



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

## NOTICE OF A MEETING

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

**Thursday, October 10, 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: 238 360 420 393

Passcode: FU46Wf

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

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

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

Phone conference ID: 865 975 215#

## AGENDA

1:30 p.m.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin, MORPC Chair)
  - **Recognition of Guests and New Members** – Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer
3. **RAPID 5 Update** – Luke Messinger, RAPID 5 Chief Executive Officer
4. **Executive Director’s Report** – William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director

**William Murdock, AICP**  
Executive Director

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
Chair

**Michelle Crandall**  
Vice Chair

**Ben Kessler**  
Secretary

## Committees

5. **Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization** – Jeff Stauch (Union County), Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization Vice Chair
6. **Regional Data Advisory Committee** – Christina Drummond (City of Powell), Regional Data Advisory Committee Chair
  - **Proposed Resolution 14-24: “Establishing population estimates as a basis for 2025 annual participation fees to be assessed members”** – Jessica Kuenzli, MORPC Chief Regional Planning Officer
7. **Regional Policy Roundtable** – Lourdes Barroso de Padilla (City of Columbus), Regional Policy Roundtable Chair
  - **Legislative Update** – Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter and Joseph Garrity, MORPC Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations
8. **Sustainability Advisory Committee** – Ben Kessler (City of Bexley), Sustainability Advisory Committee Chair
9. **Transportation Policy Committee (MPO)** – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair
  - a. **Call to Order** – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair
  - b. **Metropolitan Planning Organization Report** – Parag Agrawal, MORPC Chief Mobility & Infrastructure Officer & Senior Director of Programming
  - c. **Title VI Update** – Parag Agrawal, MORPC Chief Mobility & Infrastructure Officer & Senior Director of Programming
  - d. **Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda**
    - 1) Approval of **September 12, 2024 Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**
  - e. **Adjourn Transportation Policy Committee (MPO)** – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair

## 10. Commission Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of [September 12, 2024 Commission Meeting Minutes](#)
- b. [Proposed Resolution 15-24: "Adoption of MORPC's 2024 Title VI Program"](#)
- c. Approval of Actions of the Transportation Policy Committee

## 11. Other Business

2:45 p.m.      12. Adjourn – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair

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

**The next Commission Meeting is**  
**Thursday, November 14, 2024, 1:30 p.m.**  
*111 Liberty Street, Suite 100*  
*Columbus, Ohio 43215*

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

Indoor bike parking is available for MORPC guests.

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



**MORPC Monthly Agency Report**  
September 2024

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**Senior Directors**

Parag Agrawal [pagrawal@morpc.org](mailto:pagrawal@morpc.org)  
Joe Garrity [kgarrity@morpc.org](mailto:kgarrity@morpc.org)  
Shawn Hufstedler [shufstedler@morpc.org](mailto:shufstedler@morpc.org)

Ralonda Hampton [rhampton@morpc.org](mailto:rhampton@morpc.org)  
Jessica Kuenzli [jkuenzli@morpc.org](mailto:jkuenzli@morpc.org)  
Robert Williams [rwilliams@morpc.org](mailto:rwilliams@morpc.org)

**CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT FOR PROSPERITY**

Transportation Safety

MORPC's annual safety forum, Safe Streets Central Ohio, was September 26. Materials are available at [www.morpc.org/event/ssco](http://www.morpc.org/event/ssco).

Team Members participated in the following safety committee meetings:

- Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review Board
- Ohio Association of Regional Councils Transportation Safety Subcommittee
- Our Driving Concern Advisory Committee
- ODOT Statewide Context Classification Working Group
- City of Sunbury SS4A Roadway Safety Action Plan Steering Committee

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.

Regional Water Study

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)

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

MORPC participated in 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*." 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 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. The 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](#).

Gohio Commute

The goal of the annual statewide Ohio Commuter Challenge (September 9-22) was to increase awareness of the Gohio Commute statewide platform and emphasize the importance of sustainable commuting. By the end of the first week, participation increased by 39 percent compared to 2023, with 51 percent of total trip

logs coming from Central Ohio. Radio advertisements and a social media campaign ran on Instagram and Facebook to increase program ridership and promote sustainable modes of transportation.

#### Active Transportation Planning

The next Active Transportation Committee meeting is October 23.

Team Members participated the Grove City Active Transportation Plan Steering Committee meeting, the OSU Active Transportation Advisory Group meeting, and the OSU Bike to Campus Event in September.

MORPC hosts virtual group viewings of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals monthly Professional Development webinars. The webinars are eligible for 1.0 hour of American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Certification Maintenance credit. Contact Jordan Petrov ([jpetrov@morpc.org](mailto:jpetrov@morpc.org)) if you are interested in attending any of the MORPC group viewings. The next webinar is Wednesday, October 16, on: *“Moving from World Class Trails to Fully Connected Mobility Networks.”*

#### Technical Assistance Program

The application window for the 2025 Technical Assistance Program opened September 16. Applications are due October 11 by 5:00 p.m.

MORPC held an informational webinar was on September 18 to highlight important details about the 2025 program and application process. A recording of the webinar and a link to the application window are available on the Technical Assistance Program [web page](#).

#### Central Ohio Greenways (COG)

MORPC hosted the August 27 COG Forum, Activating the Region’s Blue and Greenways, bringing together nearly seventy trail planners, advocates, elected officials, and government staff to learn about region projects. Participants also participated in kayaking hosted by Metro Parks on the Big Walnut Trail. The winter forum will focus on rural communities.

The COG Board met October 1 to discuss Working Group updates and review a draft work plan for 2025.

