Bellar: Yes.

City Manager Mallis: We can fill potholes

Member of the Audience: I live on an alley, and there are usually lights that are lit up pretty good. We have a camera light in our garage, but it is very dark, and the street light is going out.

City Manager Mallis: We can look and see if it has a total number to see if is the Illuminating Company's or not. If it's not the Illuminating Company's, then I don't know whose light that is

Member of the Audience: So if it has a number on it that means it's the Illuminating Company's.

City Manager Mallis: All of the Illuminating Company's poles are numbered; there should be a number.

Member of the Audience: It does have a number

City Manager Mallis: If the pole has a number, we submit it to FirstEnergy, and then they'll go out and make the repair.

Member of the Audience: On West Glendale between Turney Rd. and Broadway Ave. on West Glendale on the north side, that area behind those houses that are undeveloped along the creek, was the city talking about reusing that for something?

Mayor Koci: Maybe that's the Culvert Project, the creek that goes up to Palmetto Woods.

Member of the Audience: Are there any plans behind that area to use that area?

City Manager Mallis: The city has no intention; really, it's undevelopable land. I mean, there's nothing that we can do. I can tell you about the area behind Palmetto Woods. We did enter into an agreement with the Western Reserve Land Conservatory, so they would maintain any erosion issues or anything like that behind all of the Palmetto Woods. But we don't have any plans, and we had some discussions. We don't have any plans to redevelop.

Member of the Audience: I just wanted to let you know that I called the police the other day about the broken window down by the old office building. I don't know what the cause was on that, but what made me think that as I walked past there, I was counting office by office that was emptying out. My experiences downtown with the vacant buildings is that would make us smart, and we started putting things on the windows like they put art on the windows. It would be my opinion, it might be an advantage to the city to kick in and actually have something on the inside of the windows so people cannot see into the building. If you can't see into the building then you don't consider going into the building. When you're walking past all the time and the windows that have the blinds wrapped up, and there are so many buildings on that side that I was just wondering if they considered using some kind of art.

City Manager Mallis: A couple of the ones that you're referring to that have paper on the window they have written up, you know, they most likely end up in court. That did work and there was a program like that. We can look into it. The only thing I will say is we can't force that's considered private property. We can't force anyone to do that unfortunately.

Member of the Audience: One thing that would tie in this whole Metroparks thing linking the Viaduct Park and everything, and I'm rubbing a genie bottle, but is there any chance of relocating the post office down to Solon Rd. on some of that vacant area down there?

City Manager Mallis: I never thought about it, and I don't know how it may be possible.

Member of the Audience: I mean, think about how that would even be developed and tied at all in.

Mayor Koci: That would be nice. But hey, something we could ask.

Member of the Audience: It actually comes up to that area right next to that; at the last meeting, you said that it belongs to Sirna's.

City Manager Mallis: No. So, that property right next to the post office came up at the last meeting, a private gentleman. The city made multiple attempts to secure that, and we made an attempt to see if they would gift it to us, but that didn't work. We made an offer on the property that didn't work, and we actually took our offer all the way up to the appraised value, and they have zero interest in selling it. We did look for that. Actually, there was a business that was inquiring about it.

Member of the Audience: Speaking of the Post office, I don't know if you've been in there lately, but it needs some work. It looks terrible.

Mayor Koci: Their maintenance is terrible.

Member of the Audience: It makes us look terrible. Is that their responsibility? I stopped going there; it's depressing to see our Post Office look like that. I want to say thank you, and I hope it's true, but I heard that we are getting picnic tables at Interstate.

Mr. Callahan: We are interstate, or right now, Bill Cosgrove Park has a couple of picnic tables on order, as well as one of them we received. Two of the benches we received were planned to be installed, you know, at this time with our crew. You see some updated signage there reflecting the park's name change. And I do believe we have that trash can to match the other ones that were installed elsewhere in the City, and some mulch for the playground area which should be coming together in the coming weeks.

Mayor Koci: Anyone else?

Member of the Audience: The area between the park and the area that your speaking of, on that corner; what's going to happen here?

City Manager Mallis: The inside corner the city owns is about three acres. We're allowing Lakeshore to use it for temporary parking because they simply do not have enough parking for their employees as they're expanding. We don't want to not have them expand. Once that's done and they've relocated, we'll look at the best use for that. If we're going to sell it, if we're going to use it for something city-related. Obviously, we'll make a recommendation to the Council, and for the outside corner right next to Viaduct Park, the city gifted about six acres to the Metro parks, and they're working on cleaning up and adding some additional trails back there. And then, long-term in the agreement, they have a certain period of time where they have to construct a Four Seasons facility that is similar to the one that was built out in Geauga County Park District. If they do not construct that in that timeframe, they have to pay the city the value of that property, which was \$380,000. But they have every intention of building this facility there. Actually, Bedford's

Reservation was picked through the park system to do a Master Plan. So they're working on a master plan now.

Member of the Audience: The bike trail there is going to go along Willis and then cross into the park.

City Manager Mallis: Basically, the trail and what was recommended is Willis to North Park to Broadway, to Woodrow, and down Washington and ending behind City Hall.

