

**MEETING NOTES**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY MOBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

111 LIBERTY STREET, SUITE 100

COLUMBUS, OH 43215

*BOARD ROOM CONFERENCE ROOM*

**January 8th, 2024**

**10:00 AM**

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Updates**
   1. The first Senior Services Roundtable of the year will be held at the Glenwood Rec Center (1888 Fairmont Ave, Columbus 43223) January 17th at 1 pm. These monthly meetings are a great way to share information about senior services as well as network with fellow senior services professionals. The January 17th meeting will include a presentation by Emma Strange about the Mobility Planning Initiative and Mobility Updates.
   2. Carfit is looking for technicians! At CarFit events, trained volunteers, referred to as Technicians, go through a 12-point checklist with drivers to ensure they fit safely and comfortably in their vehicle. There will be a Technician training on 04/22/2023 at the CRC Annex Building, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Attendance at an event is required to complete Technician training. There will be an event held after this training at the Whetstone Branch Library from 1:30-3. A two-hour online module needs to be completed prior to the in-person training. For questions, please contact Angie Wise, awise@coaaa.org. To register for the Technician training, please visit https://car-fit.org/ and select Find a training.
3. **LinkUS Presentation by Maria Schaper**
   1. Maria Schaper, Associate Director, Transportation Planning at MORPC, came to discuss LinkUS with the FCMAC group. See notes and highlights from the presentation below. Slides are included in follow up email.
   2. Why LinkUS?
      1. Regional population is expected to grow by over 725,000 by 2050
      2. The median home sale price has increasted 68% by 2020 and the average household in Franklin County spends more than $12,000 a year on transportation. 40,000 Franklin County households lack access to a personal vehicle.
   3. What is LinkUS?
      1. LinkUS is a mobility initiative that would affect COTA’s service area (mostly Franklin County). It is a partnership between COTA, MORPC, Franklin County, and the City of Columbus. This initiative comes out of work done on insight2050 and the Corridors Concept.
      2. Improved and increased transit: Adding 5 bus rapid transit lanes and increasing COTA’s current services by 45%. Existing bus routes would be improved with more frequency and longer hours. Bus rapid transit is high-capacity transportation with premium features such as multi-door boarding, paying before boarding, covered bus shelters and more.
         1. 3 out of 5 bus rapid corridors envisioned for LinkUS are currently in design stages.
            1. The West Broad Corridor is the most advanced of these. This route would go from downtown to the west, almost to the county line.
            2. East Main Corridor: From downtown to Reynoldsburg
            3. Northwest Corridor: From downtown along Olentangy Rd to Bethel and to Dublin
         2. Why Bus Rapid Transit and not light rail? Due to cost feasibility and current density, BRT was found to be the best fit.
      3. Safer and expanded bike and pedestrian paths and walkable communities: Most transit trips start as biking or walking trips; it is important we get people to their bus stop safely and comfortably.
         1. 27.5% of the funds gained by a sales tax increase will go towards what is called “transit supportive infrastructure,” commonly referred to as TSI. Conservatively, this would mean $60 million dollars a year dedicated to TSI.
            1. What is TSI? Pedestrian improvements within a 1-mile radius of a fixed route bus stop and bike improvements within a 3-mile radius of a fixed route bus stop. Examples include trails, bike lanes, sidewalks, stop amenities etc.
            2. How does a community get TSI money for a project? Partners emphasized that they did not want a competitive process for TSI projects. In response, MORPC established a committee system (Refer to slides).
4. **Ohio Loves Transit Week Discussion**
   1. Ohio Loves Transit Week is coming up! February 11th- 17th is Ohio Loves Transit Week for 2024.
   2. The next FCMAC meeting will be a “field trip” taking the bus to review one of the bus stops enhanced by COTA based on feedback from the Age Friendly Innovation Center. There will still be a virtual portion, but it will be shortened to allow time for the bus ride. More info to come.

Next Meeting: 10am Monday, February 12th