

# Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

## Remote Meeting

### Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

September 15, 2021, 2:30 pm

#### Members Present

Kate Bartter, OSU Sustainability Institute  
Andrew Biesterveld, COTA  
Vice-Chair Mayor Ben Kessler, City of Bexley  
Justin Milam, City of Upper Arlington  
Megan O'Callaghan, City of Dublin  
Kyle O'Keefe, SWACO  
Letty Schamp, City of Hilliard  
Chair Jim Schimmer, Franklin County  
Economic Development & Planning

Joshua Simon, Metro Parks  
Megha Sinha, NBBJ  
Alana Shockey, City of Columbus  
Dan Sowry, Ohio EPA  
Matt Stephens-Rich, The Electrification  
Coalition  
Carolyn Thurman, City of Westerville  
Eric Walli, Honda North America, Inc.  
Mayor Christie Ward, Village of Lockbourne

#### MORPC Staff Present

Kerstin Carr	Lynn Kaufman	Anna Oestreich	Liz Whelan-Jackson
Joe Garrity	Amanda McEldowney	Edwina Teye	Brandi Whetstone
Ethan Hug	William Murdock	Melinda Vonstein	Brooke White

#### **Called to Order at 2:32 pm.**

#### **Welcome – Jim Schimmer, Chair and Ben Kessler, Vice Chair**

Chair Schimmer, Vice-Chair Kessler, and Executive Director William Murdock [welcomed](#) new member Joshua Simon from Metro Parks.

#### **Policy Update – Joe Garrity, MORPC**

#### **Summit on Sustainability Update – Amanda McEldowney, MORPC**

#### **Regional Sustainability Agenda Target Setting (Action Item) – Liz Whelan-Jackson and Ethan Hug, MORPC**

MORPC staff suggested that the following metrics be used in the Regional Sustainability Agenda:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1.2 Increase Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Infrastructure<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a. Alternative Fuel Vehicle Adoption Rate</li><li>• b. Alternative Fuel Vehicle Stations</li></ul></li><li>• 1.3 Increase local Renewable Energy Generating Capacity</li><li>• 1.5 Reduce Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions</li><li>• 1.6 Increase the number of days with good Air Quality<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a. Percentage of good air quality days OZONE</li><li>• b. Percentage of good air quality days PM-2.5</li></ul></li><li>• 2.1 Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste per capita disposed in the landfill</li><li>• 2.2 Reduce per capita Water Consumption</li><li>• 2.3 Improve water quality in Central Ohio Watersheds</li><li>• 2.4 Increase the amount of land devoted to natural areas and ecosystem services</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3.3 Increase access to parks and regional trails<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a. Percent of Population near Central Ohio Greenways</li><li>• b. Percent of Population Near Parks</li></ul></li><li>• 3.4 Reduce household energy cost burden</li><li>• 3.5 Reduce the rate of elevated blood lead levels among children</li><li>• 4.1 Increase the number of businesses with established sustainability policies and practices</li><li>• 4.3 Increase availability of affordable housing options near transit or job centers</li></ul> |
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Member Milam moved to adopt the Regional Sustainability Targets, Member Ward seconded the motion, motion carried.

### **Working Group/Board Updates**

#### Sustainable2050 – Member Kessler

The Q3 membership meeting will be on September 17. The topic for this meeting is sustainable mobility, with a presentation on the Active Transportation Plan and regional trails, followed by a roundtable discussion.

#### Energy & Air Quality Working Group – Working Group Chair Matt Stephens-Rich

The Energy & Air Quality Working Group met on July 27 with a presentation from Tristan Rader of the Solar United Neighbors regarding programming. The next Working Group meeting will be on September 28.

#### Air Quality Monitoring Subcommittee

PurpleAir particulate matter monitors are being calibrated against Ohio EPA regulatory grade particulate matter data and then installed across the community.

#### Central Ohio Greenways Board – Board Chair Letty Schamp

The Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Board will meet on September 22, 2021. Agenda items will include the RAPID 5 visioning effort and Working Group activities.

#### Trail Development Working Group

The Group is exploring new trail count equipment and has developed a pilot program to test new Eco Counter equipment with the City of Columbus.

#### Marketing & Communications Working Group

The Group has partnered with Experience Columbus to develop a passport program to encourage use to trails. The Group will also advise MORPC's Trail Town Planning effort.

#### Operations & Access Working Group

The Group is focused on developing winter trail maintenance guidelines.

#### Partnership Working Group

The Group recently finalized an Impact of Trails Report, which estimates a return on investment for the Regional Trail Vision.

#### Sustaining Scioto Board – Board Chair Kristin Atha

The Board met in August with a presentation from LuAnn Dahlman of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration on the U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit. The Board will meet again on October 27.

#### Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team

The Team met in July with a presentation from Jedediah Stinner of USDA-ARS Soil Drainage Research Unit. The Team is in the final stage of deployment of the social science survey among the Upper Scioto River watershed counties.

#### **Rapid 5** – Kerstin Carr, MORPC

**Adjourned at 4:00 pm.**