Welcome to Lima, Allen County, Ohio!

- Located in NW Ohio
- Center of 8-county agricultural region
- Between Toledo, Dayton, Ft Wayne, & Columbus @ the axis of I-75 & US 30
- Center of rail & pipeline infrastructure
- Metro pop. of 83,000, with city slipping below 40,000
- Regional population in excess of 400,000
The west central region of Ohio has 107 auto related manufacturing businesses, employing nearly 16,000 people.

Within Allen County, we have 13 auto related manufacturing businesses, employing nearly 4,300 people.
Lima & Allen County had several prior successes using a Task Force format.


- **Task Force LIMA** - formed around the BRAC process & successfully kept open the Lima Army Tank Plant and facilitated its re-commissioning as the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center’ increasing the workforce from 400 to 1254 current employees since 2006.
The Lima Auto Task Force held its first meeting on Nov. 1, 2004.

Attending the meeting were:

- Ford Lima Engine Plant Management
- UAW Local 1219 Representatives
- City of Lima Representatives
- Allen County Commissioners
- Allen Economic Development Group
- Allen County Chamber of Commerce
- ODOD Governor’s Regional Office
At the initial meeting . . .

- CAR’s Sean McAlindien gave a presentation about the Automotive Communities Program.
- The group discussed a possible mission for the Task Force and what other participants should be included. Reps were added from Bath Township, the Congressional Delegation & other business leaders.
- The group decided to meet monthly to discuss & act on issues related to Ford’s LEP and the automotive industry in the region.
Lima Auto Task Force

The Task Force defined its Purpose as:

- Providing support to Ford’s LEP to retaining existing & attract new manufacturing capacity.
- Researching trends in auto manufacturing in relation to Lima and Allen County.
- Responding to opportunities & challenges for auto manufacturing.
- Establishing routine communication between private industry and other community stakeholders.
- Exchanging information on potential projects & needs.
The Task Force established a Mission Statement

“The Lima Auto Task Force is a community and business partnership committed to attracting new Automotive Technology and Manufacturing jobs to our community. Through Innovative Strategies the Lima Area IS the most Profitable Decision!”
The Task Force then started several projects . . .

- Joined CAR’s ACP
- As Ford Motor Company & UAW decisions were made re: labor agreements and the Duratec 35 engine line, the community stepped up efforts to encourage the LEP investment.
- Contributed to the “Why North” whitepaper written by CAR.
- Brought David Cole and Sean McAlinden for public speaking opportunities locally.
Lima Auto Task Force

- Worked with the company, UAW and State of Ohio to access $1,000,000 in training grants for the manufacturing work teams concept at Ford Lima Engine Plant.

Governor Strickland and LT Governor Fisher show their support for Lima Built 3.7L Lincoln Engine
Lima Auto Task Force

- Convened auto supplier workshop for 8 county region.
- Developed comprehensive marketing piece highlighting the competitive advantage of auto manufacturing in Allen County.
- Establishing Gateway Commerce Park as an Automotive Supplier Park.
Lima Auto Task Force

• In late ’08 as the national economic crisis deepened, the Task Force engaged local media in sustained positive coverage and editorial positions in support of Federal assistance to the automotive industry.
The Task Force has participated in a number of ACP activities including . . .

- Management Briefing Seminars held in Traverse City, Michigan
- Frankfurt Auto Show, Frankfurt, Germany
- Volkswagen Suppliers Show, Wolfsburg, Germany
- Regional ACP meetings
Lima Auto Task Force