



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, October 2, 2024
9:00 a.m.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

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Meeting ID: 288 421 555 213

Passcode: xC7vQ3

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Phone Conference ID: 432 053 52#

AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductions** – James Young, Chair
- 9:02 a.m. Approval of September 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes**
- 9:03 a.m. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report** – Maria Schaper, MORPC
Dave Dixon, MORPC
- 9:10 a.m. Funding Programs**
- Attributable Funds Project Status Update – Thomas Graham, MORPC
 - FTA 5310 Program Update – Hannah Ruscin, MORPC
- 9:20 a.m. Informational Items**
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Committee Update – Jon Heider, MORPC
 - Active Transportation Committee Update – Lauren Cardoni, MORPC

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

- 9:50 a.m. Other Business**
- Membership Updates
 - Nominating Committee

10:00 a.m. Adjourn

PLEASE NOTIFY CHUCK RATLIFF AT 614-233-4115 OR EMAIL cratliff@morpc.org TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE FOR THIS MEETING OR IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.

The Attributable Funds Committee meeting will follow this meeting at 10:00 a.m.

**The next TAC meeting is
Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.**

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

Date: **September 4, 2024**
Time: **9:00 a.m.**
Location: **MORPC**

Members Present

Andrako, Mike
Boucher, Christine
Jenkins, Tiffany
Moran, Alan
Peoples, Matthew
Schamp, Letty
Weaver, Kevin

Ankrom, Katharine
Cox, Barbara (online)
Komlanc, Tom (online)
Moss, Kimberly
Risko, Michelle (online)
Upp, Jeremiah
Wilfong, Gary

Biesterveld, Andrew
Ferrigno, William (online)
Lockhart, Josh (online)
Nittle, Tim
Sanders, Scott
Volenik, Andy (online)
Young, James

Guests

Avellano, Mike (online)
Ciotola, Michael (online)
Hill, Anthony

Bakare, Tajudeen (online)
Dar, Naureen (online)
Howdyshell, Jen (online)

Bush, Ryan (online)
Hibbard, Tom
Schwartz, Neil (online)

MORPC Staff

Agrawal, Parag
Cardoni, Lauren
Graham, Thomas
Olmsted, Patty
Ruscin, Hannah
Turner, Mary (online)

Brown, Emma (online)
Dixon, Dave
Miller, Jonathan
Peggau, Karina
Schaper, Maria

Bumgardner, April
Filiatraut, Brian
Oldroyd, Shelby
Petrov, Jordan (online)
Strange, Emma (online)

I. Welcome & Introductions

- Chair Young welcomed attendees to the meeting and initiated introductions. Participants introduced themselves.
- As the meeting began without a quorum, Chair Young noted that formal actions would be postponed until a quorum was reached.

II. Approval of August 2024 Meeting Minutes

- Chair Young requested a motion to approve the minutes of the July 31, 2024 meeting. Mr. Peoples moved; Ms. Schamp seconded; and the motion passed.

III. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report

- **Gohio Commute Commuter Challenge:** Ms. Schaper provided an update on the statewide challenge encouraging sustainable modes of transportation such as carpooling, biking, and walking. They encouraged committee members to promote participation within their networks, noting participants could win prizes.

- **Longstreet Bridge and Cultural Wall 10th Anniversary Celebration:** Ms. Schaper informed attendees of the celebration scheduled for September 18th, featuring remarks from local leaders.
- **MORPC Safety Forum:** The annual Safe Streets Central Ohio forum will be held on September 26th at the Wigwam Event Center in Pickerington. Ms. Schaper highlighted that several prominent speakers would participate.
- **Money Mondays:** Ms. Schaper mentioned Dr. Todd Bradley's weekly virtual sessions on regional investment opportunities, focusing on community financial resources.
- **Summit on Sustainability:** Mr. Dixon announced that the Summit on Sustainability will be held on October 29th at the Columbus Downtown Hilton. Jeff Speck, a well-known city planner and advocate for walkable cities, will be the keynote speaker.
- **World Rivers Clean-Up Day:** Mr. Dixon shared details on the September 28th clean-up efforts focusing on the Scioto, Olentangy, Alum Creek, and Big Walnut Creek rivers, in partnership with Keep Columbus Beautiful and other local organizations.
- **Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program:** Mr. Dixon announced that MORPC had secured \$15 million through the CFI program to install electric vehicle charging stations across 13 counties, with 406 new charging ports planned.
- **Residential Services Program:** Mr. Williams provided an overview of MORPC's Residential Services Program, which has been operating for over 30 years. This program offers home weatherization and repair services to income-eligible households in Franklin County. Reach out to Mr. Williams at 614-353-9515 or rwilliams@morpc.org if interested in consultation to set up home repair and weatherization programs in your community.
- **Home Weatherization Program:** Mr. Williams explained that this program focuses on reducing energy costs and improving safety through services like insulation upgrades and gas leak detection, benefiting around 400 homes annually.
- **Home Repair Program:** Mr. Williams explained that the program addresses urgent repair needs, including heating system repairs and safety improvements such as wheelchair ramp installations. The program serves approximately 90 homes per year.

