



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

## NOTICE OF A MEETING

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**111 LIBERTY STREET, SUITE 100**  
**COLUMBUS, OH 43215**  
*BOARD ROOM*

Thursday, September 5, 2024  
1:30 p.m.

### ***Remote Option***

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

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 285 459 423 799

Passcode: U2DX84

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

+1 614-362-3056, Columbus

(888) 596-2819, United States (Toll-free)

Phone conference ID: 993 410 300#

## AGENDA

1. **Welcome** – Michelle Crandall, Chair
2. **Consent Agenda**
  - Approval of [August 1, 2024 minutes](#)
3. **Executive Director’s Report** – William Murdock, Executive Director
  - **LinkUS Update**
4. **Committee Updates**
  - **Regional Policy Roundtable** – Joseph Garrity, Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations
  - **Regional Data Advisory Committee** – Dave Dixon, Interim Senior Director of Planning & Director of Data Analytics & Strategy

**William Murdock, AICP**  
Executive Director

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
Chair

**Michelle Crandall**  
Vice Chair

**Ben Kessler**  
Secretary

- **Sustainability Advisory Committee** – Dave Dixon, Interim Senior Director of Planning & Director of Data Analytics & Strategy
  - **Transportation Policy Committee** – Parag Agrawal, Chief Mobility & Infrastructure Officer & Senior Director of Programming
5. **Proposed Resolution 13-24: “Authorizing the executive director to participate in contracts awarded by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Cooperative Purchasing Program”** – Parag Agrawal, Chief Mobility & Infrastructure Officer & Senior Director of Programming
  6. **Draft Commission Agenda**
  7. **Other Business**

**PLEASE NOTIFY SHARI SAUNDERS AT 614-233-4169 OR [ssaunders@morpc.org](mailto:ssaunders@morpc.org) IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.**

**The next Executive Committee Meeting is  
Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.  
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43215**

**PARKING AND TRANSIT:** When parking in MORPC's parking lot, please be sure to park in a MORPC visitor space or in a space marked with a yellow “M”. Handicapped parking is available at the side of MORPC's building. Electric vehicle charging stations are available for MORPC guests.

Indoor bike parking is available for MORPC guests.

MORPC is accessible by COTA BUS. The closest bus stop to MORPC is S. Front Street & W. Blenkner St. Buses that accommodate this stop are the Number 61 - Grove City, the Number 5 - West 5th Ave. /Refugee, and the Number 8 - Karl/S. High/Parsons. MORPC is accessible by COTA BUS. The closest bus stop to MORPC southbound is High Street & W. Blenkner Street. Buses that accommodate this stop are the 5 - West 5th Ave./Refugee, and the 8 - Karl/S. High/Parsons. The closest stop to MORPC northbound is High Street & E. Hoster Street. Buses that accommodate this stop are the 5 - West 5th Avenue/Refugee and the 8 - Karl/S. High/Parsons. Accessible from the Courthouse stop by a quick walk are COTA lines 1, 2, 4, and CMAX.



## Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: August 1, 2024  
Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Location: MORPC Board Room

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### **Members Attending in Person**

LaGrieta Acheampong	Michelle Crandall	Hayley Lupton
Chris Amorose Groomes	Ben Kessler	Matt Starr
Jeff Benton	Kris Long	Joe Stefanov

### **Members Attending Remotely**

Laurie Jadwin

### **MORPC Staff Attending in Person**

Steve Armstrong	Shawn Hufstedler	Maria Schaper
Andrea Doolittle	Eileen Leuby	Brandi Whetstone
Joe Garrity	Kelsey Matson	Robert Williams
Nick Gill	William Murdock	
Ralonda Hampton	Shari Saunders	

### **Welcome – Michelle Crandall**

Chair Michelle Crandall called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

### **Consent Agenda**

LaGrieta Acheampong made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Joe Stefanov; motion passed.

### **Executive Director's Report – William Murdock**

William Murdock presented the [Executive Director's Report](#). Mr. Murdock congratulated and thanked Nick Gill who is retiring after 31 years at MORPC. We are celebrating him at next week's Commission meeting. Mr. Murdock is grateful to Mr. Gill who was a great help to him when he came on board. Mr. Gill was also an incredible help with Parag Agrawal and in training people coming up.

Mr. Murdock announced Maria Schaper is the new Transportation Study Director and Ralonda Hampton is the Interim Communications & Engagement Director. Mr. Murdock is down to two candidates for the Chief Regional Planning Officer and may be able to share his decision next week.

The Long Street Cultural Wall is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The wall that tells the story of the neighborhood is the first of its kind in the nation. MORPC was one of the major funders to make it happen and is working with community partners to celebrate later in the fall.

