



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Monthly Legislative Update

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TOP ADVOCACY ITEMS

<i>Priority</i>	<i>Status</i>
Secure ODOT TRAC Funding for Regional Projects	A new round of TRAC will begin next year.
Explore Possibility of Local Governments Passing Legislation to Increase Fees for Funding Transportation Infrastructure	MORPC continues to work with associations representing municipalities, counties, townships, county engineers and MPO's to arrive at an agreed-upon legislative solution to license plate fees.
Arrive at Solution for Uniform Municipal Income Tax Issue	House Bill 5 has been passed by the House and is now before the Senate Finance Committee. Because of unfavorable changes that were made to the legislation during its final days in the House, MORPC opposes the bill. MORPC will be preparing a factual case for opposing the legislation and sharing its case through in-person meetings with Ohio Senators.
Establish MORPC as Top MPO Resource for Ohio Congressional Delegation on Transportation Issues	MORPC has continued transportation-related conversations with members of our Congressional delegation and their Capitol Hill staffs. Senior staff and board leadership will be making Capitol Hill visits in early 2014.
Advocate for Ohio's Renewable Energy and Efficiency Standards	Through Sub.SB58, the Ohio Senate is seeking to modify the alternative energy resource, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction law. MORPC has testified as a part of an expert group about what topics should be considered by this legislation. The bill is stalled indefinitely in the Senate.
Ensure that the Proposed Reauthorization of Public Works Commission Bonds is Adopted	SJR6 and HJR9 , if enacted and adopted by the electorate in the May primary, will authorize the General assembly to spend nearly \$2 billion in additional infrastructure projects.



TOP NEWS IN OHIO

MORPC Opposes Substitute Municipal Income Tax Uniformity Bill (Need Update)

The House passed House Bill 5 and the Senate, in a move surprising to most, referred House Bill 5 to the chamber's Finance Committee with a further announcement that Senator Bob Peterson would serve as the Republican Caucus' point person on guiding the bill through the legislative process.

MORPC is opposed to the bill in its current form. The provisions of primary concern in the bill are as follows:

- » The mandatory 5-year net operating loss carry forward (NOL);
- » The mandatory pass-through entity loss offset of other income; and
- » The increase in the number of days that casual entrants can work in a municipality without incurring tax liability therein from 12 to 20 days.

MORPC's efforts in the House resulted in an amendment removing a prohibition from taxing Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (SERP) income, and MORPC will continue to advocate for revenue neutrality as the bill continues through the legislative process. MORPC will be meeting with state Senators in our delegation and on the committee to communicate our chief concerns about the legislation and to make recommendations on how the legislation can be improved.

2014 National Conference of Regions

A number of MORPC leaders plan to attend the 2014 National Conference of Regions in Washington, D.C. from February 9 to 11, 2014. During this time, they will be meeting with congressional members to discuss Ohio transportation issues and other topics of interest for the Central-Ohio region. MORPC's public policy and advocacy strategies will be showcased in one of the conference's keynote presentations by Laura Koprowski and Steve Tugend.

Todd Portune Announces Bid for Governor

In early January, Hamilton County Commissioner, Todd Portune, announced that he would form a committee for a possible 2014 gubernatorial bid. Portune was elected to the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners in 2000, and also currently serves as President of the Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana (OKI) Regional Council of Governments Board of Trustees. While, Portune has not filed the official paperwork to begin his candidacy, his move will allow him to raise money.

Kasich Announces Details of 2014 State of the State

On January 13, Governor John Kasich announced that he had chosen Medina as the site of the next State of the State speech. If the General Assembly agrees, the speech will be delivered Monday, Feb. 24, at the Medina Performing Arts Center.

State + National Unemployment Numbers for November - December 2013

On December 20, 2013, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services announced that Ohio's unemployment rate was 7.4 percent in November, down from 7.5 percent in October.

On January 10, 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the national unemployment rate fell in December to 6.7 percent, the lowest since October, 2008. Economists note that this was due, in large part, to more people dropping out of the labor force.



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NEW BILLS INTRODUCED

HB380 (General Revenue Fund-Cash Transfer)

On December 10, 2013, Representatives Terry Boose and Ron Gerberry co-sponsored HB380, legislation to require the Director of Budget and Management to transfer cash from the General Revenue Fund to the Local Government Fund and to make an appropriation.

HB386 (Credit Card Use-County Commissioners)

On December 10, 2013, Representative Tony Burkley introduced HB386, a bill to expand the work-related expenses that may be paid for by use of a credit card held by a board of county commissioners or the office of another county appointing authority.

HJR9 (General Obligation Bonds Issuance)

On January 14, 2014, Representatives Stephanie Kunze and Tim Brown co-sponsored HJR9. The resolution proposes enacting Section 2s of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to permit the issuance of additional general obligation bonds to fund public infrastructure capital improvements.

SJR6 (General Obligation Bonds Issuance)

On January 14, 2014, Senators Kevin Bacon and Gayle Manning co-sponsored SJR6, a resolution proposing to enact Section 2s of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to permit the issuance of additional general obligation bonds to fund public infrastructure capital improvements.

MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- HB4** LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT GRANT PROGRAM (STAUTBERG P, BLESSING III L) To establish the Local Government Performance Measurement Grant Program.
Current Status: 12/3/2013 - SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED, House State and Local Government, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_4
- HB5** MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS INCOME TAXES (GROSSMAN C, HENNE M) To revise the laws governing income taxes imposed by municipal corporations.
Current Status: 11/19/2013 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_5
- HB69** TRAFFIC LAW PHOTO-MONITORING DEVICES (MAAG R, MALLORY D) To prohibit the use of traffic law photo-monitoring devices by municipal corporations, counties, townships, and the State Highway Patrol to detect traffic signal light and speed limit violations.
Current Status: 11/19/2013 - Senate State Government Oversight and Reform, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_69



MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- HB175** OHIO STATE GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE DATABASE (DOVILLA M) To require the Treasurer of State to establish the Ohio State Government Expenditure Database.
Current Status: 12/10/2013 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_175
- HB219** CONTRIBUTIONS-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (BUTLER, JR. J) To authorize tax credits for contributions of money to economic and infrastructure development projects undertaken by local governments and nonprofit corporations.
Current Status: 12/4/2013 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_219
- HB223** RESIDENTIAL FORECLOSURE ACTIONS (GROSSMAN C, CURTIN M) To expedite the foreclosure and transfer of unoccupied, blighted parcels and certain abandoned properties and to make other changes relative to residential foreclosure actions.
Current Status: 12/3/2013 - House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_223
- HB239** COUNTY TRANSIT SYSTEM (RUHL M, BRENNER A) To allow the operator of a county transit system to enter into an agreement with a public or private entity for certain services, materials, equipment, or supplies if determined necessary for the generation of operating funds.
Current Status: 1/14/2014 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_239
- HB277** STATE-POLITICAL SUBDIVISION ANNEXATIONS (STAUTBERG P) To require that the state or a political subdivision real estate owner be included in determining the number of owners needed to sign a petition for an expedited type-II annexation, unless the real estate is a road or road right-of-way.
Current Status: 12/3/2013 - House State and Local Government, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_277
- HB279** JOINT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS (DAMSCHRODER R, BROWN T) To authorize a joint board of county commissioners to conduct proceedings regarding existing joint county ditches via teleconference or video conference.
Current Status: 12/3/2013 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_279
- HB289** JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE-DISTRICT (SCHURING K) To require subdivisions to obtain written approval from owners and lessees of real property located within a proposed or existing joint economic development zone (JEDZ) or joint economic development district (JEDD) before approving, amending, or renewing the JEDZ or JEDD contract.
Current Status: 12/3/2013 - House State and Local Government, (Fourth Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_289
- HB302** ALTERNATIVE ENERGY-PEAK DEMAND REDUCTION LAW (STAUTBERG P) To modify the alternative energy resource, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction law.
Current Status: 12/11/2013 - House Public Utilities, (Sixth Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_302



MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- HB321** DATAOHIO BOARD (DUFFEY M, HAGAN C) To create the DataOhio Board, and to specify requirements for posting public records online.
Current Status: 11/19/2013 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_321
- HB322** UNIFORM ACCOUNTING SYSTEM (DUFFEY M, HAGAN C) To require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices.
Current Status: 11/19/2013 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_322
- HB323** ONLINE PUBLIC DATA CATALOG (DUFFEY M, HAGAN C) To establish an online catalog of public data at data.Ohio.gov.
Current Status: 11/19/2013 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_323
- HB324** LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION EXCHANGE GRANT PROGRAM (DUFFEY M, HAGAN C) To establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 11/19/2013 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_324
- HB335** GREEN FLEETS LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM (BUTLER, JR. J) To create the Green Fleets Loan Guarantee Program to guarantee the repayment of loans made to governmental entities and private businesses to fund the conversion of all or a portion of their fleet vehicles to run on natural gas fuel.
Current Status: 12/4/2013 - House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_335
- HB336** GASEOUS FUEL VEHICLE CONVERSION PROGRAM (O'BRIEN S, HALL D) To create the Gaseous Fuel Vehicle Conversion Program.
Current Status: 11/26/2013 - REFERRED TO SUBCOMMITTEE, House Finance and Appropriations, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_336
- HB337** LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BUDGETING REQUIREMENTS (TERHAR L) To revise budgeting requirements that apply to local governments, mandate that certain actuarial standards be applied in political subdivisions that have independent retirement systems, and authorize the Auditor of State to impose sanctions.
Current Status: 1/14/2014 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_337
- HB358** JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE CONTRACTS (SCHURING K) To impose a 90-day moratorium on the authority of townships and municipal corporations to approve new joint economic development zone contracts and new joint economic development district contracts devised under the nonrestricted procedures.
Current Status: 12/10/2013 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_358



MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- HB375** SEVERANCE TAX-HORIZONTAL OIL AND GAS WELLS (HUFFMAN M) To levy a severance tax on well owners of oil and gas severed from horizontal wells, to create a nonrefundable income tax credit for the amount of horizontal well severance tax paid, and to repeal a cost recovery assessment imposed on oil and gas well owners.
Current Status: 1/15/2014 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_375
- HB377** CASINO OPERATOR SETTLEMENT FUND (ANIELSKI M) To make changes to the second payment from the Casino Operator Settlement Fund to certain local government entities.
Current Status: 1/14/2014 - House State and Local Government, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_377
- HB380** GENERAL REVENUE FUND-CASH TRANSFER (BOOSE T, GERBERRY R) To require the Director of Budget and Management to transfer cash from the General Revenue Fund to the Local Government Fund and to make an appropriation.
Current Status: 12/10/2013 - Introduced
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_380
- HB386** CREDIT CARD USE-COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BURKLEY T) To expand the work-related expenses that may be paid for by use of a credit card held by a board of county commissioners or the office of another county appointing authority.
Current Status: 1/14/2014 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_386
- HJR9** GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS ISSUANCE (KUNZE S, BROWN T) Proposing to enact Section 2s of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to permit the issuance of additional general obligation bonds to fund public infrastructure capital improvements.
Current Status: 1/14/2014 - House Finance and Appropriations, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/res.cfm?ID=130_HJR_9
- SB58** RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE (SEITZ B) To review and possibly modify the energy efficiency, peak demand reduction, and alternative energy resource provisions established by Ohio law governing competitive retail electric service.
Current Status: 11/13/2013 - Senate Public Utilities, (Sixth Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_58
- SB59** EDUCATION ENERGY COUNCIL (BEAGLE B) To authorize an eligible regional council of governments to establish itself as an education energy council for the purpose of issuing debt to pay for school district energy purchases.
Current Status: 9/25/2013 - Senate Public Utilities, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_59
- SB134** CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FINANCING (LAROSE F, SAWYER T) Relative to the financing of capital improvement projects in this state by another state or a political subdivision of another state.
Current Status: 11/19/2013 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_134



MORPC LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- SB149** CONTRIBUTIONS-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (BEAGLE B) To authorize tax credits for contributions of money to economic and infrastructure development projects undertaken by local governments and nonprofit corporations.
Current Status: 11/19/2013 - Senate Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_149
- SB155** JOINT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BOARD (BURKE D) To authorize a joint board of county commissioners to conduct proceedings regarding existing joint county ditches via teleconference or video conference.
Current Status: 11/19/2013 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_155
- SB194** MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES-SCOOTERS (SEITZ B) To allow certain motor-driven cycles and motor scooters to be parked on a sidewalk so long as the vehicles do not impede the normal flow of pedestrian traffic.
Current Status: 1/14/2014 - House Transportation, Public Safety and Homeland Security, (Second Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_194
- SB208** MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS-NONRESIDENT TAXPAYERS (SCHAFFER T) To require municipal corporations with more than \$100 million in annual income tax collections to provide a tax credit to nonresident taxpayers.
Current Status: 11/19/2013 - Senate Ways and Means, (First Hearing)
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_208
- SB251** CASINO OPERATOR SETTLEMENT FUND (PATTON T) To make changes to the second payment from the Casino Operator Settlement Fund to certain local government entities.
Current Status: 1/8/2014 - Referred to Committee Senate State Government Oversight and Reform
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_251
- SJR6** GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS ISSUANCE (BACON K, MANNING G) Proposing to enact Section 2s of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to permit the issuance of additional general obligation bonds to fund public infrastructure capital improvements.
Current Status: 1/14/2014 - ADOPTED BY SENATE; Vote 31-0
State Bill Page: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/res.cfm?ID=130_SJR_6



STATE + FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE

State

Kasich Names Butler Interim Ohio EPA Director

On Tuesday, January 2, Governor John Kasich announced that he would appoint Craig Butler interim director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) following the resignation of Scott Nally. Butler is currently senior policy advisor for the administration on environmental, energy, public utility and agricultural issues. Kasich's office said Nally announced his resignation from the agency to pursue other opportunities.

Snitchler Clears Way for New PUCO Chairman

On January 14, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) Chairman, Todd Snitchler, cleared the way for new leadership by withdrawing his name from consideration for reappointment to the seat. A former representative of the 50th House District, Snitchler was appointed by Governor John Kasich in February, 2011, and will serve his last day April 10, having filled the final three years of his predecessor's unexpired term.

Unemployment Compensation

Thousands of Ohio residents and over a million people across the country lost their long-term unemployment benefits at the beginning of the new year after Congress passed a budget without addressing the issue before breaking for the holidays. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services estimated that 40,000 to 42,000 Ohio residents were affected by the federal cuts. The federal extended benefits had been available only to workers who had seen their state unemployment benefits expire.

Federal

Portman Explains Vote on Federal Budget Bill

In an early-January conference call with reporters, Ohio U.S. Senator Rob Portman said he voted for the federal budget bill for a number of reasons, including that it relieves some of the sequester provisions on national security — a "key issue for Ohio"; another shutdown is not desirable; and there has been no budget for four years, which means Congress has effectively abandoned the oversight it is, by law, responsible for over federal programs.



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