



## MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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### NOTICE OF A MEETING

#### TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

**Wednesday, September 4, 2024**  
**9 a.m.**

Microsoft Teams meeting  
**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)  
Meeting ID: 251 749 723 432  
Passcode: GLXDBT

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Phone Conference ID: 662 944 032#  
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### AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductions** – James Young, Chair
- 9:02 a.m. Approval of August 2024 Meeting Minutes**
- 9:03 a.m. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report** – Maria Schaper, MORPC  
Dave Dixon, MORPC
- MORPC Residential Services Program – Robert Williams, MORPC
- 9:10 a.m. Funding Programs**
- Attributable Funds Project Status Update – Thomas Graham, MORPC
  - Resolution T-9-24: Amending the State Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program – Thomas Graham, MORPC

**William Murdock, AICP**  
Executive Director

**Chris Amorose Grooms**  
Chair

**Michelle Crandall**  
Vice Chair

**Ben Kessler**  
Secretary

- Resolution T-11-24: Establishing Priorities for Central Ohio Candidate Projects Submitted in 2024 for Transportation Review Advisory Committee (TRAC) Funding- Shelby Oldroyd, MORPC

**9:15 a.m. Resolutions**

- Resolution T-10-24: Adopting the 2025 Technical Assistance Program Guide – Lauren Cardoni, MORPC
- Resolution T-12-24: Accepting the Planning Work Program Completion Report for State Fiscal Year 2024 – Maria Schaper, MORPC

**9:30 a.m. Informational Items**

- Community Based Planning Assistance – Jonathan Miller, MORPC
- Central Ohio Climate Action Plan Update – Brian Filiatraut, MORPC

**9:50 a.m. Other Business**

- Upcoming Meeting Topics – Maria Schaper, MORPC

**10:00 a.m. Adjourn**

PLEASE NOTIFY APRIL BUMGARDNER AT 614.233.4167 OR EMAIL [abumgardner@morpc.org](mailto:abumgardner@morpc.org) TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE FOR THIS MEETING OR IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.

The next TAC meeting is  
**Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at 9 a.m.**

# Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

Date: **Wednesday, July 31, 2024**  
Time: **9:00 a.m.**  
Location: **MORPC**

## **Members Present**

Andrako, Mike	Jenkins, Tiffany	Schamp, Letty
Ankrom, Katharine	Komlanc, Tom	Stargell, Reynaldo
Biesterveld, Andrew	Lockhart, Josh (online)	Upp, Jeremiah
Boucher, Christine (online)	Moran, Alan	Volenic, Andy (online)
Cox, Barbara	Nittle, Time (online)	Wilfong, Gary
Ferrigno, William	Peoples, Matt	Young, James
Francis, Corey	Risko, Michele	
James, Crystal	Sanders, Scott	

## **Guests**

Avellano, Mike (online)	Elsea, Amy	Slack, Thom
Bakare, Tajudeen (online)	Hibbard, Tom	

## **MORPC Staff**

Agrawal, Parag	Lewis, Elliott	Smith, Sam
Bumgardner, April	Oldroyd, Shelby	Strange, Emma (online)
Cardoni, Lauren	Peggau, Karina (online)	Vonstein, Melinda
Diaz-Hernandez, Mauro	Rice, Sam	Whetstone, Brandi
Gill, Nick	Schaper, Maria	
Graham, Thomas	Ruscin, Hannah	

### **I. Welcome & Introductions**

- Chair Young called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. There was a quorum present.
- Mr. Agrawal started by noting that this was Mr. Gill's last meeting prior to his retirement. He told the committee that a retirement event was being planned for August 28, 2024.
- Mr. Agrawal then noted that three new staff members were in attendance at the meeting today – Sam Rice, Sam Smith, and Hannah Ruscin. Ms. Ruscin is the new Transit Planner for MORPC; Mr. Rice and Mr. Smith will both be working with the Active Transportation & Safety team. Mr. Agrawal also let the committee know that Mr. Gill's replacement, Ms. Schaper, had started in her new role on Monday, July 29, 2024 to ensure that there was overlap between the two directors.

### **II. Approval of June 2024 Meeting Minutes**

- Chair Young asked for a motion to approve the June 2024 Meeting Minutes. Ms. Schamp moved; Mr. Ferrigno seconded; and the motion passed.

**III. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Nick Gill, MORPC**

- Mr. Gill updated the committee on LinkUs messaging and the ballot initiative. There is new messaging available, as LinkUs is not specifically referenced on the ballot, but is focused on COTA moving forward. A big part of the LinkUs initiative is expanding COTA service, but also includes transit supportive infrastructure – more sidewalks, bikeways, and trails. There will be a number of Town Hall meetings for the community to learn more about the COTA Ballot Initiative. Moving on, Mr. Gill spoke about Equitable Transit Oriented Development (ETOD). A major component of the LinkUs initiative is to help make housing more affordable and have greater diversity in all housing price points in Central Ohio. There are two ETOD subcommittees in the LinkUs Initiative: Housing and Finance. The Housing Subcommittee has helped to incentivize affordable housing to create mixed income developments; allows tenants and/or non-profits the first right of refusal when units are sold; and helps diversify the housing market to provide a wide variety of housing sizes, accessibility, and rental/home ownership options at all price points. The finance subcommittee is establishing goals to promote housing diversity by encouraging private sector development around transit stations; establishing an incentive package; removing barriers to more dense development; assisting with supply opportunities along the corridors for developers of all sizes; and further engaging non-governmental organizations to assist with this effort.
- Upcoming ETOD meetings will be held for the Financial subcommittee on August 30, 2024 and the ETOD Advisory Group on September 4, 2024 at the Columbus Main Library from 10 a.m. to noon.
- One of the main policy shifts is to move away from using Transit Supported Infrastructure (TSI) in messaging and refer to sidewalks, bikeways, and trails. A draft program of projects was released on Thursday, July 25, 2024. At a media event in Gahanna it was unveiled that more than \$250 million in projects would be the first implemented over five years after the passage of the levy. This \$250 million includes 65 total projects over 35 jurisdictions, with 150 plus miles of new facilities.
- There is currently a public comment period happening for these identified projects. A story map, created by the MORPC team, is available online to understand more about these projects. Suburban toolkits are also available to highlight the partnerships with local communities. There are 30-second videos for twelve of the local communities. Local one-pagers are also being created to outline how the LinkUs Initiative will be beneficial to the communities. More information will be available on MORPC's website as they are created.
- Mr. Gill let the committee know that in the coming months, the committee would see a variety of presentations continuing to promote and discuss the LinkUs initiative. Mr. Gill asked the committee to inform staff if there are any certain aspects of the initiative that members would like to learn more about or focus on in coming meetings.
- Mr. Gill updated the committee on the Urban Area Boundary. Every 10 years the census defines urban areas around the country. These areas match exactly what the census says and will not necessarily match the reality of what is in the region. There is a process that MORPC goes through to look at what parts of the region are urban and what could be in the next 10 to 20 years. Mr. Heider led this effort for MORPC and provided an update to ODOT, which did not include any significant changes. The next step in the process is the functional class update. Mr. Heider will again lead this activity for MORPC. This will look at the functional class system of interstate

expressways, principal arterioles, minor arterioles, major collectors, minor collectors and the federally eligible facilities.

- Mr. Gill gave a reminder that the 2025 Technical Assistance Program Draft Program Guide is posted online and MORPC is seeking public comment on the guide. The Program Guide will come to the Committee for approval to be adopted at the September meeting. Ms. Cardoni mentioned that the MORPC team would be reaching out to some of the communities to encourage them to apply for the program.
- Mr. Gill reminded the committee that registration is open for the 2024 OARC Conference on Freight. The event will be held in Cleveland August 28-30, 2024.
- Mr. Gill gave information on the Safe Streets Central Ohio Forum that will be taking place on September 26, 2024 at the Wigwam Center in Pickerington. Lauren Cardoni & MORPC's Active Transportation and Safety Team put on this event annually. Participants will hear from engaging speakers; participate in a Safe System Approach Implementation Workshop; share resources and ideas; and network with colleagues from around Central Ohio on various aspects of traffic safety. Ms. Cardoni added that a representative from Alexandria, VA will be joining to discuss their efforts to reach zero fatalities on their roadway and what is next for them. There will also be Safety Awards presented at the event. Registration and nominations for the awards will be available soon.
- Mr. Gill gave an update on the upcoming topics for Money Mondays. Those will include:
  - August 5 - How can MORPC Members benefit from G.I.S. data
  - August 12 – Federal Funding and Community Projects
  - August 19 – Community Development Block Grants
  - August 26 - Project Management
  - September 2 – No Money Mondays
- Ms. Whetstone then provided an update from the Planning Department, discussing the upcoming Summit on Sustainability. The event, held annually, is Central Ohio's Sustainability Conference of the year. It will be held on October 29, 2024 at the Hilton Downtown Columbus. Keynote speaker and registration information will be available soon. The event will feature a full day of programming highlighting sustainability best practices and there will be a variety of breakout sessions on cross-sectional topics. In 2023 there were around 600 or 700 attendees.
- Mr. Diaz-Hernandez provided an update on Air Quality in Central Ohio. Mr. Diaz-Hernandez encouraged the committee members to sign up for air quality alerts that MORPC issues. These alerts cover Delaware, Franklin, Fairfield, and Licking counties. There have already been two alerts issued this year. Mr. Diaz-Hernandez then spoke about the Community Led Enhanced Air Network (CLEAN) Project that MORPC is running, in conjunction with Franklin County Public Health. The program is a community led program, funded by the EPA. Fifty-nine sensors will be set up throughout the county. MORPC will be doing community outreach and engagement throughout the next several months.

#### **IV. Funding Programs**

- **Attributable Funds Project Status Update** – Tom Graham, MORPC
  - Mr. Graham provided an update on the Attributable Funds status commitment for State Fiscal Year 2025. The current fiscal year just began in July, so there were not many significant updates. Mr. Graham mentioned that there are a number of commitments that are looking very likely to be delayed to State Fiscal Year 2026,

primarily Right-of-Way commitments. Mr. Graham reminded the committee that there would be an Attributable Funds Committee Meeting following this meeting.

- **Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)** – Shelby Oldroyd, MORPC
  - Ms. Oldroyd provided an update on the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) applications for the 2024 cycle. Statewide there were 28 applications submitted, totaling over \$860 million in requests. Five of those applications were from the MORPC area. These projects totaled a little over \$265 million in requests.
  - Ms. Oldroyd continued by looking at the applications. Primarily the requests were for construction funding.
  - Ms. Oldroyd explained that MORPC's role in this process is to evaluate these applications relative to the MTP and to make a recommendation based on our region's priorities to the TRAC. The TRAC is then responsible for evaluating the applications and making funding decisions. MORPC is currently conducting the project prioritization process which includes evaluating both the quantitative and qualitative information. A public comment period is now open and will be available until August 16, 2024. The priority list will then be brought to the CAC, TAC, and the Commission. MORPC is currently scheduled to speak at a public hearing on the recommendations to the TRAC in October. MORPC anticipates that ODOT will release their draft priorities in December and the final funding decisions in January.

**V. ODOT District 6 Update** – Michele Risko & Thom Slack, ODOT District 6

- Mr. Slack introduced himself to the committee. He then took a moment to introduce Ms. Risko, the new Local Programs Manager. Mr. Slack explained that District 6 includes eight Central Ohio Counties, including Franklin & Delaware, and a large portion of MORPC's membership area.
- Ms. Risko started the presentation by stating that she intended to highlight some significant projects that are going on in the region. The first update, and the largest, is the 70/71 Downtown Ramp Up project, which is a series of projects that will redo the interchange downtown. The goal is to improve safety and reduce congestion downtown by reducing the weaving and lane changes that happen in the area. There are also a number of bridge replacements that will be wider to accommodate pedestrian traffic and assist with reconnecting communities. The construction is in phase 2. This phase includes a new fly-over ramp, a new eastbound ramp, and will also include improvements to some city streets. Ms. Risko showed a rendering of the improvements.
- Ms. Risko then moved on to discuss the Far East Freeway project. This is a series of projects that will address the growing regional travel demand between downtown Columbus and the eastern suburbs. The project is currently in phase one of four.
- Ms. Risko went on to discuss the second phase of the project, anticipated to start in 2025.
- Ms. Risko moved on to the State Route 161 project, on the East side of Columbus from 270 to Route 62. It is a widening project to widen to three lanes in each direction and started last summer. It is expected to end in the summer of 2025. It will also include widening the ramps from State Route 161 West to 270 North.
- Ms. Risko moved on to the next project for the region, the 270/US 23 Rathmell Road interchange. This will reconfigure the interchange on the south side loop. It will eliminate two loop ramps and add a third lane on US 23 North from Rathmell Road to 270.
- Ms. Risko continued with the Courtright Road Bridge Project. This bridge is currently closed but will reopen sometime this year. The project is for a bridge deck



replacement. It will be wider. Mr. Watson asked if there would be a bike lane on this bridge. Ms. Risko responded that ODOT is working with the City of Columbus on a pedestrian facility.

- Ms. Risko moved on to the next projects, bridge replacements at Gantz Road and MCComb Road, both over 270. These are both deck replacements and will include the shared use path. These are collaborations as well, with the City of Columbus, Franklin County, and also Grove City. The pedestrian facilities and the street improvements will be under contract this year. Construction is anticipated to begin in August.
- Mr. Slack finished by mentioning the Route 23 Connect Study, which ODOT will be hosting public meetings for, starting the second week of August.

## **VI. Informational Items**

- **Wayfinding Program Update** – Melinda Vonstein, MORPC
  - Ms. Vonstein explained that she was going to update the committee on a project focused on the Central Ohio Greenways (COG) region, that received funding from ODOT to develop earlier this year. She continued by reminding the committee that around six years ago, MORPC developed a vision to add over 500 miles of trails in the COG region. At the time, it was an ambitious goal that MORPC wasn't quite sure how they would be able to fund the project. Now, there is more funding than ever before. Local governments are prioritizing trail projects and, with help from the LinkUs initiative, this vision can become a reality. Part of making this project happen is to ensure that all residents are able to leverage this infrastructure. Planning is being done to create programs to encourage people to use walking and biking infrastructure to get out in nature, to use trails, and to integrate walking and biking into the culture of Central Ohioans. These programs are being created in conjunction with Rapid5, the Rails to Trails Conservancy, and the Ohio to Erie Trail.
  - MORPC has also been working to create a Trail Town Framework to launch a program to encourage communities to embrace walking and biking, and then to also expand work to include kayaking and water activities through the Blue Ways Program. To go along with this, MORPC has been working with ODOT to create a project to ensure that navigating our trails is as seamless as navigating roadways.
  - MORPC began the project by working with a consultant – Designing Local – to develop the ideal user experience. This first priority is to ensure that people feel secure when they're out on the trails – that they know that their basic needs can be met. This will include knowing where restrooms are and how to reach emergency services. If that is done, then it is easier to encourage people to get off the trail to visit local communities in order to patronize restaurants, shops, and other sites in the area. Public art installations, performances, and other cultural amenities could also be placed along the trails to inspire people to get out in nature and integrate walking and biking into their daily lives.
  - With this idea in mind, the MORPC team collected all of the assets along the Ohio to Erie Trail in four counties. This allowed the team to think more about where more access might be needed, where signage need to be improved at trail heads, and what other amenities might need improved, such as restrooms and other services.

- The wayfinding strategy as a whole is not defined simply by maps and signage. That was a component, but the team did not want to be too prescriptive in terms of signage and what it should look like. Many of the local communities have a unique identity that is sometimes integrated on local wayfinding signage, which can extend to trails. The goal is to help make it easier for communities to work with their neighbors to think about the content and the destinations that are being included on signage so that it is seamless to go from one community to another and that signage is cohesive.
- Ms. Vonstein continued that the next component of the program was to look at digital wayfinding. Many users navigate the trails using apps like Google Maps, Strava Maps, and Map My Run. The team found that most of these apps get their data from two main sources – Google Maps and Open Street Map. The team hypothesized that if those two data sources were improved, the experience of the rest of the apps would be improved. Ms. Vonstein walked the committee through an example of how the team worked to do some of this.
- Moving on, Ms. Vonstein spoke about creative elements that the team explored. Creative sidewalks are an element which could improve safety, navigation, and make the experience more fun. The final thing the team did was to take all the strategies and ideas that were included in the wayfinding strategy to then implement them into an area at Easton.
- Pathways Park is along the Alum Creek Trail less than a mile from Easton, which is part of the Ohio to Erie Trail. From this park it is possible to get to Cleveland or Cincinnati in a mostly off road trail experience. Unfortunately, visitors at Easton don't know that Pathways Park is there and that the trail amenity exists. The same is true for trail users, they don't know Easton and its accessories are less than a mile away. Part of this is due to Sunbury Road, which is very challenging to cross and there are no safe or reliable crossings. Thus, part of the wayfinding strategy was to improve the safety of getting to the Park from Easton and vice versa. Other improvements include a premier trailhead with secured vending amenities, kayak launches, bike parking, and other services that trail users might need. This project was to showcase how it could be implemented other places. The Team would love to talk to tourism or marketing groups, cycling groups, planners, and possibly engineers to discuss this work. MORPC also has a forum coming up where the consultant team and Ms. Vonstein will be sharing additional details about what is in the wayfinding strategy on August 27, 2024.