Member of the Audience: In that same area, that beautiful sign when it first went up looked beautiful, and now I don't think it's great. What happened to it?

City Manager Mallis: I think it's weather, honestly, from the weather. We can check with the parks on that; it is park-owned property. I would imagine the more they're at that location making improvements they're going to see that.

Member of the Audience: There was a tree that was taken down the street from Charles. But I noticed walking in the neighborhood, there are some really beautiful flower trees in the city part. Is there any way we can get some more of them just because, you know, they're old, but it looks like you could replace that tree that went down and just put some more, because, I mean, it's so beautiful. Just these flower trees.

City Manager Mallis: Right now, we don't we don't have anything in the budget to purchase or plant new trees. We have gone after tree grants in the past. We've been awarded two of them. We'll be discussing if we're going to apply for a third grant. Typically, if we get the grant, we are planting anywhere from 50 to 100 trees, but we have to look at the streets, the specific street. So there's a lot that goes into that, but we will see if we are going to apply it, but right now we are not planting trees unfortunately.

Member of the Audience: If I were to purchase a flower tree, would you guys plant it?

Mr. Bellar: Possibly, you have to run it by us what you want to plant. Some trees you just don't put on a tree lawn.

Member of the Audience: I've seen while walking that they made a lot of mistakes, there is a lot of forestry.

Mr. Bellar: Quit possibly we could plant it if you purchased it. But then again, you can't just purchase a twig. It should have caliper uses.

City Manager Mallis: What will last? What will make it through a winter and everything else?

Mr. Bellar: Rock salt.

City Manager Mallis: But if you're interested, you can contact us, and we can advise you on the type of tree.

Member of the Audience: Why did they cut down the bottom half of all the pine trees at Hogenson Field? All the beautiful pine trees that they planted for when the kids play soccer there and for privacy are big and very tall. They want everyone to cut off all the bottom branches.

City Manager Mallis: I believe the parks did that. Some of it was to better maintain around each individual tree.

Member of the Audience: I thought that the whole point was privacy and that now it was overdeveloped. That is a park thing, not a City thing.

City Manager Mallis: We didn't trim those trees. We have kind of an agreement with the parks. That's all Bedford Reservation. But with the partnership agreement, we utilize it for baseball, soccer, and flag football. We will cut the grass, but as far as owning the property that the Park System.

Mayor Koci: Well, if not, we can wrap this up. We had a small group, and we got a lot of questions in, in a short period of time. Before we close, I'd like to ask if Councilman Smith has any closing words to say here.

Councilman Smith: A couple of people in my ward have asked about the Rita collections. So I asked our Finance Director about that, and Rita has collected about 74% more.

Mrs. Howland: I haven't updated it that we're closer to 50%.

Councilman Smith: Fifty percent more than year to date. So we are getting dollars into the city. So went we to it, a lot of people said, no, no, no, no, no. Well, I think now they're putting more people out there. And so they're collecting more money and, and making those people who weren't paying pay now. So that's a good thing. And thanks for coming out.

Councilman Fluharty: I want to say if you see something, say something. Call somebody. Let us know if something's going on because we can't be everywhere. It does help that the residents do help work with us. As simple as that. I mean, I can drive by or walk by a certain area, and it's fine. And also if something happens somewhere else. So unless somebody tells you, you know, if you have problems with people speeding up and down the streets or whatever, I can't be there. Neither can the police be there all the time. But we need to know and it does happen. And, the more we know or hear from you, don't hesitate to call the Police Department if you see something that's not right.

Member of the Audience: Speaking of that, I was going to ask what is the non-emergency number, because I call a lot about things that are a non-emergency.

Lieutenant Stask: The non-emergency number is (440)232-1234.

Member of the Audience: I just wanted to say thank you because I googled about Bedford's crime and safety, and it had us rated pretty good with violent crimes and that we were one of the safest cities. It was very comparable. That was impressive. Thank you.

Mayor Koci: Thank you. With that, we're done.

Clerk of Council

Date: May 6, 2024

Mayor-President of Council

# COMMUNITY MEETING WARDS 3 & 4

COUNCILMAN VIC FLUHIARTY COUNCILMAN FRANK SMITH

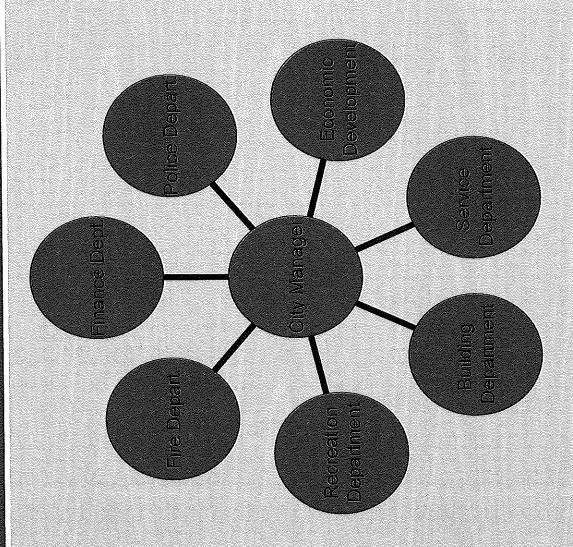


MAYOR STAN KOCI & ZITY MANAGER MIKE MALLIS PRESENTED BY:

> APRIL 29, 2024



The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.





