

# CORPO QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Mark Forrest, Chair   Jeff Harris, Vice Chair   Loudan Klein, Secretary

October 2019

CORPO addresses the unique transportation planning needs of each member county. This newsletter outlines products, services, news and events CORPO is providing its member counties.

## SUBCOMMITTEE / RURAL CONSULTATION

Traditionally, ODOT has engaged with non-metropolitan area officials to develop the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), plans, studies, project selection and funding through the rural consultation process. ODOT continued this process but did so via CORPO's member county subcommittee meetings. CORPO held the seven rural consultation meetings in September and October. Any comments related to the TIP can be directed to [mborger@morpc.org](mailto:mborger@morpc.org).

## RTPO DESIGNATION

ODOT has been coordinating with the DeWine administration and on October 9th, 2019 Governor DeWine officially designated CORPO as the state's sixth Rural Transportation Planning Organization!



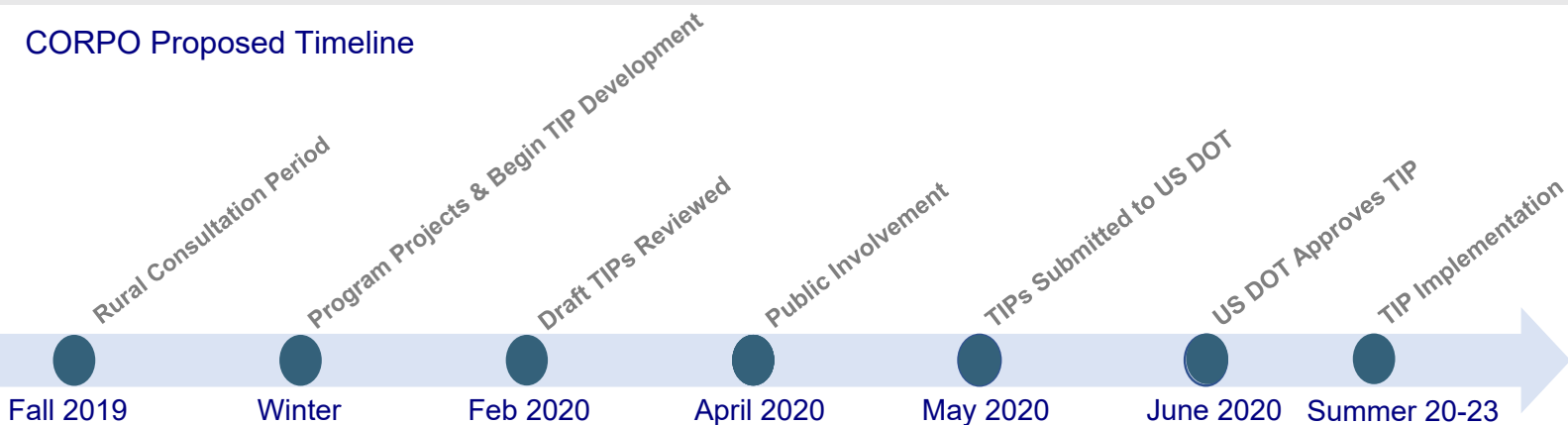
## WHAT'S NEXT?

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) related tasks will continue over the next year. In the meantime, CORPO staff will be working on planning tasks outlined in the CORPO Planning Work Program (PWP), including condition reports, safety planning and active transportation initiatives.

## CORPO COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next CORPO committee meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Jan. 6, 2020 at MORPC. Proposed changes to the bylaws to standardize future CORPO Committee meetings as well as the TIP amendment process will be on the agenda. Email [mborger@morpc.org](mailto:mborger@morpc.org) with agenda suggestions.

### CORPO Proposed Timeline



[morpc.org/corpo](http://morpc.org/corpo)

Fairfield, Knox, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway & Union Counties

## PROJECT UPDATE- SR 309 OVERPASS OPEN TO PUBLIC

State and local Marion County officials cut the ribbon on the newly constructed SR 309 overpass, east of Pole Lane Road in mid-September. The project will ease traffic and safety concerns in the area, as the bridge carries traffic over a railroad spur that services the Marion Industrial Center's intermodal facility. This project was a topic of discussion in early CORPO subcommittee meetings.

## IMPORTANT NEWS AND EVENTS

### OHIO'S RESEARCH INITIATIVE FOR LOCALS (ORIL)

Ohio's Research Initiative for Locals (ORIL) is Ohio's research program for local public agencies. The purpose of ORIL is to provide research support for local agencies to address problems specific to the local roadway system. ORIL is now accepting research ideas for consideration for the upcoming FY 2021 program. The deadline to submit ideas is Nov. 1, 2019. Please visit <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/groups/ORIL/Pages/default.aspx> for more information.

### RURAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

On October 1st, CORPO submitted a proposal to ODOT requesting additional planning funds. These funds would be used to complete additional proposed planning activities within the CORPO region, which were identified through regularly scheduled CORPO subcommittee meetings and rural member workshops held earlier this summer. Activities include corridor, feasibility, workforce and broadband access studies as well as implementation assistance for complete streets policy.

### OHIO TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (OTP2)

CORPO staff assisted the Union County commissioners with their application to the OTP2 grant, which was submitted on Sept. 25. Awarded grant funds would be utilized to conduct a feasibility study to determine the practicability and structure of a public transit system in Union County.

### OHIO GAS ACCESS PARTNERSHIP (OGAP)

Community stakeholders in the CORPO territory, specifically those in Madison and Union Counties, have been working collaboratively to increase natural gas capacity to support continued growth and economic development. The effort, also identified as a regional priority through the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) initiative, has led to the creation of the Ohio Gas Access Partnership (OGAP). OGAP(501(c)6) is a coalition of businesses and communities seeking to raise the profile of the issue. In order to support the CAP priority and CORPO members, MORPC has joined the coalition and has been helping to provide data and information to document the growth and needs for the area. For more information, visit [www.ohiogap.org](http://www.ohiogap.org).

### RURAL OPPORTUNITIES

On October 8th the USDOT announced the launch of the Rural Opportunities to use Transportation for Economic Success Initiative (ROUTES). The initiative will attempt to address disparities in rural transportation infrastructure specifically related to safety and economic competitiveness. Visit: [www.transportation.gov/rural](http://www.transportation.gov/rural)

## FUNDING APPLICATIONS AND UPDATES

- Rural Action, an Ohio organization, will receive a piece of \$59 million announced by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for new and innovative advanced vehicle technologies research. They will receive \$900,524 for a project increasing mobility services in rural areas, titled the Rural Open Access Development Mobility Action Plan.
- ODOT *Show me the Money* event is scheduled for Dec. 3 at ODOT central office. Please visit <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/ltap> for more information.

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