- The COG Trail Towns Working Group met September 9 to discuss next steps for implementing the COG Trail Town Framework and the COG Wayfinding Strategy. The group also provided guidance on developing the Trail Town brand which be revealed during the MORPC Summit on Sustainability in October. The group continues to seek funding for a Trail Town Ambassador Training Program, the Trail Towns in the Nation’s Heartland Project, and Operational Funding.
- The COG Trail Closure and Detours Steering Committee is finalizing recommendations for designing and marketing trail detours.
- The COG Mapping Natural Assets Steering Committee data indexing project is on track for fall completion.

Central Ohio Greenways is considering opportunities to utilize a statewide trail mapping platform, Outerspatial, used by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

MORPC is offering support to communities interested in implementing the Wayfinding Strategy through the MORPC Technical Assistance Program. Applications are due this fall.

COG sponsored the Buckeye Trail Association’s Buckeye Trails Fest on September 12-14 and represented the region in the annual State of the Ohio State Trail Plan meeting at the event.

The Greenways Planning Studio (GPS) is 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 were featured 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 collaborated on a large-scale river clean-up effort on September 28, World Rivers Cleanup Day. The cleanup highlighted two locations on each of the following waterways: 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.

### Regional Housing Strategy

Team Members continue having conversations around housing issues with MORPC member communities. Staff continues 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. Team Members continue to identify ways to expand upon the previous work of the regional Housing Strategy.

If you are 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)).

### Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC)

The Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) met September 18 at NBBJ and saw examples of NBBJ's innovative sustainable building projects, including a project for Microsoft in Seattle, and several Columbus Metropolitan Library locations. The Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) Sub-Committee provided updates. The next SAC meeting is December 18 at the Jeffrey Mansion in Bexley.

- The Regional Sustainability Agenda Subcommittee is updating the Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA). 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 subcommittee is reviewing the goals and objectives. The next meeting is in October to continue discussions. For more information, contact Brandi Whetstone at [bwhetstone@morpc.org](mailto:bwhetstone@morpc.org).

### Sustainable2050

MORPC is 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](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 is 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.

### Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team

The next Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team meeting is November 21.

### Energy & Air Quality

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group continues to look for candidates to serve as the Chair and Vice-Chair. If interested, email Brian Filiatraut at [bfiliatraut@morpc.org](mailto:bfiliatraut@morpc.org). The next meeting is November 20.

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 \$2 million award from the U.S. DOT-FHWA's Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator (EVC RAA) Program. Over the next few weeks, MORPC will review the 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, reach out to Brian Filiatraut at [bfiliatraut@morpc.org](mailto:bfiliatraut@morpc.org).

MORPC issued an air quality alert for the Columbus region August 27. An isolated ozone exceedance occurred at the Delaware monitoring station September 5. Ground-level ozone was the primary pollutant of concern both days when levels reached the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups on the national Air Quality Index scale.

### Neighborhood Air Monitoring Project/U.S. EPA Project

Team Members continue to move forward with the U.S. EPA funded air monitoring project, working in partnership with Franklin County Public Health. The team deployed an additional three sensors and plan to deploy fifty-six more by end of October. Team Members are 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.



## Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC)

RDAC met October 1.

- Data Day Working Group: The Working Group reviewed a Call for Proposals for Data Day 2025 that was sent out the end of September. The is 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 Inskip at [jinskeep@morpc.org](mailto:jinskeep@morpc.org).
- The Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG): Tentative remaining dates are October 8 for the RIDG Steering Committee meeting and November 13 for the general RIDG meeting. The RIDG Chair and staff lead 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.
- The 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 being tested by Data & Mapping and working group members. The working group hosted the first pop-up event for community outreach at Columbus Metropolitan Library-main branch on September 26 and met October 3.
- Workforce and Job Quality Working Group: The Working Group continues to participate in the Results for America (RfA) 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 September 13 to evaluate progress and identify support needed to complete content and assure alignment between proposed sessions for the “*Data for All*” event. The event is tentatively scheduled for mid-November.
- Cyber Security Working Group: The working group continued developing a local leader oriented, educational event, “*Cybersecurity for Local Leaders*.” Team Members created promotional materials and an event registration page. The group met September 20 to finalize the agenda and coordinate member presentations.

## Data & Research Activities

Team Members continue developing the MORPC Insights platform, a web application whose purpose is to provide data-derived insights on a variety of topics at the regional, county, and community levels. Each insight is supported by data, visualizations, and expert commentary, and is eventually expected to feature content from trusted partners in addition to MORPC-produced content. Current efforts are focused on developing the user interface in ArcGIS Online. Team Members met with MORPC staff experts on transportation, housing, and sustainability to determine what data should be included and how it should be presented.

Team Members continue 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.

MORPC produced county population estimates as of January 1, 2024. Historically these were used to create sub-county population estimates but were not released as a standalone data product. MORPC plans to release the latest estimates on the Population Hub in October.

Preliminary population estimates as of January 1, 2024, are being reviewed by MORPC Commission members. Team Members will update the estimates based on member feedback and will present the revised estimates to the Commission for adoption in October 2024. The estimates are used to determine member dues for 2025 and will also be released as a standalone data product and published on the Population Hub in October.

Upcoming updates to standard data products:

- County-level population estimates as of January 1, 2024 (October)

## Outreach

Team Members participated in the City of Columbus Health and Wellness Fair promoting MORPC services.

Team Members presented on the Air Quality Program to Whitehall Community Schools and the Franklin County Auditor’s Office.

## DRIVE INVESTMENT

### LinkUS Mobility Initiative

The Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) Leadership Committee formally approved the 2026-2030 TSI Capital Improvement Program on September 11. The program, which includes eighty-three projects at over \$260 million in investment, represents the initial priority projects to be developed and constructed through LinkUS. Annual updates and public engagement are planned for the program.

MORPC continues supporting LinkUS partner agencies through public engagement activities around the region.

### Passenger Rail

The Corridor ID Program 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. Initial route planning is expected to wrap up in Spring 2025, with service development planning to begin thereafter.