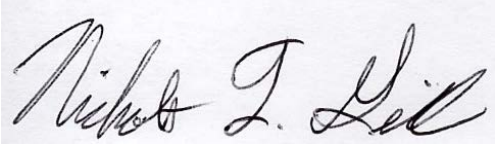
**VII. Other Business**

- Mr. Gill then presented topics that will be on the agendas for the next meeting or other meetings in the future.

**VIII. Adjourn**

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.



A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Nick J. Gill".

Nick Gill, Secretary

**Transportation Advisory Committee**



# METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION REPORT

August 2024

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## PROGRAMMING

Parag Agrawal, Chief Mobility and Infrastructure Officer and Senior Director of Programming – [pagrawal@morpc.org](mailto:pagrawal@morpc.org)

Maria Schaper, Transportation Study Director – [mschaper@morpc.org](mailto:mschaper@morpc.org)

### Transit, Mobility & Human Services:

#### *Mobility Management*

- The Franklin County Mobility Advisory Committee met and discussed preliminary findings from the transportation provider survey that went out in late July. MORPC continues to collect responses and will end the survey at the end of August.
- Mobility management staff attended ODOT's bi-annual mobility management roundtable.

#### *FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient*

- MORPC plans to host an applicant workshop on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 for the 2024 solicitation period for 5310 funds. This workshop will be required for any interested applicants to the program. The application form will be open from September 25, 2024 through October 25, 2024.

#### *Gohio Commute*

- MORPC welcomed a new VA vanpool group. This vanpool group travels daily from Canal Winchester, Ohio to the Chillicothe VA Hospital. Seventeen new vanpools have been added in 2024 and the program has now surpassed our pre-pandemic numbers.
- MORPC is preparing for the second annual state-wide Ohio Commuter Challenge. This challenge will run from September 9, 2024 to September 22, 2024. Prizes will range from \$25 to \$200. The more sustainable trips commuters take in Ohio, the more chances they have to win.

### Transportation Planning Activities:

#### *LinkUS Mobility Initiative*

- MORPC, along with other LinkUS planning partners, released for public comment the draft, five-year capital improvement program of sidewalks, bikeways, and trails that could be developed by 2030 through LinkUS. The draft program represents a potential \$250 million investment in over 80 projects to construct over 150 miles of new, safe connections. Public comment was open from July 25, 2024 to August 23, 2024. The approval of the five-year program is expected in mid-September, and, upon passage of COTA's levy in November, the program will be maintained and updated annually.

- The equitable transit-oriented development (ETOD) draft strategy is being finalized and expected to be released in early September.
- COTA and MORPC initiated a kick-off scoping meeting with public stakeholders to identify potential east-west transit connections between northern Franklin County and southern Delaware County to northwest Licking County and the growing industrial and business developments in that area. The feasibility study is expected to be completed in early 2026.

### *Passenger Rail*

- HNTB has been selected as the consultant to conduct initial planning tasks associated with the Chicago-Fort Wayne-Columbus-Pittsburgh (Midwest Connect) corridor. They will develop the scope, budget, and schedule for the remainder of the planning program. This work is expected to wrap up in early 2025, with corridor-wide service planning to begin in mid-2025.
- The Central Ohio Passenger Rail Committee was formally convened on July 23, 2024. Committee members received an update from MORPC on the status of the Corridor ID Program plans and outlined the roles and responsibilities of the committee moving forward. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 22, 2024.

### Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO):

- CORPO subcommittee meetings are scheduled in each of the seven counties during the last two weeks of September. The next CORPO Committee meeting will be held at MORPC offices on Monday, November 4, 2024 at 2:00 PM.
- Public comment for the two TRAC applications submitted in the CORPO region during the 2024 cycle ended August 16, 2024. The prioritized list of applications will be shared with the CORPO subcommittees and then will be sent to TRAC and ODOT. MORPC/CORPO will present the list of projects to TRAC at a regional public hearing scheduled for October 16, 2024.

### Active Transportation Planning:

- The third quarter Active Transportation Committee (ATC) was held on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at 10 AM. Meeting topics included Public Health and the Built Environment, Safety Towns in Central Ohio, the Central Ohio Greenways Wayfinding Strategy, recent updates to ODOT roadway design manuals, and other relevant MORPC program updates. Meeting materials will be available on MORPC's website.
- The fourth quarter ATC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at 10 AM. This will be a hybrid meeting.
- MORPC continues to host virtual group viewings of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) monthly Professional Development webinars. These webinars are eligible for 1.0 hour of American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Certification Maintenance credit. Contact Jordan Petrov ([JPetrov@morpc.org](mailto:JPetrov@morpc.org)) to attend a MORPC group viewing. The next webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 3:00 PM on the topic of, "*Planning for New Forms of Micromobility.*"
- MORPC team members attended the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) conference in Detroit, Michigan from August 12-14, 2024. The conference offered numerous opportunities to learn about the latest best practices in complete streets design and implementation, designing safe streets, installing demonstration projects, and more. Connect with Lauren Cardoni ([lcardoni@morpc.org](mailto:lcardoni@morpc.org)) for more information or related resources.
- MORPC team members attended the City of Columbus Bike Plus Open House events to learn more about the recommendations being developed through that planning process. MORPC will also host an internal meeting on September 4, 2024, with the Bike Plus planning team to ensure that MORPC is up to date on the process and recommendations moving forward.

## Transportation Safety:

- Registration is now open for the 2024 Safe Streets Central Ohio conference. More information about the event as well as registration can be found at [www.morpc.org/event/ssco](http://www.morpc.org/event/ssco).
- A brief presentation on MORPC's safety program and current initiatives was provided to the WTS - Columbus organization at their August breakfast event on August 21, 2024. Attendees noted that safety is their biggest area of interest/concern regarding transportation.

## Technical Assistance Program:

- A final meeting was held with Jefferson Township and agency partners to discuss the final project priorities for the Township, as well as potential opportunities for future funding and project coordination. The final Implementation Plan is in development and a draft will be delivered to the township in early September. MORPC will also present the final plan at the Township's Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for September 25, 2024.
- A final meeting was held with Violet Township and stakeholders on August 7, 2024, to review the draft implementation plan and discuss next steps. Some of the plan recommendations have already been initiated in collaboration with ODOT District 5 and other partners.
- The draft program guide for the 2025 Technical Assistance Program was posted to the MORPC website. Applications for the next Technical Assistance window will open on Monday, September 16, 2024, and an informational webinar is currently scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2024. More information about the webinar will be posted to the website here: [www.morpc.org/programs-services/technical-assistance-program](http://www.morpc.org/programs-services/technical-assistance-program)

## Infrastructure Funding:

### *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*

- The September TIP Amendment was coordinated with local agencies for six projects. Interagency consultation regarding the air quality non-exempt projects was initiated.

### *MORPC-Attributable Funding*

- Feedback on screening applications for new funding requests was sent to applicants on August 14, 2024.

### *Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)*

- Final applications for SFY 26 SCIP/LTIP funding were received on August 30, 2024.

### *Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)*

- Public comment for the five TRAC applications submitted in the MORPC region during the 2024 cycle ended August 16, 2024. The prioritized list of applications, once adopted, will be sent to TRAC and ODOT. MORPC will present the list of projects to TRAC at a regional public hearing scheduled for October 16, 2024.

### *Federal Competitive Programs*

- MORPC's Economic Development Team formally accepted their Partnership Planning Grant award from the EDA. This formal acceptance enables MORPC to access funds to implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the eleven County Economic Development District (EDD) region.
- The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provided MORPC with an application debrief for the Pathways to Removing Obstacle
- s to Housing (PRO Housing) program. Although MORPC's application, titled Finding US Tomorrow's Universal Residential Experience (FUTURE) Program, was not funded, the debrief provided valuable

information toward making MORPC's re-application more competitive. The second round of PRO Housing funding opened on August 13, 2024; applications are due October 15, 2024.

- The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) provided MORPC with an application debrief for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. Although MORPC's application, titled Trail Towns in the Nation's Heartland, was not funded, it did obtain a Project of Merit status which will streamline the application's resubmission early next year. Approximately 41% of RAISE 2024 Projects of Merit were funded.

### *Money Mondays*

- The following Money Mondays sessions were held:
  - July 22: Artificial Intelligence
  - July 29: MORPC's Consultant and Planner Pool
  - August 5: How MORPC Members can Benefit from G.I.S. Data
  - August 12: Federal Funding and Community Projects
  - August 19: EDA Good Jobs Challenge

## **Economic Development**

Padmini Roy-Dixon, Economic Development Director – [proydixon@morpc.org](mailto:proydixon@morpc.org)

### **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)/ Economic Development District:**

- MORPC's Economic Development Team virtually attended the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Chicago Regional Office (CRO) Quarterly Economic Development District (EDD) meeting on July 24. This meeting highlighted updates in EDA's reporting process for EDDs.
- The first CEDS committee meeting took place on August 22, 2024. Susan Brehm, the Regional Director for CRO, addressed the committee on EDA priorities, the reauthorization process and what is required to be a successful EDD. The committee, which is comprised of representatives from the public and private sectors, demonstrates the region's main economic interests. Convening this committee was a major milestone toward setting up the Economic Development District and begin implementing the CEDS priority areas. The CEDS Committee will advise the EDD Board on economic development-related matters.

### **Brownfield Assessments:**

- The US EPA's brownfield grant programs will begin accepting applications mid-September. The team has begun to scope out a project and plans to apply for funding to assess sites in targeted areas.

### **Drive Investment Portal:**

- The Drive Investment Portal continues to be a valuable member resource with up-to-date information on existing and future funding opportunities to help finance regional priorities. For any questions, please contact Preston Frick at [pflick@morpc.org](mailto:pflick@morpc.org).

# PLANNING

## Community Development

### Central Ohio Greenways (COG)

- COG’s summer forum “Opening access to the region’s Blue and Greenways” was held on August 27, 2024 at the Minerva Park Community Center. Community partners, planners, and leaders will learn about efforts to expand access to nature along our waterways and have an opportunity to Kayak a portion of the Alum Creek Trail.
- The COG Board will meet again on September 25, 2024 to hear Working Group progress and advise on summer COG intern research projects.
- The COG Trail Towns Working 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 has met twice to discuss recommendations for designing and marketing trail detours. They will meet once more to finalize the recommendations.
- The COG Mapping Natural Assets Steering Committee kicked-off their project on April 25, 2024. A technical working groups is meeting throughout July and August to guide the data indexing process. The project is on track to be completed this fall.
- Results of the COG Wayfinding Strategy are available for review to MORPC members and other implementation partners. They are also accepting technical assistance applications to assist in developing Wayfinding Action plans for communities.
- COG has sponsored the Buckeye Trail Association's Buckeye Trails Fest in September and will be tabling the event on September 12-14, 2024.
- The Greenways Planning Studio (GPS) launched in July 2024 in partnership with RAPID 5. GPS will support RAPID 5 in technical assistance, strategic planning, and regional collaboration. GPS is interested in collaborations with local government partners to expand greenway planning beyond trails, to conservation, public access, and connectivity of all greenspaces.
- COG in partnership with Rapid 5, LinkUS, and MORPC’s Active Transportation team will host regional collaboration meetings in October to discuss new, amended, or shifted trail and active transportation priorities.
- The COG Wayfinding Strategy was a featured topic at the APBP conference in Detroit and at the upcoming OTEC in Columbus.

### Central Ohio Blueways

- The Central Ohio Blueways Steering Committee met in August and determined priority projects to pursue for each of the working groups. Projects will include an invasive species ID guide, native vegetation recommendations, signage packages, considerations for hazard removal, and refining the process for Water Trail Designation.
- Central Ohio Blueways has also finalized details for a large-scale river clean-up effort. The event – World Rivers Cleanup Day - is scheduled for September 28, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The cleanup will highlight two locations on each of the Scioto River, Olentangy River, Alum Creek, and Big Walnut Creek. Partners for the clean-up effort include Keep Columbus Beautiful, Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks, the City of Columbus, FLOW, FACT, Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District, and RAPID5. Registration for the event is available through Keep Columbus Beautiful.



## Housing

### *Regional Housing Strategy (RHS) Outreach*

- Conversations around housing issues continue with MORPC member communities. The Community Development Team is continuing 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. The MORPC team is working on identifying ways to expand upon the previous work of the Regional Housing Strategy.
- The Community Development Team, with assistance from the Data Team will also be presenting the Leaders Listen: Housing survey to the National Association of Regional Councils Housing Working Group in mid-September.
- 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](mailto:JMiller@morpc.org)).

### *PRO Housing Grant 2024*

- The Department of Housing and Urban Development has announced the second round of the Pathways to Removing Obstacles (PRO) Housing Grant. MORPC will be working closely with member communities and stakeholders to identify potential ways to utilize this unique funding source. MORPC will also be seeking letters of commitment from member communities regarding potential program elements.

## Community-Based Planning Assistance (CBPA)

- 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>. Please contact Jonathan Miller ([jmiller@morpc.org](mailto:jmiller@morpc.org)) with any questions or to discuss potential ways that MORPC may assist.
- The Community Development Team is also 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, please contact Jonathan Miller.
- Consultant Services Program (CSP)
- The Consultant Service Program added a section on the Program website for member RFPs. If your community has an open RFP that MORPC can add to the CSP website for additional availability, send RFP details – including a link to the RFP – to [consultantservices@morpc.org](mailto:consultantservices@morpc.org)

### *Planner Pool Program*

- Members are invited to submit applications for assistance from the Planner Pool Program. The Community Development Team is accepting projects related to planning, zoning, and sustainability.
- The Community Development Team is currently assisting three communities in the region with projects that include a community character study, community visioning study, an area plan, zoning code updates, and a supplemental design guide to accompany a community zoning code, as well as providing temporary planning and zoning assistance.
- If you are interested in more information on the consultant services program, additional staffing assistance, filling staff vacancies during staff vacations or periods of leave, assistance with gaps in staffing, or other planning or pre-planning activities such as guidance with best practices, contact Jonathan Miller ([jmiller@morpc.org](mailto:jmiller@morpc.org)) to schedule a time to discuss your community's potential needs and ways that MORPC may be able to help.

# Sustainability

## Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC)

- The SAC will meet on September 18, 2024 at NBBJ - an international architecture firm located in downtown Columbus. The agenda will include a presentation from NBBJ, a discussion about the Regional Sustainability Agenda, and reports from boards and working groups.

### *Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) Subcommittee*

- A subcommittee of the SAC kicked off on August 22, 2024 to begin updating the Regional Sustainability Agenda. Subcommittee representation includes several local governments, OSU, SWACO, and Licking Soil and Water Conservation District. The first meeting focused on the RSA and the subcommittee's purpose followed by group discussion around goals 1-2. The RSA includes goals and measurable objectives to align members and regional stakeholders around common sustainability goals and provides the framework for Sustainable2050 membership and tier status certification. For more information, please contact Brandi Whetstone, [bwhetstone@morpc.org](mailto:bwhetstone@morpc.org).

### *Sustainable2050*

- The Q3 Sustainable2050 meeting took place on August 15, 2024 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at Del-Co Water, featuring short presentations from the City of Westerville and Rural Action followed by 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](mailto:bwhetstone@morpc.org). A certification workbook will be provided, and a kick-off meeting is encouraged to review the process. Once a completed workbook has been submitted and reviewed by the MORPC team, the next step is to present the proposed certification to the SAC for approval at their quarterly meetings.

## Water Resources Program

### *Sustaining Scioto Board*

- The Board will meet on August 28, 2024 with a member spotlight on the City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities programming including the recently updated Stormwater Drainage Manual and the City's involvement with a water affordability taskforce.

### *Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team*

- The Outreach Team will meet on September 19, 2024.

### *Clean Ohio Conservation Fund*

- Final Applications for FY 2025 in Franklin County are due on August 30, 2024. NRAC members will visit project sites on September 12, 2024.
- For more information about Clean Ohio funding for Franklin County, please contact Edwina Teye at [eteye@morpc.org](mailto:eteye@morpc.org) or visit our website at <https://www.morpc.org/program-service/clean-ohio-conservation-fund/>.

### *Regional Water Study*

- MORPC and Ohio EPA will host the next Regional Water Study update on August 28, 2024 at 3:15 p.m. Speakers from Ohio EPA and the Hazen and Sawyer consultant team 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](mailto:dataandmaps@morpc.org)

- Webinar invitations - [eteve@morpc.org](mailto:eteve@morpc.org)

### *208 Planning and Areawide Designation Process*

- The Ad hoc Process Review committee has been meeting and continues to listen to presentations about best practices and experiences of peer Planning Agencies in the state on their processes around 208 planning. This is part of the process to ensure the committee has a balanced view as well as an opportunity to explore pathways to addressing modifications to Facility Planning Area boundaries and dispute resolution related to sewer service in the Central Ohio region. This is part of the agency's efforts to be designated as an Areawide Planning Agency by Ohio EPA.

