



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

NOTICE OF A MEETING

COMMISSION MEETING
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
111 LIBERTY STREET, SUITE 100
COLUMBUS, OH 43215
TOWN HALL

Thursday, August 8, 2024
1:30 p.m.

Remote Option

To join by video and see any screen sharing, click on “Join Microsoft Teams Meeting” below. You do not need to have Microsoft Teams for the link to work.

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 245 596 555 554

Passcode: aRBwKF

To participate by phone, use the conference call information below.

[+1 614-362-3056](#) Columbus

[\(888\) 596-2819](#) United States (Toll-free)

Phone conference ID: 739 682 534#

AGENDA

1:30 p.m.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin, MORPC Chair)
 - **Auditor of State Award with Distinction** – Scott Brown, Regional Liaison, Ohio Auditor of State’s Office
 - **Nominating Committee** – Michelle Crandall (City of Hilliard), MORPC Vice Chair
 - **Election of Executive Committee Vacancies** – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

- **Recognition of Guests and New Members** – Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer
- **Recognition of Nick Gill** – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair
- 3. **Executive Director's Report** – William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director
 - **Quarterly Membership Update** – Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer
- 4. **Economic Development** – Padmini Roy-Dixon, MORPC Economic Development Director & Regional Innovation Officer

Committees

5. **Regional Data Advisory Committee** – Christina Drummond (City of Powell), Regional Data Advisory Committee Chair
6. **Regional Policy Roundtable** – Lourdes Barroso de Padilla (City of Columbus), Regional Policy Roundtable Chair
 - **Legislative Update** – Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter and Joseph Garrity, MORPC Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations
7. **Sustainability Advisory Committee** – Laurie Jadwin (City of Gahanna), Sustainability Advisory Committee Vice Chair
8. **Transportation Policy Committee (MPO)** – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair
 - a. **Call to Order** – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair
 - b. **Metropolitan Planning Organization Report** – Nick Gill, MORPC Transportation Study Director
 - c. **Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda**
 - 1) Approval of **June 13, 2024 Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**

- d. **Adjourn Transportation Policy Committee (MPO)** – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair

9. Commission Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of **June 13, 2024 Commission Meeting Minutes**
- b. Approval of Actions of the Transportation Policy Committee

10. Other Business

2:45 p.m.

- 11. Adjourn** – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair

PLEASE NOTIFY SHARI SAUNDERS AT 614-233-4169 OR ssaunders@morpc.org IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.

The next Commission Meeting is
Thursday, September 12, 2024, 1:30 p.m.
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215

PARKING AND TRANSIT: When parking in MORPC's parking lot, please be sure to park in a MORPC visitor space or in a space marked with a yellow "M". Handicapped parking is available at the side of MORPC's building. On Commission meeting days only, additional parking is available in numbered spaces toward the west end of the parking lot. Electric vehicle charging stations are available for MORPC guests.

Indoor bike parking is available for MORPC guests.

MORPC is accessible by COTA BUS. The closest bus stop to MORPC southbound is High Street & W. Blenkner Street. Buses that accommodate this stop are the 5 - West 5th Ave./Refugee, and the 8 - Karl/S. High/Parsons. The closest stop to MORPC northbound is High Street & E. Hoster Street. Buses that accommodate this stop are the 5 - West 5th Avenue/Refugee and the 8 - Karl/S. High/Parsons. Accessible from the Courthouse stop by a quick walk are COTA lines 1, 2, 4, and CMAX.



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Memorandum

TO: Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Executive Committee, Officers, and Board Members

FROM: Ben Kessler, Nominating Committee Chair

DATE: July 10, 2024

SUBJECT: Nomination of Executive Committee Members

Background:

In accordance with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Articles of Agreement, the Nominating Committee made recommendations to fill Executive Committee positions which were approved by the Commission on March 14, 2024. At the time one seat was identified as vacated due to a job change with a replacement to be determined at a later date. Since March 14, 2024, an additional seat became open due to a retirement.

The Nominating Committee Members:

As announced at the June 13, 2024 Commission meeting, Commission Chair Chris Amorose Groomes appointed the following five members to the Nominating Committee to recommend candidates for two mid-year vacancies on the Executive Committee:

- Ben Kessler, Committee Chair, City of Bexley
- Jeff Benton, Delaware County
- Kris Long, Franklin County
- Mike Schadek, City of Columbus
- Ben Collins, Plain Township

Review of Current Members of Executive Committee:

Several Executive Committee positions do not have expiring terms this year and therefore require no action by the Nominating Committee. For information, these are listed below:

- 1) **Immediate Past Chair:** Vacant
- 2) **In second year of current two-year Executive Committee Term (expires 2025)**
 - a) Jeff Benton (2019), Commission, Delaware County
 - b) Ben Kessler (2023), Mayor, City of Bexley
 - c) Kristen Atha (2023), Director of Public Utilities, City of Columbus

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

3) In current one-year Executive Committee Terms (expires 2025)

- a) Joe Stefanov (2008), Chair of Benefits & Compensation, City Manager, City of New Albany
- b) Chris Amorose Groomes (2018), Mayor, City of Dublin

4) In first year of two-year Executive Committee Term (expires 2026):

- a) Michelle Crandall (2020), City Manager, City of Hilliard
- b) Kris Long (2024), Deputy County Administrator, Franklin County
- c) LaGrieta Acheampong, (2024), Senior Budget Officer, Franklin County
- d) Laurie Jadwin, (2024), Mayor, City of Gahanna
- e) Matthew Starr, (2024), Mayor, City of Mount Vernon
- f) Hayley Lupton, (2024), Administrator, Village of Plain City

Nominating Committee Recommendations:

The 2024 Nominating Committee convened on July 10, 2024, to discuss and make the following recommendations for two mid-year openings.

The nominees for Executive Committee are:

1) For remainder of one-year Executive Committee Terms (expires 2025)

James Jewell (2024), Administrator, Prairie Township

2) For remainder of two-year Executive Committee Terms (expires 2026)

Lourdes Barroso de Padilla (2024) City Council, City of Columbus

Notes:

The year after each name refers to the first year of the member's current service on the Executive Committee. For example, Pat Smith (2017) means that Pat Smith's first term began in 2017 and they have served continuously since then.

Per the bylaws, Executive Committee members may serve up to three consecutive two-year terms. One-year extensions are available if serving as an officer or committee chair.



MORPC Monthly Agency Report
June/July 2024

Senior Directors

Parag Agrawal pagrawal@morpc.org
Dave Dixon ddixon@morpc.org
Joe Garrity kgarrity@morpc.org
Shawn Hufstедler shufstедler@morpc.org

Ralonda Hampton rhampton@morpc.org
Brandi Whetstone bwhetstone@morpc.org
Robert Williams rwilliams@morpc.org

CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT FOR PROSPERITY

208 Planning and Areawide Designation Process

MORPC formed an ad hoc committee to review and make recommendations on the agency's proposed approach to managing modifications to Facility Planning Area boundaries and dispute resolution related to sewer service. This approach aims to offer clear guidance and a structured framework for fostering dialogue among local authorities to achieve mutually agreed upon solutions. The outcomes of the committee's deliberations will enhance MORPC's eligibility for designation as an Areawide Planning Agency by Ohio EPA.