The next Central Ohio Passenger Rail Committee is October 22.

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

The next CEDS Committee is November 21.

### Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Team Members are working with the “*Get Ready Initiative*” to plan for communities within a 40-minute drive time of the Intel development. The travel demand model is expanding to cover a 10-county area. Additional data collected and refined through the project is being incorporated in the MTP process for future updates.

### Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP)

MORPC is working to relaunch 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. 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. Team Members are putting together an application to assess priority sites in target areas.

### Federal Competitive Programs

As announced last month, MORPC won a \$15 million award for its MORE EVS proposal as part the U.S. DOT-FHWA’s Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Round 1B grant program. MORE EVS will unlock an additional \$6.9 million 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 work with the FHWA on terms to finalize the grant agreement.

MORPC submitted a \$69 million 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.

### 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, contact Preston Frick at [pfrick@morpc.org](mailto:pfrick@morpc.org).

### Mobility Management

Team Members promoted Gohio Mobility and Mobility Management services to Franklin County community members. Staff attended transportation advisory committees in Fairfield, Fayette, Licking, Union, Pickaway, and Delaware Counties. The transportation provider survey closed. Sixteen transportation providers submitted insight on barriers to filling transportation requests and interest in collaboration.



### FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient

The fiscal year 2024 Section 5310 application period is open September 25-October 25. Approximately \$1.7 million is available for eligible activities. MORPC hosted a mandatory virtual application workshop on September 25. Contact Hannah Ruscin ([hruscin@morpc.org](mailto:hruscin@morpc.org)) for alternative accommodations if you were unable to attend the workshop.

### Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO)

Subcommittee meetings in each county were held throughout the last two weeks of September. The meetings also served as the Rural Consultation meetings to begin 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.

CORPO delivered the FY 2024 Planning Work Program Completion report to ODOT on September 30.

The next CORPO Committee meeting is November 4.

### MORPC-Attributable Funding

Team Members provided feedback on screening applications in advance of the September 27 final application deadline.

### Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

The Transportation Policy Committee approved the 2024 TRAC application priority list on September 12. The list was sent to ODOT. MORPC will present the regional priorities to TRAC at their Central Ohio Regional Public Hearing on October 16.

### Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)

MORPC notified applicants of errors or omission in applications received at the end of August for SFY 26 SCIP/LTIPO PWC District 3. Application review began in September.

### 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 meets October 7 to score the projects. For more information, contact Edwina Teye at ([ETeye@morpc.org](mailto:ETeye@morpc.org)) or visit MORPC's Clean Ohio Conservation Fund [website](#).

### Money Mondays

MORPC hosted the following Money Monday sessions:

- September 0 – Accessing One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund and Capital Budget Awards
- September 16 – Columbus Realtors and Affordable Housing Efforts
- September 23 – City of Upper Arlington Sustainability
- September 30 – Findlay/Hancock County Economic Development

Upcoming sessions:

- October 7 – Affordable Housing with Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority
- October 21 – Financing Options with Columbus Franklin County Finance Authority
- October 28 – Childcare Resources with Groundwork Ohio

## **PAY IT FORWARD**

### Membership Services

Team Members completed eight members visits.

### Events

MORPC hosted/held the following events:

- September 25 – Big Table Conversation focused on housing and Transportation

#### Upcoming Events:

- October 23 – Zoning for the Future, Opportunity Center, New Lexington
- October 29 – Summit on Sustainability, Columbus Hilton Downtown

For more information on upcoming events, contact Eileen Leuby ([eleuby@morpc.org](mailto:eleuby@morpc.org) or 614-381-0111).

#### Public Involvement & Engagement

Team Members participated in the following opportunities:

- Seniors Tech Conference
- Gahanna Senior Expo
- Columbus Metropolitan Library Resource Fair
- Neighborhood Best Practice Conference
- Leading with Courage
- LinkUS Town Hall
- PowerUP Career and Tech Expo

MORPC promoted the following through social media and on our website: air quality, blueways, eSource, Trail Pass, Gohio Commute, housing, Long Street Bridge, LinkUS, careers, Residential Services, RFPs/RFQs, Summit on Sustainability, Safe Streets, TSI Public Comment Period, 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.

### **BUILD VALUE FOR OUR MEMBERS**

#### MORPC Annual Salary & Fringe Benefit Survey

The annual salary & fringe benefit survey was released September 12 and is available on MORPC's website at [2024-MORPC-Salary-Survey.pdf](#). We appreciate the thirty-six communities that participated in this year's survey and hope it provides value to all our members.

#### Community-Based Planning Assistance

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

#### Consultant Services Program

MORPC began hosting RFPs from MORPC Member communities, regardless of the program area, through the Consultant Services Program webpage to generate additional visibility for community projects and bids. Contact Jonathan Miller ([JMiller@morpc.org](mailto:JMiller@morpc.org)) if your community would like MORPC to host a link to an RFP or RFQ.

#### Planner Pool Program

Members are invited to submit applications for assistance from the Planner Pool Program. MORPC is accepting projects related to planning, zoning, and sustainability.

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 additional staffing assistance, filling staff vacancies during vacation, assistance with gaps in staffing, or other planning or pre-planning activities such as guidance with best practices, contact Jonathan Miller ([jmiller@morpc.org](mailto:jmiller@morpc.org)) to schedule a time to discuss your communities potential needs and ways that MORPC may be able to help.

#### MORPC in the News

Links to press releases and news article for the month are available at [www.morpc.org/MORPCInTheNews](http://www.morpc.org/MORPCInTheNews)

### Personnel Updates

The following new Team Members recently started at MORPC:

- Temporary Planning Executive Assistant Christa Montoya began September 4
- Chief Regional Planning Officer Jessica Kuenzli began September 10
- Temporary Programming Executive Assistant Brittany Henry began September 18
- Programming Intern (Transit Focus) Griffin Roberts began September 18
- Strategic Director of Technology Matika Garrison began September 24

The following positions are starting at MORPC soon:

- Economic Development Intern
- Central Ohio Greenways Intern

The requirements for the posted positions are available for review on the website at

<http://www.morpc.org/careers/>.