## Energy Planning

### *Energy and Air Quality Working Group*

- The Energy and Air Quality Working Group (EAQWG) held its third meeting of the year on August 28, 2024. This meeting featured updates on air quality programming, energy programming, upcoming opportunities, as well as featuring Carbon Solutions and the development of their new USDOE funded co-benefits analysis tool called the Local Air Emissions Tracking Atlas (LOCAETA). Carbon Solutions' goal for LOCAETA is to identify community impacts from industrial emissions and to help estimate the air quality health benefits from decarbonizing these facilities to specific communities. 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 and last EAQWG meeting of the year is November 20, 2024 from 1:00 – 2:30 PM.

### *Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure*

- It is with great pleasure to announce that MORPC's grant proposal for Central Ohio—MORE EVS—has been awarded the full \$15M requested from the USDOT-FHWA's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Round 2 grant program. MORPC collaborated with key partners to submit a successful application, including Smart Columbus, City of Columbus, HNTB, Electrification Coalition, and AEP Ohio. Winning this grant will unlock regional investment to install an additional 62 charging sites across 13 counties, further extending the EV charging network in Central Ohio. There will be more updates to come.
- Furthermore, MORPC just submitted a second CFI Round 2 per the new NOFO guidelines, focusing on building out both passenger and medium- and heavy-duty EV charging hubs along the Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs). MORPC was the lead applicant having worked collaboratively with Prologis Mobility, Momentum, several local government members, the Electrification Coalition, Smart Columbus, the National Center for Urban Solutions and others to increase EV charging network and the workforce development ecosystem.
- Additionally, 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 \$2M award from the US DOT-FHWA's Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator (EVC-RAA) Program. Please reach out to Brian Filiatraut, Energy and Sustainability Program Manager, at [bfiliatraut@morpc.org](mailto:bfiliatraut@morpc.org) for more information.

### *US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program*

- Work on the CPRG Central Ohio Climate Action Plan (COCAP) continues. 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 September. For more information on the COCAP, please visit the [COCAP website](#).

## Air Quality Planning

### *Air Quality Alerts*

- Two Air Quality Alerts were issued for the Columbus region, on June 16 and 20, 2024. Ground-level ozone was the primary pollutant of concern on both days, and levels reached the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups on the national Air Quality Index (AQI) scale.

### *US EPA funded Neighborhood Air Monitoring Project (CLEAN)*

- The team continues to move forward with the US EPA-funded air monitoring project, working in partnership with Franklin County Public Health. The team has deployed 3 additional PurpleAir sensors into the community, with the expected deployment completion by October 31, 2024. The team hosted the Project Advisory Committee quarterly meeting and finalized their selection for the air quality modeling consultant, Ramboll, and met with their team on August 19, 2024.

### *Outreach*

- The Air Quality program presented to the Community Advisory Committee (July 29, 2024), Transportation Advisory Committee (July 31, 2024), and the teams of Dr. Daryl Hood, Ohio State University and Sustainable Columbus (August 8, 2024).

## Data, Mapping & Modeling

### *Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC):*

- The RDAC will meet again on October 1, 2024.

### *Data Day Working Group*

- The Data Day Working Group continues planning for Data Day 2025. The group is working towards securing the Workforce Development Center at Columbus State Community College as the new location for Data Day. The working group has also identified multiple public and private partners to reach out to regarding sponsorship for the event. The theme for this year's event will be "**Making Impacts Through Trust in Data.**"
- The working group will begin considering potential keynote speakers and anticipates putting out an official call for proposals by mid-September.

### *Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG)*

- The third quarter 2024 RIDG meeting, on August 14, 2024, focused on MORPC's Leaders Listen Series. The topics were presented by Ethan Hug and Dave Dixon. Ethan discussed the past surveys development approach, questions asked, and lessons learned. Dave presented the most recently published Actionable Insights report discussing key data points found and asked for discussion and the groups' feedback on their view of the data. The RIDG Steering Committee is hoping for more involvement from the general attendees. One potential presentation is in the works with a newly joined member recommended by Lilly Tesfai.
- The remaining dates tentatively set for the RIDG Steering Committee (SC) meetings and general RIDG meetings are: SC – October 8; General – November 13. The RIDG Chair and MORPC will meet prior to each meeting with the Steering Committee to discuss planning for the next meeting. The topic for the November RIDG meeting is to be determined.

### *Central Ohio GIS User Group (COGUG)*

- The most recent COGUG Meeting was held on August 21, 2024. Dublin gave a presentation on how their planners are using ESRI Urban and the 3D buildings MORPC created to show proposed development.

### *Regional Data Coaches Working Group*

- The Working Group has a Microsoft Office 365 group set up by MORPC IT considering greater functionality and control for the users, to support necessary data coaching needs. The tool is currently being tested by the D&M team. The Working Group will host their first pop-up event at Columbus Metropolitan Library-Main branch on September 26, 2024 from 10 AM-11.30 AM for community outreach. The next Working Group Meeting is on September 19, 2024.

### *Workforce and Job Quality Working Group*

- The Working Group last met on August 22, 2024 and discussed prioritization of job quality dimensions. The group will meet next on September 19, 2024. The Working Group continues to participate in the Results for America Workforce Fellowship, a free six-month program that includes monthly webinars, office hours with RfA staff, and engagement with other organizations pursuing work related to job quality.

### *DEI & Data Working Group*

- The DEI & Data Working Group met on August 23, 2024 to further discuss proposed DEI “Data for All” event sessions, confirm working group member assignments and continue event planning. The group is now aiming to host an event in the late October to early November timeframe.

### *Cyber Security Working Group*

- The Cybersecurity Working group last met on July 8, 2024 and continued developing a local leader oriented educational event titled “Cybersecurity for Local Leaders” and began discussion on which cyber self-assessment(s) to leverage for post-event engagement with member community technical staff. The working group will meet next on August 28, 2024.

### *Data Management*

- Development continues on the MORPC Insights platform. Insights will be 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 will be supported by data, visualizations, and expert commentary, and is eventually expected to feature content from trusted partners in addition MORPC-produced content. Current efforts are focused on selection of a web application platform and prototype of the user-facing components of the application. The team also met with MORPC experts on transportation, housing, and sustainability to determine what data related to those subjects should be included in the platform and how it should be presented.
- The team also pursued the following continuous improvement efforts:
- Created a function for the semi-automated creation of Frictionless resource descriptors for describing and validating data files.

### *Data Analytics, Mapping, and Research Activities*

- Data and mapping work has been completed for the 2024 MTP cycle. The team is proactively working to improve processes in advance of the 2028 MTP cycle.
- The team continues to assist with the Intel Area study, which will result in an expansion of the travel demand model to ten counties.

### *Data & Research Activities*

- Sustainability, Data, and Communications & Engagement team members collaborated to produce the Leaders Listen: Housing Survey – the third in the series. The report overviewing the housing survey results has been [published on the MORPC website](#).
- Team members continue to manage the organization’s air quality sensors in support of the EPA Air Quality Monitoring Grant. The MORPC team is now working with the recently-hired consultant to



develop mutually-acceptable processes for downloading and analyzing sensor data. The team continues to process data from existing sensors and support other aspects of the project such as sensor siting.

- The team is developing county-level forecasts of households / housing by type to better predict future housing needs. Work has been temporarily suspended on this project in deference to higher-priority projects.
- The team continues to work to improve the completeness of our residential building permit data collection and has begun evaluating complementary data sources including aggregated permit data from the Census Bureau and parcel data from county auditors to augment local permit data.
- The team is supporting the Central Ohio Water Study, an effort led by the State of Ohio to model water supply, wastewater, and stormwater needs through 2050. The team completed a set of household, population, and jobs forecasts for quarter-mile grids for the 15-county region, as well as grid-level forecasts of land cover.
- Upcoming updates to standard data products:
  - County-level population estimates as of Jan 1, 2024 (September)
  - Sub-county population estimates as of Jan 1, 2024 (October)

### *Mapping Activities*

- TRAC project mapping and evaluation
- Attributable Fund Project evaluation
- Active Transportation network updates to analyze park accessCore data is being updated
- Improving project documentation.

### *Modeling Activities*

- TRAC project evaluation
- Model expansion activities have started
- Working on various small area studies like Northern Pickaway County, NW Corridor.
- Working on various traffic growth rate requests from local jurisdictions.
- The traffic count program provided data for various traffic growth rate requests from members this month.
- Estimating future drive times for high volume intercounty Delaware County, Franklin County, and Licking County routes.

## **COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT**

Ralonda Hampton, Interim Sr. Director of Communications & Engagement – [rhampton@morpc.org](mailto:rhampton@morpc.org)

### News Releases:

- [Midwest Connect Passenger Rail Project Advances, Adds HNTB](#) (8/2/2024)
- [MORPC Receives Ohio Auditor's Award with Distinction for Outstanding Financial Reporting for Tenth Consecutive Year](#) (8/8/2024)
- [Region Takes First Steps as Economic Development District](#) (8/19/2024)

### MORPC in the News:

- [More than 150 miles of pathways outlined as part of \\$8B LinkUS plan](#) (7/26/2024)
- [Beyond buses, COTA levy would fund trails, bike paths, sidewalks projects. See where.](#) (7/26/2024)
- [County reps on rail committee](#) (7/27/24)



- [Passenger rail service to Marysville gaining traction](#) (7/29/2024)
- [City gains partners to try and bring passenger rail to Fort Wayne](#) (8/1/2024)
- [Consultants hired to help develop plans for two passenger routes](#) (8/2/2024)
- [City now has help in bringing back passenger rail service](#) (8/2/2024)
- [Midwest Connect passenger rail project advances, adds HNTB expertise to prepare service development plan](#) (8/3/2024)
- [New passenger rail committee starts preparing for potential routes in Central Ohio](#) (8/3/2024)
- [Columbus to Chicago by Train? New Partnership Brings Project Closer](#) (8/5/2024)
- [Five questions for Fred Lanahan, president, Northern Indiana Passenger Rail Association](#) (8/5/2024)
- [Midwest rail service project adds engineering partner](#) (8/5/2024)
- [Firm selected for study of route that could bring passenger rail through Columbus](#) (8/5/2024)
- [Midwest Connect Train Project Moves Ahead](#) (8/6/2024)
- [Fort Wayne welcomes HNTB Corporation to Midwest Connect passenger rail project](#) (8/7/2024)
- [Transit Briefs: Midwest Connect Passenger Rail Project](#) (8/8/2024)
- [Midwest Connect passenger rail project advances, adds HNTB](#) (8/9/2024)
- [What is LinkUS? Why is COTA asking for a sales tax levy?](#) (8/12/2024)
- [Nate Dedrick gains insight into city planning](#) (8/13/2024)
- [Claire Payauys contributes to planning at MORPC](#) (8/13/2024)
- [Deandre Quiero's dynamic internship in Circleville](#) (8/13/2024)
- [Columbus housing authority expands to Grove City; plans senior affordable housing project](#) (8/14/2024)
- [Newark climbing list of Ohio's most populated cities. Here's why and what it means.](#) (8/18/2024)
- [MORPC convenes Central Ohio's new economic development committee](#) (8/21/2024)
- [Central Ohio passenger rail project takes next step forward](#) (8/21/2024)
- [New MORPC committee aims to drive economic growth in Central Ohio](#) (8/22/2024)
- [Inside the massive infrastructure proposal to link Columbus neighborhoods](#) (8/22/2024)
- [Friday marks the deadline for public feedback on COTA's LinkUS initiative](#) (8/22/2024)

## Digital Content:

Social Media: Instagram, Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Threads:

- Air Quality; Blueways; eSource; Trail Pass, Food Truck Tuesdays; Gohio Commute; Housing; Housing For All Forum; LinkUS; Careers; Residential Services; RFPs/RFQs; Summit on Sustainability; TRAC Public Comments; Trails Pass; Vision Zero; National Water Quality Month; Safe Streets, TSI Public Comment Period; MORPC News; Leaders Listen Results;

Reach:

- [Facebook & Instagram](#)

Top Posts:

- [Instagram](#)

- [Facebook](#)
- [X](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)

## Diversity & Inclusion:

- MORPC participated in the National African American Male Wellness Agency Walk on Saturday, August 10. Since 2004, The National African American Male Wellness Agency (AAMWA), has taken a stance to reduce disparities in premature death and chronic diseases by providing thousands of health screenings and innovative educational programs throughout marginalized communities.
- A meeting was held with the DEI & Data Working Group to begin discussing a half-day event held at MORPC. One session topic would be focused on retention and recruitment measures regarding diverse candidates.

## Public Involvement & Engagement:

CCSD Workforce Development Housing Forum: [7/30](#)  
 Social Media Summit [8/6](#)  
 TRAC Public Comment Period: [8/1](#), [8/16](#)  
 LinkUS TSI Comment Period: [8/2](#), [8/7](#), [8/12](#), [8/22](#), [8/23](#)  
 LinkUS TSI Webinar: [8/13](#), [8/14](#), [8/14](#), [8/15](#)  
 Safe Streets Award Nominations: [8/13](#), [8/19](#)  
 Safe Streets Registration: [8/19](#)  
 Summit on Sustainability Registration: [8/14](#)

## Marketing Campaigns:

- Gohio Commute is running a summer marketing campaign targeting employers via LinkedIn, and individuals through Facebook and Instagram with the goal of increasing employer adoption and ridership.

# MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Eileen Leuby, Member Services Officer – [eleuby@morpc.org](mailto:eleuby@morpc.org)

## Member Services:

- MORPC produces a **monthly newsletter** which contains event links and legislative updates. This newsletter is issued to all members the day before every commission meeting. The Government Services & Community Relations Department also provides a Drive Investment Newsletter with grant and resource information. This newsletter is typically sent out the third week of each month.
- **Educational Partnerships:** MORPC is delighted to announce two new partnerships!
- **Otterbein University Partnership** MORPC is partnering with Otterbein University to offer an estimated \$20,000 award to the dependent children of MORPC-member government employees as well as member employees at the undergraduate level. In addition, MORPC member employees and spouses/domestic partners can receive a 15% discount on the undergraduate and graduate credit hour rate as part-time undergraduate and graduate students in some programs.
- The Otterbein Educational Advantage Scholarship for Dependent Children of MORPC Member Employees is available to any undergraduate who starts at Otterbein prior to the age of 24 while still an IRS dependent and who has not completed a bachelor's degree. Those

already enrolled at Otterbein are not eligible. Those interested can contact Phanawn Bailey, Advantage Partnership Admission Coordinator, at 614.823.1355 or [bailey1@otterbein.edu](mailto:bailey1@otterbein.edu).

- The Coalition for the Common Good Educational Advantage Partnership for MORPC Member Employees and Spouse/Domestic Partners is designed to support employees and spouse/domestic partners enrolling as part-time undergraduate or graduate students. The 15% discount applies to any part-time undergraduate student and part-time graduate students enrolled in Coalition for the Common Good graduate programs. Those interested can contact Bridget Newell, Associate Provost for Graduate Studies, at 614.823.1735 or [bnewell@otterbein.edu](mailto:bnewell@otterbein.edu).
- **OHIO Online Partnership** MORPC is also partnering with the Ohio University's OHIO Online to offer a 10% discount on all online undergraduate programs and certificates as well as a 15% discount on all graduate programs and certificates.
- This incentive scholarship can be applied to instructional, general, program, and non-resident fees for enrolled courses, but it does not apply to any credits taken at the Athens or regional campuses. Full- and part-time active MORPC-member government employees have access to these discounts in addition to a \$10,000 discount towards the College of Business Online MBA and all online MBA concentration programs during the Fall 2024 semester.
- To search eligible programs and enroll, please visit the [OHIO Online Incentive Scholarships](#) webpage for more information.
- For more information on any of these activities, please contact Alli Mancz, Internship Program Coordinator, [amancz@morpc.org](mailto:amancz@morpc.org) 614-233-4164 or Eileen Leuby, MORPC Member Services Officer, [eleuby@morpc.org](mailto:eleuby@morpc.org) 614-381-0111
- MORPC provides each member with a detailed report on the value of their individual membership on a calendar-year basis. These reports are prepared and distributed by early October for consideration during our members' budgeting process.

### Member Engagement:

- Member visits that occurred in August:
  - August 15: Perry Township; City of Groveport; Truro Township
  - August 27: Fairfield County State of the County Luncheon/Presentation
  - August 28: Village of Galena; Plain Township
- Member visits scheduled for September 2024:
  - September 17: City of Pickerington
  - September 18: Village of Lockbourne
  - September 19: City of Circleville
  - September 26: City of Gahanna

### Events:

#### Past Events

- **MORPC's Annual Social Media Summit** was held on August 6, 2024.

#### Future Events

- **Long Street Bridge & Cultural Wall – 10 Year Celebration** will take place September 18, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join us as we commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Long St. bridge revitalization and inception of the Cultural Wall. **Guest speakers:**

Mayor Ginther, Former Mayor Coleman, CP Hardin, Commissioner Boyce, William Murdock, Director Marchbanks and more will speak from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- **Regional collaboration luncheon for the Southwest side of the region** will take place September 25, 2024 Noon to 1:30 p.m. at Jackson Township Fire Station. [LINK](#) to register. Practitioners in the Southwest area of the region are invited to attend. There is no charge, but registration is required. Lunch is included.
- **Zoning for the Future** – Wednesday, October 23, 2024. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Opportunity Center in New Lexington, Ohio (Perry County). Save the date. Registration will open soon.