IV. Funding Programs

- **Attributable Funds Project Status Update**
 - Mr. Graham provided an update on SFY 2025 project commitments, noting minimal changes from the previous month. Several delayed projects were officially moved to SFY 2026. They also mentioned that MORPC is looking for ways to address the large projected remaining balance in the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds.

- **Resolution T-9-24: Amending the SFY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program**
 - Mr. Graham presented Resolution T-9-24, explaining that six projects were being added or modified, including a project for COTA's hydrogen fueling infrastructure and four related to the US 33 SE Corridor. The changes involve breaking down larger environmental projects into smaller design components.
 - Chair Young requested a motion to approve. Mr. Peoples moved; Ms. Schamp seconded; and the motion passed.
- **Resolution T-11-24: Establishing priorities for Central Ohio candidate projects submitted for TRAC funding in 2024**
 - Ms. Oldroyd reviewed the five projects submitted for TRAC funding, with a total request of \$264.8 million. The State Route 315 N Notch project ranked highest based on economic and safety impacts, followed by the US 33 SE Corridor. Ms. Oldroyd also summarized public feedback, with most comments supporting these projects and the prioritization process.
 - A committee member asked if the intent for smart lane project on I-71 to be used exclusively for transit use to address congestion in the area or would it be opened to vehicles. Ms. Oldroyd responded that it would be open for vehicle use, not just for transit.
 - Chair Young requested a motion to approve. Mr. Peoples moved; Mr. Nittles seconded; Ms. Schamp voiced opposition; and the motion passed.

V. Resolutions

- **Resolution T-10-24: Adopting the 2025 Technical Assistance Program Guide**
 - Ms. Cardoni presented the 2025 Technical Assistance Program Guide, which offers services like active transportation planning, trail access and connectivity, and safety planning. They highlighted the program's flexibility in addressing community-specific needs, with applications opening on September 16th.
 - Chair Young requested a motion to approve. Mr. Wilfong moved; Ms. Schamp seconded; and the motion passed.
- **Resolution T-12-24: Accepting the Planning Work Program Completion Report for SFY 2024.**
 - Ms. Schaper provided a summary of the Planning Work Program Completion Report, explaining that it covers \$4 million in completed work, with \$225,000 carried forward for future projects. The report will be submitted to ODOT after approval.
 - Chair Young requested a motion to approve. Ms. Moss moved; Mr. Peoples seconded; and the motion passed.

VI. Informational Items

- **Community-Based Planning Assistance**

- Mr. Miller provided updates on MORPC's Community-Based Planning Assistance Program, which offers support with RFPs and RFQs. They noted that MORPC assisted Brown Township and the City of Worthington with comprehensive plans this year.
- Mr. Miller described the Planner Pool Program, a fee-based service that helps communities implement smaller planning projects, such as parking assessments and neighborhood studies.
- **Central Ohio Climate Action Plan Update**
 - Ms. Peggau provided an update on the Central Ohio Climate Action Plan, funded through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. They emphasized the plan's focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in transportation, energy, and land use sectors.
 - The committee was encouraged to share the ongoing public survey, which will be open until September 22nd.
 - Ms. Peggau announced that we have received approximately \$15 million from the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) grant.

VII. Other Business

- Ms. Schaper outlined upcoming topics for the October meeting, including biannual updates from the Active Transportation Committee and Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee.
- Future topics will include performance monitoring reports and population estimates. Ms. Schaper invited any community interested in presenting a community spotlight to share best practices or innovations at future meetings.

VIII. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.



Maria Schaper, Interim Secretary
Transportation Advisory Committee



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION REPORT

September 2024

PROGRAMMING

Parag Agrawal, Chief Mobility and Infrastructure Officer and Senior Director of Programming – pagrawal@morpc.org

Transportation

Maria Schaper, Transportation Study Director – mschaper@morpc.org

Metropolitan Transportation Plan:

- As part of planning for the next MTP update, MORPC's traffic modeling team is working with the "Get Ready Initiative", which is planning for communities within a 40-minute drive time of the Intel development. The travel demand model will expand to cover a 10-county area. Additional data collected and refined through this project is being incorporated into the MTP process for future updates.

Transit, Mobility & Human Services:

Mobility Management

- The Mobility Management team participated in tabling and CarFit events to promote Gohio Mobility and Mobility Management services to Franklin County community members.
- Mobility staff attended transportation advisory committees in Fairfield, Fayette, Licking, Union, Pickaway, and Delaware Counties.
- The transportation provider survey has closed. Insight on barriers to filling transportation requests and interests in collaboration were submitted by sixteen transportation providers.

FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient

- The fiscal year 2024 Section 5310 application period opened on September 25, 2024 and will be open until October 25, 2024. Approximately \$1.7 million is available for eligible activities.
- A mandatory, virtual applicant workshop was held on September 25, 2024. Any prospective applicant who was unable to attend the workshop should contact Hannah Ruscin (hruscin@morpc.org) for alternative accommodations.

Gohio Commute

- The Ohio Commuter Challenge ran from September 9, 2024, through September 22, 2024. This second annual statewide event aimed to increase awareness of the Gohio Commute statewide

platform and emphasize the importance of sustainable commuting. By the end of the first week, participation had increased by 39% compared to 2023, with 51% of total trip logs coming from Central Ohio accounts.

- A social media campaign ran on MORPC's Gohio Commute Instagram and Facebook pages from August 30, 2024 to September 20, 2024 to promote the Ohio Statewide Challenge in Central Ohio. The campaign reached approximately 50,000 Central Ohio commuters, representing a 99.4% increase in reach compared to the previous month.
- MORPC staff participated in the City of Columbus Health and Wellness Fair to promote MORPC services to their employees. Over five hundred employees were in attendance.

Transportation Planning Activities:

LinkUS Mobility Initiative

- The Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) Leadership Committee formally approved the 2026-2030 TSI Capital Improvement Program on September 11, 2024. This program, including eighty-three projects at over \$260 million in investment, represents the initial priority projects to be developed and constructed through LinkUS. The program is planned to have annual updates and public engagement.
- MORPC team members continued to support LinkUS partner agencies with public engagement activities around the region.

Passenger Rail

- The Corridor ID Program study team continues to make progress on initial route planning. Current activities include crafting a scope of work, schedule, and budget for subsequent tasks as well as conducting a gaps analysis. These are expected to wrap up in Spring 2025, with service development planning to begin thereafter.
- The next Central Ohio Passenger Rail Committee will be held on October 22, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO):

- Subcommittee meetings in each county were held throughout the last two weeks of September. The subcommittee meetings also served as the Rural Consultation meetings to begin the development of the 2026-2029 STIP/TIP (Transportation Improvement Program).
- An ArchHub webpage for the CORPO Safety Action Plan is in development. The Hub includes a crash dashboard, crash map, links to the full plan document, and data to track progress toward reducing fatal and serious injury crashes in the CORPO counties. Feedback is being collected from CORPO communities on the draft webpage. The final webpage should be ready in November.
- The FY 2024 Planning Work Program Completion report was delivered to ODOT on September 30th.
- The next CORPO Committee meeting will be held on November 4, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Active Transportation Planning:

- The fourth quarter ATC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at 10 a.m. 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) to attend a MORPC group viewing. The next webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2024, on the topic of, "Moving from World Class Trails to Fully Connected Mobility Networks."

- Team members participated in the following Active Transportation related meetings and events:
 - Grove City Active Transportation Plan Steering Committee meeting on September 12, 2024.
 - OSU Active Transportation Advisory Group meeting on September 16, 2024.
 - OSU Bike to Campus Event on September 23, 2024.

Transportation Safety:

- MORPC's annual safety forum, Safe Streets Central Ohio, was held on Thursday, September 26, 2024. Materials from the event will be posted to the website here: www.morpc.org/event/ssco.
- Team members participated in the following safety committee meetings:
 - Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review Board meeting on September 5, 2024.
 - Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) Transportation Safety Subcommittee meeting on September 12, 2024.
 - Our Driving Concern Advisory Committee meeting on September 12, 2024.
 - ODOT Statewide Context Classification working group meeting on September 17, 2024.
 - City of Sunbury SS4A Roadway Safety Action Plan Steering Committee meeting on September 23, 2024.

Technical Assistance Program:

- The application window for the 2025 Technical Assistance Program opened on Monday, September 16, 2024. Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 11, 2024.
- An informational webinar was held on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, to highlight important details about the 2025 program and application process. The webinar was recorded and can be viewed on the Technical Assistance Program web page, along with a link to the application window: www.morpc.org/programs-services/technical-assistance-program/#/.

Infrastructure Funding:

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- The September 2024 TIP amendment was transmitted to ODOT, FHWA, and FTA.

MORPC-Attributable Funding

- Feedback on screening applications was provided to applicants in advance of the September 27, 2024 final application deadline.

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)

- SFY 26 SCIP/LTIP applications for OPWC District 3 were received at the end of August. Applicants were notified of any errors or omissions in their applications and review of these applications began in September.

Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

- The 2024 TRAC application priority list was approved by the Transportation Policy Committee on September 12, 2024 and sent to ODOT. MORPC will present the regional priorities to TRAC at their Central Ohio regional public hearing on October 16, 2024 at ODOT Central Office.