### RFP/RFQ Postings

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

- Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator (closes October 25)
- HVAC Contractor for Residential Energy Programs
- Insulation Contractor for Residential Energy Programs

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



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PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 100  
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## Memorandum

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

**FROM:** Dave Dixon  
Director of Data Analytics & Strategy

**DATE:** September 27, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Resolution 14-24: **“Establishing population estimates as a basis for 2025 annual participation fees to be assessed members”**

The attached Resolution 14-24 provides population estimates for January 1, 2024 for the purpose of assessing 2025 participation fees from member jurisdictions. The member participation fees (“dues”) are calculated using the rates adopted in Resolution 08-24.

The population estimates reflect change in the population from April 1, 2020 to January 1, 2024. In the data, we continue to see birth and death rates moving back into alignment with long term trends as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have attenuated. In line with statewide and nationwide trends, birth rates continue to trend slowly downward due to decreasing fertility rates, and death rates continue to trend slowly upward in part due to an aging population. The region experienced a significant rebound of in-migration in 2022 and 2023 after a four-year downward trend and a ten-year low in 2021.

Despite the decline in natural growth and volatile migration, the region has grown by over 48,000 people since the 2020 decennial census, and MORPC members account for over 46,000 of these. For most individual communities, the modest overall growth tended to result in estimates that were comparable to last year, with the biggest increases accruing to places that are actively developing housing units and group residences, such as dormitories and senior-care facilities. While the overall growth is slower than we experienced throughout much of the 2010s, periods of faster or slower growth are part of the normal cycle of the long-term growth in our region, and we anticipate that recent statewide and regional initiatives to attract businesses and residents will spur a period of faster growth in the coming years. Consequently, Central Ohio is still on track to become a region of 3.15 million residents by 2050.

Attachment: Resolution 14-24

**William Murdock, AICP**  
Executive Director

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
Chair

**Michelle Crandall**  
Vice Chair

**Ben Kessler**  
Secretary

RESOLUTION 14-24

**“Establishing population estimates as a basis for 2025 annual participation fees to be assessed members”**

WHEREAS, MORPC staff has produced January 1, 2024 population estimates to provide a basis for local dues assessments, as per the Articles of Agreement; and

WHEREAS, 2025 participation fees are assessed at a rate of \$0.665 per capita for members within the federally declared Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Study Area boundaries of MORPC, \$0.560 per capita for county members within the Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO) boundaries, and \$0.450 for all other members, excluding associate members which are not assessed population-based fees, in accordance with Resolution 08-24; and

WHEREAS, \$0.07 per capita is earmarked exclusively for the MORPC building/reserve, in accordance with Resolution 08-24; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 08-24 adopts rates consistent with the five-year plan proposed in Resolution 09-21 and are below the “maximum per-capita membership fee” approved by the Commission in Resolution 09-21 on June 10, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Attachment 1 sets forth the population and dues assessments for MORPC members; now therefore,

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

- Section 1. That the January 1, 2024 population estimates, as documented in the Attachment, are hereby adopted for the purpose of assessing 2025 participation fees, as listed in the Attachment.
- Section 2. 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 3. 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.

---

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

Effective date: October 10, 2024  
Submitted by: Dave Dixon, Director of Data Analytics & Strategy  
Prepared by: Adam Porr, Research and Data Officer  
Authority: Ohio Revised Code Section 713.21  
For action date: October 10, 2024  
Attachment: 2024 Population Estimates and 2025 Dues Assessment of MORPC Members















							BASE YEAR POPULATION	2024 POPULATION <i>Used to calculate 2025 member dues</i>			2023 POPULATION <i>Used to calculate 2024 member dues</i>				2024 HOUSING UNIT ESTIMATES				2024 OCCUPANCY RATE & HOUSEHOLD SIZE ASSUMPTIONS (e)			
MEMBER TOTAL (b)							2,254,902	2,301,378	\$ 1,646,948	166	2,279,533	\$ 1,563,335	162		956,639	19,240	24,351	1,000,230				
Community	Government Type	County	Member Type	2024 Member Dues Rate	2025 Member Dues Rate	April 1, 2020 Census Population	January 1, 2024 Population Estimate	2025 Dues	2025 Reps	January 1, 2023 Population Estimate	2024 Dues	2024 Reps	Change in Dues (a)	2020 Census Housing Units	New Single Family Units (c)	New Multifamily Units (d)	2024 Housing Unit Estimate	Occupancy Rate - Owner Households	Occupancy Rate - Renter Households	Household Size - Owner Households	Household Size - Renter Households	

a - Changes in dues may appear \$1 high or low due to rounding.

b - Member totals represent the total for all MORPC members in the listed year. Change from year to year includes growth from new members as well as overall population change.

c - New single family units with an estimated build between April 1, 2020 (base year) and December 31 of the year preceding the estimate year; assumes a 6-month lag time between date a building permit is issued and final occupancy

d - New multifamily units with an estimated build between April 1, 2020 (base year) and December 31 of the year preceding the estimate year; assumes a 9-month lag time between date a building permit is issued and final occupancy

e - (Deleted)

f - Population in new housing units is estimated using the renter occupancy rate and average household size for multifamily units and owner occupancy rate and average household size for single family units using the latest available 5-year ACS data

g - For communities that fall partly outside the MORPC 15-county region, the estimate reflects only the portion of the population that resides in a MORPC county. Sometimes the portion of the community in the region is very small and/or undeveloped, and consequently the estimated population may be very small or zero.

