

**Live Zone: Logistics Innovation and Vehicle Electrification Zone  
(Formerly Lordstown Smart Logistics Hub)  
Phase 2 Additional Stakeholder Interviews Spring 2022  
Preliminary Report  
July 27, 2022**

**Executive Summary**

Rasor was contracted to interview stakeholders in the Lordstown area to garner feedback and document needs in relation to the possible construction of a Smart Logistics Hub (SLH) in Lordstown. Subsequently, the scope of the project evolved and a new vision plan, known as the Live Zone, was created. Rasor was asked to conduct additional stakeholder interviews based on the Live Zone. Like before, information will be used to help build a case to secure federal funding and private technology partners.

Overall, those interviewed were positive about the potential benefits of creating the Live Zone in this region. Even those not located within the 10-mile radius of the Zone agree there will be ripple effects that positively impact their communities. However, a few stakeholders would like to see the Zone expanded to include their areas. Lastly, labor and transportation, as well as local roadway network improvements, are common current concerns that could be addressed as a result of some of the Live Zone components.

**Live Zone Stakeholder Interview Highlights**

**John Wilczynski, America Makes (specializes in additive manufacturing)**

- His company invests in the research of 3D printing technology, facilitates training, helps with supplier development, gets funding from the Department of Defense
- EV trucks need to be lighter due to the weight of batteries– 3D can do that by reducing the number of parts in engine systems
- How will Ohio maintain its manufacturing hub?
- How do “we” position ourselves as a community/state?
- Why do people come here?
- Region needs to be great at something – Live Zone could be it
- Labor shortage is a problem in manufacturing, therefore use technology to do what people power can’t do
- Need to reskill the workforce
- Has curriculum ready at Eastern Gateway Community College, students earn national credentials in additive manufacturing

### **Andrew Yost**, FedEx (Lordstown location)

- Triple trailers are 10-15% of the semi-trucks in and out of FedEx, mostly doubles
- Biggest problem is that triple trailers cannot travel in Mahoning County; triple trailer transfer yard is very much needed unless Mahoning County changes its policy
- Proposed location of triple trailer yard would be closer to FedEx than where they currently make transfers which is 20 miles one way, benefits would be
  - FedEx would save on labor by reducing the number of trips to the transfer yard
  - Less fuel emissions
  - Less wear and tear on the roadway
  - Potentially improved safety from fewer trips to transfer yard, less time for drivers exposed to risks on the roadway
- Goal for 2040 is to have carbon alternative fueling for FedEx trucks
- To write a letter of support, he'd need approval from FedEx corporate

### **Andrew Conley**, Clean Fuels Ohio (focuses on clean transportation)

- Suggested looking into the [Accelerating Ohio's Auto Industry](#) Bill; the purpose is to protect and expand Ohio's vehicle manufacturing and supply chain industry
- Regarding EV charging stations, he recommended considering
  - Total capacity for the area and can the area handle extra?
  - What are the fees to use an EV station? Who pays and how do they pay?
  - Internal coolers need maintenance; plan for staffing
  - How long does it take to charge? 5 hours or 20 minutes? Trucking firms are concerned about the wasted time as trucks are charging and/or waiting for their turn; suggested requiring reservations
  - Concerned about reliability
- Recommended reviewing the DriveOhio [Freight Electrification Report](#)
- Cited Pitt Ohio for green energy efforts; recently started using [electric box trucks](#)
- Not sure about trucking companies' ROI for changing from diesel to EV
- He'd be glad to write a letter of support

### **Jessica Borza**, Mahoning Valley Manufacturers Coalition (MVMC)

- MVMC educates high school students and community members about careers in manufacturing with the goal of supporting the future of the manufacturing industry
- Helps companies develop training for employees
- 50 companies are members of MVMC; each has 10-15 job openings at any given time
- MVMC helps determine why more people don't apply for manufacturing jobs and helps to overcome that
- Perhaps improved mass transportation would help if getting to a job is a barrier
- She can distribute information and/or survey to MVMC members

### **Dean Harris**, Western Reserve Transit Authority

- Currently looking to buy land at Rt. 76 and Bailey Road to build a park and ride; needs funding for land and construction to include 50 parking spaces and small facility with restrooms
- Interested in autonomous shuttles to run from a park and ride to area's big employers
- Interested in EV busses
- There are three charging stations at WRTA administration office
- Interested in a centralized command center for bus systems in three counties

### **Kim Mascarella and Darlene St. George**, Howland Township

- They are further than the 10-mile radius of the Live Zone and would like to see the radius expanded; need to include the "golden triangle" area
- They feel the economy will benefit from any improvements in regional infrastructure
- They understand issues in the area such as lack of mass transportation for employees, limited truck storage, and truck cueing problems
- Workforce gap – 125 manufacturing job openings, but there's a lack of training or a lack of knowledge about training programs available; need to get young people interested and into apprenticeships
- Reinvest in what exists before adding new – example of Delphi Packard building
- 1,000 acres of brownfields are ripe for development but would need roadway improvements for better access
- Would like to see maximum use of railroads and airport
- Don't forget the human element; what do people want? – schools, housing, workforce, transportation, etc.
- Would like stronger relationships between municipalities

### **Michael Keys**, City of Warren

- There is a lot of land along Rt. 45 open for development, but roadway improvements are needed; need direct routes and easy access
- The Live Zone improvements will impact the economy of the greater region, with more people moving to the area who need housing and living necessities
- Warren's population down to 39,000 from 60,000 due to lost jobs; now an aging population
- Live Zone is a great opportunity to attract young people with fresh ideas and will keep money in the community
- Currently looking at where to add EV charging stations in Warren
- Mass transit is the most important piece of Live Zone, must get people to jobs; WRTA needs feeder routes in Warren
- Need elected officials to speak positively about Live Zone to help the public see the big picture and benefits
- Is willing to write a letter of support on behalf of City of Warren Mayor

## **Nic Coggins**, Trumbull County Planning Commission

- The economy for the region would be improved by attracting new technology jobs, which would help retain residents and bring in new residents for jobs
- Radius greater than 10 miles will benefit; should expand radius
- Challenge is the turnpike is too crowded; can't accommodate more trucks
- Definite need for triple trailer transfer yard for safety and other benefits
- For rail, expand intermodal, need turnstiles and cranes; should look into mini shipping containers
- He recommended reviewing the Joint Land Use Study at [Youngstown Air Station](#); part of it looked at solar energy
- The most crucial piece of Live Zone is improving the regional transportation network
- Solar-powered EV charging station would help the electric grid be more sustainable
- He's in favor of any investment that helps the existing local businesses
- Recently received a grant to improve [Golden Triangle area](#), which will help retain businesses
- European research and production company looking at the area to build a facility

## **Dr. David Rouan**, Weathersfield Township

- Thinks any economic growth would benefit the full area
- Doesn't know of any businesses looking to move to Weathersfield Township
- This area is a perfect location for Live Zone; the area can handle it
- Obstacles are that the current roadway infrastructure and rail needs to be expanded
- Proponent of clean energy; if the technology is available, it would be great to use
- Airport is underutilized. Port Authority needs to do more, but political leaders stand in the way. Port Authority has many tools and can accomplish things that other entities can't.
- Thinks best to keep the public informed via social media and local press
- Any negative concerns can be overcome – water issues, environmental, etc.
- Income taxes should offset any burden to communities for fire and EMS services; he believes communities should be good neighbors