Regional Water Study

MORPC and Ohio EPA are hosting the second Regional Water Study webinar on August 28, 3:15 p.m. Tiffani Kavalec, Policy Director with Ohio EPA, will provide the overall status of the project including topics such as data collection and mapping, regionalization, and cost analysis. Please send requests for webinar invites, comprehensive planning updates and questions to the appropriate email address below.

- Local Planning Updates – dataandmaps@morpc.org
- Webinar Invitations – eteve@morpc.org
- Project Manager – Tiffani Kavalec, Policy Director, Ohio EPA, Tiffani.Kavalec@epa.ohio.gov

Team Members are supporting the Central Ohio Water Study by producing household, population, and jobs forecasts for quarter-mile grids for the 15-county region as well as grid-level forecasts of land cover.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

MORPC's DE&I Committee reviewed and discussed the fourth quarter and potential diversity training, along with employee activities.

Team Members attended the Central Ohio Diversity Consortium (CODC) retreat and brainstormed potential ways to partner with MORPC and members in 2025.

Team Members attended the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) annual scholarship gala. MORPC was recognized as a valued member and a local student received a scholarship in MORPC's honor.

Advocacy

Team Members gave presentations on Air Quality to the office of Columbus City Councilmember Chris Wyche on June 28.

Gohio Commute

MORPC finalized a new contract with Commute with Enterprise to provide vanpool services through December 2027. Team Members gave presentations at various chambers of commerce around the region to educate about the Gohio Commute TDM services for their members.

MORPC sent a digital marketing packet to several Central Ohio businesses to promote the upcoming Statewide Ohio Commuter challenge.

The Gohio Commute 'Make Your Miles Matter' Spring Challenge ended. The 1,431 commuters who logged information saved \$6,370 dollars, reduced 9,151 pounds of CO2, and commuted 15,475 miles. A new challenge started. MORPC looks forward to seeing what our commuters accomplish in the 'Make Your Miles Matter' Summer Challenge that runs through September.

Active Transportation Planning

The next Active Transportation Committee meeting is August 28.

MORPC participated in stakeholder meetings for the development of Active Transportation Plans with the Cities of Gahanna and Grove City. The City of Gahanna is finalizing their plan, while the City of Grove City is kicking off the planning process.

Team Members are giving a Complete Streets presentation to the City of Columbus Council on July 26.

MORPC hosts virtual group viewings of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) monthly Professional Development webinars. The webinars are eligible for 1.0 hour of American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Certification Maintenance credit. Contact Jordan Petrov (jpetrov@morpc.org) if you are interested in attending any of the MORPC group viewings. The next webinar is Wednesday, August 21, on: "*Bike Comfort: Expanding our Understanding Through Data and Empathy.*"

Transportation Safety

Save the date for the 2024 Safe Streets Central Ohio Conference. MORPC is hosting the Regional Safety Forum on Thursday, September 26, at the Wigwam Event Center in Pickerington. Registration details and more information is available at: <https://www.morpc.org/event/ssco/#/>.

MORPC is participating in an initiative led by ODOT Central Office to develop a statewide context classification model that could potentially inform various roadway design decision-making procedures. The two working groups are in the process of developing a model and identifying current policies and programs that could benefit or be impacted by the use of such a model. Work should conclude by the end of 2024 and will be reviewed by the ODOT Executive Management team for implementation.

Team Members participated in the following safety committee meetings:

- Franklin County Safe Communities Coalition Meeting
- Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review Meetings
- OARC Transportation Safety Subcommittee Meeting
- Ohio Technical Records Coordination Committee Technical Council Meeting
- Central Ohio Alliance for Safe Transportation Meeting

Technical Assistance Program

An application window for the next cycle of the MORPC Technical Assistance (TA) Program launches in September. If your agency is interested in the TA Program and you have ideas or questions about potential services, please review the program [website](#), or contact Jordan Petrov at jpetrov@morpc.org.

The City Council of Delaware adopted *Travel Safe Delaware: An Action Plan for Safe Streets* on June 24. The comprehensive Safety Action Plan was developed through the MORPC Technical Assistance Program in collaboration with City of Delaware staff and key stakeholders. Delaware City Council committed to a target of reducing traffic related fatalities and serious injuries by five percent each year, with a long-term vision to reach zero fatalities and serious injuries.

MORPC held a second community workshop on May 20 with Jefferson Township leadership, staff, residents, and agency partners to share the public survey and geospatial analysis results; and refine the Township's active transportation project priorities. Moving forward, a close-out meeting will be hosted virtually with agency partners on August 8 to share updated project priorities and discuss potential opportunities for cross-jurisdictional coordination on project funding and implementation. The study and its Implemented Plan will be completed in mid-September, when MORPC will also present the plan to the Township's Board of Trustees.

Team Members conducted a walk audit with Franklin Township staff and agency partners at Franklin County and the City of Columbus. The audit focused on the area around Eureka Avenue and Briggs Road. The audit sought to identify opportunities for enhanced pedestrian infrastructure, traffic calming, and other slow streets interventions. A walk audit assessment report will summarize the audit. A final Implementation Plan will recommend next steps toward funding and implementing safer pedestrian environments in the Township where there are currently no sidewalks available.

Central Ohio Greenways (COG)

The COG Board met July 17 to hear project updates, Working Group Progress, and advise on summer COG intern research projects.

- The COG Trail Towns Working Group met July 15 to advise on COG Intern Katy McMahon's research on social isolation, to discuss COG forum agenda items, and next steps for Trail Town Implementation. The group is seeking approximately \$10,000 for a COG Trail Town Branding project.
- The Outdoor Trails Pass partnership with Experience Columbus continues to be a popular program with hundreds of new sign-ups and check-ins monthly.
- The COG Trail Closure and Detours Steering Committee met twice to discuss recommendations for designing and marketing trail detours. The group will meet again to finalize the recommendations.
- The COG Mapping Natural Assets Steering Committee technical working groups are meeting throughout July and August to guide the data indexing process. The project is on track for a fall completion.

MORPC launched the Greenways Planning Studio (GPS) in partnership with RAPID5 in July. GPS supports RAPID5 in technical assistance, strategic planning, and regional collaboration. GPS is interested in collaborations with local government partners to expand greenway planning beyond trails - conservation, public access, and connectivity of all greenspaces.

The COG Wayfinding Strategy is a featured topic at the upcoming Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) conference in Detroit and the Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference (OTEC) in Columbus. Team Members are available to share the results of the COG Wayfinding Strategy to MORPC members and other implementation partners.

Register [here](#) if interested in attending the August 27 COG Trail Forum followed by a kayaking adventure.

COG is sponsoring the September 12-14 Buckeye Trail Association's Buckeye Trail Fest. COG is supporting Green Columbus' ArborFest at Whetstone Park this fall.

Central Ohio Blueways

The Central Ohio Blueways Steering Committee Working Groups began meeting to set S.M.A.R.T. goals to guide their work for the remainder of 2024 and 2025. Potential projects include water trail designation, the onion bag project, a signage study, and a hazard removal consortium. The Steering Committee meets in August to discuss potential projects.