Communities for which this note applies include Buchtel, Gallon, Gratiot, Greenfield, Ridgeway, Rose Farm, and Roseville. This may also affect communities such as Tartton, which straddle county boundaries within the region, resulting in the population being split between counties.





**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: September 12, 2024  
Time: 2:13 p.m.  
Location: MORPC Town Hall

**Transportation Policy Committee Members Present in Person**

LaGrieta Acheampong	Dave Gulden	Kelly Scocco
Chris Amorose Groomes	Pam Hykes O'Grady	Kent Shafer
Kristen Atha	Laurie Jadwin	Kimberly Sharp
Paul Brake	James Jewell	Alana Shockey
Ron Bullard	Carol Kauffman	Sloan Spalding
Gary Burkholder	Emily Keeler	Ike Stage
Tracie Davies	Ben Kessler	Joe Steager
Kristen Easterday	Bill LaFayette	Christie Ward
Dave Efland	Kris Long	Trenton Weaver
Shane Farnsworth	Glenn Marzluf	Andrew Williams
Cindi Fitzpatrick	Eric Richter	
Brad Foster	Elissa Schneider	

**Transportation Policy Committee Members Attending Remotely**

Herb Asher	Rebecca Hermann	Megan O'Callaghan
Michael Bivens	Christine Houk	Joe Stefanov
Ben Collins	Joe Long	Robyn Stewart
Jennifer Fening	Steve Mazer	Andy Volenik
Daryl Hennessy	Dave Medley	Tim Wilson

**Commission Members Present in Person**

Joe Allen	Terry Emery	RC Wise
Joe Antram	Jeff Hall	

**Commission Members Attending Remotely**

Michelle Blanton	Mark Mauter	Sean Stanearth
Chasilyn Carter	Bill Narducci	Hannah Wynne
Joy Evangelista	Eric Phillips	
Bill Habig	Nick Shultz	

**Associate Members Attending Remotely**

Kristin Sutton

**MORPC Staff Present in Person**

Parag Agrawal	Shawn Hufstedler	Adam Porr
Todd Bradley	Jessica Keunzli	Kyle Probert
April Bumgardner	Eileen Leuby	Padmini Roy-Dixon
Dave Dixon	Kelsey Matson	Shari Saunders
Joe Garrity	Amanda McEldowney	Maria Schaper
Ralonda Hampton	Jonathan Miller	Brandi Whetstone
Aubrey Hauter	William Murdock	Robert Williams

**MORPC Staff Attending Remotely**

Karina Peggau

**Guests Present in Person**

Grace Byler, Morrow County	Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter
Randi Spoon, Morrow County	

**Guests Attending Remotely**

Chuck Boso, City of Grove City	Woody Fox, Monroe Township
Leslie Finck	Andy Shifflett, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter

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

Chair Chris Amorose Groomes called the Transportation Policy Committee Meeting to order at 2:13 p.m.

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

Parag Agrawal presented the [Metropolitan Planning Organization Report](#). Mr. Agrawal noted the resolutions on the consent agenda. Resolution T-9-24 is the quarterly Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update. It includes six projects. The majority is relocation of ODOT funds. It also includes the recent COTA federal grant. Resolution T-10-24 adopts the Technical Assistance Program Guide. Resolution T-12-24 is the Planning Work Program Completion Report which MORPC is required to submit annually. The Planning Work Program is the transportation budget.

MORPC is working with LinkUS partners to enhance bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Partners recently released the regional Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) Capital Improvement Program, a five-year plan that includes over 80 projects in 43 communities. We received more than 200 comments. The majority of the comments are supportive. Yesterday, the TSI Leadership Committee approved the Regional Capital Improvement Program.

MORPC's Technical Assistance Program provides active transportation planning assistance to member communities that are part of the MPO planning area. Mr. Agrawal shared the 2025 Technical Assistance Program Cycle. The call for applications opens September 16. The deadline to submit applications is October 11. Contact Lauren Cardoni at [lcardon@morp.org](mailto:lcardon@morp.org) for more information. The Technical Assistance program began in 2018 and since then has worked on more than 20 studies throughout Central Ohio.

MORPC manages the FTA's Section 5310 program which funds vehicles and services to enhance mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities. Available funds for the 2024 funding cycle total \$1,760,329. A twenty percent local match is required. The funding cycle began September 11. Applications are due October 25. Elliott Lewis and Hannah Ruscin are the program managers.

The Ohio Commuters Challenge Program is an annual statewide challenge to encourage Ohioans to commute using sustainable modes of transportation. The challenge runs September 9-22. Patty Olmsted is the program manager. In 2023 the entire state logged around 1,500 trips during the two-week challenge. This year, on the first day of the challenge, 500 trips were logged.

More than 150 people are already registered for the September 26 MORPC Safety Forum. MORPC is presenting three awards at the event: an individual safety champion award, urban safety project award, and a rural or suburban safety project award.

**Proposed Resolution T-11-24: “Establishing priorities for Central Ohio candidate projects submitted in 2024 for Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) funding” – Parag Agrawal, MORPC Chief Mobility & Infrastructure Officer & Senior Director of Programming**

Parag Agrawal presented the [2024 ODOT Transportation Review Advisory Council Priority List](#). ODOT's TRAC program funds large infrastructure projects over \$12 million that help reduce congestion and improve economic development. MORPC received five projects from the MPO planning area totaling \$260 million. Fact sheets are available for each project. The Central Ohio projects are ranked based on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan goals. MORPC will continue to work with member communities to attract more funding.

Emily Keeler made a motion to accept Resolution T-11-24, a second was made; motion passed.

**Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda**

Emily Keeler made a motion to accept the Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda, second by Kris Long; motion passed.

