

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

*Remote Meeting*

Regional Data Advisory Committee  
Meeting Notes

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March 2, 2021, 1:00 pm

Members Present

Charlie Burks, Columbus Metropolitan Library  
Christina Drummond, Educopia  
Chair Brad Ebersole, Consolidated Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.  
Shoreh Elhami, City of Columbus  
Vice-Chair Jung Kim, One Columbus  
Tom Kneeland  
Bill LaFayette, Regionomics®

Jonathan Miller, Delaware County Regional  
Planning Commission  
Gene Oliver, City of Worthington  
Tom Reed, Educational Service Center of  
Central Ohio  
Rick Stein, Urban Decision Group  
Andrew Williams, City of Columbus

MORPC Staff Present

Joe Garrity            Lynn Kaufman            William Murdock            Liz Whelan  
Ted Geer                Cheri Mansperger            Aaron Schill

**Meeting Called to Order at 1:03 pm.**

**Welcome & Introductions – Chair Ebersole**

New Members

Chair Ebersole introduced two new Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC) Members, Christina Drummond, Data Trust Program Officer, Educopia and Andrew Williams, Assistant Director, Department of Public Service, City of Columbus.

**2020 Census Update – Aaron Schill**

Updates on Data Release Timelines

- Fall 2020 – Enumeration ended
- April 30, 2021 – the reapportionment data will be presented to the President and Congress. Reapportionment data is used to redraw congressional districts to determine representation in the electoral college and to determine funding apportionment for federal programs.
- April 30 + 90 days – the state redistricting data would normally be released, however the data will be delayed until September 30. States use this data to draw legislative districts and districts within municipalities that use the ward system.
- Currently there is no target release date available for the summary data files that data professionals use. There is no statutory deadline for the release of this data. This delay is partially due to COVID-19 and the counting of group quarters, which was especially challenging in 2020.
- The Census Bureau has supplied updated tracts, block groups, and jurisdictional boundaries. These are available on the census bureau website.

Updates to Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and Urbanized Areas

Proposed Changes to the Minimum Threshold for Qualification as an MSA ([link](#))

No Central Ohio MSAs will be impacted. Fewer than five MSAs across the state would be impacted.

Proposed Changes to the Definition of Urban Areas ([link](#))

This will directly impact the definition of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and how transportation funding is allocated to regions, which is the core of MORPC's work. Staff is still researching what this will mean to MORPC and to the region.

- Adding housing unit density threshold for census blocks; population density has historically been the only threshold. This will be an accurate way to show the density of a given block.
- Changes to definition of rural vs. urban census blocks. Previously a block had to have a minimum of 2500 persons living in it to be counted as an urban block; the change will be to 4,000 housing units or 10,000 people.
- Skipping areas – changes to how development can occur and how the interstitial lots are treated.

These changes are being considered as the definitions have not been updated in decades. The current definitions are not aligned to modern development and what currently qualifies as urban.

The public may comment on these changes until mid-May 2021; Aaron asked Committee Members to consider these changes and provide feedback.

**MORPC Staff Updates**

Broadband Projects & Programs – Aaron Schill

National Association of Regional Councils Presentation

Executive Director William Murdock and Aaron presented at the recent National Conference of Regions; the audience was Metropolitan Planning Organizations from across the United States. MORPC and the San Diego Regional Planning Agency were on a panel sharing community digital equity work in Central Ohio and in the San Diego area.

Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition

The Coalition is made up of 20+ organizations and 40+ members in academia, neighborhood groups, non-profits, etc. to respond to broadband and digital equity needs that became clearer as a result of COVID-19. The initial group created in 2020 by the Columbus Metropolitan Library; members then realized that a more formal organization was needed. The Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition launched as official group in January 2021, and will have a public announcement and an official kickoff March 8.

The Coalition is made up of several working groups, focusing on affordability and access to broadband, access to devices, digital literacy / skill-building, advocacy/funding, and a Steering Committee which Aaron is co-chairing. Though this work is specifically targeted at Franklin County, MORPC plans to use the framework and offer it to other member communities as well. Member Drummond suggested that the [Community Anchor Program](#), which works on last mile connectivity for cultural institutions, may be an asset to the Coalition.

Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) Broadband Working Group

OARC is made up of 26 regional councils across Ohio. MORPC and [Buckeye Hills Regional Council](#) are working closely on broadband advocacy.

Columbus Metropolitan Club Forum on Broadband

A live (virtual) panel discussion March 10, 2021 - Bridging the Digital Divide II (Urban) (click [here](#) to register) may be of interest to members. This discussion may also be viewed later on the Club's [YouTube channel](#).