Central Ohio Blueways continues to work with regional partners on a large-scale river clean-up effort. The event, tentatively scheduled for October 13, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., focuses on eight total locations: two locations each on the Scioto River, Olentangy River, Alum Creek, and Big Walnut Creek. Partners include Keep Columbus Beautiful, Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks, the City of Columbus, FLOW, FACT, Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District, and RAPID5.

Regional Housing Strategy

Team Members continue to promote the identification of barriers and solutions related to housing for members through connections with MORPC's Community Assistance Programs and by giving presentations to councils and other organizations. MORPC is working on identifying ways to expand upon the previous work of the Regional Housing Strategy.

MORPC continues to work with the National Association of Regional Councils' Housing Working Group on discussions surrounding the housing crisis to learn how peer organizations are approaching housing issues.

Are you interested in a housing/growth workshop for your community's elected officials, staff, or community leaders? MORPC is accepting requests for presentations and workshops. Our Team will work with you to design the agenda, including recommended speakers and learning objectives. Contact Jonathan Miller for more information (JMiller@morpc.org).

Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC)

A sub-committee of the SAC kicks off in August to begin updating the Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA). The RSA includes goals and measurable objectives to align members and regional stakeholders around common sustainability goals, as well as to provide the framework for Sustainable2050 membership and tier status certification. For more information, please contact Brandi Whetstone, bwhetstone@morpc.org.

Sustainable2050

The next Sustainable2050 meeting is August 15, 9:30–11:30 a.m. at Del-Co Water, featuring a tour of Ohio's first floating solar installation. 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. MORPC will provide a certification workbook and encourages a kick-off meeting to review the process. Once a completed workbook is submitted and reviewed by the MORPC Team, the proposed certification is presented to the SAC for approval at their quarterly meetings. The next deadline for workbook submissions is August 21.

Sustaining Scioto Board

The Sustaining Scioto Board met June 25 and heard a presentation on MORPC's forecasting products and how they are developed. Notable among them are the County Controls - a set of county-level forecasts covering the 15-county MORPC region, and the Traffic Analysis Zone forecasts - used for transportation planning covering the ten-county region. MORPC's latest forecast can be accessed [here](#). The Board also heard about the newly formed Scioto Watershed Action Group (SWAG) from Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District. SWAG will partner with existing watershed groups to address environmental issues within the major waterways in the region. The next Board meeting is August 26.

Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team

The Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team met July 18 and discussed a potential grant award from the Natural Resources Conservation Service to American Farmland Trust on the STEP (spreadsheet tool for estimating pollutant load) tool used to evaluate environmental practices on agricultural lands that impact water quality. The Team brainstormed potential matching funds sources.

The Team is planning two outreach events focused on highlighting the work of the Sustaining Scioto Board along with ongoing regional water priorities including the 15-County Regional Water Study. The focus is on informing farmers and elected officials within the MORPC service area. Members continue to identify programming areas based on the recommendations of the recently completed Communication Plan. The next meeting is September 19.

Energy & Air Quality

The next Energy & Air Quality Working Group meeting is August 28. The Working Group continues to seek candidates to serve as the Chair and Vice-Chair. If interested, please email Brian Filiatraut at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

MORPC will soon issue an RFP looking for EV vendors to repair and or replace broken or non-operational EV charging ports throughout the 15-county region as part of MORPC's \$2 million award from the U.S. DOT-FHWA's Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator (EVC-RAA) Program. Please reach out to Brian Filiatraut at bfiliatraut@morpc.org for more information.

The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Strategy Subcommittee met July 16 as Sustainable Columbus, MORPC, and other stakeholders develop the next deliverable - the Central Ohio Climate Action Plan (COCAP). The COCAP aims to create a unified approach to regional planning and pollution mitigation actions. We highly encourage all residents who reside within the 10-county Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)—Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Hocking, Licking, Madison, Morrow, Perry, Pickaway, and Union Counties—to complete the [COCAP Community Priorities Survey](#). It is open for responses through August and September. For more information on the COCAP, visit the [COCAP website](#).

This year's Columbus Area Residential Solar Co-op is open until August 26 for interested homeowners who are considering solar. 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. Residents who are interested in solar and live in Franklin County and the surrounding areas can join with other residents in the region to secure better pricing. If interested in learning more or registering, visit the [Solar United Neighbors website](#).

MORPC issued two Air Quality Alerts for the Columbus region, June 16 and 20. Ground-level ozone was the primary pollutant of concern on both days with levels reaching the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups on the national Air Quality Index (AQI) scale. 10TV interviewed MORPC Team Members about the first alert of the season.

Neighborhood Air Monitoring Project/U.S. EPA Project

Team Members continue to move forward with the U.S. EPA funded air monitoring project, working in partnership with Franklin County Public Health. MORPC began deploying the PurpleAir sensors into the community. The project team selected air quality modeling consultant Ramboll and expects work to start in early August.

Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC)

The RDAC met July 9. RDAC's focus in 2024 is on Workforce & Job Quality; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; Cyber Security; and Regional Data Coaching projects and initiatives. Two proposed MORPC member engagement events around cybersecurity and DEI were moved forward, tentatively planned for the Fall of 2024. The next RDAC meeting is October 1.

- Data Day Working Group: The Data Day Working Group continues to plan for Data Day 2025. The Group toured and is moving forward with having the event at Columbus State Community College's Workforce Development Building. The event space accommodates additional attendees, provides a more conducive space for networking, and is more centrally located for MORPC Member communities. An official call for proposals is anticipated at the beginning of September.
- The Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG): The next RIDG Steering Committee meeting is October 8. Upcoming general RIDG meetings are August 14 and November 13.
- The Regional Data Coaching Working Group: Based on feedback from RDAC, the Group decided to set up a LISTSERV to support necessary data coaching needs. The Group is also planning to host future pop-up events at different Columbus Metropolitan Library branches for community outreach.
- Workforce and Job Quality Working Group: The Working Group met June 20 and reviewed a landscape survey of data related to job quality. The Group met July 18 to review prior art and best practices for job quality assessment prepared by Results for America. The Working Group was accepted into the Results for America Workforce Fellowship, a free six-month program that includes monthly webinars, office hours with Results for America staff, and engagement with other organizations pursuing work related to job quality.
- DEI & Data Working Group: The DEI & Data Working Group met June 14 to further define proposed DEI event sessions, assign Working Group members to sessions, and begin work on event planning for Fall 2024.
- Cyber Security Working Group: The Cyber Security Working group met June 14 and continued developing a local leader oriented educational event and began discussing which cyber self-assessment(s) to leverage for post-event engagement with member community technical staff.

Data & Research Activities

Team Members continue developing the MORPC Insights platform, a web application whose purpose is to provide data-derived insights on a variety of topics at the regional, county, and community levels. Each insight is supported by data, visualizations, and expert commentary, and is eventually expected to feature content from trusted partners in addition to MORPC-produced content. Current efforts are focused on development of standards (e.g., visualization types, schemas, schema definition formats, configuration file formats) to ensure that the content is reproducible, updateable, and scalable.

Team Members are preparing data and documentation to support the Intel Area Study, resulting in an expansion of the travel demand model to ten counties.

The report overviewing the Leaders Listen: Housing Survey results is finalized and will soon be available on MORPC's website.

Team members produced county population estimates as of January 1, 2024. Historically, these were used to produce sub-county population estimates but were not released as a standalone data product. MORPC is releasing the latest estimates on the [Population Hub](#) in August.

