



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
www.morpc.org

**NOTICE OF A MEETING  
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
111 Liberty St., #100, Columbus, OH 43215  
June 5, 2024, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

- 2:30 p.m.**      **Welcome and Introductions** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*
- 2:35 p.m.**      **MORPC Updates** – *Brandi Whetstone, Interim Sr. Director of Planning, MORPC*
- Regional Water Study & Riverfest
  - Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator Grant
  - LinkUS
  - Policy Update
- 2:50 p.m.**      **2024 Summit on Sustainability** – *Brandi Whetstone, MORPC*
- 3:05 p.m.**      **Ohio State University's UN Climate Conference (COP) Study Abroad Program** –  
*Drs. Nick Breyfogle and Bart Elmore, Environmental History*
- 3:25 p.m.**      **Board and Working Group Reports**
- Energy & Air Quality Working Group – Matt Stephens-Rich
  - Central Ohio Greenways Board – Mike Andrako
  - Sustainable2050 – Laurie Jadwin
  - Sustaining Scioto Board – Glenn Marzluf
- 3:45 p.m.**      **New Business and Member Updates** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*
- Regional Sustainability Agenda
  - Next meeting
- 4:00 p.m.**      **Meeting Adjourned**

**Please notify Lynn Kaufman at 614-233-4189 or [lkaufman@morpc.org](mailto:lkaufman@morpc.org) to confirm your attendance at this meeting or if you require special assistance.**

**The next Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting will be on September 18, 2024, at 2:30 p.m.**

**William Murdock, AICP**  
*Executive Director*

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
*Chair*

**Michelle Crandall**  
*Vice Chair*

**Ben Kessler**  
*Secretary*

**MORPC Sustainability Advisory Committee  
Board & Working Group Report  
June 5, 2024**



**Central Ohio Greenways Board (Chair: Mike Andrako, P.E.)**

*Next meeting: July 17, 2024*

The COG Board met on May 15 to hear project updates and Working Group progress.

The COG Trail Towns Working Group met on May 13 to discuss the best way to implement the COG Trail Town Framework and the COG Wayfinding Strategy. The group proposed a Trail Town Ambassador Training Program and informed a scope of work to develop the program for inclusion in the City of Columbus's ATIIP grant proposal due in June.

The Outdoor Trails Pass partnership with Experience Columbus was originally launched in 2020 and has been upgraded annually with new features every Spring. In 2023, we saw a significant increase in the number of people interacting with and using it due to the inclusion of curated trail experience itineraries. This Spring the curated experiences will be further enhanced through a partnership with local tourism groups, who have submitted trail itineraries that include stops at trail side businesses, restaurants, and cultural amenities. These new curated experiences were highlighted in the 2024 Outdoor Trails Pass, launched on Celebrate Trails Day, April 27. Experience Columbus reported over 1,000 new Outdoor Trails Pass Sign-ups in April. This is significantly more than we typically see in one month.

The COG Mapping Natural Assets Steering Committee kicked-off their project on April 25. This project will summarize and analyze environmental data related to watershed quality. This data will be used to inform development decisions, conservation efforts, and outdoor recreational access.

The COG Wayfinding Strategy is complete and available on the COG Website. The report includes not only signage and map recommendations but all strategies to integrate Trail Towns, Public Art, and Placemaking concepts into the regional wayfinding effort.

MORPC hosted a COG Forum on March 20 bringing together nearly 100 trail planners, advocates, elected officials, and government staff to learn about regional projects that are going beyond basic trail infrastructure to provide an enjoyable and comfortable trail user experience. The next Forum will take place in the summer and feature a kayaking adventure. The date is still to be determined.

MORPC is partnering with the City of Columbus on an Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) application due in June. The proposal will address connections from nearby neighborhoods to downtown and include a trail towns component.



**Energy & Air Quality Working Group (Chair: Matt Stephens-Rich)**  
*Next meeting: August 28, 2024*

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group (EAQWG) held its second meeting of the year on May 22. This meeting featured updates on air quality and energy programming and opportunities, as well as featuring a summary of and discussion on the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5) by Karina Peggau, Sr. Sustainability Planner with MORPC. The EAQWG is still looking for candidates to serve as the Chair and Vice-Chair. If interested in leading the EAQWG, please email Brian Filiatraut, Energy and Sustainability Program Manager, at [bfiliatraut@morpc.org](mailto:bfiliatraut@morpc.org). The next EAQWG meeting is on August 28 from 1 – 2:30 pm.

MORPC was awarded \$2 million from the US DOT Federal Highway Administration’s Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator (EVC-RAA) Program focused on repairing or replacing broken or non-operational EV charging ports throughout the 15-county region. MORPC will soon issue an RFP looking for vendors to complete the work.