Recordings of the weekly Money Mondays are available on YouTube. MORPC is getting great participation; 25-40 folks participate every week on different topics.

As MORPC Home Weatherization Team Members reviewed the contract, they discovered if people went through another HUD program, they are automatically eligible for HWAP. This opens another income bracket for us. Four out of five of our home repair programs are HUD programs. We can go back twelve months to seek clients.

MORPC placed 51 interns in Central Ohio communities this summer. The total investment when counting scholarships, staff investment, and wages paid by communities is about \$400,000. This year's program starts wrapping up this week.

MORPC was awarded the Ohio Auditor of State Award of Distinction. We were also awarded four stars in their StaRS Rating System. The StaRS System includes transparency and good stewardship. The Auditor's Office is coming to present the award at next week's Commission meeting.

Mr. Murdock thanked those whose communities participated in this year's Salary Survey. The survey is wrapping up and should be available in September.

The 208 Process Review Committee, chaired by Tom Homan, kicked off. Brandi Whetstone will give more information in her report. The Governor's Office and the Ohio EPA are keeping watch.

We had our first Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) meeting with the Economic Development Agency in June. The CEDS Committee officially kicks off in August. Daryl Hennessy, City Manager of Sunbury and former Business Services Chief from the Ohio Department of Development, is the committee chair. Padmini Roy-Dixon will give a full update at next week's Commission meeting.

The Passenger Rail Committee, chaired by Terry Emery, kicked off with Fort Wayne participating remotely. We received a lot of media coverage. Today we are issuing a press release announcing that our work with the City of Fort Wayne and our consultant HNTB is beginning. We also met with the Amtrak Network Development Chief when he came to Columbus and talked about both routes going through Columbus.

Mr. Murdock gave an in-depth update on LinkUs. Partners launched the Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) effort at a press conference and spoke specifically about over 80 regional projects adding over 150 miles of sidewalks and trails over the next five years. More than half the projects are multijurisdictional. Partners are introducing a new messaging strategy to create a clear connection between COTA and LinkUS emphasizing how COTA will link us through:

- Expanded COTA services
- Building more sidewalks, bikeways, and trails (TSI)
- Creating more opportunities for all

LinkUS partners are getting the message out through partner websites, social media, targeted outreach, media engagement, paid media ads, and in-person meetings. Partners are meeting daily with business groups, non-profits, faith-based organizations, neighborhood groups, and many more. The Town Hall meetings provide opportunities for attendees to learn about LinkUS, engage with community leaders, and participate in a roundtable dialogue. The July 25 media event in Gahanna shared the region's first Capital Improvement Program focused on sidewalks, trails, and bikeways. The draft is in the public comment period. The interactive story map tells the story of LinkUS and the TSI.

Mr. Murdock reported MORPC has received significant media coverage over the last few weeks.

Mr. Murdock gave an update on how MORPC is working to improve our employee culture. After hiring HR Director Andrea Doolittle in 2022, we began making foundational updates in 2023. Updates included official succession planning, leadership development, employee benefits, enhanced recruitment, and a new employee workplace insight survey. In 2024, survey feedback led to Mr. Murdock having small group listening lunches with every employee, quarterly All-Staff Training, and an enhanced onboarding approach.

Ms. Doolittle is moving forward with implementing a Human Resources Information System (HRIS) this fall. And as a professional development exercise, we will use 360 reviews for our leadership team this year which Mr. Murdock will also join in this year. For Mr. Murdock, this includes feedback from the

Executive Committee and others inside and outside MORPC. The 360 survey will be sent to Executive Committee members in the coming month.

Mayor Kessler reported that Mr. Murdock's annual review process will not include last year's Executive Committee annual survey as a result of the 360 exercise. Later in the fall, Mr. Murdock will still engage in the annual review of goals and accomplishments with the Officers and Executive Committee.

Employee retention is steadily improving, and we continue to listen to employee feedback.

The August 6 Social Media Summit is sold out. It will be streamed online.

The Ohio State University President Ted Carter is the guest speaker at next week's Pre-Commission Luncheon.

### **Quarterly Financial Statements – Shawn Hufstedler**

Shawn Hufstedler presented the [Quarterly Financial Report 2024 Q2](#) highlighting:

- Budget vs Expenses – underspent
- Operating Reserve – under goal due to outstanding receivables
- Gains/Losses – net loss year-to-date due to revenue recognized in prior years
- Fringe rate is unfavorable; indirect rate is favorable
- Impact of Government Account Standards Board mandates on financial statements – net position would be approximately \$5.6 million greater
- Member Dues – over budget

The full June 2024 Financial Report is available [here](#).