For more information on any of these activities, please contact **Eileen Leuby, MORPC Member Services Officer**. [eleuby@morpc.org](mailto:eleuby@morpc.org) or 614-381-0111



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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Columbus, Ohio 43215  
[www.morpc.org](http://www.morpc.org)

## Memorandum

**TO:** Transportation Policy Committee  
Community Advisory Committee  
Transportation Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Maria Schaper, Transportation Study Director

**DATE:** August 28, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Resolution T-9-24: **“Amending the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program”**

Proposed Resolution T-9-24 will add or modify six projects to the SFY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with commitments totaling over \$51 million. These changes are necessary to enable the projects to advance and to maintain fiscal constraint. In October, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) will ask the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to amend the Statewide TIP to include these changes.

Continued maintenance of the TIP is a key element of implementing the strategies in the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation (MTP). The projects included in this amendment specifically relate to implementation of these MTP strategies:

- PRES 2: Repave or reconstruct roads in poor physical condition
- PRES 4: Replace transit vehicles that are beyond their useful life
- RDWY 1: Add capacity, where appropriate, to alleviate existing or anticipated congestion along existing freeway and at interchanges
- RDWY 3: Construct new interchanges, where appropriate, to alleviate congestion or support regional development goals
- BP 3: Expand high comfort bicycle and pedestrian networks through the implementation of complete streets

Attachment 1 to the resolution provides a description of the funding and scope of the projects, including a description of the bicycle and pedestrian components. One project includes MORPC-attributable funding.

An explanation of the proposed changes to the TIP follows.

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

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
*Chair*

**Michelle Crandall**  
*Vice Chair*

**Ben Kessler**  
*Secretary*

COTA: – The following modification to the TIP is being made for a COTA project:

- PID 118036 – COTA Hydrogen Fueling Infrastructure: Adding the award of FTA Sec. 5339 LowNo funds to the TIP.

Licking County TID: – The following modification to the TIP is being made for a Licking County TID project:

- PID 119487 Pike St from SR 310 to Etna United Methodist Church, Reconstruction: Increasing funding for construction utilizing local funding. This project includes a commitment of MORPC-Attributable Funds, though no changes to this commitment are being made at this time.

ODOT: – The following additions or modifications to the TIP are being made for ODOT projects:

- PID 119387: US 33 from SR 104 to Diley Rd, Major Widening: Adjusting funding to reflect detailed design and construction phases being moved to the three new PIDs listed below and adjusting the limits of the project.
- PID 121811: US 33 from SR 104 to Diley Rd, Major Widening: Adding the project to the TIP with the detailed design phase.
- PID 121812: US 33 at IR 270, Interchange Modification: Adding the project to the TIP with the detailed design phase.
- PID 121814: US 33 at Bixby Rd, New Interchange: Adding the project to the TIP with the detailed design phase.

The additions, removal, and modifications to the TIP via this amendment represent reallocation of existing funding as well as new funding being made available to local agencies. Below is a summary of the new state and federal funding, not previously included in the TIP, being added to projects as part of this TIP amendment:

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Amount of New Funding</b>
FTA Sec. 5339 - LowNo	\$22,849,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,849,800</b>

MS:TG

**Attachment:** Resolution T-9-24



RESOLUTION T-9-24

**“Amending the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program”**

WHEREAS, the Transportation Policy Committee of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) adopted the SFY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by Resolution T-5-23; and

WHEREAS, one project modification to the 2024-2027 TIP has been identified as needed for a COTA project as shown in Attachment 1; and

WHEREAS, one project modification to the 2024-2027 TIP has been identified as needed for a Licking County Transportation Improvement District project as shown in Attachment 1; and

WHEREAS, three project additions and one project modification to the 2024-2027 TIP have been identified as needed for an Ohio Department of Transportation project as shown in Attachment 1; and

WHEREAS, the projects are consistent with the transportation policies, plans, and programs, including the most recent Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) adopted by the Transportation Policy Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its meeting September 4, 2024, and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its meeting on September 4, 2024 recommended approval of this resolution to the Transportation Policy Committee; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

- Section 1. That the MORPC SFY 2024-2027 TIP be amended to include the project information as shown in Attachment 1.
- Section 2. That it affirms that the fiscal balance of the SFY 2024-2027 TIP is maintained.
- Section 3. That the determination of conformity between the TIP and the State Implementation Plan (SIP) is hereby reaffirmed, as two projects are exempt from conformity requirements, and four non-exempt projects were already included in the most recent approved air quality conformity, dated May 2024.
- Section 4. That it affirms that the amendment was developed in compliance with the transportation performance measures as described in Section 6 of the SFY 2024-2027 TIP as modified.
- Section 5. That this resolution will be transmitted to ODOT and all sponsoring agencies in Attachment 1 for appropriate action.

Section 6. That the Transportation Policy Committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

---

Chris Amorose Groomes, Chair  
**MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

---

Date

Prepared by: Transportation Staff

Attachment 1: Amended Project Information for the SFY 2024-2027 TIP

# Resolution T-9-24

## Attachment 1 - Amended Project Information

**Agency:** COTA

**PID:** 118036

**TIP ID:** 322

**MTP ID:** 142

**Co-Route-Sec:** FRA-COTA-Hydrogen Fueling Infrastructure      **Length (mi.):**

**Project Type(s):** Transit      **Air Quality:** Exempt

**Description:** COTA Hydrogen Fueling Infrastructure, Transit

**Bike Components:** Not applicable.

**Ped Components:** Not applicable.

<u>State Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>ALI</u>
2025	Transit	Sec 5339	\$9,333,000	11.13.01
2025	Transit	Sec 5339	\$12,014,400	11.23.01
2025	Transit	Local	\$375,600	11.7D.02
2025	Transit	Local	\$1,428,600	11.23.01
2025	Transit	Local	\$1,647,000	11.13.01
2025	Transit	Sec 5339	\$1,502,400	11.7D.02
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$26,301,000</b>	

**Agency:** Licking County TID

**PID:** 119487

**TIP ID:** 349

**MTP ID:** 205

**Co-Route-Sec:** LIC-Pike St-SR 310      **Length (mi.):** 0.38

**Project Type(s):** Reconstruction      **Air Quality:** Exempt

**Description:** Pike St from SR 310 to Etna United Methodist Church, Reconstruction

**Bike Components:** Multi-use path. 10 ft pathway north side, 7 ft pathway south side 0.85 mi. added to bike network.

**Ped Components:** Sidewalk on 1 side, multi-use path on 1 side. 10 ft pathway north side, 7 ft pathway south side 0.85 mi. added to ped network.

<u>State Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2026	Construction	State	\$2,717,351
2026	Construction	Local	\$335,610
2026	Construction	STBG-M	\$2,684,877
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$5,737,837</b>

Funds in FYs prior to 2024 are not included in this report nor in the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

LR = Long Range (after SFY 2027, the last year of the TIP). LR funds are shown for information only and are not included in the TIP.

G\* indicates a grouped project.

# Resolution T-9-24

## Attachment 1 - Amended Project Information

**Agency:** ODOT

**PID:** 119387

**TIP ID:** 455

**MTP ID:** 1791

**Co-Route-Sec:** FRA-US33-24.76

**Length (mi.):** 6.6

**Project Type(s):** Major Widening/New Interchange

**Air Quality:** Non-Exempt (Analyzed)

**Description:** US 33 from SR 104 to Diley Rd, Major Widening from 4 lanes to 6 lanes & New Interchange

**Bike Components:** Not applicable.

**Ped Components:** Not applicable.

<u>State Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2024	Environmental Study	State	\$3,778,976
2025	Environmental Study	State	\$244,200
2025	Environmental Study	Federal	\$976,800
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$4,999,976</b>

**Agency:** ODOT D6

**PID:** 121811

**TIP ID:** 492

**MTP ID:** 1791

**Co-Route-Sec:** FRA-US33-22.99/0.00

**Length (mi.):** 6.6

**Project Type(s):** Major Widening

**Air Quality:** Non-Exempt (Analyzed)

**Description:** US 33 from SR 104 to Diley Rd, Major Widening from 4 lanes to 6 lanes

**Bike Components:** Not applicable.

**Ped Components:** Not applicable.

<u>State Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2025	Detailed Design	State	\$1,000,000
2025	Detailed Design	Federal	\$4,000,000
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$5,000,000</b>

**Agency:** ODOT D6

**PID:** 121812

**TIP ID:** 493

**MTP ID:** 80

**Co-Route-Sec:** FRA-270/33-45.808/24.375

**Length (mi.):**

**Project Type(s):** Interchange Modification

**Air Quality:** Non-Exempt (Analyzed)

**Description:** US 33 at IR 270, Interchange Modification

**Bike Components:** Not applicable.

**Ped Components:** Not applicable.

<u>State Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2026	Detailed Design	State	\$300,000
2026	Detailed Design	Federal	\$2,700,000
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$3,000,000</b>

Funds in FYs prior to 2024 are not included in this report nor in the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

LR = Long Range (after SFY 2027, the last year of the TIP). LR funds are shown for information only and are not included in the TIP.

G\* indicates a grouped project.

# Resolution T-9-24

## Attachment 1 - Amended Project Information

**Agency:** ODOT D6

**PID:** 121814

**TIP ID:** 494

**MTP ID:** 83

**Co-Route-Sec:** FRA-US33-27.831

**Length (mi.):**

**Project Type(s):** Interchange Modification

**Air Quality:** Non-Exempt (Analyzed)

**Description:** US 33 at Bixby Rd, Interchange Modification

**Bike Components:** Yes - Type to be determined.

**Ped Components:** Yes - Type to be determined.

<u>State Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2026	Detailed Design	Federal	\$4,800,000
2026	Detailed Design	State	\$1,200,000
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$6,000,000</b>

## Summary of Funding Sources

<u>Source</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
Local	Labor - Local	\$335,610
Local	Local Public Agency	\$3,451,200
State	Local - General	\$2,717,351
Federal	Major/New Program - Federal	\$12,476,800
State	Major/New Program - State	\$6,523,176
STBG-M	Surface Transportation Block Grant, Attributable to MORPC	\$2,684,877
Sec 5339	Low or No Emission Vehicle	\$22,849,800
<b>Grand Total:</b>		<b>\$51,038,813</b>

Funds in FYs prior to 2024 are not included in this report nor in the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

LR = Long Range (after SFY 2027, the last year of the TIP). LR funds are shown for information only and are not included in the TIP.

G\* indicates a grouped project.



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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Columbus, Ohio 43215  
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## Memorandum

**TO:** Transportation Policy Committee  
Transportation Advisory Committee  
Community Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Maria Schaper, Transportation Study Director

**DATE:** August 28, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Resolution T-11-24: “Establishing Priorities for Central Ohio Candidate Projects Submitted in 2024 for TRAC Funding”

As reported previously, five projects located within MORPC’s Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) area were submitted to ODOT’s Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) for the 2024 funding cycle. TRAC is responsible for committing development and construction funding toward projects that meet the criteria of the Major New Capacity Program (generally projects that cost over \$12 million and increase roadway capacity and/or reduce congestion). ODOT requests input from metropolitan planning organizations like MORPC as part of the application evaluation process. Each funding cycle, MORPC evaluates the TRAC applications that are located within the MPO area.

Information sheets were prepared and posted to our website over the summer with details on the projects. While each of the projects submitted would provide safety, congestion, and economic benefits to local and regional transportation networks, MORPC’s role is to evaluate the projects’ impacts regionally, and relative to each other. For MORPC, the evaluation process includes analyzing and prioritizing each application based on the region’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) goals and objectives. The priorities are then provided to ODOT for consideration by TRAC during the funding selection process.

Resolution T-11-24 establishes MORPC’s priorities for the 2024 TRAC funding requests that fall within MORPC’s MPO area. Facilitating the development and implementation of these projects is an element of implementing the strategies in the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation (MTP). The projects wanting to advance with TRAC funding specifically relate to implementation of these MTP strategies:

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

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
*Chair*

**Michelle Crandall**  
*Vice Chair*

**Ben Kessler**  
*Secretary*



- SAF 3: Implement countermeasures that address priority safety locations
- OP 3: Implement managed lanes along additional freeway corridors
- OP 4: Apply access management along arterial and collector corridors
- RDWY 1: Add capacity, where appropriate, to alleviate existing or anticipated congestion along existing freeways and at interchanges
- RDWY 3: Construct new interchanges, where appropriate, to alleviate congestion or support regional development goals
- RDWY 6: Construct new roadways, where appropriate, to alleviate congestion or support regional or local development goals
- BP 3: Build safe and comfortable infrastructure for walking and bicycling

MORPC accepted comments on the projects from the public, and staff completed a technical evaluation of the projects. This memo provides a summary of how the projects were evaluated and concludes with a recommendation on project prioritization. The priorities will be presented to TRAC at a regional public hearing this fall, and upon adoption of Resolution T-11-24, submitted in writing by September 13.

### **Project Evaluation Summary**

MORPC staff evaluated the five TRAC projects requesting funding based on the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) goals and objectives. Key elements of the MTP evaluation criteria were used for the evaluation. For the projects being ranked, the analysis results by goal are:

*Adopted Goal: Position Central Ohio to attract and retain economic opportunity to prosper as a region and compete globally.*

The criteria for this goal focus on congestion relief and the total number of jobs as well as non-retail jobs within one mile of the facility at present and projected in 2050. The SR 315 North Knot ranked highest for this goal due to the high number of existing and projected jobs in the area and projected congestion relief. It was followed closely by the I-71 Hard Shoulder Running which showed the strongest impact on future congestion relief.

*Adopted Goal: Protect natural resources and mitigate infrastructure vulnerabilities to maintain a healthy ecosystem and community.*

The criteria for this goal considered reductions in emissions (VOC and NOx). The I-70 and Taylor Rd/SR 256 Interchanges performed the strongest for this goal. All other projects showed no significant changes in emissions.

*Adopted Goal: Reduce per capita energy consumption and promote alternative fuel resources to increase affordability and resilience of regional energy supplies.*

The criteria for this goal considered reduction in regional vehicle-miles traveled. The I-70 and Taylor Rd/SR 256 Interchanges showed the greatest reduction of vehicle-miles traveled under anticipated 2050 conditions.

*Adopted Goal: Increase regional collaboration and employ innovative transportation solutions to maximize the return on public expenditures.*

The criteria for this goal included the number of communities being served by the project, consideration for collaboration with regards to project development and funding the project, and new development in the area. The US 33 Southeast Corridor scored higher than the rest due to anticipated new development, existing funding and Competitive Advantage Program status. The SR 315 North Knot scored well due to anticipated development and support for several regional partners.

*Adopted Goal: Provide transportation and mobility options to benefit the health, safety, and welfare of all people.*

The criteria for this goal considered the safety/crash ranking analysis, pavement and bridge condition, and Environmental Justice (EJ) populations served. The US 33 Southeast Corridor scored highest for this goal due to the expected safety improvements on the corridor. It was followed by the SR 315 North Knot which serves EJ populations and has expected safety improvements for all road users.

*Adopted Goal: Create sustainable neighborhoods to improve all residents' quality of life.*

The criteria for this goal considered which projects serve users going to or coming from higher density areas and multimodal elements of the project, such as facilities for transit, bicyclists, and pedestrians. The SR 315 North Knot performed the best for this goal, followed closely by the Dublin Emerald Connector, both of which serve areas with high existing and future trip density and improvements to pedestrian, bicycle, and transit connectivity in the region.

### **Comments Received from the Public**

On June 28, MORPC issued a press release requesting comments from the public on this year's TRAC applications. Comments were due by August 16. The table below summarizes the number of comments received. In all, MORPC received 101 submissions, with some containing multiple comments for specific projects as well as general observations and input.

Application	In Support	Opposed	Total Comments
I-71 HSR/SmartLane	2	4	6
I-70 and Taylor Rd/SR 256 Interchanges	4	0	4
US 33 Southeast Corridor	25	2	27
SR 315 North Knot	12	0	12
Dublin Emerald Connector	41	5	46

A mix of opinions on the proposals was submitted during the public comment period. The Dublin Emerald Connector, US 33 Southeast Corridor, and SR 315 North Knot received the most support. The Dublin Emerald Connector was deemed beneficial for relieving congestion from Sawmill Road, expanding bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, and economic development. The US 33 Southeast Corridor was deemed beneficial for relieving congestion and improving safety. The SR 315 North Knot was seen as helpful for economic development and expanding travel modes.

Many of the comments in opposition to specific projects were opposed to widening freeways. Several additional comments not addressed to particular projects carried similar sentiments, with additional suggestions of promoting transit and active transportation facilities.

