

3.2 Land Use

Land use is an important part of transportation planning. The total area of the OMEGA RTPO region is 4,072.1 square miles which is approximately 10% of the total area of the State of Ohio. The largest county in the RTPO by area is Muskingum County at 664.6 square miles, and the smallest is Carroll County at 394.7 square miles.

Land use data was readily available for six of the eight counties in the OMEGA RTPO region. Carroll and Columbiana were originally without land use data; Columbiana County land use data was later digitized by OMEGA, and a mixed land use/land cover map for Carroll was created in an effort to describe the county. Complete land use data for Carroll County will be incorporated in this report when available. Table 3-3 shows the distribution of land use for Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Muskingum, and Tuscarawas Counties. Please note that since this data is based upon parcels, the total acreage listed in Table 3-3 is lower than the total acreage of a particular county as bodies of water and right of ways are not included in the parcel data. For instance, the total acreage for Muskingum County is actually 425,344 acres while the acreage listed in Table 3-3 is only 401,820 acres. However, the percentages by classification or use in Table 3-3 work well as the percentages represent usable land.

Eight land use classifications were established: agricultural, commercial, industrial (which includes mining), multi-family residential (3 or more residential units), residential, parks and public use, vacant, and no data. These classifications were made by selecting the three digit Ohio land use codes and assigning that code to the applicable land use. Land use maps for each of the six counties listed above are provided in Appendix A.

Table 3-3: County Land Use Summary

Use	Coshocton		Guernsey		Harrison		Holmes	
	Acre	Percentage	Acre	Percentage	Acre	Percentage	Acre	Percentage
Agriculture	175,649	48.09%	234,851	60.28%	125,898	47.90%	159,072	59.54%
Commercial	6,872	1.88%	4,212	1.08%	2,810	1.07%	5,725	2.14%
Industrial	17,184	4.71%	1,426	0.37%	937	0.36%	1,504	0.56%
Multi-Family Residential	48	0.01%	175	0.04%	39	0.01%	83	0.03%
No Data	374	0.10%	3,376	0.87%	3,288	1.25%	18	0.01%
Parks and Public Use	33,307	9.12%	27,321	7.01%	22,773	8.66%	3,231	1.21%
Residential	26,905	7.37%	40,666	10.44%	10,627	4.04%	18,893	7.07%
Vacant	104,874	28.72%	77,563	19.91%	96,484	36.71%	78,659	29.44%
Total	365,213		389,590		262,857		267,184	

	Muskingum		Tuscarawas		Total	
	Acres	Percentage	Acres	Percentage	Acres	Percentage
Agriculture	178,114	44.33%	254,121	66.78%	1,127,705	54.55%
Commercial	15,210	3.79%	6,606	1.74%	41,435	2.00%
Industrial	2,356	0.59%	5,619	1.48%	29,025	1.40%
Multi-Family Residential	472	0.12%	288	0.08%	1,106	0.05%
No Data	5,026	1.25%	0	0.00%	12,081	0.58%
Parks and Public Use	31,544	7.85%	9,505	2.50%	127,681	6.18%
Residential	42,520	10.58%	29,656	7.79%	169,267	8.19%
Vacant	126,579	31.50%	74,732	19.64%	558,891	27.04%
Total	401,820		380,527		2,067,191	

3.2.1 Agriculture

Approximately 55% of land use (1,127,705 acres) in the OMEGA RTP region is classified as agriculture. Agricultural land is any land that is being used for producing crops, raising livestock, orchards, tobacco, or timber. Tuscarawas County has the highest number of acres classified as agriculture with over 254,000 acres (67%) and Muskingum County has the lowest number of acres classified as agriculture with 178,114 acres (44%).

3.2.2 Commercial

Commercial land is land that is being used for business purposes. Businesses such as grocery stores, restaurants, offices, shopping centers, hotels, etc. are all commercial. The county with the highest percentage of commercial land is Muskingum County which is 3.79% commercial land. The lowest percentage is Guernsey County which is only 1.08% commercial land or 4,212 acres. Approximately 2% of the region's land is classified as commercial (41,435 acres).

3.2.3 Industrial

Industrial land is any land use for industrial purposes such as a factory, processing facility, minerals (oil, gas, coal, others) and mining, industrial warehouses, etc. The highest percentage of industrial land is in Coshocton County which is 4.71% industrial land. Please note that Linton Township in Coshocton County is mainly classified as industrial, which is reflective of the strip mining that once occurred. Much of this formerly mined land is now open green space, but is still classified as industrial even though the land is

now green space as it is owned by Eastern Southern Ohio Electric. The lowest is Guernsey County which is only 0.37% industrial. Approximately 1.4% of the region's land use is classified as industrial. As shale development continues, this will likely increase.

3.2.4 Multi-family Residential

Multifamily Residential land is any land taken up by buildings that house three or more households. Muskingum County has the highest multifamily residential land use while Harrison has the lowest multifamily residential land use. This is the lowest type of land use in the region with only 0.05 % of the land considered multi-family residential.

3.2.5 Parks and Public Use

Parks and Public Use is any land that is a park, land that is owned by the federal, state or local government such as a courthouse or other tax exempt structures such as schools. The highest percentage of Parks and Public Use land is in Coshocton County while the lowest is in Holmes County.

3.2.6 Residential

Residential land is any land that is occupied by single or two household structures. Muskingum County has the highest percentage and acreage of residential land while Harrison has the lowest residential land use.

3.2.7 Vacant

Vacant land is the second highest land type across the region. Currently, almost 27% percent of the region's land use is classified as vacant. Vacant land can be vacant commercial, vacant residential, vacant industrial or just vacant open land. Although Harrison County has the highest percentage of vacant land, Muskingum County has the highest acreage (approximately 126,579 acres) while the least amount of vacant land is in Tuscarawas County (74,732 acres).

3.2.8 No Data

Parcels that do not contain a land use code are included in the category of No Data.