Money Mondays

- The following Money Mondays sessions were held:

- Sept. 9, 2024: OBM Director Kimberly Murnieks – Accessing One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund and Capital Budget Awards
- Sept. 16, 2024: Vincent R. Coleman, Government Affairs Director – COLUMBUS REALTORS® and affordable housing efforts
- Sept. 23, 2024: Chad Gibson, Community Development Director, City of Upper Arlington – Sustainability
- Sept. 30, 2024: Dan Sheaffer, Executive Director, Findlay/Hancock County Economic Development, Findlay, OH.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Padmini Roy-Dixon, Economic Development Director & Regional Innovation Officer – proydixon@morpc.org

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

- The CEDS Committee held its inaugural meeting in August. The next meeting is on November 21, 2024.

Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP):

- The Economic Development team is working on relaunching the CAP program with a new application and guidelines.

Brownfield Assessments:

- The U.S. EPA released a notice of funding opportunity for the Community Wide Assessment Grant on September 3, 2024. The grant provides funding for planning, environmental assessments, and community outreach. Developing an inventory of brownfield sites is another eligible use. Brownfields are properties that have real or perceived environmental contamination that complicate redevelopment efforts. Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, Climate Resilience and Reaching low-capacity communities are some of the grants' main priorities. The Economic Development team is putting together an application to assess priority sites in target areas.

Drive Investment Portal:

- The Drive Investment Portal is a free member resource with up-to-date information on active and proposed funding opportunities to help finance regional priorities. For any questions on the portal and/or a funding opportunity, please contact Preston Frick at pfrick@morpc.org.

PLANNING

Jessica Kuenzli, Chief Regional Planning Officer & Senior Director of Planning – jkuenzli@morpc.org

Community Development

Central Ohio Greenways (COG):

- The COG Board will meet on October 1, 2024, to discuss Working Group updates and review a draft work plan for 2025.
- The COG Trail Towns Working Group met on September 9, 2024, to discuss the next steps for implementing the COG Trail Town Framework and the COG Wayfinding Strategy. The group also provided guidance to the Graphic Design team developing the Trail Town brand. The Trail Town Brand will be revealed during the MORPC Summit on Sustainability in October. The group is continuing to seek funding for a Trail Town Ambassador Training Program, the Trail Towns in the Nation's Heartland Project, and Operational Funding.
- The Outdoor Trails Pass partnership with Experience Columbus continues to be a popular program with hundreds of new sign-ups and check-ins monthly.
- COG is considering opportunities to utilize a statewide trail mapping platform called Outerspatial that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has recently begun utilizing.
- 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 group is meeting throughout July and August to guide the data indexing process. The project is on track to be completed this fall.
- MORPC is offering support to communities interested in implementing the recently released COG Wayfinding Strategy through the MORPC Technical Assistance Program. Applications are due this fall.
- MORPC hosted a COG Forum: Activating the Region's Blue and Greenways on August 27, 2024 bringing together nearly seventy trail planners, advocates, elected officials, and government staff to learn about regional projects. Participants also participated in a Kayaking Experience hosted by Metro Parks on the Big Walnut Trail. The next forum will take place in the Winter and focus on rural communities.
- MORPC partnered with the City of Columbus on an Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) application to advance trail town program work. The application was submitted on July 17, 2024.
- COG sponsored the Buckeye Trail Association's Buckeye Trails Fest on September 12-14, 2024 and represented the region in the annual State of the Ohio State Trail Plan meeting hosted at the event.
- The Greenways Planning Studio (GPS) launched in July 2024 in partnership with RAPID 5. GPS has been supporting 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 and GPS was a featured topic at the recent APBP conference in Detroit and will be featured in upcoming conference sessions at OTEC and the Central Ohio APA Planning & Zoning Workshop.

Central Ohio Blueways:

- Central Ohio Blueways continued to work with regional partners on a large-scale river clean-up effort. The event was scheduled for September 28, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and focused on eight

total locations: two locations on each of the Scioto River, Olentangy River, Alum Creek, and Big Walnut Creek. Planning for this event is ongoing. 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.

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.

Implementation Assistance

- 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 (JMiller@morpc.org) for more information.