The Transportation Policy Committee Meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

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Ben Kessler, Secretary

**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**



**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**  
**Commission Meeting Minutes**

Date: September 12, 2024  
Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Location: MORPC Town Hall

**Commission Members Present in Person**

LaGrieta Acheampong	Brad Foster	Elissa Schneider
Joe Allen	Dave Gulden	Kelly Scocco
Chris Amorose Groomes	Jeff Hall	Kent Shafer
Joe Antram	Pam Hykes O'Grady	Alana Shockey
Kristen Atha	Laurie Jadwin	Sloan Spalding
Paul Brake	James Jewell	Ike Stage
Ron Bullard	Carol Kauffman	Joe Steager
Gary Burkholder	Emily Keeler	Christie Ward
Tracie Davies	Ben Kessler	Trenton Weaver
Dave Efland	Bill LaFayette	Andrew Williams
Terry Emery	Kris Long	RC Wise
Shane Farnsworth	Glenn Marzluf	
Cindi Fitzpatrick	Eric Richter	

**Commission Members Attending Remotely**

Herb Asher	Rebecca Hermann	Nick Shultz
Michael Bivens	Christine Houk	Sean Stanart
Michelle Blanton	Joe Long	Joe Stefanov
Chasilyn Carter	Mark Mauter	Robyn Stewart
Ben Collins	Steve Mazer	Andy Volenik
Joy Evangelista	Dave Medley	Tim Wilson
Jennifer Fening	Bill Narducci	Hannah Wynne
Bill Habig	Megan O'Callaghan	
Daryl Hennessy	Eric Phillips	

**Transportation Policy Committee Members Present in Person**

Kristen Easterday	Kimberly Sharp
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**Associate Members Attending Remotely**

Kristin Sutton

**MORPC Staff Present in Person**

Parag Agrawal	Shawn Hufstedler	Adam Porr
Todd Bradley	Jessica Keunzli	Kyle Probert
April Bumgardner	Eileen Leuby	Padmini Roy-Dixon
Dave Dixon	Kelsey Matson	Shari Saunders
Joe Garrity	Amanda McEldowney	Maria Schaper
Ralonda Hampton	Jonathan Miller	Brandi Whetstone
Aubrey Hauter	William Murdock	Robert Williams

**MORPC Staff Attending Remotely**

Karina Peggau

**Guests Present in Person**

Grace Byler, Morrow County	Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter
Randi Spoon, Morrow County	

**Guests Attending Remotely**

Chuck Boso, City of Grove City	Woody Fox, Monroe Township
Leslie Finck	Andy Shifflett, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter

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

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

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

Eileen Leuby welcomed guest Randi Spoon from Morrow County Workforce Development.

**Executive Director’s Report – William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director**

William Murdock gave the [Executive’s Director Report](#). Mr. Murdock welcomed and introduced MORPC’s new Regional Planning Officer Jessica Kuenzli. Ms. Kuenzli was most recently the Deputy Director of Business and Regulatory Affairs at the Ohio EPA. She also served in the Air Pollution Control Division. She has an undergraduate degree in geography and planning from the University of Toledo and an MS in geography from Ohio University. Ms. Kuenzli is happy to be at MORPC and requested the members view her as a resource.

Mr. Murdock reminded members the Member Newsletter was issued today and highlights a lot of the items in today’s meeting. The more-detailed Agency Monthly Report included in the meeting packet, gives an update on all things happening in the agency.

The Return on Investment (ROI) letters for your communities are coming soon. The ROI lists the value of services your community receives from MORPC.

At the end of August, MORPC received the largest grant in our history for electric vehicle charging stations. It touches the whole region. Mayor Kessler will provide more details in the Sustainability Advisory Committee Report.

This fall, MORPC and the OSU Center for Urban and Regional Analysis (CURA) are launching a speaker series on Responding to the Housing Crisis, featuring national and local leaders.

MORPC is releasing the 2024 Annual Salary and Fringe Benefit Survey today. The survey is available on [MORPC’s website](#). Thirty-six local governments participated.

The ad hoc 208 Process Review Committee, chaired by Tom Homan, is an effort to look at how the region is addressing the issue of planning for sewer facilities. The committee is diving into best practices and looking at experiences of other regions around the state and talking with legal experts. Recommendations from the committee will come before the Commission.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee launched in August. Chaired by Daryl Hennessy of Sunbury, the committee’s goal is to make sure we are all connected on economic development. It is starting to open opportunities such as potential grants, loans, and other tools from the federal Economic Development Administration.

Mr. Murdock shared news on the LinkUS Equitable Transit Oriented Development Strategy that looks at the possibility of housing and development along the LinkUS bus rapid transit lines. They looked at 15 stations and project they can add about 11,000 housing units, all sizes and price points. Just looking at the three corridors they studied, the corridors can handle an extra 2.4 million square feet of commercial and industrial development.

The Grant Opportunity of the Month is U.S. DOT/FRA’s Railroad Crossing Elimination for rail grade crossing improvement projects focusing on improving safety and mobility of people and goods.

The Member Benefit of the Month is a reminder that MORPC's Data and Mapping Team offers every member community up to eight hours of data and mapping services. Reach out to [dataandmaps@morpc.org](mailto:dataandmaps@morpc.org).

On September 18, the Long Street Cultural Wall is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The wall is a unique cap over I-71 that tells the community's history. Ralonda Hampton put together the event that starts at 10 a.m. The program portion begins at 11:30 a.m. Speakers include Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther, former Mayor Micheal Coleman, Stephanie Hightower of the Urban League, Franklin County Commissioner Kevin Boyce, Columbus City Council President Shannon Hardin, ODOT Director Jack Marchbanks, and Demetrius Neely from the King Arts Complex. The celebration also features local artists.

The Regional Planning Update Southwest Area is September 25 at the Jackson Township Fire Station 202.

MORPC is hosting a Big Table conversation around housing and transportation on September 25 at 5 p.m. in the Town Hall. Every year The Columbus Foundation works with partners over the region to host community dialogues.

