

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission DRAFT- 2016 Public Policy Agenda

Lead–Opportunities for legislative and public policy leadership

Goal 1: Promote regionalism at the local, state, and federal levels of government fostering economic prosperity, efficient use of resources, and a high quality of life for Central Ohio residents.

- Advocate for policies and legislation that encourage local governments to collaborate and share services to make local governments fiscally stronger, more effective, and efficient in serving the public.
- Promote insight2050 and advocate for policies and legislation that will provide Central Ohio with the needed tools and resources to plan for the expected increase of 500,000 people by 2050.
- Highlight the valuable roles, duties and rights that local governments have in services to residents, quality of life, and economic prosperity.
- Advance Federal and State tax and budget policies that balance the promotion of economic growth, while also ensuring the ability to provide vital local government services to residents.
- Work with our regional partners to identify significant projects and grant opportunities to benefit the region.
- Position MORPC as a leading resource and innovator in regional planning strategies.
- Promote policies, programs, and funding to ensure our region's transportation, fiber, water, sewer, and material management infrastructure are well maintained, affordable, vital, and resilient.

Goal 2: Achieve an advanced and exceptional transportation system that connects Central Ohio's people and products to the world.

- Seek additional revenue and innovative long-term funding mechanisms for transportation at local, state, and federal levels.
- Advocate for a long-term federal transportation bill.
- Promote state designation and preserve federal recognition of metropolitan planning organizations and their regional approach to transportation planning and funding.
- Advance the importance of the logistics industry to Central Ohio and support continued investments in the region's "inland port" intermodal, rail, air, and other freight facilities.
- Support new and existing legislation and policies that measurably improve transportation safety.

- Advocate for an advanced, multi-modal transportation system that allows our residents, workforce, public agencies, and businesses effective and efficient public and private transportation choices to regional, national, and international markets.
- Pursue policies and funding to expand workforce transportation options.

Goal 3: Conserve and enhance the natural resources, water, air, and land in our growing region.

- Advocate for innovative strategies to maintain air quality attainment, reduce emissions, and protect health by working with public and private partners.
- Advocate for policies and funding to maintain and protect the quality and quantity of our water resources, balancing public and private sector interests, and traditional and new economic activities in our growing region.
- Support and advocate for policies and funding for a timely clean-up and redevelopment of brownfields or vacant, blighted, or abandoned land and for the preservation of historic buildings in order to revitalize communities.
- Pursue funding and policies to help protect and secure more parkland, wetlands, trails, and green space.

Goal 4: Promote energy efficiency and an abundant supply of safe, reliable, and affordable sources of energy for our growing region.

- Promote energy efficiency and conservation, as well as renewable and alternative energy.
- Advocate for federal, state, and local policies that foster economic growth and resiliency by using new and traditional forms of energy.
- Promote the importance of the benefits associated with energy efficiency policies, funding, and programs.
- Support innovative funding tools for public agencies, businesses, and nonprofit organizations to finance energy infrastructure improvements.

Collaborate - Opportunities to form coalitions with like-minded organizations

Economic Development

- Promote a robust economy for the region and active collaboration with JobsOhio, Columbus2020, business organizations, and local governments to pursue national and state policies and funding to advance economic development.
- Encourage local governments to focus job attraction incentives on new jobs and investment to the region.
- Promote local food systems, food security, and state policies that create economic and environmental benefits of local foods systems and farmland preservation.

- Improve access to workforce training and to resources that enhance the financial stability of our region's low and moderate income households.
- Promote digital connectivity throughout the region, supporting public fiber optic communication and data infrastructure, and promoting cooperation and investment among members to assure sustainability and resiliency.
- Pursue new tools and strategies for local governments to encourage new jobs and investment for the region.

Sustainable Growth

- Promote efficient and effective use and management of waste streams through reuse and recycling programs that reduce environmental impacts and contribute to the economic competitiveness of the region.
- Assist in the establishment of fueling infrastructure for alternative fuel vehicles within the region.
- Advocate for innovative land-use regulations and planning tools as a way to promote sustainable growth; maintain and reuse existing housing and commercial buildings; conserve environmentally sensitive areas; encourage farmland preservation; reduce energy consumption; provide transportation alternatives; and promote effective material management.
- Promote the development of housing policies that support lifelong communities.
- Support policies and incentives that encourage redevelopment and reinvestment in Central Ohio's neighborhoods and commercial districts.
- Advocate for a broad spectrum of housing and home ownership options to meet the residential and work-force needs of communities throughout our growing region.

Federal Funds

- Support federal funding for defense installations, research, and other initiatives in Central Ohio.
- Participate in coalitions and partnerships for MORPC local government members to understand, engage, and better position themselves for federal funding through appropriations, authorizations, bills, grants, and other possible options.

Who We Are:

- MORPC is a voluntary association of Central Ohio governments and regional organizations

Public Policy Agenda:

The 2016 Public Policy Agenda of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is vital to the future of the over 2 million people we serve and represent in our 15 county member region. As one of the most dynamic and fastest growing regions in the country, Central Ohio is expecting dramatic changes in the next 20 years. Our population will increase by 500,000 people or 25 percent by 2050 while the rest of Ohio will experience a 3

percent decline. These figures imply significant change for all Central Ohio communities in the coming years.

This strategic agenda is the collective voice and proactive framework MORPC uses to advocate the issues, policies, and interests of our communities at the state and federal levels of government. Our local government members are interested in developing innovative and responsive public policies and legislation that will foster economic prosperity, enhance the quality of life, and secure a competitive advantage for Central Ohio. MORPC's Public Policy Agenda is organized into two categories of **Lead** and **Collaborate**:

- **Lead** - Opportunities for legislative and public policy leadership by MORPC
- **Collaborate** - Opportunities for MORPC to work closely with partners to advance shared interests and goals

What We Do:

- Create solutions to shared regional challenges
- Explore opportunities for shared services among local governments
- Serve as a regional information hub by providing demographics, maps, and tools to inform decisions
- Convene local governments to prioritize regional transportation projects and seek funding
- Provide valuable community services in the areas of energy and environment

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