



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Monthly Legislative Update

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TOP ADVOCACY ITEMS

<i>Priority</i>	<i>Status</i>
Seek Federal Funding for Regional Projects	USDOT announced that it received 212 applications requesting almost \$9.8 billion through the new Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grant program. The program is for critical freight and highway projects across the country. The applications requested total more than thirteen times the amount of funding that is available. Local projects that submitted applications for funding included an expansion of a portion of Alum Creek Drive in Franklin County and the Intermodal Gateway Project in Marion.
Explore Possibility of Passing Legislation to Increase Local Government License Plate Fees for Funding Infrastructure	Rep. Margaret Ann Ruhl provided sponsor testimony to the House Ways & Means Committee on HB 528, which would give local governments permissive authority to increase fees up to \$15 collectively for infrastructure. Additionally, a letter to the editor emphasizing the importance of the legislation from MORPC Executive Director William Murdock was printed in the Columbus Dispatch on May 28th.
Establish MORPC as Top MPO Resource on Transportation Issues	<p>The City of Columbus is one of seven finalists in the US. Department of Transportation’s first-ever Smart City grant program. The other finalists were: Austin, Texas; Denver, Colorado; Kansas City, Missouri; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Portland, Oregon; and San Francisco, California.</p> <p>MORPC worked with the City of Columbus to help prepare its proposal. Additionally, another \$90 million in matching funds from public sources and private entities was recently announced in support of the Columbus application. Columbus made its final pitch to federal officials this week, and the \$40 million grant award winner will be announced this month.</p>
Promote Shared Services and Efficiency Among Local Governments	House Bill 5, which addresses local governments’ liability concerns with the ShareOhio program in order to increase the sharing of equipment resources and allows a local public office to request a business case study to determine how it may achieve greater efficiency, has passed the Senate. Governor Kasich is expected to sign the bill soon.



TOP NEWS

THUD Appropriations Moves to Full House

The \$58 billion FY2017 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bill passed through the U.S. House Appropriations Committee. The bill includes a controversial rider regarding trucker rest time that could come up during floor debate. House appropriators also released a draft committee report this week about the growing traffic loads on the nation's aging rail bridges. The report explains the \$500,000 allotment for nationwide bridge inventory and outlines findings from other reports that show deficiencies related to Federal Railroad Administration bridge safety oversight.

House Bill Would Delay Ozone Standard Implementation

The U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee advanced a controversial bill that would delay implementation of the Administration's latest ozone air quality standards. The bill would delay the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone from 2017 until 2025 in addition to changing the timeline for future EPA reviews from every five years to every ten years. Supporters of the Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2016 argue that states need more time and flexibility to implement 2008 standards before complying with new ones.

Water Resources Development Act Passes Committee

The U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee unanimously approved the \$5 billion Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The bipartisan legislation seeks to address the needs of America's harbors, locks, dams, flood protection, and other water resources infrastructure and help strengthen the nation's economic competitiveness. The bill authorizes 28 Army Corps of Engineers water infrastructure priorities and includes reforms that allow for greater local participation in project selection. The Senate passed its \$9.4 billion version of WRDA last month.

TA Set-Aside Implementation Guidance Released

The FAST Act replaced the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) with a set-aside under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, which will be referred to as the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside. FHWA recently released guidance on funding, eligible activities, and requirements of this newly named program, which includes all projects and activities that were previously eligible under TAP.

Agriculture

The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF) Board of Trustees on Tuesday named Adam Sharp the organization's new executive vice president effective Monday, July 18, 2016. Sharp succeeds John C. "Jack" Fisher, who has served as executive vice president since 1996. Last October, Fisher made public his intention to retire from the organization.

Appalachia

The Ohio General Assembly (GA) will consider a bipartisan proposal to direct unused portions of the oil and gas severance tax to crumbling roads and bridges and fire/EMS services in Appalachian Ohio, home to most of the state's shale "fracking." HB540, would first designate oil and gas severance tax proceeds for the operation of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' (ODNR) Division of Oil and Gas — roughly \$13 million to \$14 million in FY15, according to a Legislative Service Commission (LSC) analysis — and Division of Geological Mapping, roughly \$1.6 million in FY15.