MORPC and our partners met with US DOT for feedback on our Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant proposal, which was not selected for funding. The proposal, titled MORE EVs, was highly recommended by the reviewers across all grant criteria and the team was encouraged to resubmit the proposal during the next round. They anticipate the next NOFO to post in June, and MORPC will be reaching out to our partners to reaffirm their support and participation in the next round of funding.

This year’s Columbus Area Residential Solar Co-op kicked off in May and runs through August 26. The co-op is a collaborative effort led by the City of Columbus and Solar United Neighbors with MORPC, IMPACT Community Action, and Green Columbus providing support. If interested in learning more or registering, please visit: [solarunitedneighbors.org/columbus](http://solarunitedneighbors.org/columbus).

Air Quality:

Ozone monitoring season began on March 1 and MORPC has not issued any Air Quality Alerts in 2024, as of May 29. The American Lung Association’s 2024 State of the Air report noted that four California cities and one Oregon city reported the highest particulate matter pollution in the nation; these results stand in contrast to the IQ Air report that stated Columbus was the most polluted city in the U.S. In fact, Columbus did not appear in the State of the Air’s list of most polluted cities, with Franklin County receiving a “B” grade for particulate matter pollution.

The team continues to move forward the US EPA funded air monitoring project working in partnership with Franklin County Public Health. The team completed the collocation of 40 PurpleAir sensors with Ohio EPA monitors to test and validate their performance before placing them in the community. Dr. Huyen Le, professor at OSU and Project Advisory Committee member, agreed to lend us additional sensors for the project's duration; we now have an additional 23 sensors to add to our network. Additionally, MORPC’s Air Quality Awareness Program was featured at ODOT’s Transportation and Environment Sustainability Conference on April 23. Contact Mauro (JR) Diaz-Hernandez for more information about the air quality program at [mdiazhernandez@morpc.org](mailto:mdiazhernandez@morpc.org).



## **Sustainable2050**

*Next meeting: August 15, 2024*

MORPC hosted the quarterly Sustainable2050 meeting on May 9, with updates on MORPC's planning and sustainability programs, and a featured presentation from Níel Jurist, MORPC's Sr. Director of Communications and Engagement. Her presentation, "How Local Governments Can Combat Disinformation", included statistics about common sources of consumer information, the impacts of disinformation, and proactive strategies for combating disinformation. MORPC will be hosting the annual social media summit in August where presenters will provide more information on identifying and addressing disinformation.

Sustainable2050 membership is open to all MORPC members and current Sustainable2050 members interested in earning their tier status certification should contact Brandi Whetstone at [bwhetstone@morpc.org](mailto:bwhetstone@morpc.org). A certification workbook will be provided, and a kick-off meeting is encouraged to review the process. The next deadline to be considered for tier status certification is August 21. The next Sustainable2050 meeting will take place on August 15, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Del-Co Water, featuring their floating solar panels (floatovoltaics).



## **Sustaining Scioto Board (Chair: Glenn Marzluf)**

*Next Meeting: June 26, 2024*

The Board met on April 24, where Apoorva Bajaj presented on Climavision and their weather radar network which serves to fill in the gaps in radar coverage and provides more precise, hyper-local weather forecasts with timely information about local weather impacts. They have installed 26 weather radars in various states, and they are currently working on locating up to three radars in Ohio before the end of the year. Most notably is the radar planned for Zanesville which will cover the Scioto Watershed. This is timely given the ongoing regional water study and the complimentary dataset the radar will provide. The Board will meet again on June 26.

The Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team met on May 16. Edwina Teye provided an overview of the Farming for Clean Water Communications Plan completed in April. The Team is planning to work in partnership with local water utility providers to organize a field day in the fall based on the recommendations from the Communications Plan. Their next meeting is on July 18.

MORPC and Ohio EPA hosted a Regional Water Study kick-off webinar on April 24 which generated significant interest with 150 in attendance. Tiffani Kavalec with Ohio EPA provided an overview of the consultant selection process, timelines, and workflow of the study. Other speakers from ODNR and MORPC presented datasets that they will include in the study, including future population and household growth, employment, protected spaces, and green spaces. The next webinar will take place in June or July. If you would like to receive invitations for future webinars, please contact Edwina Teye at [eteye@morpc.org](mailto:eteye@morpc.org).

MORPC and the consultant team, Hazen & Sawyer, finalized the agreement for MORPC to provide data, mapping, and stakeholder engagement support for the Regional Water Study, with services extending through the end of the 2024 calendar year.