DRIVE INVESTMENT

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

MORPC received notification in July of approval of the 2024-2050 MTP's air quality conformity determination. The full MTP is available at www.morpc.org/mtp.

On June 30 MORPC sent recommended revisions to the ODOT Functional Classification Coordinator for review of the Adjusted Urban Area boundaries for the Columbus Urbanized Area. The process included

consulting with county and city engineers in jurisdictions along the urban area's boundary to develop proposed changes.

Passenger Rail

The first meeting of the Regional Passenger Rail Committee was July 23.

Representatives from Amtrak visited Central Ohio and met with MORPC Team Members to discuss activity and progress on the two potential Ohio corridors being studied as part of the Corridor ID program.

MORPC continues to provide technical support to member communities interested in integrating potential passenger rail service with their local plans and development priorities.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)/Economic Development District

The Commission established the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee as an ad hoc committee that will advise the Economic Development District (EDD) Board and appointed Daryl Hennessy as the committee's chair. The committee membership includes leaders representing a broad range of economic interests for the region. In addition to advising the EDD board, the CEDS Committee is also responsible for implementing and updating the CEDS for the designated Central Ohio region.

Bylaws for the EDD Board and CEDS Committee are drafted and will be reviewed by the Commission's Bylaw Review Committee.

Team Members hosted Ohio's Economic Development Representative, Lee Shirey, on June 18, for a series of presentations provided by stakeholders and partners from the 11-county EDD. The focus of the forum was for the EDA to learn more about ongoing regional projects, as well as barriers to development where resources from the EDA might be useful.

The U.S. Economic Development Administration awarded MORPC's application to the Partnership Planning Assistance Program. This was MORPC's first application since achieving the Economic Development District designation. The grant will establish the economic development framework and fund the implementation of the previously approved Central Ohio Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP)

At the June 18, Economic Development Forum, attendees were given an interactive CAP handout to garner feedback on current or prospective projects. The handout was for either the county they represent or regional CAPs and will help inform updates to the CAPs.

Freight Coordination

MORPC applied for a U.S. EDA Planning and Local Technical Assistance grant. If awarded, MORPC will work with a consultant to develop a region-wide freight plan. Over an 18-month period, the study will analyze the region's freight network and economic profile; identify funding opportunities to improve freight movement; and create a process for integrating freight considerations into future transportation, economic development, and land-use plans.

Federal Competitive Programs

The final deadline for the FY24 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Planning and Demonstration grants is August 29, 5 p.m. If your agency is interested in applying for an SS4A grant this year, please let the MORPC team know.

As part of the U.S. DOT- FHWA's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Round 2 grant program, there are two distinct tranches of funds: \$521 million for a unique resubmission opportunity for unawarded Round 1 grant applications that received "recommended" or "highly recommended," as well as \$800 million for newly submitted applications per the new Round 2 NOFO. Since MORPC's grant proposal for Central Ohio—MORE EVS—received "highly recommended" across all scoring criteria, MORPC resubmitted Central Ohio's MORE EVS proposal, which requests \$15 million with an additional \$6.9 million in regional investment.

The United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) announced awards to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. Central Ohio submitted five applications to this program. Although none of the Central Ohio's RAISE applications were awarded, three were identified as Projects of Merit. They are Columbus's Linden Greenline Project, Lancaster's Eastside Industrial Connector Feasibility Study, and MORPC's Trail Towns in the Nation's Heartland Planning Project.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced awards for the Pathways to Removing Obstacles (PRO) to Housing program. MORPC and the City of Columbus applied separately to this program, neither application was selected for an award. MORPC Team Members scheduled meetings with Councils of Governments throughout the County who obtained a PRO Housing award to prepare for the next round of funding.

The Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) program from U.S. DOT concluded July 12. Central Ohio submitted two applications to plan and prototype various transportation technologies. The applications were submitted by the Northwest US-33 Council of Governments and the City of Dublin.

The Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) applied to U.S. DOT's Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Pilot Program. The application requested \$1 million to complete capacity, economic, and market analysis for each transit stop on the East Main Street Bus Rapid Transit corridor. MORPC provided a Letter of Support for this application.

COTA submitted the Project Rating Request Package for their Capital Investment Grant (CIG) from U.S. DOT. The funding for the East Main Street Bus Rapid Transit corridor was obtained in October of 2021. The Project Rating Request Package opens further funding within this program. MORPC provided a Letter of Support.

The City of Columbus applied to U.S. DOT's Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP). MORPC is identified as a partner on the application that requests funds to plan increased connectivity to existing trails in Columbus and for funds to create resources to assist Central Ohio communities in leveraging a Trail Town framework.

Drive Investment Portal

The Drive Investment Portal is a member resource containing vital information on existing as well as future funding opportunities to help finance member projects. For questions on funding opportunities, contact Preston Frick at pfrick@morpc.org.

Team Members are making improvements to the portal to help users filter funding opportunities. The following changes are proposed:

- Modify the number of records displayed on each page
- Display total number of funding opportunities with implemented filters
- Filter opportunities based on the application deadline
- Filter opportunities with rolling deadlines
- Filter opportunities from "Private Foundations"
- Funding Agency name now visible on the funding opportunity cards

LinkUS Mobility Initiative

MORPC hosted the LinkUS Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) Technical Coordinating Committee in June and the TSI Leadership Committee in July. The committees approved a draft 2026-2030 TSI Capital Improvements Program for public review and comment. The comment period runs July 25 to August 23. During the comment period the public is invited to review the information via an interactive story map and submit comments electronically. The story map is available via MORPC's [LinkUs Page](#). Two in-person and two virtual events are also planned.

Regional engagement continues as LinkUS partners give presentations to numerous community, neighborhood, and business groups. New communication tools are being developed including new videos and community-based one-pagers to highlight proposed projects in specific communities.

Mobility Management

The Regional Mobility Plan Steering Committee approved the yearly update to the Regional Mobility Plan on June 7. MORPC participated in several transportation work groups and advisory committees including the City of Dublin Transportation Work Group and the Pickaway County Transportation Advisory Committee. The Franklin County Mobility Advisory Committee met in June and participated in a COTA Plus travel training led by COTA. Team Members continue to promote accessible mobility options at tabling events and at a presentation with the Gerlach Center at Ohio Health.

Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO)

Team Members continue to develop interactive web tools for stakeholders to utilize the CORPO Safety Action Plan.

MORPC-Attributable Funding

On July 12, Team Members received commitment updates on 31 outstanding funding commitments. On July 19, MORPC received screening applications for new funding commitments. Team Members presented a summary of all updates and screening applications to the Attributable Funds Committee on July 31.

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)

District 3 (Franklin County) applications for SFY 2026 SCIP/LTIP funding are due August 30.

Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

The MORPC region submitted five applications to TRAC for funding this cycle, totaling over \$260 million in requests. MORPC is reviewing each application and evaluating the projects with respect to the MTP goals to aid in the development of a priority ranking of applications. The public comment period is open until August 16.

A regional public hearing for Central Ohio will be scheduled for September or October 2024. Final funding decisions are expected in December 2024 or January 2025.