TOP NEWS

Education

Ohio Reps. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) and Heather Bishoff (D-Blacklick) introduced HB556 that could eliminate the “Win-Win” agreement between Columbus Public Schools and nine Franklin County suburban districts. The agreement was created in 1986 and is renewed every six years by the districts. Under the agreement, Columbus City Schools will not take control of areas that are annexed by the city of Columbus in exchange for a payment from the suburban districts.

Two suburban Central Ohio lawmakers presented their proposal to challenge the basis of the “Win-Win” agreement that now governs boundaries between Columbus schools and several of its neighboring districts. Reps. Duffey and Bishoff told the House Education Committee the agreement is unfair to suburban districts who must pay Columbus in order to protect their territory, and creates uncertainty for families who face the prospect of having their school district change when Win-Win comes up for renegotiation every six years.

Elections 2016

Gov. John Kasich gave his first interview since suspending his presidential campaign to CNN’s Anderson Cooper, saying he’s not interested in being a vice presidential or third-party candidate. He said he is undecided about endorsing presumed GOP nominee Donald Trump, saying he’ll wait to see if Trump can become more positive and unifying. More than three times as many Democrats requested a Republican ballot in the March primary as Republicans requested Democratic ballots, according to the secretary of state’s office.

A new Quinnipiac University Poll is calling this November’s U.S. Senate race “too close to call,” with former Gov. Ted Strickland holding a 1 percentage point lead over incumbent U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH).

Elections 2018

Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor said she is giving “very serious consideration” to a gubernatorial run in 2018, noting it would be “premature to say I’m absolutely running for governor.” She said three important issues that she has been working on include workforce development, the opioid epidemic and infrastructure, specifically lead piping. Attorney General Mike DeWine has said he will be running for governor, and Secretary of State Jon Husted will likely be in the mix as well. Democrats said to be interested in running for governor in 2018 include Rich Cordray, Connie Pillich, Tim Ryan and Betty Sutton.

Energy

Gov. John Kasich reaffirmed his opposition to a permanent “freeze” of alternative energy standards, as proposed by HB554 (Amstutz), though interested parties managing over \$16 billion in assets offered him no quarter on the shorter, three-year freeze extension of SB320 (Seitz). A consortium of investment professionals and members of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) sent a two-page letter requesting the governor’s “strong opposition to efforts to extend the freeze on Ohio’s renewable energy and energy efficiency standards.”

The House and Senate launched their respective hearings on energy mandate legislation SB320 (Seitz) and HB554 (Amstutz), two “freeze” extension proposals that would not exactly qualify as companion bills. Sen. Bill Seitz’s (R-Cincinnati) follow-up to the 130-SB310 (Balderson) study committee seeks to maintain current renewable/energy efficiency standards for more three years, while Speaker Pro Tempore Ron Amstutz’s (R-Wooster) bill would take a page out of the study committee report by freezing portfolio standards indefinitely — apparently, a non-starter for the Kasich administration.



TOP NEWS

A new report from A Renewable America (ARA) says that, even without federal subsidies, wind energy as opposed to natural gas is now the cheapest form of electric generation, having fallen 60 percent in cost since 2009. Yet setback restrictions on wind turbines have all but shut down new installations in Ohio, according to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), which challenged state lawmakers to restore policies that encourage renewable development.

Environment

The Ohio EPA awarded \$561,707 in grant funding to 42 local governments to support local litter cleanup events and tire amnesty programs. Local governments use these funds to support litter collection activities, develop education programming or create opportunities for residents to properly dispose of scrap tires through tire amnesty collection events. All local cleanup efforts involve the work of volunteers and take place on public property.

The Ohio EPA announced that it will make funding available to community health departments and related public entities to help mitigate the spread of mosquito-borne viruses such as Zika, West Nile or La Cross Encephalitis.

Governor

Gov. John Kasich signed the \$2.6 billion capital appropriations budget. SB310 (Oelslager) contains funding for community projects, corrections, education, and green space, among other projects.

