

**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**  
**Regional Policy Roundtable Meeting Minutes**

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Tuesday, October 18, 2016  
11:30 a.m. - 1p.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 members and requested that members of the Roundtable and guests introduce themselves, at which time they also recognized Jason Warner, who had joined the staff at the Greater Ohio Policy Center.

**Discuss, Review, and Affirm 2017-2018 Public Policy Agenda**

- **Steve Campbell, Chair**
- **Mayor Kim Maggard, Vice Chair**
- **Tracy Hatmaker, Prairie Township**
- **Joe Garrity, MORPC**

Campbell told the group of the importance of MORPC's Public Policy Agenda and how it was previously decided the agenda would be formed on a two-year cycle to match the legislative sessions, yet remain flexible to the group's needs.

Mayor Maggard, who chaired the policy agenda working group, mentioned that the group had met three times, as well as an additional conference call. The roundtable members then walked through the goals and planks of the 2017-2018 agenda. MORPC Transportation Director Thea Walsh gave an explanation of the Rural Planning Organization MORPC is now working on and how that fits into some of the language of the agenda. Joe Garrity informed members on new language related to Smart Columbus, Central Ohio Greenways, and Age-Friendly Columbus. Tracy Hatmaker mentioned a plank on Sustainable Growth that advocates for policies and funding to support a broad spectrum of housing options, including mixed-income communities.

The roundtable agreed on a few minor revisions that were recorded, and the group approved of the agenda, which will be presented to the MORPC Commission board in November and be considered for adoption in December.

**Legislative Update**

- **Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter**
- **Laura Koprowski, MORPC**

Steve Tugend updated the roundtable members about how this year's election cycle, including some of the close races in the region/state and the potential ramifications of the presidential election.

Laura Koprowski mentioned how MORPC would be working with various officials and staff members during the transition to new leadership next year – especially as it relates to Smart Columbus and other important issues, including MORPC's preparation for its February visit to Capitol Hill.

Some of the issues the roundtable members were briefed on include Congress' work on funding to avoid a government shutdown, the mid-biennium review bills that might be sent to the governor during the Legislature's lame-duck session, safety bills, and movement on a state energy bill.

MORPC's work with likeminded organizations such as the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, Ohio Township Association, and Ohio Municipal League was mentioned regarding SB235, which rewrites property tax valuation for commercial properties under development or undeveloped. The bill had passed the Senate, and there is interest in the House to move it forward yet this year. MORPC is opposed to the bill and recently signed on to a memo to this effect that was sent to legislative leadership.

MORPC continues to track HB 528, on license fees, and Tugend mentioned that a larger conversation might take place regarding transportation funding that could include the business community.

### **Broadband and Cell Tower Equipment Issues**

- **Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter**
- **Laura Koprowski, MORPC**

Tugend and Koprowski updated the group on the issue of private companies having the right from the FCC and PUCO to put broadband towers in public right-of-ways, which has caught many central Ohio communities off guard. MORPC will be forming a working group to look more closely at this issue and see what can be done. Anthony Jones mentioned that the COSMOS group had looked into the issue a bit, while Stacey Boumis mentioned the work that Frost Brown & Todd had done on the issue for Obetz and Dublin. The new group will also work with MORPC's Regional Data Advisory Committee.

### **Member Updates & News**

- **Steve Campbell, Chair**

Campbell provided the opportunity for each attendee to address the roundtable with an update or news that they wish to share.

Jim Schimmer updated the group on the efforts of the Sustainability Advisory Committee, which has been forming MORPC's new Regional Sustainability Agenda. The agenda is based on some of the goals in MORPC's Metropolitan Transportation Plan and contains 24 measurable objectives. Campbell mentioned the work the two committees had worked together on in the past and the possibility of working together on future issues.

Campbell then adjourned the Regional Policy Roundtable meeting.