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

The Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) received six preliminary screener applications with a total project cost of approximately \$6 million. Project applicants presented their respective projects located in Franklin County on June 24 during the Applicant Presentations & Updates Meeting. NRAC members will visit the project sites after final application submissions, due August 30. For more information, contact Edwina Teye at (ETeye@morpc.org) or visit MORPC's Clean Ohio Conservation Fund [website](#).

Money Mondays

MORPC hosted the following Money Monday sessions:

- June 10 – Small Nation & Affordable Housing
- June 17 – Broadband Funding
- July 8 – Affordable Housing and Rural Housing Efforts in Lancaster
- July 15 – Working with the Ohio Chamber of Commerce
- July 22 – A.I. 2.0
- July 29 – MORPC Planner/Consultant Pool for Members

Upcoming sessions:

- August 5 – How Can our Members Benefit from GIS Data?
- August 12 – Federal Funding and Community Projects
- August 19 – Community Development Block Grant Program
- August 26 – Project Management

PAY IT FORWARD

Membership Services

Promotion of the educational partnerships provided by several local colleges and universities takes place throughout the year. These are updated on the MORPC website and are listed under the [Member Benefits Section](#).

MORPC provided pilot memberships to the Village of Ashley (Delaware County), Village of Alexandria (Licking County), and Monroe Township (Licking County). This allows these agencies to experience the value of the membership and then decide if they would like to join in 2025.

MORPC completed three members visits and two prospective member visits.

Summer Intern Program

MORPC hosted a Local Government Summer Intern Program – Career Planning Luncheon for all current interns on July 23. For more information on interns, contact Alli Mancz at amancz@morpc.org.

Events

MORPC hosted/held the following events:

- June 13 – MORPC Night at the Clippers
- July 17 – Rural Forum: Housing for All Generations, Flying Horse Farms, Morrow County

Upcoming Events:

- August 6 – Social Media Summit
- August 8 – Pre-Commission Luncheon with OSU President Ted Carter, Jr.
- October 23 – Zoning for the Future, Opportunity Center, New Lexington

For more information on upcoming events, contact Eileen Leuby (eleuby@morpc.org or 614-381-01111).

Public Involvement & Engagement

Team Members participated in the following opportunities:

- Bike the Cbus
- Driving Park Civic Association

MORPC promoted the following through social media and on our website:

- Central Ohio Climate Action Plan
- Columbus Area Solar & EV Charger Co-op
- Senior Community Resource Fair
- Summit on Sustainability Award Nominations
- 614 Day
- TRAC Public Comments
- Ohi EV Infrastructure Public Meeting
- HUD House Party
- Riverfest

BUILD VALUE FOR OUR MEMBERS

Excellence in Financial Reporting

The auditors from the Auditor of State’s Office presented their audit and review of MORPC’s 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). There are no findings and no management letters. MORPC received the StaRS Certificate from the Auditor of State for the January 1-December 31, 2023 audit period, earning four stars, the Highest Achievement in Open and Transparent Government. MORPC also earned the Auditor of State Award with Distinction for the 2023 fiscal year. Just four percent of all entities receive the award annually.

MORPC Annual Salary & Fringe Benefit Survey

The annual salary & fringe benefit survey is well underway. We are awaiting member submissions and anticipate releasing the survey in the next month.

Mid-Ohio Finance Administrators (MOFA)

The Mid-Ohio Finance Administrators group met on July 23, 2024 and discussed the implications of the new Fair Labor Standards Act rule on local governments as well as a discussion on budgeting, procurement, and grant management systems currently used or being considered by local governments in central Ohio.

Community-Based Planning Assistance

The Community-Based Planning Assistance Program (CBPA) continues to be available for community assistance requests. Members may learn more about, or request assistance from, CBPA by visiting <https://www.morpc.org/community-based-planning-assistance>. Contact Jonathan Miller (jmiller@morpc.org) with questions or to discuss potential ways that MORPC may assist.

MORPC is soliciting feedback on any specific topic or program areas to include in a Planning Resources Library. If there is a specific topic or area of planning that you think should be included in the Planning Resources Library, contact Jonathan Miller (jmiller@morpc.org).

Consultant Services Program

Beginning in August, the Consultant Services Program will start hosting all RFP’s from MORPC Member communities, regardless of the particular program area. MORPC will host hyperlinks to any RFP on the Consultant Services Program webpage to generate additional visibility for community projects and bids. If your community would like MORPC to host a link to any available RFPs or RFQs, contact Jonathan Miller at jmiller@morpc.org.

Planner Pool Program

Members are invited to submit applications for assistance from the Planner Pool Program. MORPC is accepting projects related to planning, zoning, and sustainability. Current projects in discussion, or recently completed, include parking assessments, community character studies, apartment studies, neighborhood visioning plans, supplemental design guidebooks, and a community sustainability plan. If you are interested in additional staffing assistance, filling staff vacancies during vacation, assistance with gaps in staffing, or other planning or pre-planning activities such as guidance with best practices, contact Jonathan Miller (jmiller@morpc.org) to schedule a time to discuss your communities potential needs and ways that MORPC may be able to help.

MORPC in the News

Links to press releases and news article for the month are available at www.morpc.org/MORPCInTheNews

Personnel Updates

The following new Team Members recently started at MORPC:

- Data Analyst Jordan Inskeep began June 4
- Water Planning Intern Meghan Means began June 18
- Accounts Payable Specialist temporary employee Anita Carpenter began July 11
- Active Transportation & Safety Intern Sam Rice began July 16
- Associate Planner Sam Smith began July 16
- Associate Planner Hannah Ruscin began July 23

MORPC is currently recruiting for open positions:

- Strategic Director of Technology
- Chief Regional Planning Officer
- Programming Associate/Senior Planner
- Programming Intern – Transit Focus
- Economic Development Intern

The requirements for the posted positions are available for review on the website at <http://www.morpc.org/careers/>.

RFP/RFQ Postings

The following RFP's/RFQ's were posted:

- Air Monitoring and Source Apportionment in Underserved Communities (Franklin County, Ohio) – closed June 3
- HVAC Contractor for Residential Energy Programs
- Insulation Contractor for Residential Energy Programs

The full RFP/RFQs are available at <http://www.morpc.org/rfps-rfqs/>.



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: June 13, 2024
Time: 2:38 p.m.
Location: MORPC Town Hall

Transportation Policy Committee Members Present in Person

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| LaGrieta Acheampong | Brad Ebersole | Bill LaFayette |
| Chris Amorose Groomes | Dave Efland | Nate Lang |
| Kristen Atha | Shane Farnsworth | Eric Meyer |
| Lee Bodnar | Brad Foster | Bernita Reese |
| Ron Bullard | Tom Homan | Kent Shafer |
| Gary Burkholder | Pam Hykes O'Grady | Kimberly Sharp |
| Ben Collins | Laurie Jadwin | Ike Stage |
| Michelle Crandall | James Jewell | Andy Volenik |
| Tracie Davies | Carol Kaufman | Andrew Williams |
| Kristen Easterday | Ben Kessler | Kenneth Wright |

Transportation Policy Committee Members Attending Remotely

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Herb Asher | Dave Medley | Robyn Stewart |
| Stacey Boumis | Megan O'Callaghan | Trenton Weaver |
| Christine Houk | Eric Richter | Andrew White |
| Joe Long | Helen Rollins | Tim Wilson |
| Haley Lupton | Thom Slack | |
| Rory McGuinness | Joe Stefanov | |