Upcoming Events:

- Transportation Safety Forum – September 26, Wigwam Event Center, Pickerington
- World Rivers Clean Up Day – September 28, Multiple locations
- Rural Four: Zoning in the Future – October 23, Perry County Opportunity Center
- Summit on Sustainability – October 29, Hilton Columbus Downtown
- MORPC State of the Region 2025 – March 21, 2025, Hilton Columbus Downtown

**Regional Data Advisory Committee – Dave Dixon, MORPC Director of Data Analytics & Strategy**

Dave Dixon presented the [2024 Draft Population Estimates](#). The draft estimates were sent to communities September 5 to review before presenting them for adoption in October. Feedback from the communities is due September 20.

MORPC estimates the region added about 48,000 people with MORPC membership accounting for most of the people in the region. Population estimates look back; population forecasts look forward. The 2024 population estimates is our best estimate on how many people lived in the region as of January 1, 2024. The latest U.S. Census is from July 1, 2023. We are between the confidence intervals of the 2050 forecast.

The estimates are useful as a resource in terms of planning, looking at community size, and MORPC uses them to determine next year's dues. Please review the worksheet and contact Data and Mapping if you have questions. There is one week left for review.

Mr. Dixon drew attention to the [Responding to the Housing Crisis](#) handouts. The first webinar in the series also has an in-person option at Ohio State on September 26. There is one webinar per month in the series.

Mr. Dixon announced there is a member-only Cybersecurity event at MORPC on October 31. Members will receive an email invitation. Speakers include representatives from the governor's office, Ohio Cyber Reserve, and the City of Worthington.



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

Joe Garrity presented the [Regional Policy Roundtable Update](#). The Public Policy Agenda Working Group met twice and is making progress on updating the Public Policy Agenda. The final working group meeting is September 27. The Regional Policy Roundtable will review the draft agenda at the November 21 meeting and move it forward for approval by the Commission in December.

Congressman Mike Carey was the guest speaker at the last Regional Policy Roundtable meeting. He spoke about his support of passenger rail and about the bipartisan bill to allocate more funds to the states regarding pedestrian safety. He also supports our drive investment efforts.

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

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

- Federal appropriations and budget
- Special Money Monday on September 9 featuring Office of Budget and Management Director Kim Murnieks on the One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund and Capital Bill
- HB 315 – Housing technical assistance fund included in the Township cleanup bill
- Jack Marchbanks is moving on from ODOT; the new ODOT Director is Pamela Vest Boratyn
- Central Ohio Defense Group
- Ohio Public Works Commission funding
- HB 371

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

Ben Kessler presented the [Sustainability Advisory Committee Report](#). Mayor Kessler reminded members to register for the October 29 Summit on Sustainability at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. The luncheon keynote speaker is Jeff Speck, author of Walkable City, the best-selling city planning title of the past decade. Register at [www.morpc.org/summit](http://www.morpc.org/summit).

MORPC's Central Ohio Blueways Steering Committee is coordinating a large-scale river cleanup effort for World Rivers Day on September 28. The 10 a.m.-Noon cleanup includes locations on the Scioto River, Olentangy River, Alum Creek and Big Walnut Creek. Register through Keep Columbus Beautiful. For more information contact Jonathan Miller at [jmiller@morpc.org](mailto:jmiller@morpc.org).

MORPC's grant proposal for Central Ohio, MORE EVS, was awarded the full \$15 million requested from the U.S. DOT/FHWA's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Round 2 grant program. The MORE EVS project is a partnership of 32 organizations including public agencies, local governments, non-profits, and private sector companies. Partners will facilitate installation of 406 EV charging ports. MORPC collaborated with key partners on the successful application including Smart Columbus, City of Columbus, HNTB, Electrification Coalition, and AEP Ohio.

Mayor Kessler introduced the Wasted Food Scale that shows how we can prevent and divert food waste. MORPC is working to reestablish a composting program, and conducting a test run this week to track how much food waste can be composted. Mayor Kessler asked attendees to help make a difference by putting their napkins and food scraps in the designated buckets as they leave today. SWACO and Ohio EPA offer resources to help communities with waste reduction, recycling, and composting initiatives. Contact Brandi Whetstone at [bwhetstone@morpc.org](mailto:bwhetstone@morpc.org) for more information.

The next Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting is September 18 at NBBJ, an international architect firm in downtown Columbus.

**Transportation Policy Committee – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair**  
Chair Amorose Grooms called the Transportation Policy Committee Session to order at 2:13 p.m. The session adjourned at 2:33 p.m. Separate minutes are attached.

**Commission Consent Agenda**

Joe Antram made a motion to approve the Commission Consent Agenda, second by Laurie Jadwin; motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

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Ben Kessler, Secretary  
**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

## 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 27, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Resolution 15-24: “**Adoption of MORPC’s 2024 Title VI Program**”

This resolution is to approve the Title VI/Non-Discrimination Program at MORPC. Given that MORPC receives and suballocates Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds, MORPC must fulfill the Title VI requirements and guidelines of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Federal regulations require MORPC to produce a Title VI monitoring program which must be approved by MORPC’s Transportation Policy Committee every three years.