Community Based Planning Assistance:

Consultant Services Program

- As of August 2024, as part of the Consultant Services Program, the Community Development Team began hosting all RFPs from MORPC Member communities, regardless of the program area. MORPC hosts hyperlinks to any RFP through the Consultant Services Program webpage to generate additional visibility for community projects and bids. If your community would like MORPC to host a link to any available RFPs or RFQs, contact Jonathan Miller (JMiller@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.
- 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 (jmillier@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:

- The SAC met on September 18, 2024 at NBBJ, where committee member Megha Sinha and her team presented examples of NBBJ's innovative sustainable building projects, including a project for Microsoft in Seattle, and several Columbus Metropolitan Library locations were highlighted as great examples of sustainable design in central Ohio. The Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) Sub-Committee Chair, Mike Shelton, provided updates from the first committee meeting followed by a presentation. The MORPC team will email the SAC for additional input to consider for the RSA. The next SAC meeting will take place on December 18, 2024 at 2:15 p.m. at the Jeffrey Mansion in Bexley.
- Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) Sub-committee: A sub-committee of the SAC kicked off in August 2024 to begin updating the Regional Sustainability Agenda for 2025-2028. 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. The sub-committee includes representatives from The Ohio State University, Columbus, Mount Vernon, Bexley, Dublin, SWACO, Somerset, and Licking Soil and Water Conservation District. The sub-committee began reviewing the goals and objectives and will be meeting in October to continue the discussions. For more information, please contact Brandi Whetstone (bwhetstone@morpc.org).

Sustainable2050:

Member Engagement

- The Q3 Sustainable2050 meeting was held on August 15, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Del-Co Water. The meeting featured updates from City of Westerville, Rural Action, and Del-Co Water. Following the meeting, the group took a tour of Del-Co's floating solar installation, the first of its kind in Ohio. MORPC is also featuring Sustainable2050 member accomplishments through our Sustainable September social media campaign, including spotlights from SWACO, Westerville, Upper Arlington, COTA, and others. 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. 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 met 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. Staff from Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water provided updates, including the 2024 field updates of biological and water quality assessments in targeted basins in Central Ohio, NW and NE Ohio. Additional updates included expanded protections of the Big Darby watershed as part of the State's Water Quality Management Plan and the new H2Ohio Rivers Program, which is focused on improving and maintaining the health of Ohio's Large Rivers.

Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team

- The Outreach Team meeting in September has been rescheduled. The Team will meet next on November 21, 2024.

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

- The Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) received seven final applications with a total project cost of approximately \$8,415,940. The NRAC Committee Members visited applicants' project sites to further understand the proposed projects. The Committee will meet on October 7, 2024 to score the projects.
- For more information about Clean Ohio funding for Franklin County, please contact Edwina Teye (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 hosted the second Regional Water Study update on August 28, 2024 with over two hundred in attendance. Speakers from Ohio EPA, Hazen and Sawyer consultant team and MORPC provided the overall status of the project including topics such as data collection and mapping, regionalization, and cost analysis. The webinar recording and slide deck information can be

accessed here. Scroll to the bottom of the page to the Regional Water Study section. If you would like to receive invitations for future webinars, please contact Edwina Teye (eteye@morpc.org).

208 Planning and Areawide Designation Process

- MORPC continues to engage the ad hoc 208 committee to consider the State's request for MORPC to become a designated areawide planning agency. Among other tasks, the committee will review and make recommendations on the agency's proposed approach to managing modifications to Facility Planning Area boundaries and dispute resolution related to sewer service. MORPC seeks to establish a proactive and collaborative process, with clear guidance and a structured framework for fostering dialogue among local authorities to achieve mutually agreed-upon solutions. The committee will continue to meet and provide input on key decisions, such as the proposed geographic extent of the designated area, the operational structure, and funding considerations for standing up a designated areawide planning agency.

Energy & Air Quality:

Energy & 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. The next and last EAQWG meeting of the year is November 20, 2024 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure

- MORPC just closed its 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. Over the next few weeks, MORPC will review its received proposals and award the best-fit vendor(s) to complete the EVC RAA work as quickly as possible. If you have any questions or need more information, please reach out to Brian Filiatraut, Energy and Sustainability Program Manager, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.
- As previously announced last month, MORPC won a \$15M award for its MORE EVS proposal as part the USDOT-FHWA's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Round 1B grant program. MORE EVS will unlock an additional \$6.9M in regional investment to install sixty-two new charging sites—both L2 and DCFC—across thirteen counties, further extending the EV charging network in Central Ohio. Over the next couple of months, MORPC will be working with the FHWA on the terms to finalize the grant agreement. Stay tuned for more details.
- Additionally, MORPC submitted a \$69M CFI Round 2 application in mid-September, 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 working collaboratively with Prologis Mobility, 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.

Air Quality Alerts

- One air quality alert was issued for the Columbus region on August 27, 2024. Additionally, there was an isolated ozone exceedance at the Delaware monitoring station on September 5, 2024, which was not forecasted but reported by our forecaster on September 6, 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 deployed an additional three sensors into the community, and plan to deploy fifty-six more by end of October. The team also began working with the new air quality modeling consultant, Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, to determine where sensors should be optimally placed for detecting air pollution in the Franklin County region.

Outreach

- The Air Quality team presented to the Whitehall Community Schools on September 6, 2024, and the Franklin County Auditor's Office on September 10, 2024.