### **Nominating Committee – Ben Kessler**

Ben Kessler reported the Nominating Committee met in July to discuss the two vacancies on the Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee recommends forwarding the following names to Commission next week for a vote to fill the mid-year openings:

- James Jewell, Prairie Township Administrator, for the remainder of a one-year term (expires 2025)
- Lourdes Barroso de Padilla, City of Columbus Councilmember, for the remainder of a two-year term (expires 2026)

### **Regional Policy Roundtable – Joe Garrity**

Joe Garrity reported the Public Policy Agenda Working Group, led by Sloan Spalding, met two weeks ago to begin work on the 2025/2026 Public Policy Agenda. The next Working Group meeting is August 20. The Public Policy Agenda will be presented to the Regional Policy Roundtable in November and to the Commission in December for approval.

Mr. Garrity gave the legislative update highlighting:

- The Capital Budget and One Time Strategic Community Investment Fund (OTSCIF) passed before the July 4 holiday. Central Ohio received over \$141 million for 80 different projects from the OTSCIF.
- MORPC met with Gov DeWine's office seeking an appropriation to help pay for Step 2 of the Corridor ID Program and also create a dedicated office in the Ohio Rail Development Commission to focus on passenger rail.
- The Columbus Region Coalition endorsed 19 projects

- Central Ohio submitted five different RAISE grants this cycle. The region did not receive any grant money but three were projects of merit.

The next Regional Policy Roundtable meeting is August 22.

### **Regional Data Advisory Committee – Brandi Whetstone**

Brandi Whetstone reported the Leaders Listen: Housing Actionable Insights Report is available online at [www.morpc.org/leaderslisten](http://www.morpc.org/leaderslisten).

For the first time, the updated land use map includes Logan, Fayette, Ross, Hocking, and Perry Counties which are located outside the Columbus MSA. Also, for the first time, Team Members produced small area population, household, and job projections for each of those counties. Another first, Team Members forecasted the development of each quarter mile grid of land within MORPC's 15-county region through 2050. There are many potential uses for the information, the first being the Regional Water Study. To learn more about the new data, reach out to Dave Dixon at [dataandmaps@morpc.org](mailto:dataandmaps@morpc.org).

Ms. Whetstone announced the Regional Data Advisory Committee is building on the initial success of the Data Day events to facilitate DEI and cybersecurity focused events in late fall/early winter.

### **Sustainability Advisory Committee – Brandi Whetstone**

Ms. Whetstone reported the Sustainability Advisory Committee is putting together a subcommittee to update the Regional Sustainability Agenda. The Committee expects to complete the agenda toward the end of this year or early next year. The Committee will present the Regional Sustainability Agenda to the Commission for adoption in March 2025.

The Regional Water Study is ongoing. The work of the Data and Mapping Team is going to be used to create a scenario planning tool to help make data driven decisions about development based on water availability and quality. The tool will also help inform sewer and water infrastructure investments. The next Stakeholder Update Webinar is August 28.

The Greenways Planning Studio with RAPID 5 officially launched in July. Team Members created a map to help with planning efforts. Deliverables are expected in the fall. The initiative not only advances conservation along our riverways but also advances connectivity and equitable access to green space.

In the spring, MORPC, in partnership with the City of Columbus, COTA and the Columbus Region Green Fund, submitted a \$74 million proposal to U.S. EPA for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. We did not receive funding. Team Members continue to work with partners through the planning grant we have in place. We are working with members to get free solar assessments and connect them with the Columbus Region Green Fund.

### **Transportation Policy Committee – Nick Gill**

Nick Gill commented how much work MORPC has put into LinkUS. It started in 2020. The Team built collaboration and support.

Over the last few months, MORPC held internal meetings with the Intel Area Planning Study Consultant Team. On Tuesday, MORPC hosted a meeting to introduce communities 40 minutes out from Intel to the consultant. The first step is to make certain land use maps and comprehensive plans are up to

date. Team Members will follow-up with one-one-one meetings with communities to determine next steps.

Mr. Gill reminded members the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) is the lead on the 3C+D passenger rail application and the City of Fort Wayne, in partnership with MORPC, is the lead on the Midwest Connect application. While the ORDC is slightly behind Midwest Connect, they are still on the same track to be done.

MORPC was the lead applicant on the Safe Streets for All grant application. In collaboration with the OSU Injury and Biomechanics Research Center, Franklin County Engineer's Office, the City of Columbus, Honda, and others, the \$2 million awarded in May will be used to analyze data on what causes a fatality in a crash. This is the first type of this study in the country. The four-year project begins in Franklin County then expands to Delaware, Pickaway, and Union Counties.