### **MORPC Staff Ranking Recommendation**

Based on the goal-by-goal evaluation summarized above, the public comments and the phase for which money is being requested, MORPC staff recommends the following priority ranking for the five TRAC applications requesting funding:

- Priority 1: SR 315 North Knot (Request: Planning/Development)
- Priority 2: US 33 Southeast Corridor (Request: Construction)
- Priority 3: I-71 Hard Shoulder Running (HSR)/SmartLane (Request: Construction)
- Priority 4: I-70 and Taylor Rd/SR 256 Interchanges (Request: Right-of-Way)
- Priority 5: Dublin Emerald Connector (Request: Construction)

Resolution T-11-24 recommends these rankings.

MS: SO

**Attachment:** Resolution T-11-24

RESOLUTION T-11-24

**“ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR CENTRAL OHIO CANDIDATE PROJECTS SUBMITTED IN 2024 FOR TRAC FUNDING”**

WHEREAS, the Transportation Policy Committee of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is designated as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Columbus metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) selects major new projects to receive funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation’s (ODOT's) major new capacity program; and

WHEREAS, the TRAC has requested that each MPO submit its priorities for projects in that MPO’s planning area; and

WHEREAS, five projects requesting funding have been submitted to MORPC for acknowledgement prior to their submittal to the TRAC (see Attachment A); and

WHEREAS, MORPC members and the public were asked to submit comments on the projects; and

WHEREAS, staff provided the Community Advisory, Transportation Advisory and Transportation Policy committees information regarding the applications, including public comments received for staff recommendation; and

WHEREAS, staff evaluated the projects with regard to the six goals of the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and along with public comments developed the priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its meeting on September 4, 2024 and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its meeting on September 4, 2024 meeting recommended approval to the Transportation Policy Committee; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

- Section 1. That the attached listing of projects (Attachment A) be established as the order of priorities for the candidate projects submitted to TRAC from the MORPC transportation planning area for major new capacity program funding.
- Section 2. That the TRAC is strongly discouraged from funding lower priority projects on this list at the expense of higher priority projects.
- Section 3. That it directs MORPC staff to forward these priorities to the TRAC and to present the priorities to the TRAC.

Section 4. That the Transportation Policy Committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

---

Chris Amorose Groomes, Chair  
**MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

---

Date

Prepared by: Shelby Oldroyd

Attachments:

- A. Priorities for the 2024 TRAC Major/New Program Candidate Projects
- B. 2024 TRAC Major/New Program Candidate Projects Map

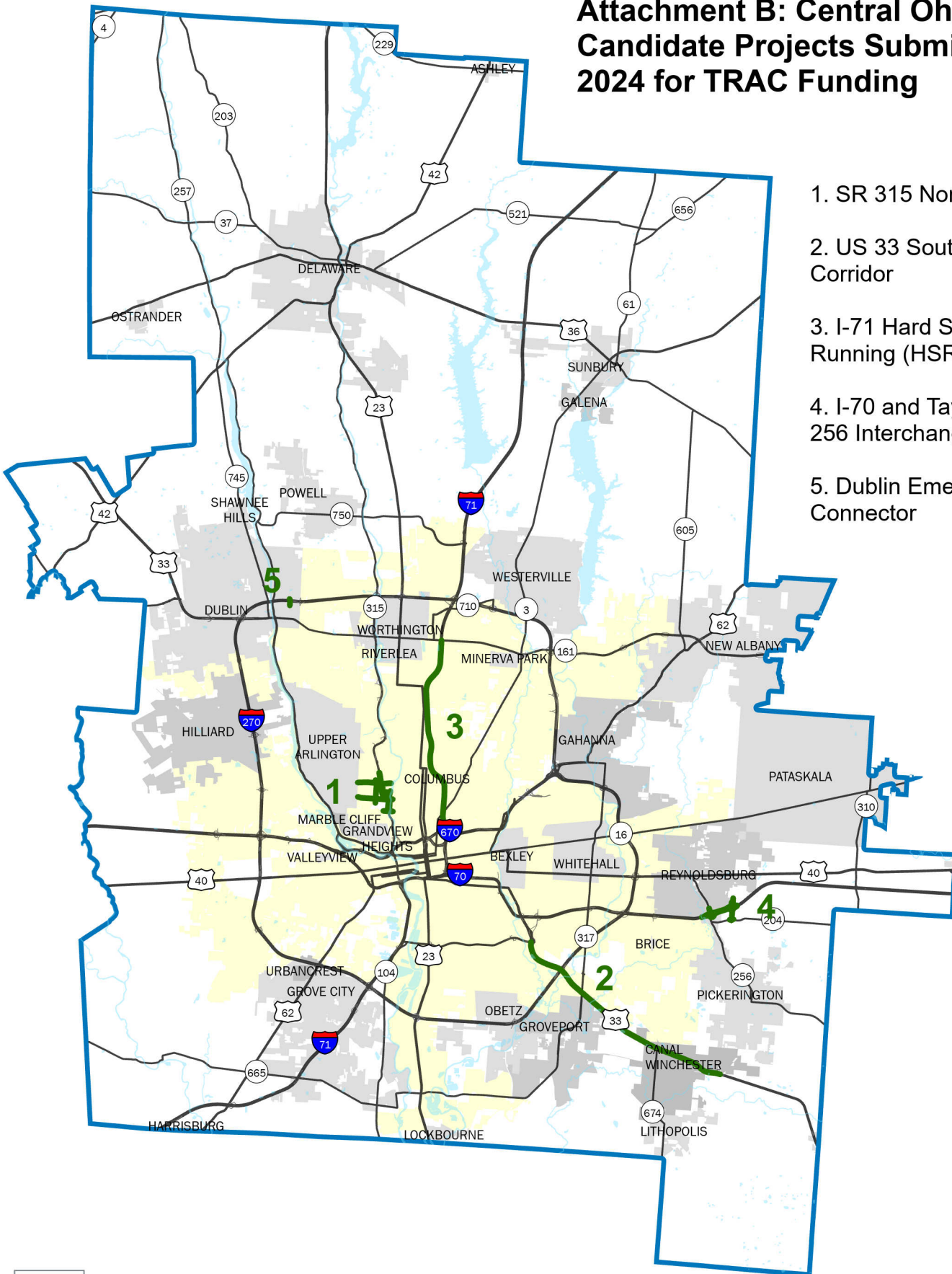
**Priorities for the 2024 TRAC Major/New Program Candidate Projects**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Tier Request</b>	<b>2024 TRAC Funding Request</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>
1	SR 315 North Knot	Tier II	\$7.8 million	\$247 million
2	US 33 Southeast Corridor	Tier I	\$145 million	\$167 million
3	I-71 Hard Shoulder Running (HSR)/SmartLane	Tier I	\$100 million	\$154 million
4	I-70 and Taylor Rd/SR 256 Interchanges	Tier II	\$7 million	\$124 million
5	Dublin Emerald Connector	Tier I	\$5 million	\$40.7 million



# Attachment B: Central Ohio Candidate Projects Submitted in 2024 for TRAC Funding

1. SR 315 North Knot
2. US 33 Southeast Corridor
3. I-71 Hard Shoulder Running (HSR)/SmartLane
4. I-70 and Taylor Rd/SR 256 Interchanges
5. Dublin Emerald Connector





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## Memorandum

**TO:** Transportation Policy Committee  
Transportation Advisory Committee  
Community Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Maria Schaper, Transportation Study Director

**DATE:** August 28, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Resolution T-10-24: **"Adopting the 2025 Technical Assistance Program Guide"**

The proposed Resolution T-10-24 will adopt an update to the MORPC Technical Assistance Program Guide for the next round of services. The Technical Assistance Program (TA Program) provides MORPC staff assistance to local governments and MORPC members within the boundary of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to advance the goals in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) through implementation of specific MTP strategies focused on improving active transportation and transit-related Infrastructure.

The Program Guide is reviewed on a regular basis, in alignment with each new round of technical assistance services. These reviews provide the opportunity to make necessary changes to address current needs of the region and local communities. Minor updates were made to the Program Guide for 2025, with the most significant change incorporating the new strategies and specific objectives adopted with the 2024-2050 MTP.

The 2025 Program Guide will apply to the 2025 round of technical assistance services. The application window will be opened on Monday, September 16, 2024 for eligible local governments and MORPC members to apply for the services established in the 2025 Program Guide.

Since the inception of the TA Program, Several Central Ohio communities have received MORPC staff assistance to complete various planning and policy development efforts. More information about these past services, as well as the current program, can be found on the MORPC website at: [www.morpc.org/program-service/technical-assistance-program](http://www.morpc.org/program-service/technical-assistance-program).

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

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
*Chair*

**Michelle Crandall**  
*Vice Chair*

**Ben Kessler**  
*Secretary*

RESOLUTION T-10-24

**“Adopting the 2025 Technical Assistance Program Guide”**

WHEREAS, the Transportation Policy Committee of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Columbus metropolitan planning area; and

WHEREAS, the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) includes strategies for implementing and improving active transportation, trails, transportation safety, and transit supportive infrastructure throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the MORPC Technical Assistance Program has provided technical assistance to eligible local government members since 2017 to advance planning that supports active transportation modes; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Technical Assistance Program Guide continues previously offered technical assistance services; and

WHEREAS, the primary tenet of the Technical Assistance Program is to assist communities in implementing MTP System Management and System Development strategies focused on improving active transportation, transportation safety, and transit, including strategies as listed in the Program Guide; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its September 4, 2024 meeting and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its September 4, 2024 meeting recommended approval of this resolution; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

- Section 1. That it adopts the attached MORPC 2025 Technical Assistance Program Guide.
- Section 2. That it directs staff to conduct a process to select activities for technical assistance in accordance with the 2025 Technical Assistance Program Guide.
- Section 3. That the Technical Assistance Program Guide will be reviewed and evaluated ahead of each application round and be modified as warranted.
- Section 4. That this committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

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Chris Amorose Groomes, Chair  
**MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

---

Date

Resolution T-10-24

Page 2

Prepared by: Programming Staff

Attachment: MORPC 2025 Technical Assistance Program Guide

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GUIDE 2025



The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Technical Assistance (TA) Program provides MORPC staff assistance to local government agencies and members within the boundary of the metropolitan planning organization (MPO). Through the TA Program, MORPC staff assist with specific planning services related to active transportation, trail planning, transportation safety, and transit-supportive land use planning that contribute to the goals and strategies identified in the region's Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The TA Program is one element of Community-Based Planning Assistance that MORPC offers to member communities to respond to individual community needs as our region continues to grow. More information about additional Community-Based Planning services can be found at <http://www.morpc.org/community-based-planning-assistance>

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# PROGRAM PURPOSE

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The seven-county Central Ohio region is growing rapidly, with its population expected to increase to approximately 3.15 million people by 2050. Demographic shifts anticipated with this growth will have a significant impact on the region's transportation system. To keep up with these shifts and evolving market demands, the region must recognize and address the need for a more multimodal and sustainable transportation system, as well as strategies for development that supports it.

A safe, reliable, efficient, and accessible transportation system is essential to the economy and quality of life for those who live and work in Central Ohio. The [Metropolitan Transportation Plan](#) (MTP) establishes a set of regional goals, measurable objectives, and strategies – including specific projects – that will maintain, manage, and develop Central Ohio's transportation system through 2050. Additionally, the [Active Transportation Plan](#) (ATP) and [Complete Streets Policy](#) work in combination with the MTP to further promote safe and comfortable conditions for walking and bicycling throughout the region. Finally, the [Central Ohio Greenways](#) vision of providing a world-class network of trails accessible to everyone in Central Ohio has resulted in a plan to add more than 500 new miles of trails throughout the broader region. Together these plans lay out a vision for a robust, multimodal, and sustainable transportation system in Central Ohio that provides the mobility options needed to support the region's growing population.

## **The 2024-2050 MTP established the following goals:**

- Create sustainable neighborhoods to improve all residents' quality of life.
- Position Central Ohio to attract and retain economic opportunity to prosper as a region and compete globally.
- Protect natural resources and mitigate infrastructure vulnerabilities to maintain a healthy ecosystem and community.
- Increase regional collaboration and employ innovative transportation solutions to maximize the return on public expenditures.
- Provide transportation and mobility to benefit the health, safety, and welfare of all people.
- Reduce per capita energy consumption and promote alternative fuel resources to increase affordability and resilience of regional energy supplies.

Progress toward meeting these goals is measured based on specific objectives identified for each goal. These objectives are adopted in the MTP and help to measure different aspects of each goal based on available data and information. Below are some of the adopted objectives that may be addressed by services provided through the Technical Assistance Program.

- Increase the average number of jobs reachable within 20 minutes and within 40 minutes via automobile, transit, cycling, and walking.
- Reduce the number of fatalities and serious injuries from crashes.
- Encourage and support MORPC member communities to adopt complete streets policies or policies that contain those elements.
- Increase the amount of interconnected bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.
- Target infrastructure development to serve a higher number of people and jobs.
- Reduce the percentage of commuters driving alone, and increase the percentage of commuters riding transit, bicycle, or walking.
- Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita.

The Technical Assistance Program provides MORPC staff assistance to local government agencies and members within the boundary of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to advance the goals and objectives in the MTP through implementation of specific MTP strategies focused on improving active transportation and transit infrastructure. The specific MTP strategies include:

#### System Management

- OP 10: Modify existing roadway lane configurations, where appropriate, to improve safety for all users.
- SAF 1: Collect, develop, maintain, and analyze crash data to identify regional safety emphasis areas and priority safety locations, with an emphasis on eliminating fatal and serious injury crashes.
- SAF 3: Implement countermeasures that address priority safety locations with an emphasis on eliminating fatal and serious injury crashes.
- SAF 7: Facilitate multi-jurisdictional dialogue to collaborate on the implementation of the Safe System Approach in all transportation planning activities, policies, and projects.
- DM 3 – Collaborate on development strategies and regulations to support mobility options.
- DM 6 – Make neighborhoods safely walkable, bikeable, and accessible by transit through non-infrastructure projects and programs.

#### System Development

- BP 1 – Collaborate on development strategies and regulations to implement safe and comfortable infrastructure for walking and bicycling
- BP 2 – Increase the quantity and quality of volume and travel behavior data on people walking, bicycling, and using similar modes of transportation
- BP 3 – Build safe and comfortable infrastructure for walking and bicycling
- BP 4 – Implement the Central Ohio Greenways trail vision
- BP 5 – Implement and update the Active Transportation Plan to create safe and comfortable infrastructure for walking and bicycling
- BP 6 – Make neighborhoods walkable and bikeable through infrastructure projects that fill gaps and increase connectivity of safe and comfortable facilities for walking and bicycling
- BP 7 – Ensure neighborhoods and activity centers have safe and comfortable connections for walking and bicycling to transit networks
- BP 8 – Facilitate multi-jurisdictional dialogue to improve opportunities through collaboration
- TRAN 1 – Collaborate to build transit infrastructure through development regulations.
- TRAN 6 – Make neighborhoods transit supportive through infrastructure projects.

#### Transportation System Related

- SYS 1 – Collaborate to ensure localized and regional transportation systems needs are addressed in development decisions.
- SYS 2 – Develop transportation system to serve all demographic population groups.

# PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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## IMPORTANT DATES

**September 16, 2024**  
Call for Applications

**September 18, 2024**  
Informational Webinar

**October 11, 2024**  
Deadline to Submit  
Competitive Application

**November 15, 2024**  
Awardees Notified

The MORPC TA Program awards technical assistance services through a competitive application process. Successful applicants will receive MORPC staff expertise for community-based planning services that help to advance regional goals and specific strategies identified in the MTP. Technical assistance will be provided for specific planning services to help implement the identified strategies.

MORPC has established pre-determined scopes of services for potential activity types for the 2025 TA Program cycle. Before applying for technical assistance, interested parties are encouraged to participate in an optional, **informational webinar** with MORPC staff **on Wednesday, September 18, 2024**, to ask any questions about the program. For more information, contact Jordan Petrov at [jpetrov@morpc.org](mailto:jpetrov@morpc.org).

Applicants who are awarded technical assistance through the TA Program must be prepared to have these services completed within six to nine months. Services should align with existing or proposed community projects that establish a strong connection to the [MTP](#), [ATP](#), [Complete Streets Policy](#), and [COG Vision](#). As part of the application process, applicants are required to provide a commitment letter signed by a local leader or department director acknowledging the request for technical assistance and committing local staff time to the project.

Within the program application, applicants will be asked to describe how local government officials and staff will participate in the process. The TA Program planning process is expected to be iterative; MORPC staff and program partners will conduct the planning process *together* with staff from the communities that are selected.

Applicants to the Technical Assistance Program **must** be able to:

- Submit a letter of commitment signed by a local leader or department director as part of the application,
- Designate a community staff member as Project Manager, and
- Enter into an agreement with MORPC establishing the scope of services and staff commitment prior to initiation of services.

# PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

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The following criteria must be met in order to be considered eligible for the MORPC TA Program:

- The applicant is a local government or MORPC member within the [Metropolitan Planning Organization \(MPO\) boundary](#) (or is in the process of being included within the MPO boundary).
- Services requested are within the scope of services offered or within the scope of the TA Program and/or MORPC staff expertise.
- Application must be complete (including signed letter of commitment).
- Application must be received prior to the application deadline.

If a service selected for technical assistance cannot be initiated for any reason, at no fault of MORPC, the applicant must withdraw the application from the application pool and forfeit its award of technical assistance. Applications may be resubmitted for consideration in the next application cycle.