DATA, MAPPING & MODELING

Dave Dixon, Director of Data Analytics & Strategy Planning – ddixon@morpc.org

Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC):

- RDAC's focus in 2024 is on the areas of Workforce & Job Quality, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Cyber Security, and Regional Data Coaching projects and initiatives. Notably two proposed MORPC member engagement events around cybersecurity and DEI were moved forward, tentatively planned for Fall 2024. The RDAC will meet again on October 1, 2024.

Working Groups

- Data Day Working Group: The Data Day Working Group recently reviewed a Call for Proposals for Data Day 2025 which will be sent out at the end of September. The working group is also focusing their efforts on identifying potential morning and lunch speakers. If you have any suggestions on local leaders in data who would make an excellent addition to the Data Day program, contact Jordan Inskeep at jinskeep@morpc.org.
- Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG): Tentative remaining dates are October 8, 2024 for the RIDG Steering Committee meeting and November 13, 2024 for general RIDG meeting. The RIDG Chair and staff lead will meet prior to each meeting with the Steering Committee to discuss planning for the next meeting, the topic is to be determined for the November RIDG meeting.
- Central Ohio GIS User Group (COGUG): The most recent COGUG Meeting was held on August 21, 2024 with sixty-five attendees, twenty-six in-person. Lightning rounds were presented by the City of Dublin and MORPC. The user group will meet again on November 20, 2024.
- Regional Data Coaching Working Group: The working group formed a MORPC IT Microsoft Office 365 group to consider greater functionality and control for the user to support necessary data coaching needs. The tool is currently being tested by Data & Mapping and working group members. The working group will host their first pop-up event for community outreach at Columbus Metropolitan Library-main branch on September 26, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. The next working group meeting will be held October 3, 2024.
- Workforce and Job Quality Working Group: The working group last met on August 8, 2024 and began to prioritize various dimensions of job quality for an assessment of jobs in Central Ohio based on recommendations from Results for America. The 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 working group met on September 13, 2024 to evaluate progress and identify support needed to complete content and assure alignment between proposed sessions for the "Data for All" event. All working group members have been assigned sessions. The event is now tentatively scheduled for mid-November.
- Cyber Security Working Group: The working group continued developing a local leader oriented, educational event now titled "Cybersecurity for Local Leaders." Promotional materials and an event registration page have been created. The group met on September 20, 2024 to finalize the run of show, and coordinate member presentations.

Data Management:

- Development on the MORPC Insights platform continues. Insights will be a web application whose purpose is to provide data-derived insights on various topics at the regional, county, and community levels. Each insight will be supported by data, visualizations and expert commentary. Insights is eventually expected to feature content from trusted partners in addition MORPC-produced content. Current efforts are focused on developing the user interface for the platform in ArcGIS Online. The

team met with MORPC staff 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 and will continue to work with these collaborators to produce the content to be hosted in the platform.

- The team also pursued several continuous improvement efforts:
 - Created scripts to retrieve and standardize Census geographies to feed downstream MORPC workflows.
 - Started developing scripts to automatically retrieve and standardize parcel data from Central Ohio county auditors.
 - Developed standard function for generating Frictionless Resource files to capture metadata for script outputs.

Data Analytics, Mapping, and Research:

- Work continues for our initiative to improve the speed and quality of TAZ-level socioeconomic forecasts for the 2028 MTP cycle. The team is preparing data and documentation to support the Intel “Get Ready” Area study, which will result in an expansion of the travel demand model to ten counties. Part of this task is updating existing and future land use for ten counties in preparation for the next MTP cycle.

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 finalized and is available on the MORPC website. Work has begun on the next Leader’s Listen survey, which will be the first of an annual series of comprehensive surveys that cover transportation, housing, sustainability, and other topics.
- Team members continue to manage the organization’s air quality sensors in support of the EPA Air Quality Monitoring Grant. The team is working with a third-party consultant to develop improved scripts for retrieving, standardizing, and validating PurpleAir data. The team continues to assist with 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 on this project has been temporarily suspended in deference to higher-priority projects. The team supported the Regional Water Study, an effort led by the State of Ohio to model water supply, wastewater, and stormwater needs through 2050. The team completed household, population, and jobs forecasts for quarter-mile grids for the 15-county region, as well as grid-level forecasts of land cover.
- County population estimates as of January 1, 2024, have been produced. Historically these were used to create sub-county population estimates but were not released as a standalone data product, however we plan to release the latest estimates on the Population Hub in October 2024.
- Preliminary population estimates as of January 1, 2024, have been produced and are being reviewed by MORPC Commission members. The team will update the estimates based on member feedback and will present the revised estimates to the Commission for adoption in October 2024. These estimates are used to determine member dues for 2025 and will also be released as a standalone data product which will be published on the Population Hub in October 2024.
- Upcoming updates to standard data products:
 - Detailed migration analysis by county (temporarily suspended in favor of other priorities).
 - County-level population estimates as of January 1, 2024 (October).
 - Key ACS 2022 5-year estimate data for MORPC counties will be published on the Population Hub with new and improved user interface (temporarily suspended in favor of other priorities).

