

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Remote Meeting

Regional Data Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes

April 6, 2021, 10:00 am

Members Present

Christina Drummond, Educopia	Gene Oliver, City of Worthington
Chair Brad Ebersole, Consolidated Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Tom Reed, Educational Service Center of Central Ohio
Shoreh Elhami, City of Columbus	Rick Stein, Urban Decision Group
Vice-Chair Jung Kim, One Columbus	Drew Williams, City of Columbus
Jonathan Miller, Delaware County Regional Planning Commission	

Public Present

Sierra MacEachron, Franklin County	David Norris, Franklin County Public Health
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MORPC Staff Present

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

Meeting Called to Order at 10:04 am.

Regional Data Agenda Update

Review and Discuss Priority Projects

The goal of the prioritizing exercise is to identify two or three main priorities for the RDAC to address in the next two years.

Priority Projects Identified by Members:

- 1.1.3 Host quarterly meetings of the Regional Data and Information Group (RIDG).
- 1.2.5 Provide guidance to local governments in the creation and management of open data resources.
- 1.3.5 Build partnerships with associations of Central Ohio data leaders, such as the Central Ohio CIO Forum, Columbus CDO Forum, Women in Analytics, and Black Tech Columbus.

Members Oliver and Drummond feel that 1.3.5 is very important.

- 1.4.1 Develop best-practice case studies on how data can be used to make better policy decisions.
- Goal 2 MORPC will support and provide opportunities for data capacity building & education that increase both the human and technological capabilities of the Region.
- 2.1 Develop a MORPC Data Academy that builds technical capacity for defined user groups/target audiences.
- 2.3 Establish a regional Data Day to promote data education and access throughout Central Ohio.

Chair Ebersole noted that the Data Day objective is achievable and focused. Since MORPC has been successful with Sustainability and other similar events, a Data Day event would already have a framework for creation. The Central Ohio GIS User Group and RIDG together can assist Staff and Committee Members with a Data Day event and with expanding MORPC partnerships. Members suggested that one of the RIDG quarterly meetings could be designated as Data Day.

- 2.5.1 Support innovation in Central Ohio by maintaining a leadership role with Smart Columbus and seeking opportunities to collaborate.

 - 3.1.3 Compile best practices for data governance.
 - 3.1.4 Publish a data governance, management, and security toolkit for local governments.
 - 3.3 Track and develop guidance on emerging data policy issues.

 - 4.1.1 Create a comprehensive inventory of datasets that MORPC maintains.
 - 4.2 Identify priority data discovery areas – new datasets that are important to MORPC’s work and to the region.
 - 4.2.1 Regularly survey local governments and other partners to identify new data needs.

 - Goal 5 MORPC will advance regional digital equity & broadband infrastructure development efforts that work to provide connectivity and technology to all Central Ohio residents.
 - 5.1.2 Improve mapping of broadband coverage across the Central Ohio region.
 - 5.1.3 Support projects and funding that bring broadband to unserved and underserved areas (especially rural and low-income urban areas).
 - 5.3 Build capacity and collaboration in Central Ohio to address digital equity needs.
- Member Williams expressed interest in Goal 5 and asked if this is work that has already been done, or if this is work that still needs to be done. Aaron Schill noted that MORPC and the Columbus Metropolitan Library are co-chairs of the Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition. Their framework for Franklin County will be a good start toward a regional plan. If the RDAC forms a Working Group to address this priority, that Working Group would create a plan for MORPC. Chair Ebersole noted that there is a need for a strategic approach for Goal 5, and that Goal 5 also incorporates aspects of goal 6. Member Oliver agreed that there is a strong alignment between Goals 5 and 6.
- 6.2.2 Research best practices on making data resources accessible to audiences with low data literacy.
 - 6.2.4 Create community partnerships to provide free/reduced cost data and mapping services to underserved populations.
 - 6.2.5 Utilize MORPC's data resources to understand and address social equity issues in Central Ohio (e.g., income disparity, housing affordability, etc.).
 - 6.3.2 Develop guidance to help local governments understand and evaluate biases that exist in data.

The implicit bias noted in Objective 6.3 refers to algorithmic bias in the processing of data and bias in collecting/analyzing data.

Aaron noted that work on some priorities is already in process, and asked Members if there was another direction to take with these in-process items. No reply from Members.

Member Drummond noted that some of the priorities serve multiple goals. MORPC staff hopes to crosswalk as many of these priorities as possible. If the Committee does not prioritize an item at this time, that does not mean the goal/objective will sit for two years without being addressed.

Approve New Priority Projects

Members voted on which priorities to address. Results:

First Level Priorities

- 2.3 Establish a regional Data Day to promote data education and access throughout Central Ohio.
- 5.3 Build capacity and collaboration in Central Ohio to address digital equity needs.

Second Level Priorities

- 1.2.5 Provide guidance to local governments in the creation and management of open data resources.
- 1.3.5 Build partnerships with associations of Central Ohio data leaders, such as the Central Ohio CIO Forum, Columbus CDO Forum, Women in Analytics, and Black Tech Columbus
- 1.4.1 Develop best-practice case studies on how data can be used to make better policy decisions.
- 3.1.3 Compile best practices for data governance.
- 6.2.4 Create community partnerships to provide free/reduced cost data and mapping services to underserved populations.

Members agreed that some of the Second Level Priorities could be made a part of the First Level Priority groups (Data Day and Addressing Digital Equity/Broadband).

- Data Day, 2.3 Community Research Partners historically held an annual Data Conference, and many Members referenced that format to apply to the MORPC Data Day.
- Broadband, 5.3 MORPC is working diligently toward building capacity and collaboration for broadband and digital equity. This is a new area of work for MORPC, but MORPC is moving forward on this subject with vigor.
- 1.2.5 Provide guidance to local governments in the creation and management of open data resources.

This is ongoing, ad hoc work for MORPC, but no formal document or procedure exists.

- 1.3.5 Build partnerships with associations of Central Ohio data leaders, such as the Central Ohio CIO Forum, Columbus CDO Forum, Women in Analytics, and Black Tech Columbus

This is ongoing work for MORPC, but this would identify specific groups to intentionally pursue.

- 1.4.1 Develop best-practice case studies on how data can be used to make better policy decisions.

This type of work is being addressed by the Data Policy Needs Survey & Toolkit Working Group, but case studies have not been built.

- 3.1.3 Compile best practices for data governance.

This action item is similar to 1.2.5.

- 6.2.4 Create community partnerships to provide free/reduced cost data and mapping services to underserved populations.

MORPC provides a small amount of technical assistance to all MORPC members as part of their membership. MORPC does not have a set process to provide free or reduced cost services to low-income individuals or organizations. This action item would create a standardized approach.

Other Business / Next steps

Members agreed that MORPC Staff will refactor the identified priorities into two or three distinct areas of work and forward the outcomes to the Members. Staff will also propose working Groups. Staff and Members can then add other Actions Items to the Working Group scopes.

Adjourned at 11:08 am.