If an applicant selected for technical assistance fails to complete the selected activity within the expected six-to-nine-month timeframe, the recipient may be asked to provide one or more of the following:

- Documentation explaining why the activity failed to be completed within the given timeframe
- Agreement extension executed by recipient and MORPC

# AWARDEE RESPONSIBILITIES

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If/when an applicant is awarded Technical Assistance services, the designated Project Manager for the award will be responsible for the following:

- Collaborating with MORPC staff to finalize a scope of services based on the original request.
- Providing any relevant data or materials that MORPC does not already have.
- Scheduling and attending recurring (bi-weekly preferred) check-ins with MORPC staff.
- Identifying and communicating with appropriate community stakeholders.
- Coordinating participation from all departments within the local agency relevant to the project.
- Reviewing all project materials in a consistent and timely manner.

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITY TYPES

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For the 2025 TA Program cycle, MORPC has identified activity types that are intended to help guide Central Ohio communities through the projected changes in regional transportation needs. These activity types were developed based on the vision and goals established by the [MTP](#), [ATP](#), [Complete Streets Policy](#), and [COG Vision](#). Each activity is designed to address specific strategies established in the MTP.

Applicants are encouraged to apply for one of the pre-determined activity types outlined below. The anticipated scopes of work are intended to be a guide for the services and deliverables the TA Program will provide for communities. Communities can modify a pre-determined scope to suit their individual community needs as part of the application process.

Applicants must indicate their chosen activity type and provide the scope of work in their application. Awardees must be able to show that whichever project they choose can be completed within six to nine months.

## Activity Types:

The following activity types have been established for the 2025 TA Program cycle:

- 1. Active Transportation Planning**
  - a. Complete Streets Policy Development
  - b. Transit Supportive Infrastructure Planning
  - c. Active Transportation Project Prioritization
  
- 2. Central Ohio Greenways Visioning**
  - a. Central Ohio Greenways Vision Refinement
  - b. Trail Access & Connectivity Planning
  - c. Trail Town Visioning & Community Placemaking
  
- 3. Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety**
  - a. Safety Action Plan Development
  - b. Complete Streets Safety Audit
  - c. Systemic Pedestrian Safety Analysis
  
- 4. Land Use Planning**
  - a. Conceptual Development Framework
  - b. Transit Oriented Development Planning
  
- 5. Other**

Following are the potential scopes of work for each activity type. These may be modified by the applicant as part of the application process.

# 1. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

## a. Complete Streets Policy Development

**Background:** Complete Streets provide safe, comfortable, and convenient access for all roadway users regardless of mode, age, or ability. Complete Streets may include sidewalks, protected bike lanes, shared-use paths, bus lanes, roundabouts, or other design elements. Adopting a Complete Streets Policy formalizes a community's intent to plan, design, develop, redevelop, and maintain roads that work for all residents.

**Description:** This activity will provide communities with the best practices, design guidance, and planning tools necessary to write and implement a Complete Streets Policy. Completion of this activity should result in the development of a Complete Streets Policy that the community then ushers through the adoption process.

### **Examples of past services:**

- City of Delaware Complete Streets Policy
- City of Worthington Complete Streets Policy

### **Anticipated Services:**

- Review of existing legislation, standards, and guidance, as applicable
  - Local agency will compile all local plans and relevant materials
  - MORPC will review materials and outline where improvements can be made regarding design & implementation of Complete Streets
- Research and presentation of best practices for Complete Streets
  - MORPC staff will provide presentation materials describing the benefits and general best practices related to Complete Streets
- Lead up to two (2) workshops for staff, stakeholders, or public
  - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
  - MORPC staff will lead workshops to discuss opportunities for improving design and implementation of Complete Streets in the community
- Attend up to two (2) public workshops hosted/led by local agency staff
  - MORPC staff will provide support for local agency, should they decide to host any additional workshops or meetings

### **Anticipated Deliverables:**

- Draft *Complete Streets Policy* (formal policy to be passed through City Council, Township Board of Trustees, or County Commissioners as a resolution or ordinance)
- Strategy document identifying next steps for implementation

# 1. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

## b. Transit Supportive Infrastructure Planning

**Background:** *The insight2050 Corridor Concepts study identified key strategies for building truly transit-supportive corridors and transit-oriented development. As new initiatives like LinkUS work to implement recommendations from the Corridor Concepts study, it will be important for all communities in the region to identify where infrastructure improvements are needed in order to better connect people along priority regional transit corridors to the transit services.*

**Description:** *This activity will allow a community to understand key characteristics for providing safe pedestrian and bicyclist access to transit and identify issues and opportunities for improving access to key transit services. Completion of this activity should lead to a feasibility study or application for funding to design and/or implement the identified facilities.*

### **Anticipated Services:**

- Review existing plans and projects
  - Local agency will compile all local plans and proposed projects
  - MORPC will review plans and proposed projects to establish working base map
- Data development and analysis
  - MORPC staff will conduct data analysis as necessary for assessing issues and opportunities related to accessing transit
- Lead up to two (2) workshops for staff, stakeholders, or public
  - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
  - MORPC staff will lead workshops to review existing conditions and discuss potential improvements
- Finalize priority connections and transit access improvements
  - MORPC staff will conduct any final data analysis, as necessary
  - MORPC staff will consolidate input from all parties into final draft map of potential transit access improvements

### **Anticipated Deliverables:**

- Technical documentation including:
  - Priority connections and any relevant opportunities/constraints
  - Relevant best practices and resources
- Strategy document identifying next steps for implementation



# 1. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

## c. Active Transportation Project Prioritization

**Background:** *The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) identifies regionally significant projects to be eligible for federal transportation funding. A project must be included in the MTP in order for a community to use MORPC-Attributable federal funding. These projects include active transportation facilities such as multi-use paths, bike facilities, and sidewalks, as well as roadway projects that are required to comply with the regional Complete Streets Policy.*

**Description:** *This activity will allow a community to 1) review the active transportation projects currently in the MTP in detail within their jurisdiction to refine them and develop a strategy for prioritizing and implementing the proposed facilities, and/or 2) review the active transportation needs within the community and establish potential projects to include in the next MTP update. Completion of this activity should lead to 1) a feasibility study or application for funding to design and/or implement the identified facilities, and/or 2) a list of potential projects to be added to the next MTP update.*

### **Examples of past services:**

- *Violet Township – Active Transportation Planning*
- *Berlin Township – Active Transportation Planning*
- *Jefferson Township – Active Transportation Planning*

### **Anticipated Services:**

- Review existing plans and projects
  - Local agency will compile all local plans and proposed projects
  - MORPC will review plans, proposed projects, the ATP, and the MTP to establish working base map for assessing potential active transportation projects
- Data development and analysis
  - MORPC staff will conduct data analysis as necessary to help refine existing MTP projects and/or identify potential new projects
- Lead up to two (2) workshops for staff, stakeholders, or public
  - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
  - MORPC staff will lead workshops to review existing plans and discuss potential changes and/or additions to local priorities and the MTP
- Finalize priority projects and develop potential alternatives
  - MORPC staff will conduct any final data analysis, as necessary
  - MORPC staff will consolidate input from all parties into final draft map of potential active transportation projects

### **Anticipated Deliverables:**

- Technical documentation including:
  - Community active transportation network and proposed projects
  - Recommended design criteria and considerations
- Strategy document identifying next steps for implementation

## 2. CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS VISIONING

### a. Central Ohio Greenways Vision Refinement

**Background:** *The Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Vision establishes a vision for the future network of regionally significant trail facilities in Central Ohio. Many of the proposed facilities were originally identified along river corridors or constrained roadways but may be more feasible along different routes. Additional trails may also be worth consideration for designation in the COG Vision as regionally significant.*

**Description:** *This activity will allow a community to review the currently proposed regional trails in the [COG Vision](#) in detail within their jurisdiction to refine the proposed alignments or addition of a regional trail to the proposed vision, and develop a strategy for prioritizing and implementing the proposed trail. The focus of this activity is the regional trail network – not access to the network (see the next activity: Trail Access & Connectivity Planning). Completion of this activity should lead to a feasibility study or application for funding to design and/or implement the regional trail alignment that is identified.*

#### **Examples of past services:**

- Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks – Scioto Trail Southern Extension
- Brown Township – Regional Trail Visioning Study

#### **Anticipated Services:**

- Review existing plans and projects
  - Local agency will compile all local plans and proposed projects
  - MORPC will review plans, proposed projects, and COG Vision to establish working base map for refinement
- Data development and analysis
  - MORPC staff will conduct data analysis as necessary to identify potential routes
- Lead up to two (2) workshops for staff, stakeholders, or public
  - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
  - MORPC staff will lead workshops to review existing plans, identify alternatives, and develop strategies for implementation
- Finalize potential route options and implementation strategies
  - MORPC staff will conduct any final data analysis, as necessary
  - MORPC staff will consolidate input from all parties into summary of potential COG routes and related recommendations

#### **Anticipated Deliverables:**

- Technical documentation including:
  - Potential routes and any relevant opportunities/constraints
  - Recommended network connections and access points
- Strategy document identifying next steps for implementation

## 2. CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS VISIONING

### b. Trail Access & Connectivity Planning

**Background:** The recently completed Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Trail Prioritization study identified critical gaps in access to the regional trail network within Franklin County. The COG Trail Prioritization study and Active Transportation Plan (ATP) can both be used to guide assessment of trail access, as well as the level of stress associated with existing trail access, and identification of new/improved connections to trails in any community.

**Description:** This activity will review existing access and connections to the regional COG network within a community to identify potential opportunities for adding new connections – either on- or off-street. The goal of this activity is to increase access to the trail network via safe and comfortable connections for people of all incomes, ages, and abilities. Completion of this activity should lead to a temporary demonstration or pilot project along an identified connection, and/or an application for funding to design and/or implement the identified access improvements.

#### **Examples of past services:**

- City of Columbus – Downtown and Near-East Side Trail Access and Connectivity Study
- City of Dublin – Regional Trail Network Connectivity Study
- City of Sunbury – Ohio to Erie Trail Access and Connectivity Study
- City of Grove City – Scioto Trail Access and Connectivity Study

#### **Anticipated Services:**

- Review existing plans and projects
  - Local agency will compile all local plans and proposed projects
  - MORPC will review plans, proposed projects, and COG Vision to establish working base map for assessing trail access conditions
- Data development and analysis
  - MORPC staff will conduct data analysis as necessary to identify locations and options for improvements
- Lead up to two (2) workshops for staff, stakeholders, or public
  - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
  - MORPC staff will lead workshops to review existing conditions and discuss potential improvements
- Finalize priority on-street connections and trail access improvements
  - MORPC staff will conduct any final data analysis, as necessary
  - MORPC staff will consolidate input from all parties into final draft map of potential trail access improvements

#### **Anticipated Deliverables:**

- Technical documentation including:
  - Priority connections and any relevant opportunities/constraints
  - Recommended design criteria and considerations
- Strategy document identifying next steps for implementation

## 2. CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS VISIONING

### c. Trail Town Visioning and Community Placemaking

**Background:** The recently completed [Central Ohio Greenways \(COG\) Trail Town Framework](#) identified strategies to encourage communities to invest in their regional trails and improve their trail-to-town connections. Any community located within two (2) miles of a regional trail identified on the COG Vision is considered a potential Trail Town. While MORPC is exploring opportunities to fund and resource a regional trail town designation program, local communities are encouraged to identify and develop their physical and cultural connections, and proactively engage in this anticipated regional program.

**Description:** This activity will engage a community in a dynamic and immersive placemaking exercise to uncover and highlight the valuable local assets and cultural elements to more fully embrace individuals seeking to connect through trail-based experiences. Completion of this activity will result in the development of a Community Readiness Assessment and a Community Trail Profile, which will be used to promote the community's connection to the regional trail system as part of the future Regional Trail Town program.

#### **Anticipated Services:**

- Review current conditions
  - Local agency will inventory existing trail-related infrastructure in the identified study area
  - MORPC and the local agency will conduct a points of interest inventory and available services matrix
  - MORPC will develop a local business or resident survey to be administered by the local agency to assess business owners or resident perception of trails
- Lead up to two (2) workshops for staff and stakeholders
  - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
  - MORPC staff will lead workshops identify the local community's sense of place, identity, and vision for enhanced placemaking
- Finalize strategies
  - MORPC will consolidate all research and input into a summary of the community's trail identity and craft recommendations for placemaking strategies

#### **Anticipated Deliverables:**

- Community Readiness Assessment
  - A comprehensive overview of available trail related services, placemaking elements, and trail infrastructure
  - Recommendations to enhance the trail user experience through improved infrastructure, art, programming, or events
- Community Profile
  - Public-facing marketing and educational material celebrating cultural elements, trail connections, walkable and bikeable destinations, natural features, and other unique local elements.

### 3. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

#### a. Safety Action Plan Development

**Background:** The [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) (BIL) established the new Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary program with \$5 billion in appropriated funds over the next 5 years. The focus of this grant is addressing roadway safety through the reduction and/or elimination of roadway fatalities and serious injuries. In fiscal year 2022 (FY22), more than \$800 million was awarded for two different types of grants: Action Plan grants and Implementation grants. In order to be eligible for the Implementation grants, the applicant must have a qualifying Action Plan already in place.

**Description:** This activity will allow a community to conduct a planning process to develop an Action Plan that meets the SS4A grant requirements. Completion of this activity should lead to adoption of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, as well as an application for an SS4A Implementation Grant.

#### **Examples of past services:**

- City of Delaware – Safety Action Plan

#### **Anticipated Services:**

- Establish a local task force, steering committee, or implementation group
  - Local agency will identify priority stakeholders to include
- Existing conditions analysis
  - MORPC staff will conduct analysis of crash data to identify key crash types and factors as well as priority safety locations within the community
- Lead up to two (2) workshop for staff, stakeholders, or public
  - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
  - MORPC staff will lead workshop to discuss existing conditions and action plan development
- Identify comprehensive set of strategies and action items to address safety problems
  - MORPC staff will consolidate input from all parties into final draft of action plan

#### **Anticipated Deliverables:**

- Comprehensive Safety Action Plan that meets SS4A grant requirements

### 3. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

#### b. Complete Streets Safety Audit

**Background:** *The Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan released in 2019 identified pedestrians and bicyclists as the most vulnerable users on our regional transportation system. The update to the regional Active Transportation Plan further analyzed crashes involving people walking and bicycling and identified key factors in many of those crashes.*

**Description:** *This activity will allow a community to review crashes involving people walking and bicycling to identify priority location(s) to conduct a detailed audit to determine appropriate improvements for that location. Completion of this activity should lead to implementation of a temporary demonstration project or low-cost safety improvements, and/or an application for funding to design and implement permanent safety improvements.*

**Anticipated Services:**

- Review crashes involving people walking and bicycling within the jurisdiction
  - MORPC staff will conduct analysis of crash data to identify priority location(s) within the community
- Conduct a walk audit of priority location(s)
  - Local agency will identify key stakeholders and coordinate invitations
  - MORPC staff will lead formal walk audit with key stakeholders
- Lead a workshop for staff, stakeholders, or public
  - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
  - MORPC staff will lead workshop to discuss identified safety challenges and potential safety improvements
- Identify priority safety improvements
  - MORPC staff will consolidate input from all parties into final draft map of potential safety improvements

**Anticipated Deliverables:**

- Technical documentation including:
  - Priority safety locations
  - Recommended safety improvements
- Strategy document identifying next steps for implementation

### 3. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

#### c. Systemic Pedestrian Safety Analysis

**Background:** In January 2022, ODOT's [Highway Safety Improvement Program \(HSIP\)](#) began accepting funding applications for projects that focus on preventing pedestrian crashes through systemic infrastructure improvements. Systemic improvements are meant to be proactive and widely implemented based on roadway features that have been associated with specific crash types. FHWA has identified a range of proven countermeasures that prevent pedestrian crashes, and ODOT wants to encourage project applications that focus on the implementation of these improvements.

**Description:** This activity will allow a community to review pedestrian crashes within their jurisdiction and prioritize potential locations for implementation of specific countermeasures. Completion of this activity should lead to either installation of, or an application for funding to implement, the recommended countermeasures.

