

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Regional Policy Roundtable Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 19, 2016
11:30 a.m.

Chair Steve Campbell called the Regional Policy Roundtable Meeting to Order at 11:30 a.m.

Welcome & Introductions

- **Steve Campbell, Chair**

Steve Campbell welcomed new members to the first meeting of 2016. He then introduced Mayor Kim Maggard as the new Vice Chair of the Roundtable. Campbell reminded members that in 2014, the Roundtable introduced staggered terms. Therefore, some members returned, while some members were new to the Roundtable. He then recognized two new members (Stacey Boumis, Community Services Director of the Village of Obetz and Nikki Scarpitti, Director of Strategic Initiatives at the Columbus Metropolitan Library). Both Stacey and Nikki then introduced themselves to the group.

Lastly, Campbell brought the members' attention to the final design of MORPC's 2016 Public Policy Agenda and mentioned that printed copies of the agenda would be available the following week.

Energy Policy & Advocacy

- **Mayor Kim Maggard, Vice Chair**
- **Joe Garrity, MORPC Public Affairs Coordinator**

Kim Maggard discussed the collaborative work of the Regional Policy Roundtable and the Sustainability Advisory Committee on an important federal energy issue. Joe Garrity provided a brief update on the Clean Energy Incentive Program and the development of a letter to be sent to the US EPA. Garrity continued on the topic stating that the letter provides MORPC's expertise on the issue. He also emphasized that MORPC is not providing a stance on the Clean Power Plan, but simply providing valuable input.

Steve Campbell also requested that we schedule a meeting or conference call in the following weeks to discuss the technical aspects of the Energy Mandates Study Committee's recommendations.

Upcoming Event – Newly Elected Officials Breakfast

- **Steve Campbell, Chair**

Steve Campbell informed the Roundtable of the Newly Elected Officials breakfast which MORPC is hosting on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 8-9:30 a.m. at MORPC. Laura Koprowski explained that the purpose of the event is to introduce MORPC and MORPC's public policy and advocacy efforts to newly elected officials.

Regional Advocacy & Support for Columbus Smart City Grant Proposal

- **Laura Koprowski, Director of Public & Government Affairs**
- **Nancy Reger, Director of Data & Mapping**

Segueing from the previous topic, Laura Koprowski and Nancy Reger provided a brief update on an important opportunity for a federal transportation grant for the City of Columbus. They explained that the Smart Cities Challenge is an opportunity for mid-size cities across the country to compete over funding from the US Department of Transportation. Reger mentioned that Columbus has the opportunity to better link technology and data to transportation for safety, reliability, and growth in Columbus and throughout the greater region. She also provided that Columbus and its transportation partners are working together on deciding a theme to use and present to the US DOT. In addition, Reger said the city would focus on the variety of creative ways they could utilize the received funds (\$50 million), if received.

Legislative Update

- **Laura Koprowski, MORPC Director of Public & Government Affairs**
- **Steve Tugend, Kegler Hill Brown + Ritter**

On the state level, Laura Koprowski mentioned that a capital budget bill would be introduced in the near future and informed the group of MORPC's advocacy for funding of the Regional Data Lab. Jack Shaner, from the Ohio Environmental Council, informed members of the Clean Ohio Fund and discussed a collaborative legislative effort to receive funds for the Clean Ohio Fund via the capital budget. He mentioned that on February 9 and 10 staff from MORPC, OEC, and other interested parties will visit legislators and educating them on the importance and effectiveness of the Clean Ohio Fund.

Steve Tugend provided a 2016 federal and state elections update. Laura and Steve briefly mentioned that they will be in Washington, D.C. meeting with legislators and staff to discuss MORPC's 2016 Public Policy Agenda and important legislative priorities for the region. Koprowski also informed the group of the creation and importance of a competitive advantage projects list. She mentioned that a subcommittee on the issue will meet in February and MORPC Executive Director William Murdock will serve as chair.

Lastly, Steve Tugend discussed MORPC's license plate fee efforts, which have been well received by local legislators. However, Tugend also stated that the Kasich administration opposed such efforts.

Other Business

Steve Campbell gave the opportunity for each member to provide any announcements. He also commented on the success and importance of a member update during these meetings and suggested that someone volunteer for the spring meeting. Lindsey Gardiner volunteered for the Greater Ohio Policy Center to present at the Roundtable meeting on April 19, 2016.

Steve Campbell thanked everyone for serving on the Public Policy Roundtable this year, and the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.