

CENTRAL OHIO RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

May 2017

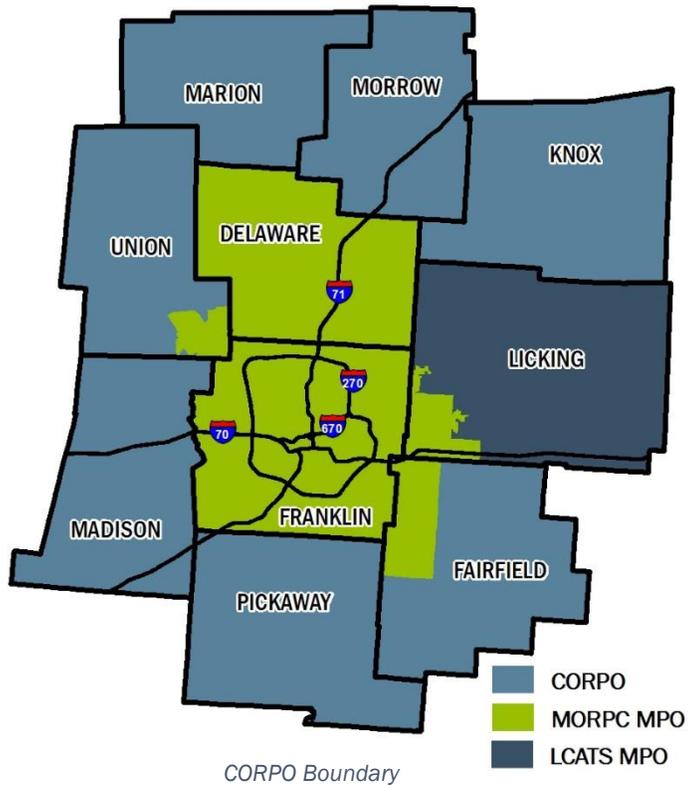


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INTRODUCTION

The Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO), whose members include the counties of Fairfield, Knox, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway and Union was formed in 2016. CORPO was created as the forum to conduct coordinated, comprehensive and continuing regional transportation planning for this predominately rural area.



A primary product of the transportation planning will be a transportation plan.

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is providing the staff support to CORPO with funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation.

PARTICIPATION IN THE TRANSPORTATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

This document provides the structure by which member counties, local elected officials, businesses, organizations, private citizens, and any other interested parties from across the region may participate in the development of the CORPO Rural Transportation Plan.

Participation of CORPO members, subcommittees and the public is key to the success of the CORPO and central to inclusive local government and coordinated decision making.

Establishing an open and flexible public participation process will stimulate collaboration between member counties, stakeholders and the public.

OBJECTIVES

1. Ensure that the public is given the opportunity to become part of the Central Ohio Rural Transportation planning process through a variety of methods.
2. Promote the timely circulation of notices, planning issues and information regarding the planning process to the public.
3. Provide transparency of all information and data gathered and developed during the transportation planning process.

CORPO anticipates that its member counties will utilize their current public involvement methods for the circulation of public meeting notices and plan documents to provide notice of public comment periods. Any other timely information regarding the transportation planning process will be included.

These outlets may include but are not limited to; emails, newsletters, a public meeting, and internet websites. MORPC will also host CORPO Committee meetings and an open house before final plan adoption.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Public involvement is an opportunity for the public to positively influence transportation decision making. CORPO will, through its committees, staff, board representatives, members, and other partners, work to ensure that the needs of all segments of the population are represented in this effort. Stakeholder interest in this process can be public, private, or professional, and representative of any transportation mode. In order to facilitate collaboration in developing transportation plans, it is the responsibility of the County Subcommittees to provide government, industry, and citizens with the information needed to understand what the problems are, what actions are proposed, what the effects will be, and when each element of the program will be ready for public use and/or input. The CORPO subcommittees will be the primary means of involving transportation stakeholders and the public in the planning process. The process is designed to give members, stakeholders and the public an opportunity to participate in, review and comment on the transportation plan as it is developed.

CORPO COMMITTEE

The CORPO Committee provides representation from elected officials and other stakeholders from CORPO member counties to develop a rural transportation plan. CORPO Committee meetings are open to the public and meeting dates, agendas and minutes will be displayed on the MORPC website as well as emailed to all CORPO members for circulation.

As CORPO develops its transportation plan, county segments of the plan will be developed with County Subcommittees, which exist to advise the Committee. The CORPO Committee will incorporate the input of the County Subcommittees into the development of the transportation plan. The majority of the public participation process will be administered at the county level via each County Subcommittee. Acting as staff for CORPO, MORPC will also provide the public with a chance to review and comment on the plan before adoption.

RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RPO) COUNTY SUBCOMMITTEES

RPO subcommittees are composed of representatives from diverse backgrounds. These include local municipalities, transportation agencies, transit services providers, public utilities, economic development organizations and others. The subcommittees advise and guide CORPO in the development of all elements of the transportation plan as well as carry out the majority of the public involvement in this process. It is intended that the member counties will be the driving force in this process.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

MORPC will assist CORPO with public involvement in the transportation planning process by hosting CORPO meetings, an open house on behalf of CORPO, a page on the MORPC webpage and by any other methods allowing public input before a final draft of the plan is adopted by CORPO in 2018. The public involvement process will also include the cooperation and collaboration of local governments and sub-committees via email, social media, meetings and face-to-face discussions. Subcommittees are expected to facilitate public involvement at the county level by utilizing current structures in their respective counties.