**Anticipated Services:**

- Review crashes involving pedestrians within the jurisdiction
  - MORPC staff will conduct analysis of crash data to understand key contributing factors and roadway characteristics
- Conduct a walk audit of key locations
  - Local agency will identify key stakeholders and coordinate invitations
  - MORPC staff will lead formal walk audit with key stakeholders
- Lead a workshop for staff, stakeholders, or public
  - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
  - MORPC staff will lead workshop to discuss identified safety challenges and potential safety improvements
- Identify priority safety improvements
  - MORPC staff will consolidate input from all parties into a final list of prioritized locations and preferred countermeasures

**Anticipated Deliverables:**

- Technical documentation for submittal as part of funding application, or inclusion in a local capital budget, including:
  - Map of prioritized locations
  - List of preferred countermeasures with cost estimates
  - Relevant safety metrics for each location



## 4. LAND USE PLANNING

### a. Conceptual Development Framework

**Background:** *As we prepare for the growth projected for the Central Ohio region, many communities are exploring the potential to implement more compact development, increase housing options, and accommodate more modes of transportation. Establishing a clear vision for strategic locations within individual communities can help to address this.*

**Description:** *This activity will allow a community to identify the most relevant best practices and development principles for a particular site or strategic location that will help to set the stage for a future development plan. Completion of this activity should result in establishing a vision and the planning and design principles that future development at an identified site will follow.*

#### **Examples of past services:**

- *City of Hilliard Cemetery Road Conceptual Development Framework*
- *Jefferson Township Blacklick Station Conceptual Development Framework*
- *City of Westerville Brooksedge Office Park Redevelopment Framework*
- *Violet Township Community Center Development Framework*

#### **Anticipated Services:**

- Review existing plans and policies relevant to the selected site
  - Local agency will compile all local plans and relevant materials
  - MORPC will review materials and provide summary of relevant highlights
- Existing conditions analysis
  - MORPC staff will review available data for the selected site to develop working base map and identify challenges/opportunities
- Lead up to two (2) workshops for staff, stakeholders, or public
  - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
  - MORPC staff will lead workshops to provide overview of study, existing conditions and plans, and relevant best practices
- Identify potential opportunities for implementation in the community
  - MORPC staff will consolidate input from all parties into final draft of potential options

#### **Anticipated Deliverables:**

- Conceptual Development Framework including:
  - Identified opportunities
  - Relevant best practices
  - Key development principles
  - Potential next steps for implementation

## 4. LAND USE PLANNING

### b. Transit Oriented Development Planning

**Background:** *The insight2050 Corridor Concepts study identified key strategies for building truly transit-supportive corridors and transit-oriented development. As new initiatives like LinkUS work to implement recommendations from the Corridor Concepts study, it will be important for all communities in the region to identify opportunities to further the goals of insight2050.*

**Description:** *This activity will allow a community to assess local policies and codes and identify where improvements can be made to provide more opportunity for transit-supportive development. Completion of this activity could result in potential policy or code updates, or a site-specific strategy for transit-oriented development.*

**Anticipated Services:**

- Review existing plans and policies, and/or site conditions
  - Local agency will compile all local plans and relevant materials
  - MORPC will review materials and outline where improvements can be made regarding design & implementation of transit oriented development
- Lead up to two (2) workshops for staff, stakeholders, or public
  - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
  - MORPC staff will lead workshops to discuss priorities and challenges related to transit oriented development
- Identify potential best practices for implementation in the community
  - MORPC staff will consolidate input from all parties into final draft of potential options

**Anticipated Deliverables:**

- Technical documentation including:
  - Potential best practices for implementation
- Strategy document identifying next steps for implementation

## 5. OTHER

### **Parameters for “Other” Activity Type**

**Description:** *If a community is interested in applying for a project that differs from the project types outlined above, the application must include a detailed scope that aligns with the parameters specified below.*

- Technical assistance should focus on moving from plan/concept to implementation.
- Activity should align with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Active Transportation Plan (ATP), or Central Ohio Greenways Vision.
- Applicant must provide a detailed scope of work.

# APPLICATION PROCESS

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All eligible MORPC members and local government agencies are invited to submit an application for the 2025 TA Program cycle. The application will be available to all eligible applicants beginning on September 16, 2024. **Program applications must be submitted to MORPC by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on Friday, October 11, 2024.**

The application consists of application criteria and required documentation. An evaluation committee will assess completed applications based on the criteria outlined below and further described on *pages 21-22* of this document.

**Application criteria** – Applications will be scored based on the application criteria listed in the table below. The highest-scoring application will be the first selected to receive technical assistance; the next highest-scoring eligible application will be the second selected to receive technical assistance; and so on until budget is exhausted or until all eligible applications have been awarded. It is possible that not all applicants will be awarded technical assistance.

Application Criteria	Points
Community Objectives	25
MTP Strategies	20
Implementing Regional Priorities	20
Equity Considerations	15
Local Commitment and Collaboration	10
Leveraging Investment	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

**Required documentation** – Applicant communities must submit a signed letter of commitment from the local governments' elected officials or department director as part of their application.

**The required documentation must be submitted to MORPC no later than the application deadline of 5:00 PM Eastern Time on Friday, October 11, 2024.**

## Application Checklist & Timeline

- Optional for all applicants** – Participate in a MORPC TA Program informational webinar on **Wednesday, September 18, 2024**, for more details about the program and application process
- Required for all applicants** – Submit an application and required documentation by **5:00 PM Eastern Time on Friday, October 11, 2024**.

# APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

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The application for the 2023 TA Program cycle will be made available on **Monday, September 16, 2024**. Anyone interested in applying for technical assistance through the TA Program must submit an application by **5:00 PM Eastern Time on Friday, October 11, 2024**.

The application will consist of the following:

1) **Applicant Information**

- a) Applicant Community/Organization
- b) Project Manager Name and Title
- c) Phone Number
- d) Email Address
- e) Mailing Address

2) **Activity Type**

Please select a Technical Assistance activity from the drop-down list.

3) **Preferred Scope of Work**

Please submit your preferred scope of work, including an estimated schedule, for the selected activity type.

4) **Staff Commitment**

Based on the identified scope of work and estimated activity schedule, how many person hours (per week, per month, or total) does the applicant intend to commit to the activity?

5) **Community Objectives** (25 points) (500 word maximum)

Please describe the significance of the proposed activity. What are the objectives and what is the perceived benefit to the community? How will an award of technical assistance through the TA Program improve the activity?

6) **MTP Strategies** (20 points) (500 word maximum)

Please indicate how the selected activity will advance specific strategies from the MTP focused on improving active transportation and transit infrastructure. Your response should address at least two (2) and up to five (5) of the most applicable strategies. Refer to the Program Purpose on page 3 for the specific strategies.

7) **Implementing Regional Priorities** (20 points) (500 word maximum)

Please describe how the selected activity will help to implement project(s) in alignment with the MTP, ATP, or COG Vision.

**8) Equity Considerations (15 points) (500 word maximum)**

Please describe how the selected activity will address transportation needs of transportation disadvantaged and/or underserved populations within your community.

Transportation disadvantaged or underserved populations may include:

- Low-income
- Minorities
- Senior Citizens
- Veterans
- Children / Minors
- Persons with mental / physical disabilities
- College Students
- Or other groups that are often (unintentionally) excluded from planning processes

**9) Local Commitment and Collaboration (10 points) (500 word maximum)**

To be awarded assistance through the TA Program, communities must commit to designating a community staff person as Project Manager.

Above and beyond this minimum requirement, please indicate how the selected activity will engage relevant community stakeholders – for example: interdepartmental staff, elected officials, school district representatives, civic associations, chambers of commerce, or advocacy groups – to participate in the technical assistance process? Identify potential stakeholders below and describe how their involvement would increase the success of the activity. Examples may include in-kind commitments of stakeholder staff time and resources, demonstrated public-private collaboration, committee participation, etc.

**10) Leveraging Investment (10 points) (500 word maximum)**

How will MORPC technical assistance services be leveraged to implement active transportation and transit infrastructure?

**11) Required Documentation**

To ensure elected community leaders and/or department directors recognize that staff are requesting technical assistance through the MORPC TA Program, a letter of commitment signed by a local leader or department director must accompany the application. No points are awarded for required documentation, however, failure to submit will result in the application being ineligible. Required documentation must be submitted to MORPC no later than the application deadline of **5:00 PM Eastern Time on Friday, October 11, 2024.**



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
[www.morpc.org](http://www.morpc.org)

## Memorandum

**TO:** Transportation Policy Committee  
Transportation Advisory Committee  
Community Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Maria Schaper, Transportation Study Director

**DATE:** August 28, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Resolution T-12-24: **"Accepting the Planning Work Program Completion Report for State Fiscal Year 2024"**

Annually, MORPC is required to submit a report to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) describing the work completed with federal planning funds provided to continue the metropolitan transportation planning process, as defined by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

For State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024, the use of these funds was outlined in the SFY 2024 Planning Work Program (PWP) adopted by Resolution T-6-23. The PWP serves as the scope of work, the schedule, and the budget for the federally funded planning activities.

The PWP included such activities as follow up of the SFY 24-27 TIP, continued delivery of projects using MORPC-attributable funds with update of policies managing MORPC attributable funds, follow up of the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), adoption of the 2024-2050 MTP, collaboration on major regional initiatives related to greenways and housing, assistance on freeway and arterial studies, support for safety and operations and management of the transportation system, and support for transit, bike, and pedestrian planning.


The SFY 2024 PWP also included the continuation of ridesharing/demand reduction and air quality awareness activities. As part of this scope of work, MORPC also completed the selection process for FTA Section 5310 funding, continued the Regional Data Advisory Committee, continued outreach and developed resources related to insight2050, including the technical assistance program, collaborated to advance intercity passenger rail, continued the LinkUs initiative with other regional partners most significantly with the transit supportive infrastructure (TSI) component, and other projects and activities that have been presented over the state fiscal year.

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

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
*Chair*

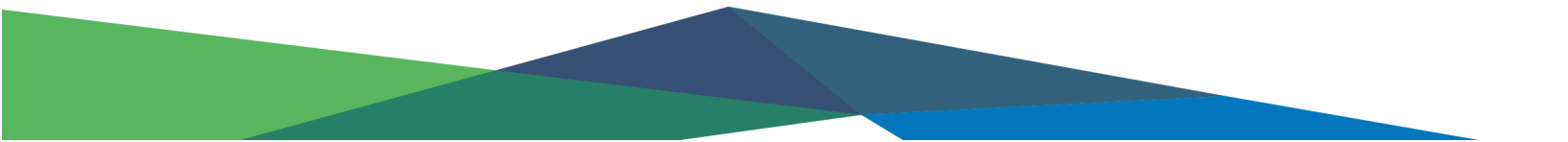
**Michelle Crandall**  
*Vice Chair*

**Ben Kessler**  
*Secretary*



A summary of the PWP activities is included as an attachment to the resolution. A full report is available upon request. Resolution T-12-24 approves the completion report and requires that it be forwarded to ODOT.

**Attachment:** Resolution T-12-24





RESOLUTION T-12-24

**“ACCEPTING THE PLANNING WORK PROGRAM COMPLETION REPORT FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2024”**

WHEREAS, it is the role of the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) to help encourage, facilitate, and provide a forum for regional, cooperative transportation planning and decision-making; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Work Program (PWP) is the document that outlines the work of the MPO, the use of regional transportation planning funds and the regional planning activities that will be conducted each state fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Policy Committee adopted the SFY 2024 Planning Work Program (PWP) by Resolution T-6-23; and

WHEREAS, the activities described in the PWP have been completed or carried over into SFY 2025 and reported in the PWP Completion Report, a summary of which is attached; and

WHEREAS, major products of the PWP have been presented previously; and

WHEREAS, these products include the core work with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the continued delivery of projects using MORPC-attributable funds, as well as regional initiatives such as greenways and housing, supporting freeway and arterial studies, local traffic forecasting and continuing updates to the travel demand model, maintaining data to support modeling and planning needs, support for transit planning and ODOT planning studies, ITS, ridesharing/demand reduction, bike and pedestrian planning, safety planning and air quality awareness; and

WHEREAS, ODOT requires approval of this PWP Completion Report by the Transportation Policy Committee as the Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its September 4, 2024 meeting, and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its September 4, 2024 meeting recommended approval to the Transportation Policy Committee; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

- Section 1. That the Transportation Policy Committee approves the PWP Completion Report for SFY 2024.
- Section 2. That this resolution and the PWP Completion Report be forwarded to the Ohio Department of Transportation for appropriate action.
- Section 3. That the Transportation Policy Committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of the committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Amorose Groomes, Chair  
**MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Prepared by: Programming Staff  
Attachment: Summary of Completion Report for the SFY 2024 Planning Work Program

# Summary

## FISCAL YEAR 2024 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM COMPLETION

### I. Formula Funded Planning Program Activities

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**Total Budget:** \$4,268,138

**Balance Remaining for SFY 2025 or later is:** \$224,093

#### Work Element Report Summary

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##### 60124-3000 - Management & Operations Planning

**Budget:** \$170,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$177,925

Meetings of the Central Ohio ITS committee were held in April and July. Project updates were provided at each meeting. MORPC hosted a Transportation Innovation Forum in May that discussed innovative transportation systems, management ideas, and initiatives. MORPC partnered with the Transportation Research Center to explore future grant funding opportunities relating to pedestrian detection technology and other innovative approaches. MORPC coordinated with NOACA staff in planning for the upcoming Ohio Conference on Freight.

##### 60134-3000 - Safety Planning

**Budget:** \$110,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$103,572

MORPC was actively involved in local and state safety initiatives, provided safety-focused technical assistance to local partners for applications to state and federal discretionary grant programs, and hosted the annual Central Ohio Transportation Safety Forum. MORPC continues to be the OARC representative on statewide safety committees, and actively participated in local safety committees. The 2018-2022 State of Safety report was completed, documenting the latest crash data summaries for the region, as well as recent progress on implementing the Safety Plan. MORPC also applied for and was awarded multiple federal discretionary grants for safety planning and research.

##### 60154-3000 - Transit and Human Services Planning

**Budget:** \$125,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$124,698

MORPC carried out transit planning coordination, assistance, and oversight to improve transit services and workforce mobility meeting Metropolitan Transportation Plan strategies. Administration, oversight and the update of the Regional Mobility Plan was completed by the Mobility Coordinator. The Mobility Coordinator held public advisory meetings for Franklin County as well as the Region 6 Mobility Managers Steering Committee.

Regional transit provider coordination continues on a quarterly basis with involvement of all transit agencies, mobility managers, and service providers in the ODOT Region 6 HSTC and the CORPO boundaries.

Staff is participating on several initiatives with regards to workforce mobility including an ODOT-sponsored project for east-west transit connections in northern Franklin County, southern Delaware County, and northwestern Licking County.

## **60204-3000 - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Implementation**

**Budget:** \$375,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$375,442

Revisions to the SFY 2024-2027 TIP were coordinated with ODOT and local agencies by reviewing the monthly S/TIP Revision Report. Staff approved administrative modifications monthly and prepared four amendment resolutions, which were approved by the Transportation Policy Committee.

Regarding MORPC-Attributable Funds, MORPC worked alongside the Attributable Funds Committee to update the Policies for Managing MORPC-Attributable Funds. These Policies were adopted by the Transportation Policy Committee in May of 2024, and shortly thereafter a new solicitation for commitment updates and new funding requests began. For SFY 2024 approximately \$50 million of attributable funds were encumbered for use on transportation projects and programs in the region.

Federally funded projects were coordinated with local agencies, ODOT and the Ohio Public Works Commission. ODOT District staff held quarterly meetings with local sponsoring agencies, their consultants, and MORPC staff to monitor project development and address any issues. Monthly reports on the status of the MORPC-attributable projects were provided to the TAC. MORPC reviewed engineering plans for projects utilizing attributable funds to ensure compliance with the Complete Streets Policy. Additionally, MORPC prepared an update to the Complete Streets Policy which was adopted by the Transportation Policy Committee in May of 2024. MORPC, COTA, DCT, and ODOT Transit met quarterly to stay current on transit-specific TIP issues.

In July and August 2023, MORPC staff evaluated and prioritized ten applications to TRAC for Major New Capacity Program funding that were submitted in the 2023 cycle. Resolution T-12-23 established the regional priorities for candidate projects for TRAC funding and was adopted September 14, 2023 and transmitted to ODOT. MORPC staff presented the priority list to TRAC and ODOT staff at the Central Ohio regional hearing on September, 2023. Awards were in the Spring of 2024. ODOT accepted TRAC applications for the 2024 cycle in May. Five projects were submitted in the MORPC area. Project fact sheets were prepared, and a public comment period began in July 2024 to solicit comments on the MPO prioritization of the projects.

## **60514-2000 - Manage, Map, Collect, and Share Data**

**Budget:** \$510,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$550,434

MORPC has continued its role as a leader in convening and collaborating with data professionals, planners and other stakeholders throughout the Central Ohio Region. We are implementing new operational objectives aimed at improving the acquisition, maintenance and ultimately, use of our internal and publicly hosted data sets and systems - including the development of a MORPC Insights platform, and continuation of our Leaders Listen public opinion polling. Good stewardship of existing data sets through regularized updates and organization is a key objective. We look to better utilize existing technologies for collecting, maintaining, and sharing data that support transportation and community-based planning, and grow partnerships in the region that bring expertly curated data and insights to expanded decision-making contexts.

Through the Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC), RIDG, and COGUG user groups, partnerships with organizations such as NNIP, Ohio EPA, Franklin County Public Health, The Columbus Dispatch, CHRR and CURA at OSU, and initiatives such as the Data Day conference and the Leaders Listen survey series, we advanced new research, and a used data inform and better align efforts. Members of our community of data professionals has inspired each other and continue to strive toward shared visions of a better future for all Central Ohio residents.