Mapping Activities

- Exploring best options for updating Green Infrastructure Story map and expanding the counties included.
- Rapid5 maps for their board meeting, which focused on one mile buffer along waterways and identifying vacant lands
- TIP amendment map
- OPWC project mapping and evaluation
- Gohio rideshare mapping core data is being updated
- OARC map updates
- Updates to existing and future land use
- Identifying government owned and vacant lands
- Improving project documentation

Modeling Activities

- City of Columbus GHG
- Delaware and Licking County drive times analysis
- Big Walnut area select link analysis
- Completed Northern Pickaway County study data
- LinkUS E Main Corridor Certified traffic project, and Northwest Corridor modeling and other area requests are in progress.
- Completed four traffic growth rate requests from local jurisdictions and are working on additional requests as they come in.
- The traffic count program provided data for various traffic growth rate requests from members this month.

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

Ralonda Hampton, Interim Senior Director of Communications & Engagement – rhampton@morpc.org

News Releases:

- [Air Quality Alert Issued for Today for Central Ohio](#) (8/26/2024)
- [MORPC Awarded \\$15 Million Federal Grant To Expand Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure](#) (8/29/2024)
- [MORPC Launches 2025 Technical Assistance Program Application](#) (9/13/2024)
- [Local, Regional and State Leaders Celebrate 10th Anniversary of the Long Street Bridge and Cultural Wall](#) (9/18/2024)
- [MORPC Announces Funding Availability to Enhance Mobility for Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities](#) (9/20/2024)
- [MORPC Appoints Jessica Kuenzli as Chief Regional Planning Officer & Senior Director of Planning](#) (9/20/2024)

MORPC in the News:

- [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)
- [WCMH/NBC4: MORPC Lays Out Blueprint for Economic Development \(youtube.com\)](#) (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)
- [MORPC issues air quality alert for Monday](#) (8/26/2024)
- [Air quality alert issued for Monday in Central Ohio](#) (8/26/2024)
- [Several Central Ohio counties under air quality alert on Monday](#) (8/26/2024)
- [Central Ohio under air quality alert for Monday](#) (8/26/2024)
- [Air quality alert issues for Central Ohio](#) (8/26/2024)
- [Air quality alert issues for Central Ohio amid unhealthy ozone levels](#) (8/26/2024)
- [Air quality alert issues for Franklin County until Monday night](#) (8/26/2024)
- [Part of Reynoldsburg could have highest sales tax in Ohio come January if COTA levy passes](#) (8/27/2024)
- [Second vote forced on Plain City's Meren Reserve TIF](#) (8/27/2024)
- [Heat advisory, air quality alert issued for Central Ohio counties](#) (8/27/2024)
- [\\$15 million grant will expand EV charging stations across Central Ohio](#) (8/29/2024)
- [MORPC gets \\$15 million to install more electric vehicle charging stations in Central Ohio](#) (8/30/2024)
- [\\$15 million federal grant will expand EV charging stations across the region](#) (8/30/2024)
- [MORPC gets \\$15 million to install more electric vehicle charging stations across the region](#) (8/30/2024)