Commission Members Present in Person

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Joe Antram | Bill Habig | Steve Welsh |
| Michelle Blanton | Jeff Hall | RC Wise |
| Stephanie Bosco | Tom Johnson | |
| Jamie Brucker | Matt Starr | |

Commission Members Attending Remotely

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| Joe Allen | Herb Koehler | Bill Narducci |
| Terry Emery | Mark Mauter | Eric Phillips |

Associate Members Present in Person

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Jennifer Fish | Kristin Sutton |
|---------------|----------------|

MORPC Staff Present in Person

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Parag Agrawal | Ralonda Hampton | Jonathan Miller |
| Kenny Anderson | Shawn Hufstedler | William Murdock |
| Steve Armstrong | Ethan Hug | Shari Saunders |
| Mike Borger | Eileen Leuby | Melinda Vonstein |
| Todd Bradley | Allison Mancz | Brandi Whetstone |
| Harold Deanda | Kelsey Matson | Robert Williams |
| Dave Dixon | Amanda McEldowney | |
| Joe Garrity | Katie McMahon | |

MORPC Staff Attending Remotely

| | | |
|-------------|------------------|---------------|
| Emily Brown | April Bumgardner | Aubrey Hauter |
|-------------|------------------|---------------|

Guests Present in Person

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Grace Byler, Morrow County | Claire Huffman, Village of Plain City |
| Kelson Carey, Fairfield County | Peyton Jackson, City of Bexley |
| Drishya Dhital, Etna Township | Eric Kogge, Licking County |
| Janelle Emmet, City of Columbus | Gavin Levine, City of Columbus |
| Matt Goodhart, City of Gahanna | Josie Meredith, City of Gahanna |
| Chloe Green, City of Columbus | Oliver Neely, Fairfield County Workforce Center |

Joseph Platt, LCSWCD
Charlie Schneider, City of Gahanna
Monica Tellez-Fowler, COTA

Chantrea Thip, Village of Plain City
Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter

Guests Attending Remotely

Marnie Chapic, Village of West Jefferson
Morgan Fuller, City of Grove City
Abel Gbogbolu, Perry County
Aubri Hoop, City of Whitehall

Leah Palechka, City of Westerville
Andy Shifflett, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter
Brent Welch, FCEO
Audrey Wininger

Meeting Called to Order – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair

Chair Chris Amorose Groomes called the Transportation Policy Committee Meeting to order at 2:38 p.m.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Parag Agrawal, MORPC Chief Mobility & Infrastructure Officer & Senior Director of Programming

Parag Agrawal presented the [Metropolitan Planning Organization Report](#). Mr. Agrawal noted resolutions on today's consent agendas. Resolution T-8-24 is the quarterly amendment to the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is \$2 billion of transportation infrastructure investments for Central Ohio for the next four years. The amendment includes additions or modifications to twelve projects representing \$90 million of new funding, including \$56 million of Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) funding. Resolution 11-24 authorizes MORPC to use the \$1.2 million awarded from the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant to deliver a Safety Action Plan for Central Ohio.

Mr. Agrawal reported the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded MORPC \$2.2 million for the Crash Analysis and Injury Research (CAIR) proposal through the Safe Streets & Roads For All grant program. The joint application with MORPC, the City of Columbus, the Franklin County Engineer's Office, and the OSU Center for Injury & Biomechanics Research provides the ability to conduct in-depth research on roadway crash fatalities. The Cities of Chillicothe and Logan also received funding from this program.

MORPC, in coordination with County Mobility Managers and relevant stakeholders, is updating the Regional Mobility Plan. The plan offers transportation options for older adults and persons with disabilities. Central Ohio's older population is expected to double over the next 35 years. The mobility plan helps agencies go after federal funding to make sure we allow transportation options for our most vulnerable populations. Emma Strange is the staff lead.

ODOT's Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) manages ODOT's major new capacity program for projects over \$12 million. The application period was May 1-31. Five Central Ohio communities submitted applications totaling \$265 million. Two projects applied for the CORPO area. MORPC will evaluate the applications and make recommendations to the MORPC transportation committees in September. MORPC will submit the approved recommendations to the TRAC Board early next year.

The Silicon Heartland Area Long Range Planning Study is looking at the 40-minute drive radius around the Intel site. The study will help expand the travel demand model to include the 10-county region and all of the MPO and CORPO communities of Central Ohio. It includes contacting each community within the radius to make sure we have updated land use information, zoning information and comprehensive plans. MORPC is able to help communities update their comprehensive plans if needed.

Wayfinding Signage Update – Parag Agrawal, MORPC Chief Mobility & Infrastructure Officer & Senior Director of Programming and Melinda Vonstein, MORPC Central Ohio Greenways Program Manager

Parag Agrawal and Melinda Vonstein presented the [Central Ohio Greenways Wayfinding Strategy](#). MORPC conducted a study to enhance the placemaking and branding opportunities for Central Ohio. One of the most important elements of our multimodal transportation network are our greenways. Survey results show that around 90 percent of Central Ohio residents are looking for more trails and better access to trails. The Central Ohio trail network includes 230 miles of trails that connect Central Ohio with other state and national trails.

In 2015, the Central Ohio Greenways Board was formed with a vision of adding more than 500 miles to our existing trails network and to create a world class network of trails easily accessible for every Central Ohio resident. In the last six years, MORPC invested more than \$60 million in various bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Our goal is to not just construct trails, but to focus on user experience. In 2023, ODOT provided \$300,000 to work on a study focusing on branding and the placemaking approach. The study was more than maps and signage, but also how we integrate our physical, social, and cultural connections that are made possible through trails into our everyday lives. The project is about advancing Trail Town strategies and implementing a trail town program in the region.

The full report is available [online](#). Next steps include working with tourism groups on branding a trail program and developing funding partnership.

Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda

Andy Volenik made a motion to accept the Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda, second by Ben Kessler; motion passed.

The Transportation Policy Committee Meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Ben Kessler, Secretary

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: June 13, 2024
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: MORPC Town Hall

Commission Members Present in Person

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| LaGrieta Acheampong | Brad Ebersole | Bill LaFayette |
| Chris Amorose Groomes | Dave Efland | Nate Lang |
| Joe Antram | Shane Farnsworth | Eric Meyer |
| Kristen Atha | Brad Foster | Bernita Reese |
| Michelle Blanton | Bill Habig | Kent Shafer |
| Lee Bodnar | Jeff Hall | Ike Stage |
| Stephanie Bosco | Tom Homan | Matt Starr |
| Jamie Brucker | Pam Hykes O'Grady | Andy Volenik |
| Ron Bullard | Laurie Jadwin | Steve Welsh |
| Gary Burkholder | James Jewell | Andrew Williams |
| Ben Collins | Tom Johnson | RC Wise |
| Michelle Crandall | Carol Kaufman | Kenneth Wright |
| Tracie Davies | Ben Kessler | |

Commission Members Attending Remotely

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Joe Allen | Haley Lupton | Eric Richter |
| Herb Asher | Mark Mauter | Joe Stefanov |
| Stacey Boumis | Rory McGuiness | Robyn Stewart |
| Terry Emery | Dave Medley | Trenton Weaver |
| Christine Houk | Bill Narducci | Andrew White |
| Herb Koehler | Megan O'Callaghan | Tim Wilson |
| Joe Long | Eric Phillips | |