Other bills signed by the governor include the following:

- » SB75 (Jones-Peterson), which limits the authority of a board of county commissioners or board of township trustees to prohibit agritourism through zoning, applies current agricultural use valuation to land used for agritourism for property tax purposes, and establishes immunity in a civil action for agritourism providers.
- » SB264 (Bacon), which establishes a three-day sales holiday early in August, 2016.
- » HB233 (Schuring), which establishes a procedure by which municipalities can create downtown redevelopment districts to rehabilitate historic buildings and promote economic development.

Immigration

Rep. Kevin Boyce (D-Columbus) hosted the first ever New American Forum, a day-long event at Franklin University aimed at bringing together residents, community leaders, business owners, state agencies and elected officials for a dialogue about how to empower and engage Ohio's foreign-born residents.

Judicial

The Ohio Constitution's ban on retroactive laws does not extend to school districts and other local government jurisdictions, a split Ohio Supreme Court ruled, rejecting claims by Cleveland, Dayton and Toledo schools. Four justices agreed that the "retroactivity clause" in Article II, Section 28 of the constitution applies only to individuals and private corporations, not to political subdivisions that carry out the state's government functions. Authored by Justice Sharon Kennedy, the opinion clears the way for the Legislature to retroactively adjust local school funding and recoup the difference from school districts by cutting future school funding.

Local Government

Franklin County led the state for total Local Government Innovation grants announced by the Kasich administration, which issued 58 awards statewide totaling just under \$10 million. New this year is the Local Government Safety Capital (LGSC) Grant Program, which supports the purchase of vehicles, equipment, facilities or systems to improve public safety.



TOP NEWS

Marijuana

Medical marijuana legalization is headed to Gov. John Kasich's desk after HB523 (Huffman) cleared its last major hurdles with narrow votes for approval in the Senate.

Natural Resources

Dam safety improvements at Buckeye Lake over the past eight months allow for water levels to safely increase two feet above the current three-foot winter pool, allowing more boaters to return to the lake, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) announced.

Public Safety

The Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) announced \$400,000 in grants to 20 law enforcement agencies in an effort to strengthen community-police relations. Awards of up to \$30,000 support programs including community-policing initiatives, training, juvenile-mentoring programs, education and awareness tools, and evidence-based policing strategies.

Transportation

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Acting Administrator Carolyn Flowers officially delivered \$37 million to the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) for the CMAX Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. Brown and Flowers joined COTA President/CEO Curtis Stitt and Donna Hicho, executive director of the Greater Linden Development Corporation, for a grant signing ceremony at COTA's Linden Transit Center.

Utilities

American Electric Power (AEP) of Ohio is moving forward with plans to develop 500 megawatts (MW) of wind energy and 400 MW of solar power under in its recently modified power purchase agreement (PPA). It is asking the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to reconsider parts of the agreement unrelated to the nine aging coal plants and associated subsidies, including AEP ownership of up to half of new wind and solar projects in Ohio. The utility issued a request for information (RFI) to solicit partners in a future request for proposal (RFP) on individual wind installations producing at least 20 MW and totaling 500 MW statewide.

Commissioner Asim Haque of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) will become its fifth chairman in just over five years after Gov. John Kasich handed him the job. Currently vice chair, Haque will take over the top spot when outgoing Chairman Andre Porter departs on Friday, May 20.



MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- HB5** PUBLIC OFFICE-STATE AGENCY EFFICIENCY STUDIES (KUNZE S, KOEHLER K) To allow the Auditor of State to conduct business case studies regarding the efficiency of local public offices and state agencies, to authorize the Auditor of State to establish a shared equipment service agreement program among political subdivisions, and to specify that a political subdivision that uses the loaned equipment has potential liability for its use under the Political Subdivision Tort Liability Law.
Current Status: 5/24/2016 - Consideration of Senate Amendments; House Does Concur, Vote 94-3
Recent Status: 5/24/2016 - Consideration of Senate Amendments; 5/18/2016 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 30-0
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-5>
- HB12** TIF-INCENTIVE DISTRICTS (BUTLER, JR. J, BURKLEY T) To establish a procedure by which political subdivisions proposing a tax increment financing (TIF) incentive district are required to provide notice to the record owner of each parcel within the proposed incentive district before creating the district, and to permit such owners, under specific conditions, to exclude their parcels from the incentive district by submitting a written response.
Current Status: 5/25/2016 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 71-26
Recent Status: 5/25/2016 - Bills for Third Consideration; 5/24/2016 - REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED, House Ways and Means, (Fourth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-12>
- HB37** BEER-LIQUOR MARKET PERMIT (STINZIANO M, DUFFEY M) To allow a person to possess beer or intoxicating liquor on the premises of a market if the beer or intoxicating liquor has been purchased from a D liquor permit holder that is located in the market.
Current Status: 5/31/2016 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. in 90 days
Recent Status: 5/27/2016 - Sent to Governor for Signature; 5/18/2016 - Consideration of Senate Amendments; House Does Concur, Vote 88-9
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-37>
- HB130** PUBLIC RECORDS-DATA BOARD (HAGAN C, DUFFEY M) To create the DataOhio Board, to specify requirements for posting public records online, to require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices, to establish an online catalog of public data at data.Ohio.gov, to establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program, and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 5/18/2016 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 96-0
Recent Status: 5/18/2016 - Bills for Third Consideration; 4/20/2016 - REPORTED OUT, House Finance, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-130>
- HB150** (GROSSMAN C, SCHERER G) To require hotel intermediaries to collect and remit applicable sales and use tax on the full amount paid for hotel lodging, to require hotel intermediaries to supply customers with itemized invoices, to specify that a hotel intermediary is presumed to have “substantial nexus” with Ohio if the intermediary arranges lodging at Ohio hotels, and to specify that hotels are not liable for the failure of a hotel intermediary to properly collect or remit applicable taxes.
Current Status: 4/12/2016 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)
Recent Status: 6/9/2015 - House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing); 5/19/2015 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-150>



MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- HB154** BICYCLE PASSING-TRAFFIC LIGHTS (HENNE M, SHEEHY M) To provide that when a motor vehicle passes a bicycle the safe passing distance to the left is three feet, and to alter the protocol for proceeding into an intersection that has malfunctioning traffic lights.
Current Status: 5/24/2016 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Vote 81-16
Recent Status: 5/24/2016 - Bills for Third Consideration; 6/24/2015 - REPORTED OUT, House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-154>
- HB180** RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS (MAAG R) To prohibit a public authority from requiring a contractor to employ a certain percentage of individuals from the geographic area of the public authority for the construction or professional design of a public improvement.
Current Status: 5/31/2016 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. in 90 days
Recent Status: 5/27/2016 - Sent to Governor for Signature; 5/11/2016 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 23-10
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-180>
- HB182** JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS (SCHURING K) To revise the law governing the creation and operation of joint economic development districts (JEDDs) and enterprise zones.
Current Status: 5/25/2016 - Consideration of Senate Amendments; House Does Concur, Vote 95-0
Recent Status: 5/25/2016 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 33-0; 5/25/2016 - Bills for Third Consideration
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-182>
- HB190** WIND FARM SETBACKS-COUNTY (BURKLEY T, BROWN T) To permit counties to adopt resolutions establishing an alternative setback for wind farms and to extend by five years the deadlines for obtaining the qualified energy project tax exemption.
Current Status: 5/18/2016 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House Public Utilities, (Third Hearing)
Recent Status: 11/18/2015 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House Public Utilities, (Second Hearing); 5/27/2015 - House Public Utilities, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-190>
- HB233** REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS (SCHURING K) To authorize municipal corporations to create downtown redevelopment districts and innovation districts for the purposes of promoting the rehabilitation of historic buildings, creating jobs, encouraging economic development in commercial and mixed-use areas, and supporting grants and loans to technology-oriented and other businesses.
Current Status: 5/6/2016 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; eff. in 90 days
Recent Status: 5/5/2016 - Sent to Governor for Signature; 4/20/2016 - Consideration of Senate Amendments; House Does Concur, Vote 96-0
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-233>
- HB302** ANNEXED TERRITORY-LEVY (HENNE M) To provide that, beginning five years after a type-II annexation is approved, the annexed territory is subject to a fire, police, or EMS tax levy only if the levy is imposed by the subdivision that provides the fire, police, or EMS service to the territory.
Current Status: 4/12/2016 - House Local Government, (Third Hearing)
Recent Status: 12/1/2015 - House Local Government, (Second Hearing); 11/17/2015 - House Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-302>



MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- HB390** NATURAL GAS-ET AL (SCHAFFER T, RETHERFORD W) To provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs and to make appropriations.
Current Status: 5/25/2016 - Consideration of Senate Amendments; House Does Concur, Vote 69-26
Recent Status: 5/25/2016 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 33-0; 5/25/2016 - Bills for Third Consideration
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-390>
- HB413** TOWNSHIP LAWS (BRINKMAN T) To add to the purposes for which a board of township trustees may go into executive session, to permit a township to charge for recycling services, to reduce the population threshold for a township to adopt a limited home rule form of government, to authorize a township to purchase, lease, or provide underwater rescue and recovery equipment for fire and rescue purposes, to authorize boards of township trustees to pay for group life insurance for any employee, to make other changes to the township laws, to allow taxing units to use the proceeds of a fire, police, or emergency services tax levy to pay costs related to the service for which the tax is levied, and to expand the public infrastructure improvements townships, municipal corporations, and counties may pay for using money from their public improvement tax increment equivalent funds.
Current Status: 5/25/2016 - Consideration of Senate Amendments; House Does Concur, Vote 96-0
Recent Status: 5/25/2016 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 33-0; 5/25/2016 - Bills for Third Consideration
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-413>
- HB523** MEDICAL MARIJUANA (HUFFMAN S) To authorize the use of marijuana for medical purposes and to establish the Medical Marijuana Control Program.
Current Status: 5/25/2016 - Consideration of Senate Amendments; House Does Concur, Vote 67-29
Recent Status: 5/25/2016 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 18-15; 5/25/2016 - Bills for Third Consideration
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-523>
- HB528** MOTOR VEHICLE-LICENSE TAXES (RUHL M) To authorize additional permissive local motor vehicle license taxes up to a total of \$15.
Current Status: 5/17/2016 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)
Recent Status: 4/26/2016 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means; 4/20/2016 - Introduced
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HB-528>
- HCR7** TAX EXEMPT MUNICIPAL BONDS (SPRAGUE R) To urge the President and the Congress of the United States to preserve the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.
Current Status: 5/11/2016 - ADOPTED BY SENATE; Vote 33-0
Recent Status: 5/11/2016 - Bills for Third Consideration; 4/20/2016 - REPORTED OUT, Senate Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-HCR-7>



MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- SB159** LICENSE PLATE NAMING-COLUMBUS AIRPORT (HUGHES J) To amend the law governing motor vehicle license plate county identification stickers, to create various license plates, to change the name of the Port Columbus International Airport to the John Glenn Columbus International Airport, and to designate a portion of State Route 2 in Cuyahoga County as the "Governor Richard F. Celeste Shoreway."
Current Status: 5/25/2016 - Consideration of House Amendments; Vote 33-0
Recent Status: 5/25/2016 - PASSED BY HOUSE; Amended on Floor, Bill Vote 96-1; 5/25/2016 - Bills for Third Consideration
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-159>
- SB235** INCREASED VALUE-PROPERTY TAX (BEAGLE B, COLEY W) To enact section 5709.45 of the Revised Code to exempt from property tax the increased value of property on which industrial or commercial development is planned until construction of new commercial or industrial facilities at the property commences.
Current Status: 5/4/2016 - PASSED BY SENATE; Vote 22-11
Recent Status: 5/4/2016 - Bills for Third Consideration; 4/27/2016 - REPORTED OUT AS AMENDED, Senate Ways and Means, (Sixth Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-235>
- SCR21** SMART CITY CHALLENGE (BACON K) To urge the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to select the city of Columbus as the award winner for the USDOT Smart City Challenge.
Current Status: 5/24/2016 - ADOPTED BY HOUSE; Vote 94-3
Recent Status: 5/24/2016 - Bills for Third Consideration; 5/18/2016 - REPORTED OUT, House Government Accountability and Oversight, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SCR-21>



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