#### 2023 YEAR END

- ☐ City concluded 2023 with over \$3 million in general fund cash balance
- \$5.8 million reserve currently in place
- 2024 Budget will experience a loss.
- Direct result of Bedford Hospital UH responsible for over \$1 million dollars in income tax collections
- Currently in litigation stay granted is continued.
- Medical Building will remain with Doctors, labs, etc..
- Primary focus is to reestablish 24 hr. emergency room operations
- staffing in order to operate as efficiently and effectively as Administration will continue to review operations and possible





## 2024 NEWS AND INITIATIVES

- Tinkers Creek Commerce Park
- ☐ Fire Dept.:
- Received \$1 million grant for new ladder truck
- ☐ Police Dept.:
- Flock cameras installed
- Body & Dash Cameras upgrades
- Parks & Recreation:
- Facility upgrades
- Programming
- Grant awards senior and CCDDD

- ☐ Infrastructure Improvements:
- Union St. Bridge replacement 2025
- Northfield Rd. Bridge upgrades 2024
- Turney Road Resurfacing 2024
- Greencroft Culvert replacement
- **5**500,000.00 2024
- Storm & Sanitary Sewer Program
- 10,000 annually
- ☐ Upcoming Opportunities
- ☐ Community Groups





#### Grant Awards

- Received a \$250,000.00 for the Turney Road Resurfacing Project
- Through a 50/50 County grant, \$70,000.00 for crack sealing and striping
- \$150,000.00 for the purchase of police cruisers
- \$700,000.00 for the Bedford Commons Expansion Project
- \$50,000.00 for Historic District Improvements







#### Maintaining our Neighborhoods

- The City of Bedford has partnered with the County Landbank to demolish blighted commercial and residential properties and to explore redevelopment opportunities.
- □ The number of vacant homes, which includes bank owned, and estate owned has continued to decline.
- Quality of life concerns such as traffic enforcement speeding and parking citations on doubled between 2022 and 2023

### XELLIA CLEVELAND





- ■Xellia Cleveland & Hikma continues to build the foundation for Xellia's future
- Committed to a future in Bedford (300+ FTE)



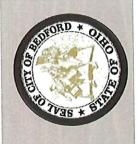


### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### **Business Investment**

- Lake Shore Electric 100,000 sq. ft. facility
- Cleveland Tank & Supply 50+ employees
- APEC Engineering remaining in Bedford





## Bedford's Partnership with The Auto Mile

- Collectively City's largest employer and has invested roughly \$40 million into Bedford with various dealer renovations and improvements over the last 9 years.
- Substantial donation to the security of Bedford.
- Funding for cameras, K-9 and improvement to Commons.
- □ Honda of Bedford site update.

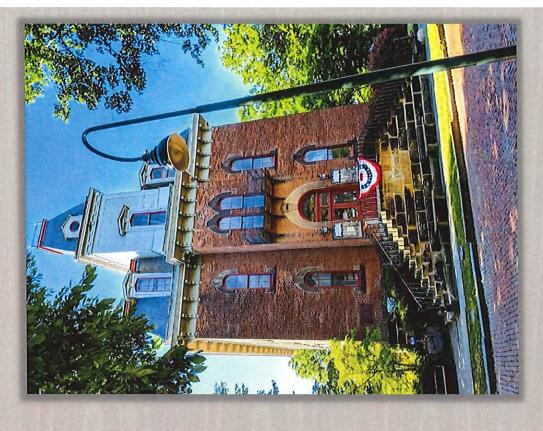


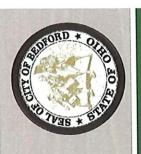


### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

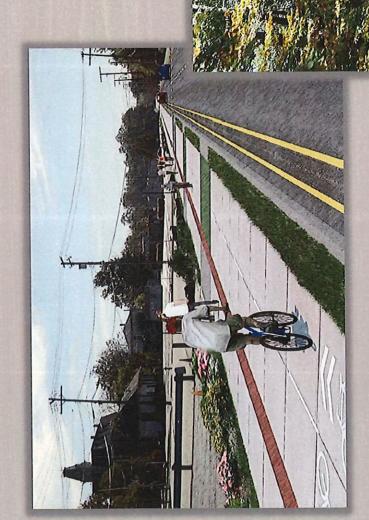
#### 2024 & Beyond

- □ Tinkers Creek Commerce Park
- □ CDSG award
- Small business grants
- Partnership with County Landbank residential
- lots
- □ NOACA TLCI Study recommendations; grant applications
- Cleveland Metroparks & Bedford Reservation Taylor & Willis property developments; master plan.





#### TLCI Study Completion













BEDFORD COMMONS PRECEDENTS JANUARY, 2024









## QUESTIONS / COMMENTS