Transportation Policy Committee Members Present in Person

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Kristen Easterday | Kimberly Sharp |
|-------------------|----------------|

Transportation Policy Committee Members Attending Remotely

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Helen Rollins | Thom Slack |
|---------------|------------|

Associate Members Present in Person

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Jennifer Fish | Kristin Sutton |
|---------------|----------------|

MORPC Staff Present in Person

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Parag Agrawal | Ralonda Hampton | Jonathan Miller |
| Kenny Anderson | Shawn Hufstedler | William Murdock |
| Steve Armstrong | Ethan Hug | Shari Saunders |
| Mike Borger | Eileen Leuby | Melinda Vonstein |
| Todd Bradley | Allison Mancz | Brandi Whetstone |
| Harold Deanda | Kelsey Matson | Robert Williams |
| Dave Dixon | Amanda McEldowney | |
| Joe Garrity | Katie McMahan | |

MORPC Staff Attending Remotely

| | | |
|-------------|------------------|---------------|
| Emily Brown | April Bumgardner | Aubrey Hauter |
|-------------|------------------|---------------|

Guests Present in Person

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Grace Byler, Morrow County | Peyton Jackson, City of Bexley |
| Kelson Carey, Fairfield County | Eric Kogge, Licking County |
| Drishya Dhital, Etna Township | Gavin Levine, City of Columbus |
| Janelle Emmet, City of Columbus | Josie Meredith, City of Gahanna |
| Matt Goodhart, City of Gahanna | Oliver Neely, Fairfield County Workforce Center |
| Chloe Green, City of Columbus | Joseph Platt, LCSWCD |
| Claire Huffman, Village of Plain City | Charlie Schneider, City of Gahanna |

Monica Tellez-Fowler, COTA
Chantrea Thip, Village of Plain City

Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter

Guests Attending Remotely

Marnie Chapic, Village of West Jefferson
Morgan Fuller, City of Grove City
Abel Gbogbolu, Perry County
Aubri Hoop, City of Whitehall

Leah Palechka, City of Westerville
Andy Shifflett, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter
Brent Welch, FCEO
Audrey Wininger

Meeting Called to Order – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair

Chair Chris Amorose Grooms called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Amorose Grooms announced the retirement of Nancy White and Tom Homan. Ms. White was not in attendance, but Mr. Homan stated he enjoyed his service to the region and this organization and thanked the Commission for the recognition.

Chair Amorose Grooms announced the following committee appointments:

- Tom Homan, City of Delaware, Chair of the 208 Process Review Committee as well as a number of other community leaders. The committee begins meeting in June.
- LaGrieta Acheampong, Franklin County, Chair of the Reserve & Investment Advisory Committee which meets later this summer.
- Haley Lupton, Village of Plain City, Chair of the Bylaws Committee. The committee begins this summer. There are a few openings. Please contact Chair Amorose Grooms or William Murdock if interested in serving on the committee.
- Daryl Hennessey, City of Sunbury, Chair of the ad hoc Comprehensive Economic Development Study Advisory Committee to begin the work of the Economic Development District. The Committee begins meeting soon.
- Ben Collins, Plain Township, and Kris Long, Franklin County, to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Recognition of Guests and New Members – Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer

Eileen Leuby welcomed new Commission representatives and guests:

- Woody Fox, Monroe Township
- Michelle Blanton, City of Circleville
- Summer Interns:
 - Kelson Carey, Fairfield County Engineer's Officer
 - Olivia Neely, Fairfield County Workforce Center
 - Drishya Dhital, Etna Township
 - Eric Kogge, Licking County Auditor's Office
 - Joseph Platt, Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District
 - Chantrea Thip, Village of Plain City
 - Claire Huffman, Village of Plain City
 - Harold Deanda, MORPC
 - Katie McMahan, MORPC
 - Kenny Anderson, MORPC
 - Janelle Emmett, City of Columbus
 - Gavin Levine, City of Columbus
 - Choe Green, City of Columbus
 - Matt Goodhart, City of Gahanna
 - Josie Meredith, City of Gahanna
 - Charlie Schneider, City of Gahanna

- Peyton Jackson, City of Bexley
- Marnie Chapic, Village of West Jefferson
- Abel Gbogbolu, Perry County Commissioners
- Aubri Hoop, City of Whitehall
- Leah Palechka, City of Westerville
- Morgan Fuller, City of Grove City

COTA Update and Introduction – Monia Tellez-Fowler, COTA President & CEO

Chair Amorose Groomes welcomed and introduced COTA President & CEO Monica Tellez-Fowler. Ms. Tellez-Fowler thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak. The Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) is an organization of more than 1,100 employees providing more than 30,000 passenger trips each day. Public transportation can change lives and open the doors to prosperity for all.

Central Ohio is a dynamic, growing region. It is also the largest region in the country without high-quality, fast, reliable, modern mass transit. LinkUS is the right plan for now to change that identity. LinkUS partners include MORPC, the City of Columbus, Franklin County, and the nearly 40 communities in the COTA service territory.

Recently, the COTA Board of Trustees accepted a recommendation by the community to modernize the transit system by adopting the LinkUS vision in the form of a half-penny sales tax initiative. The initiative creates a dedicated funding stream for rapid transit, sidewalks, and bikeways throughout COTA's service area, which includes all of Franklin County and small portions of Delaware, Fairfield, Licking, and Union Counties. The initiative is on the ballot for residents in the service area.

The new revenue is dedicated to providing 45 percent more transit service for our region. It will pay for at least five rapid transit lines, new on-demand service, new fixed-route lines, and increased frequency and service hours on existing lines. It will also invest in more than 500 miles of new sidewalks, multi-use paths, and bikeways. There are already more than 300 projects in the pipeline. Together, we are creating a safer, modern, and more connected mobility network for the region that also provides the business community with the kind of transportation options that young, talented workers expect. Every dollar invested in transit returns more than five times what is invested providing a significant economic boost throughout every community.

Executive Director's Report – William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director

William Murdock thanked Ms. Tellez-Fowler for speaking today. Mr. Murdock also thanked those who attended the pre-Commission luncheon on Intel. Upcoming pre-Commission guest speakers include Ohio State University President Ted Carter in August and Huntington Banc Share Corporation CEO Steve Steinour in November. Mr. Steinour is also the chair of the Columbus Partnership.

Mr. Murdock reminded members there is no Commission meeting in July.

Mr. Murdock announced MORPC Transportation Study Director Nick Gill is retiring in August. His successor is Maria Schaper.

Every ten years MORPC receives information on the urbanized Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundaries. We expect to go through the process later this year to add the Villages of Johnstown and Plain City to our MPO area.

Mr. Murdock reported the Auditor of State performed MORPC's annual financial audit this year. They presented the draft Annual Comprehensive Financial Report to the Executive Committee last week.

There are no findings and no management letters. Mr. Murdock expressed his pride in the Finance Team and Audit Lead Alisa Obukhova, especially during the transition between new auditors and a new finance director.