- [MORPC awarded \\$15 million federal grant to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure \(8/30/2024\)](#)
- [MORPC secures \\$15 million federal grant for expanded electric vehicle charging infrastructure \(8/30/2024\)](#)
- [SOPEC awarded \\$4.1 grant to expand EV charging infrastructure \(8/31/2024\)](#)
- [REPEAT Investors: Ohio and Indianapolis once again top the Global Groundwork Index rankings, while the UK leads the way abroad \(September 2024\)](#)
- [Survey: Columbus region leaders should do more to ease housing crunch \(9/3/2024\)](#)
- [What could happen to Intel Ohio plant with possible changes to parent division \(9/4/2024\)](#)
- [Could Intel cost-cutting halt Ohio plant? \(9/5/2024\)](#)
- [What would COTA's LinkUS initiative look like if the levy passes? \(9/7/2024\)](#)
- [What to know about COTA levy: Columbus wants to catch up to other cities with rapid bus lines \(9/8/2024\)](#)
- [LinkUS plan in 4 maps: Where buses would have dedicated lanes, sidewalks, paths proposed \(9/8/2024\)](#)
- [COTA Bus riders frustrated: how will the proposed levy improve Columbus area bus services? \(9/8/2024\)](#)
- [For Columbus transportation levy, local governments spent thousands on marketing, trips \(9/9/2024\)](#)
- [Final vote on Maren Reserve TIF/PILOT before PCVC today \(9/9/2024\)](#)
- [Canal Winchester News \(9/11/2024\)](#)
- [List: 2024 Trick-or-Treat dates, times in central Ohio \(9/12/2024\)](#)
- [Welcome to Boomtown: Rapid growth throughout Columbus brings both challenges and opportunities \(9/13/2024\)](#)
- [MORPC launches 2025 Technical Assistance Program \(9/13/2024\)](#)
- [Upper Arlington seeks grant for major traffic project at Five Points intersection \(9/17/2024\)](#)
- ["Long St. Bridge and Cultural Wall Ten Year Celebration," hosted by Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission \(MORPC\) \(9/17/2024\)](#)
- [Long Street bridge and cultural wall dazzles in Columbus a decade after restoration \(9/18/2024\)](#)
- [Ohio leaders mark 10th anniversary of Columbus Long Street Bridge and Cultural Wall \(9/18/2024\)](#)
- [Long Street Bridge and Cultural Wall Celebration \(9/18/2024\)](#)
- [Columbus celebrates 10 years of unity and heritage with Long Street Bridge and Cultural Wall anniversary \(9/19/2024\)](#)
- [LinkUS initiative looks to improve COTA bus routes around Columbus \(9/19/2024\)](#)
- [COTA to expand bus rapid transit line through East Main Street \(9/20/2024\)](#)
- [Etna Township moving in a positive direction, trustees' president says \(9/21/2024\)](#)
- [\(316\) Columbus Dispatch reporter Jordan Laird explains the COTA LinkUS sales tax - YouTube \(9/23/2024\)](#)

Digital Content:

- **Social Media:** Instagram, Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Threads:
 - Air Quality; Blueways; eSource; Trail Pass; Gohio Commute; Housing; Long Street Bridge; LinkUS; Careers; Residential Services; RFPs/RFQs; Summit on Sustainability; Trails Pass; Vision Zero; Safe Streets, TSI Public Comment Period; MORPC News; Child Passenger Safety Week; 5310 Applications, Voter Education; Hispanic Heritage Month; National Preparedness Month; Sustainable September; 2025 Technical Assistance Program; Ohio Commuter Challenge; The Big Table; MORE EVS Project.
- **Reach:** [Facebook & Instagram](#)
- **Top Posts:**
 - [Instagram](#)
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [X](#)
 - [LinkedIn](#)

Diversity & Inclusion:

- The Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) Columbus Monthly Meeting – This year, COMTO Columbus celebrates its 10-year anniversary. COMTO Columbus is known as the “*Voice of Equity in Transportation*”, and they provide advocacy and training for professionals in the transportation field.
- MORPC hosted and planned a 10-year celebration for the Long Street bridge and Cultural Wall on Wednesday, September 18. This event commemorated the re-connection of the Long Street bridge to downtown Columbus, which closed the divide from the federal highway and created an opportunity for the historic King-Lincoln and Near East Side.
- This event featured, Mayor Ginther, Former Mayor Coleman, Council President Hardin, Commissioner Boyce, Director Marchbanks, Executive Director Murdock and more. To view the full program, click [here](#).

Public Involvement & Engagement:

- Seniors Tech Conference, The Ohio State University - Wednesday, September 10
- Gahanna Senior Expo, Gahanna Sanctuary - Thursday, September 11
- Columbus Metropolitan Library Resource Fair -Thursday, September 11
- Neighborhood Best Practice Conference - Saturday, September 14
- Leading with Courage - Tuesday, September 17
- LinkUS Town Hall, The Columbus Metropolitan Library, Northern Lights Branch - Monday, September 23
- PowerUP Career and Tech Expo – Friday, September 27

Marketing Campaigns:

- Gohio Commute ran radio advertisements for the Ohio Commuter Challenge to increase program ridership and promote sustainable modes of transportation.

Events:

- MORPC hosted The Big Table, a community-wide day of conversation designed to inspire social connection and civic engagement, on Wednesday, September 25, 2024. This year's topic was centered around housing and transportation with a focus on the latest "*Leaders Listen: Actionable Insights on Housing.*"

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Eileen Leuby, Member Services Officer – eleuby@morpc.org

Member Visits Completed

- SWACO 9/11; Pickering 9/18; Madison Township (9/18); Village of Lockbourne 9/18; City of Circleville 9/19; Mifflin Township 9/25; Village of West Jefferson 9/25; and Village of Mount Sterling 9/25.

Upcoming Member Visits

- Village of Lexington 10/23; City of Lancaster 10/23; City of Dublin 10/30.

Communications

- Produced the monthly newsletter which contains all event links and legislative updates which is issued to all members the day before any commission meeting. Also provided a Drive Investment Newsletter with grant and resource information.

Member Benefits

- MORPC announced 3 Ohio University Open Houses and featured the partnership.