Central Ohio Broadband Access Pilot Program

This program is still ongoing, working with partners and school districts. Funding and devices are still available. Aaron asked that Members continue to share this information if possible -- <https://www.morpc.org/broadband/>

Central Ohio GIS User Group (COGUG) Report – Cheri Mansperger

44 COGUG members met virtually on February 10 with presentations from Rick Franz, City of Dublin regarding ESRI updates and Drew Merrill, COTA on Travel Demand Behavior & Microtransit. Aaron presented on the Regional Data Agenda and the Census status. Members discussed the OEPA PFAS Action Plan website, and then broke into four groups to discuss LBRS, Data, ArcPro, and Web Apps. The next meeting will be on May 19.

Regional Information & Data Group Report – Liz Whelan-Jackson

The Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG) met on February 3 for presentations from Frank Kohstall, InnovateOhio, on Data.ohio.gov, and from MORPC Staff on the Regional Data Agenda and the Regional Housing Strategy Metrics Dashboard. 31 members attended. The Steering Committee used a new breakout room structure focused on types of work and specific tracks; the Committee will continue to reflect on this process. The next RIDG meeting will be on May 5.

**Regional Public Policy Update – Joe Garrity**

Click [here](#) to see the presentation.

**Working Group Reports**

Data Policy Needs Survey & Toolkit – Aaron Schill

Member Drummond is a member this Working Group, and she and others of the group have many of the finishing touches on the Survey completed. The next steps are to test the Survey within the Working Group and then with RDAC Members. The group plans to distribute the survey to RDAC Members by the end of March, and to hopefully received high-level feedback from members.

Regional Municipal Fiber Strategy – Member Oliver

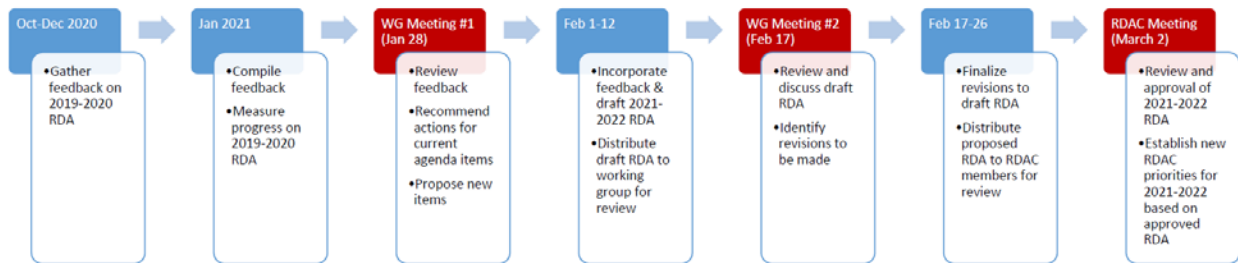
Working Group Members updated the Central Ohio Mayors and Managers Association on February 5, focusing on redefining the goals and conceptual framework, and the high-level cost estimates of the participation model. This will result in better shared services and data generating cost efficiencies. From a design perspective, it will be very diverse and redundant with no single points of failure. The Working Group's next step is to develop a Memorandum of Understanding / Letter of Intent. The goal is to have that document ready for review by mid-March.

**Regional Data Agenda Update**

Regional Data Agenda (RDA) Progress Report & Update Process – Vice-Chair Kim

Vice-Chair Kim reviewed the status of the RDA Update, and noted the difference between an ongoing project and an in-progress project. The RIDG is an ongoing project; the Data Policy Needs Survey & Toolkit is considered an in-progress project. Members will review which Goals / Objectives / Action Items to concentrate on in the next two years.

Timeline:



Review Updates – Aaron Schill

Goal 1 – Foster Collaboration

- Objective 2 & Action Items shifted focus from singular open data hub to supporting federated open data resources. The real goal is to foster easy access and an understanding of what open data resources are available.
- Objective 3 & Action Items have been updated to better reflect MORPC's data partnerships & to promote better communication of MORPC's work with partners. The RDA Working Group suggested that this objective address how partnerships are developed rather than acquiring specific partnerships. Several new Action Items were created for this Objective.

Goal 5 – Digital Equity & Broadband Infrastructure (New Goal)

This goal reflects an increased emphasis on digital equity in MORPC's work and adds a new objective for capacity-building & collaboration.

Broadband-related Objectives & Action Items were consolidated from other goals

Goal 6 – Access, Inclusion, & Equity

A new Objective was added to address implicit bias in data.

Adopt Updates and Approve Submission to Commission – Chair Ebersole

Member LaFayette moved to adopt and approve the 2021-2022 Regional Data Agenda; Member Oliver seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

Next Steps – Chair Ebersole

Chair Ebersole asked for an additional meeting in April to prioritize projects based on the new RDA, and to begin formulating Working Groups. Staff will review calendars and send Members a doodle poll, along with a request for initial priorities

**Adjourned at 2:28 pm.**