At the end of last year, MORPC launched Community Based Planning Assistance to help communities reach their planning goals and objectives. The Consultant Services Program is a small fee-based program structured in a way where MORPC can work with your community to alleviate the staffing burden behind developing a project scope, writing and advertising the RFPs, reviewing proposals, and even facilitating proposal presentations. For those consultant-led projects that do not reach the RFP threshold, MORPC can publish a list of prequalified consultants from a variety of planning areas as a way for communities to identify qualified consultants to reach out to for quotes. In the Planner Pool Program, MORPC provides assistance with smaller scale projects or filling staffing gaps. Contact program lead Jonathan Miller if you are interested in learning more about either program.

The 208 Process looks at facility planning areas for sewer districts. MORPC has been providing technical support for the Ohio EPA in counties around Central Ohio. We have been asked to consider moving into a new phase as an area wide agency. Led by Chair Tom Homan, the 208 Process Review Committee will look at the process for facilitating modifications and how to resolve disputes. The Committee's recommendation will ultimately come to the Commission. MORPC Staff Leads are Brandi Whetstone and Edwina Teye.

The RAPID 5 Board approved a Greenways Planning Studio partnership with MORPC. It is on today's consent agenda for approval. The planning studio will provide technical support and regional collaboration to RAPID 5. Melinda Vonstein is the MORPC Staff Lead.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee, chaired by Daryl Hennessy, is part of being an Economic Development District and will touch every county in the district. The Committee is having an information session with the new U.S. Economic Development Administration Lead for Ohio next week. MORPC's Economic Development Director Padmini Roy Dixon will give a presentation next month.

May 22, the day the COTA Board of Trustees approved language to put a levy on the November 5 ballot for LinkUS, was a milestone day for Central Ohio. Mr. Murdock is grateful Chair Amorose Groomes was able to attend that meeting. She also spoke about LinkUS to the Columbus Partnership recently. The Equitable Transit Oriented Development Committee focuses on affordable housing and development along the new bus rapid transit lines. The committee will have a draft development strategy by June 30. The Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) Committees are releasing a draft regional capital improvements plan for trails and sidewalk projects for public review and comment in July.

MORPC's Annual Salary and Fringe Benefits Survey was sent to communities this week for their input. The document is helpful in benchmarking benefits and salaries when developing budgets. Mr. Murdock encouraged communities to complete and return the survey soon.

The Grant Opportunity of the Month is the next round of the Safe Streets and Roads for All Planning and Demonstration Grants. Grant applications for the \$780 million of available funding are due the end of August.

The Member Benefit of the Month is a reminder that MORPC hosts monthly webinars with the American Pedestrian & Bicycle Association. The webinars are eligible for 1.0 hour of AICP Certification Maintenance credit.

Upcoming Events:

- Rural Forum: Housing for All Generations – July 17, 10 a.m., Flying Horse Farms, Mt. Gilead
- Social Media Summit – August 6, MORPC
- Transportation Safety Forum – September 26, Wigwam Event Center, Pickerington
- Summit on Sustainability – October 29, Hilton Columbus Downtown
- State of the Region 2025 – March 21, 2025, Hilton Columbus Downtown

Mr. Murdock congratulated MORPC members named to Columbus Business First's Power 125.

Mr. Murdock congratulated MORPC's Brandi Whetstone on her graduation from Leadership Columbus.

Mr. Murdock invited members to MORPC Night at the Clippers featuring Mayor Ben Kessler throwing the first pitch.

Proposed Resolution 08-24: "Adopting a fee schedule for use in assessing members in 2025"
– Shawn Hufstedler, MORPC Chief Operating Officer

Shawn Hufstedler presented the proposed 2025 membership rates. They are consistent with last year's five-year plan. The non-binding five year estimates are provided for planning purposes and follow the same cadence as previous years. Population estimates produced this fall are used to calculate member dues. This is incorporated in the 2025 MORPC budget.

Tom Homan made a motion to approve Resolution 08-24, second by Joe Antram; motion passed.

Regional Policy Roundtable – Joseph Garrity, MORPC Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations

Joe Garrity presented the [Regional Policy Roundtable Update](#). The Regional Policy Roundtable met May 23 at the COTA McKinley facility and heard a LinkUS update. The roundtable began forming the Public Policy Agenda Working Group, chaired by Sloan Spalding. The Public Policy Agenda is updated every two years. Let Mr. Garrity or Kyle Probert know if you are interested in serving on the working group. The next Regional Policy Roundtable meeting is August 22.

- **Legislative Update – Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter and Joseph Garrity, MORPC Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations**

Joe Garrity and Steve Tugend gave the legislative update highlighting the following:

- Trails funding
- HB 319 – Brownfields funding
- HB 536 – Seatbelt primary offense
- Next surface transportation authorization
- Defense Fly-In – meetings with seven different congressional offices
- HB 2 – One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund and Capital Bill
- HJR 6 – Property taxes
- HB 344 – Disallow placement levies
- Possible upcoming housing related legislation

Sustainability Advisory Committee – Ben Kessler (City of Bexley), Sustainability Advisory Committee Chair

Ben Kessler presented the [Sustainability Advisory Committee Report](#). Mayor Kessler recognized City of Bexley Summer Intern Peyton Jackson and congratulated Brandi Whetstone on her graduation from Leadership Columbus.

The Summit on Sustainability returns October 29 at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. Watch for announcements on the keynote and Pecha Kucha speakers. Nominations for the Regional Sustainability Awards are open through July 5. The awards recognize individuals and organizations doing impactful sustainable work in the region. Event registration opens in July. Mayor Kessler encouraged members to consider Summit sponsorship. MORPC members receive discounted rates for registration and table sponsorships.

The Charging & Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) grant recently announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity for Round Two. Up to \$1.3 billion is available for projects to deploy publicly accessible EV charging and alternative fuel infrastructure in communities and along designated Alternative Fuel Corridors. During a feedback meeting, U.S. DOT shared that MORPC's \$15 million proposal titled "MORE EVs" received the highest rating for all scoring criteria and highly encouraged resubmitting the proposal. After conferring with partners and stakeholders, MORPC resubmitted the proposal which will help fill in the gaps of the charging network across the region, with over 400 EV charging ports proposed across 13 of our 15 counties.

Work continues on the U.S. EPA funded air monitoring project. Working in partnership with Franklin County Public Health, MORPC is placing more than 60 sensors across Franklin County to measure local particle pollution levels. The project team is bringing a contractor on board to perform additional technical work. The Commission Consent Agenda includes the resolution authorizing the contract. U.S. EPA wants to use the Quality Assurance Project Plan as a national model for other sensor projects they are funding.

The Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) met June 5 and discussed program ideas for the Summit on Sustainability. The meeting also featured a special presentation from OSU professors leading a new study abroad program to the annual UN Climate Conferences. The next SAC meeting is September 18, hosted by NBBJ in downtown Columbus. NBBJ, an international architecture firm, will present on sustainable building and development projects.

Transportation Policy Committee – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair
Chair Amorose Groomes called the Transportation Policy Committee Session to order at 2:28 p.m. The session adjourned at 2:53 p.m. Separate minutes are attached.

Commission Consent Agenda

Tom Homan made a motion to approve the Commission Consent Agenda, second by LaGrieta Acheampong; motion passed.

Other Business

Reminder there is no July Commission meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.