## **60524-2000 - Data Analytics and Research for Transportation Projects and Programs**

**Budget:** \$500,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$521,572

MORPC provided GIS and data analytics services to support the completion of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and a variety of internal and partner-based projects and programs. We also provided technical assistance in the ongoing refinement of core MTP processes and procedures and significant technical support for community stakeholders seeking guidance and feedback for a wide variety of purposes. For the first time we have implemented an Active Transportation Network Analysis tool capable of generating detailed evaluations of sidewalk and bikeway access under a variety of different scenario assumptions.

We continue to update, expand, and make data publicly available through our Mid-Ohio Open Data and Population Resource Hub sites, as well as a variety of other data products and reports. Implementation for Phase 1 (of 3) of a more consolidated, accessible, and user-oriented platform for providing domain specific insights to regional stakeholders is underway.

MORPC serviced over 214 ad-hoc requests for data, insights, and GIS resources from member communities, partners, and frequently also non-affiliated organizations and individuals in government, nonprofit, and academic sectors through a variety of channels.

## **60554-3000 - Transportation Systems Analysis Techniques and Applications**

**Budget:** \$460,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$443,782

MORPC continued to refine the 3C regional travel demand model and used it for numerous planning and area studies. The model was used to fulfill many requests for traffic growth rates and related activities during the year. Environmental Justice analysis procedures were updated, and the Environmental Justice and air quality analyses were completed for the 2024-2050 MTP. Vehicle Miles Travelled analyses were conducted for projects and applications aiming to update greenhouse gas inventories and carbon reduction strategies, and the land use forecast and model of record for the 2024-2050 MTP were finalized.

## **61013-3000 - Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Planning (SFY 2023)**

**Budget:** \$73,859

**Spent through 6/30:** \$73,859

Refer to 61014-3000 for a summary of activities.

## **61014-3000 - Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Planning**

**Budget:** \$480,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$479,183

Identification of candidate projects for the 2024-2050 MTP concluded in summer of 2023. More than 1,200 candidate projects, collected from local plans and through public input, were evaluated for inclusion in the MTP. The evaluation criteria were also developed in the summer and fall of 2023. Additionally, strategies were drafted, projects selected, and the full plan document was developed. Approximately 50 presentations were given to local jurisdictions and community groups throughout the region in December 2023 through March 2024. An open house was held in February 2024. The MTP was adopted in May 2024 with approval of the conformity determination received from FHWA in June.

MORPC staff supported several local and regional transportation studies such as LinkUS BRT corridor development, City of Columbus Downtown Multimodal Study, City of Columbus North Knot Study, City of Dublin travel demand modeling, and SR-161 Corridor, and I-71/Big Walnut interchange study.

Staff followed and participated in various ODOT planning activities, Route 23 Connect, Strategic Transportation and Development Analysis, and several planning activities related to the Intel area development. MORPC continued discussions and partnerships on passenger rail efforts in Ohio and surrounding states.

MORPC team members participated in ODOT-led trainings on tools and processes to be used in the Urban Area Boundary adjustment review and completed the review process in coordination with local jurisdictions.

### **61024-0400 - Transportation Public Involvement**

**Budget:** \$135,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$134,151

Eight meetings of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and ten meetings of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) took place. All transportation-related topics included elsewhere in the PWP report were presented. The committees reviewed and passed 16 transportation-related resolutions over the fiscal year.

Press releases, printed materials, and digital content (social media, morpc.org website, and electronic newsletters) were used regularly to solicit public participation and involvement on transportation-related activities. Topics included were: 5310 Funding; Air Quality; Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO) & CORPO-Dedicated Funds; CHRR & MORPC Leaders Listen: Transportation Survey; Central Ohio Greenways (COG); Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) updates and Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP); City of Columbus zoning code updates; Clean Ohio Conservation Fund; Delaware County Public Transit public comment opportunities, updates; DriveOhio & ODOT Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Public Meeting; Driving Investment: Promoting Infrastructure Survey; Federal MPO Recertification Public Meeting; Gohio Commute; Gohio Mobility; LinkUS Mobility Initiative; Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP); Mid-Ohio Open Data (MOOD); MORPC-Attributable Funds; MORPC Messaging Survey; Passenger Rail Updates; ODOT public comment periods and updates; Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Local Infrastructure Funding; Outdoor Trails Pass; Population Estimates; Regional Investment Survey; Regional Mobility Plan (RMP Survey); Ride Your Bike To Work Day; Safer Streets for All (SS4A) program; Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP); Technical Assistance Program; Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) Process/Projects; Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) and Vision Zero Columbus.

Promoted (via social media, print, and MORPC website) and attended the following community outreach events, where programs, services, and public input opportunities were promoted: Ohio Department of Transportation's MBE and Diverse Business Opportunity Expo; Community Senior Resource Fair; Franklin County Auditor's Affordable Housing Fair; National African American Male Wellness Agency Walk and Run; Franklin County Engineer's Touch-a-Truck; National County Government Month Open House; Somali International Council Open House and Community Fair; My Brother's Keeper & COBG College, Career, and Community Fair; Riverfest; and MLK Day Open House.

### **61034-1000 - Regional Strategic Initiatives**

**Budget:** \$425,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$307,344

MORPC advanced Insight2050 by supporting local governments in addressing housing needs and improving mobility through a multimodal transportation system. Building on its Regional Housing Strategy, MORPC continued to identify barriers and solutions, engaged with members, and participated in national housing discussions. The latest Leaders Listen survey gathered residents' views on housing and transportation, guiding regional efforts to align housing and public transit with Central Ohio's growth.

MORPC furthered the Central Ohio Greenways Vision by aiding in the planning and funding of Greenways trails and multi-use paths, contributing to the LinkUS TSI 5-year plan for over 100 miles of new trails, sidewalks, and bikeways. This effort also supported local government funding commitments for bicycle and pedestrian projects

and involved ongoing trail studies and plan reviews. The updated COG Strategy Plan included projects for wayfinding, trail towns, and environmental conservation.

In river corridor planning, MORPC led the Central Ohio Blueways program, previously mapping waterways and public access points, and guiding program priorities through the Central Ohio Blueways Steering Committee. Additionally, MORPC established the Greenways Planning Studio in partnership with RAPID 5, focusing on data management and regional collaboration to build the largest interconnected parks district in the U.S.

### **62514-1000 - Planning Coordination and Support**

**Budget:** \$210,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$169,045

MORPC continued to strengthen local government and partner awareness and knowledge of active transportation and compact development concepts including Complete Streets and bicycle and pedestrian network connectivity through data storytelling presentations, interactive workshops, and media. MORPC also hosted informational meetings with local governments and other agencies, stakeholders, and community organizations on these and other topics related to community development and the transportation network.

To support connectivity of the regional active transportation and trail network, MORPC facilitated meetings among neighboring jurisdictions to encourage collaboration on existing projects and to discuss and plan for potential future infrastructure projects.

### **62524-1000 - Member Assistance and Support**

**Budget:** \$550,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$443,336      Activity continues beyond SFY 2024.

In fall of 2023, MORPC launched the Community-Based Planning Assistance (CBPA) programs, including the Consultant Services and Planner Pool Programs, aimed at supporting local government members and community Planning Commissions with technical and educational resources. The Consultant Services Program prequalified over 30 consultants in planning and zoning activities and helped three communities with consultant RFP processes. The Planner Pool Program addressed various project needs ranging from parking assessments to supplemental design guides and visioning studies. MORPC is also developing a digital library of community plans and data, set to launch in late 2024.

MORPC, alongside The Columbus Dispatch and Measurement Resources Company, surveyed nearly 2,000 Central Ohio residents on housing preferences, capturing diverse responses from urban, suburban, and rural areas. This survey provides valuable insights into regional housing and planning needs.

Additionally, MORPC worked with Cultivate Geospatial to create a tool for analyzing active transportation networks, assessing walking and biking access, and evaluating the Heritage Rail Trail extension. The Central Ohio Greenways Wayfinding Strategy supports improved walkability and bikeability, while MORPC continues to assist local governments with best practices in active transportation planning.

### **69714-3000 - Program Administration**

**Budget:** \$144,279

**Spent through 6/30:** \$139,702

Meetings of the MPO transportation committees were conducted throughout the year, with the CAC holding eight meetings, and the TAC and Policy Committee each holding ten meetings. The 2023 PWP completion report and SFY 2025 PWP were prepared. No Title VI complaints were received this fiscal year. Finally, a portion of the Title VI Compliance report was completed in March 2024.

## II. Special Studies

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**Total Budget: \$3,453,158**

**Balance Remaining for SFY 2025 or later is: \$1,456,383**

### Work Element Report Summary

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#### **66513-1000 - Central Ohio Greenways Wayfinding Strategy**

**Budget:** \$290,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$290,000

MORPC completed the Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Wayfinding Strategy, with recommendations to enhance signage and maps and offer a trail user experience that focuses on safety, while layering opportunities to encourage explorations and moments of inspiration through public art, trail ambassadors, and other partnerships.

#### **66522-3000 - LinkUS Regional Corridors Planning**

**Budget:** \$500,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$500,000

The remaining funds carried into SFY 24 were spent continuing the LinkUS initiative around outreach to local jurisdictions and the formation of TSI committee structure and program policy development.

#### **66534-3000 - Growth and Major Economic Development Planning**

**Budget:** \$1,000,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$72,583      Activity continues beyond SFY 2024.

The Request for Proposal for consultant services was posted in the fall of 2023. A consultant team was selected, and the contract was signed in April of 2024. Initial steps to begin consultant tasks were started.

#### **66544-0400 - Paving The Way**

**Budget:** \$50,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$0

No expenses were incurred in SFY 24. The decision was made to sunset the program.

#### **66564-3000 - Regional Supplemental Planning**

**Budget:** \$400,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$400,000

1) See 60204-3000 for activities related to the TIP and project expedition.

2) Our traffic count consultant collected traffic counts at various locations throughout the region to support modeling and planning activities. These were loaded into the online system.

3) See 60524-2000 for activities related to regional data sets.

4) MORPC provided planning data and travel demand model forecasting support for several local and regional planning activities including: LinkUS West Broad and East Main Corridors, ODOT I-71/SR-36 interchange, Big

Walnut interchange studies, US 33 Southeast study, and other smaller requests.

5) MORPC led efforts in the region to advance intercity passenger rail service to Columbus including forming a passenger rail committee.

6) MORPC continued to work with partners and the Sustaining Scioto board with focus on climate change impacts, updated Green infrastructure toolkit and kicked off comprehensive regional water study.

7) Working with the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) and 37 Sustainable2050 members, MORPC facilitated regular meetings and best practices sharing around making progress towards the targets as outlined in the Sustainability Agenda and MTP.

#### **66574-1000 - Technical Assistance Program**

**Budget:** \$275,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$275,000

MORPC revised the Technical Assistance Program Guide and administered a fifth cycle of the program. Franklin Township and Jefferson Township were awarded for Active Transportation Planning activities. Worked with each community to develop a scope of work and project timeline, then carried out the scoped activities. This work included compiling and analyzing data, reviewing past planning materials and resources, engaging with key stakeholders, completing GIS-based network analyses, and developing implementation plans.

#### **67413-3000 - 5310 Designated Recipient 2023**

**Budget:** \$169,079

**Spent through 6/30:** \$76,785

The annual solicitation and selection of projects to receive FTA 5310 funding was completed in the fall of 2023. Project subrecipients continued to draw down dollars according to the MORPC process. Staff continued to monitor federal compliance with TrAMS and complete the FFRs and MPRs in a timely manner. Subrecipients file semi-annual reports to stay in compliance with their vehicles utilized for 5310 services.

#### **67414-3000 - 5310 Designated Recipient 2024**

**Budget:** \$169,079

**Spent through 6/30:** \$0                      Activity continues beyond SFY 2024.

No expenses for the work element were incurred in SFY 2024. See work element 67413-3000 for all SFY 2024 5310 activities.

#### **67423-3000 - Mobility Management 2023**

**Budget:** \$150,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$79,511

Development of the Regional Mobility Plan's governance structure and the yearly update were completed. Staff completed outreach activities and information and referral to promote Gohio Mobility and accessible transportation options. Staff led the Franklin County Mobility Advisory Committee meetings monthly and convened mobility managers from ODOT's HSTC Region 6 quarterly for strategic planning of the regional goals/strategies.



**67424-3000 - Mobility Management 2024**

**Budget:** \$150,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$0                      Activity continues beyond SFY 2024.

No expenses for the work element were incurred in SFY 2024. See work element 67433-3000 for SFY 2024 activities.

**67433-3000 - Mobility Management ODOT Regional Supplemental 2023**

**Budget:** \$300,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$90,113                      Activity continues beyond SFY 2024.

Completed the development of a governance structure for the Regional Mobility Plan and the yearly update, including the SWOT analysis and unmet needs for ODOT HSTC Region 6. In addition, conducted outreach activities, providing information and referrals to promote Gohio Mobility and accessible transportation options. The Franklin County Mobility Advisory Committee meetings were held monthly, and mobility managers from ODOT's HSTC Region 6 were convened quarterly for strategic planning of regional goals and strategies. Finally, mobility staff received training and participated in professional development activities to further program goals.

### III. Ridesharing and Air Quality

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**Total Budget: \$1,325,000**

**Balance Remaining for SFY 2025 or later is: \$0**

#### **Work Element Report Summary**

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##### **66714-3000 - Transportation Services (Ridesharing)**

**Budget: \$750,000**

**Spent through 6/30: \$727,076**

Promoted Travel Demand Management (TDM) across Central Ohio, marketing carpool, vanpool, bike, and transit matching programs throughout our 15-county area. Established new vanpools, provided pedestrian support, and advised employers on TDM strategies to improve workforce transportation. Managed an emergency ride home program, a vanpool program, and coordinated a statewide rideshare matching contract with OARC agencies.

##### **66734-1000 - Air Quality Awareness**

**Budget: \$575,000**

**Spent through 6/30: \$557,904**

MORPC maintained the daily air quality forecasting program and coordinated digitally focused marketing and air quality alerts to educate the public about air quality, and convened Energy and Air Quality working group meetings to share best practices.

MORPC completed and released its annual air quality report for ozone and PM2.5 in early 2024. As a result, MORPC participated in several media interviews and gave several educational presentations about the state of air quality in the region.

In partnership with Franklin County Public Health (FCPH), MORPC completed a pilot study utilizing PurpleAir PM2.5 air sensors across Franklin County to better understand variability in air pollution levels across zip codes. Data collection concluded and a report outlines the findings. Building on this air monitoring project, MORPC and our partners ramped up the US EPA CLEAN project. This work includes forming a Project Advisory Committee and acquiring enough sensors to nearly triple the number of PurpleAir sensors in Franklin County. Additional technical work and modeling will help inform the project moving forward.

At the recommendation of USDOT, MORPC resubmitted its USDOT Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant proposal which was originally submitted in June 2023. The application was highly recommended across all grant criteria with new EV charging sites proposed across communities in MORPC's 15 county region. The MORPC team also continued to promote EV charging solutions through panel discussions at conferences, virtual forums, and committee meetings.

## IV. Planning Activities Undertaken By Other Entities

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**Total Budget: \$0**

### Work Element Report Summary

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#### **66505-3000 - Ongoing Local Planning**

*This activity is provided solely for informational purposes and does not have a final product or any budget within the work program. However, staff members may be involved through related activities in planning activities undertaken by others.*

MORPC regularly monitors local planning activities and participates in planning efforts of local communities as requested.

COTA continued project development activities for the West Broad and East Main Street BRT corridors. The LinkUs partners also developed a five-year program of Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) projects that would be completed with passage of the COTA sales tax increase. Columbus continued project development activities for the Northwest Corridor BRT project and study of the downtown area focused on the convergence of the BRT routes downtown. They also continued a study on SR 315 in the campus area to look at improving mobility in the OSU medical campus area and Carmenton area.

MORPC continues to assist with the administration of the Franklin County Transportation Improvement District. Working with individual counties throughout central Ohio the Competitive Advantage Project list were maintained for each county.

#### **67401-3000 - Ongoing COTA Activities**

*This activity is provided solely for informational purposes and does not have a final product or any budget within the work program. However, staff members may be involved through related activities in planning activities undertaken by others.*

COTA has implemented strategies from their Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP) adopted last year. The SRTP includes recommendations to improve services within a 5-year timeframe for fixed route, COTA mainstream, and COTA/Plus services. They have also continued their transition to a zero-emission fleet, including the completion of expanding the McKinley Avenue Garage for more capacity, electric charging, and upgraded maintenance capabilities. COTA progressed project development on the West Broad, East Main, and Northwest BRT corridors.

COTA held public meetings for their quarterly service changes. These meetings are held twice during each quarter to both receive and deliver information.

#### **67402-3000 - Ongoing DCT Activities**

*This activity is provided solely for informational purposes and does not have a final product or any budget within the work program. However, staff members may be involved through related activities in planning activities undertaken by others.*

Delaware County Transit (DCT) continued to expand their ridership and service, breaking multiple records for monthly ridership driven by additional FLEX service within the City of Delaware and additional demand-response service throughout the county. DCT also planned for the introduction of Saturday FLEX service as well. DCT released their 2024-2028 strategic plan to the public in April. The first strategic plan was launched in 2023 to look at the short- and long-term investments and changes needed to be completed to move DCT into the next wave of growth in Delaware County.