MORPC recently applied for a transportation planning grant from the U.S. Economic Development Agency to do a regional freight plan.

#### **Quarterly Membership Update – Eileen Leuby**

Eileen Leuby presented the [Member Services Report](#) highlighting:

- Completed Events
- Monthly Membership Newsletter
- Member Visits
- Summer Intern Program
- New Member Benefit from Ohio University – Ohio Online
- New Member Benefit from Otterbein University
- Ohio University Leadership Academy
- Upcoming Events
- Placemaking
- Return on Investment

#### **Draft Commission Agenda**

The Executive Committee reviewed the draft August 8, 2024 Commission Meeting Agenda.

#### **Executive Session**

Matthew Starr made a motion for the Executive Committee to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Section 121.22 (G) (1): To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing; second by Chris Amorose Groomes. A roll call vote was conducted with all attending committee members in favor. Executive Session began at 2:44 p.m. and concluded at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

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Ben Kessler, Secretary

**Executive Committee**

2025 MORPC MEMBERSHIP DUES

DRAFT

Table with columns: Member Total (b), Base Year Population, 2024 Population (Used to calculate 2025 member dues), 2023 Population (Used to calculate 2024 member dues), 2024 Housing Unit Estimates, and 2024 Occupancy Rate & Household Size Assumptions. Rows include various communities like Bellefontaine, Canal Winchester, Columbus, etc., listing population, dues, and housing unit estimates.

















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## Memorandum

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

**FROM:** Parag Agrawal, Chief Mobility & Infrastructure Officer & Senior Director of Programming

**DATE:** September 12, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Resolution 13-24: **“Authorizing the executive director to participate in contracts awarded by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Cooperative Purchasing Program”**

This resolution authorizes the executive director to participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Purchasing Services Cooperative Purchasing Program.

The ODOT Director may permit any political subdivision as defined in Section 5513.01 (B) of the Ohio Revised Code to participate in contracts into which the director has entered for purchases.

ODOT maintains competitive bid contracts for items that are bought throughout the year. Purchasing off the ODOT program is similar but separate from the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, Office of State Purchasing.

This resolution will be submitted to ODOT Purchasing Services for authorization. After ODOT's authorization, MORPC will place orders and pay invoices directly with the vendor.

Attachment: Resolution 13-24

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

**Chris Amorose Grooms**  
*Chair*

**Michelle Crandall**  
*Vice Chair*

**Ben Kessler**  
*Secretary*

RESOLUTION 13-24

**"Authorizing the executive director to participate in contracts awarded by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Cooperative Purchasing Program"**

WHEREAS, Section 5513.01 (B) of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) provides eligible political subdivisions to participate in contracts of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Purchasing Services Cooperative Purchasing Program for purchases; and

WHEREAS, purchases will include various lift equipped light transit, modified mini vans or accessible vehicles; and

WHEREAS, according to the definition of political subdivision in Section 5513.01 (B) of the ORC, a regional planning commission is eligible to purchase off ODOT's Cooperative Purchasing Program contracts; now therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

Section 1. That the executive director hereby requests authority in the name of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) to participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) contracts for the purchase of items which the department has entered into pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 5513.01 (B).

Section 2. That the executive director is hereby authorized to agree in the name of MORPC to be bound by all terms and conditions as the ODOT, Director of Transportation prescribes.

Section 3. That the executive director is hereby authorized to agree in the name of MORPC to directly pay vendors, under each such contract of the Ohio Department of Transportation in which MORPC participates, for items it receives pursuant to the contract.

Section 4. That MORPC agrees to be responsible for resolving all claims or disputes arising out of its participation in the cooperative purchasing program under Section 5513.01 (8) of the ORC. MORPC agrees to waive any claims, actions, expenses, or other damages arising out of its participation in the cooperative purchasing program which MORPC may have or claim to have against ODOT or its employees, unless such liability is the result of negligence on the part of ODOT or its employees.

Section 5. That the executive director is authorized to approve change orders for amounts up to the financial authorization levels in the MORPC bylaws without further authorization from this Commission.

Section 6. That the executive director is authorized to take such other action and execute and deliver such other documents as, acting with the advice of legal counsel, he shall deem necessary and appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Section 7. That this Commission finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this Commission concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this Commission.



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

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Date

**Effective date:** September 12, 2024  
**Submitted by:** Parag Agrawal, Chief Mobility & Infrastructure Officer & Senior Director of Programming  
**Prepared by:** Programming Staff  
**Authority:** Ohio Revised Code Section 713.21  
**For action date:** September 12, 2024