Items required for a Title VI Program in a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) include:

- A copy of MORPC’s Title VI notice
- MORPC’s Title VI discrimination complaint process
- A list of public transportation related Title VI investigations, complaints, or lawsuits
- MORPC’s public participation plan
- MORPC’s plan for providing language assistance for persons with limited English proficiency
- A table depicting racial breakdown of minorities on relevant MORPC committees
- A description of efforts to ensure subrecipients are complying with Title VI
- A demographic profile of the metropolitan area
- A description of the procedures by which the mobility needs of minority populations are identified and considered within the planning process
- Demographic maps that overlay with minority and non-minority populations that demonstrate the impact of state and federal funds in aggregate for public transportation managed by the MPO
- Analyze the impacts of federal funds spent and identify any disparate impacts on the basis of race, color, or national origin, and, if so, identify a substantial legitimate justification for the disparate impact
- A description of the procedures the MPO uses to pass through FTA financial assistance

**William Murdock, AICP**  
Executive Director

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
Chair

**Michelle Crandall**  
Vice Chair

**Ben Kessler**  
Secretary

- MORPC's process to assist potential subrecipients applying for funding
- MORPC's RFP and contract procedures

MORPC staff believes MORPC is in compliance with Title VI requirements.

Attachment: Resolution 15-24

RESOLUTION 15-24

**“Adoption of MORPC’s 2024 Title VI Program”**

WHEREAS, in October 2014 the Governor of Ohio appointed the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) as Designated Recipient ID No. 1310 for the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) Section 5310 (*Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities*) funds for the Columbus Urbanized Area; and

WHEREAS, MORPC is the designated recipient of the Section 5310 FTA funds for the Columbus, Ohio urbanized area, that are distributed to sub recipients; and

WHEREAS, MORPC is subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the U.S. Department of Transportation’s implementing regulations; and

WHEREAS, the FTA requires all recipients document their compliance by submitting a Title VI Program according to the guidelines provided in FTA Circular 4702.1B to their FTA Regional Civil Rights Officer once every three years; now therefore

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

- Section 1. That it approves MORPC’s *2024 Title VI/Non-Discrimination Program* dated October 2024.
- Section 2. That it directs staff to implement, monitor and recommend updates to the Program as needed.
- Section 3. That it directs staff to transmit this resolution and program to the FTA.
- Section 4. 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 5. 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.

---

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

Effective date: October 12, 2024  
Submitted by: Parag Agrawal, Chief Mobility & Infrastructure Officer & Senior Director Of Programming  
Prepared by: Ralonda Hampton, Interim Senior Director of Communications & Engagement  
Maria Schaper, Transportation Study Director  
Elliott Lewis, Principal Planner  
Authority: Ohio Revised Code Section 713.21  
For action date: October 12, 2024  
Attachment: 2024 Title VI/Non-Discrimination Program



# TITLE VI / NON-DISCRIMINATION PROGRAM AT THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

(FOCUS ON METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION)

REPORT PREPARED BY MORPC  
SEPTEMBER 2024



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

*This report was prepared by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), 111 Liberty St., Columbus, Ohio 43215, 614-228-2663. Funding was provided by the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Ohio Department of Transportation, and Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking and Union Counties. The report reflects the views and policies of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.*

*In accordance with requirements of the U.S. Department of Transportation, MORPC does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, familial status, ancestry, military status, religion or disability in programs, services or in employment. Information on non-discrimination and related MORPC policies and procedures is available at [Title VI Non-Discrimination – MORPC.org](https://www.morpc.org/title-vi-non-discrimination).*

<sup>1</sup> Title VI of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964



There are many forms of illegal discrimination based on race, color, or national origin that can limit the opportunity of minorities to gain equal access to services and programs. Among other things, in operating a federally-assisted program, a recipient cannot, on the basis of race, color, or national origin, either directly or through contractual means:

- Deny program services, aids, or benefits;
- Provide a different service, aid, or benefit, or provide them in a manner different than they are provided to others; or,
- Segregate or separately treat individuals in any matter related to the receipt of any service, aid, or benefit.

– U.S. Department of Justice

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## **V. APPENDICES**

**Appendix A: Civil Rights and Non-Discrimination Related Links**

**Appendix B: Non-Discrimination Clause in MORPC ODOT Agreement**

**Appendix C: Title Assurances, Self-Certification of Process,  
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**Appendix D: ODOT Title VI Baseline Assessment Tool**

**Appendix E: Non-Discrimination Complaint Procedure**

**Appendix F: Responsibilities for Title VI Compliance at MORPC**

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**Appendix H: Environmental Justice Analysis TIP**

**Appendix I: Limited English Proficiency Plan**

**Attachments to Appendix I**

**Appendix J: Title VI Resolution**

**Appendix K: Final MORPC 5310 Program Management Plan**

**Appendix L: Title VI Notice**

**Appendix N: Diversity and Inclusion Plan**

**Appendix O: MORPC Contracting Process Procedures**

## SUMMARY OF MORPC ONGOING TITLE VI RELATED ACTIVITES

NAME	DESCRIPTION	DATE
<b>TITLE VI ASSURANCES</b>	DOT Title VI assurances are required by FHWA and FTA. MORPC includes these with the annual MPO self-certification resolution.	May 2024
<b>DATA COLLECTION</b>	MORPC is required to collect and map data on Title VI protected populations in the planning area. This is an on-going activity of the transportation department.	Ongoing
<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN</b>	MORPC is required to proactively encourage public participation – <i>seeking out and considering the needs of those traditionally-underserved</i> – the transportation department maintains a separate public participation plan.	September 2024
<b>TITLE VI EXTERNAL COMPLAIN PROCESS</b>	MORPC is required to maintain a complaint process.	Current
<b>BENEFICIARY TITLE VI NOTIFICATIONS</b>	MORPC is required to let beneficiaries know MORPC’s obligations in regards to Title VI and how complaints can be filed.	Current
<b>LEP (LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY)</b>	MORPC is required to take sound measures and reasonable steps to serve the non-English speaking populations in the area. MORPC takes steps to better reach out to these populations and to produce various materials in different languages.	October 2024
<b>ODOT TITLE VI REPORT</b>	ODOT requires this report annually. It is included as an appendix in the transportation planning work program document.	May 2024
<b>CONTRACTS, RFPs, RFQs REVIEWS</b>	MORPC contracts, RFPs and RFQs are required to include specific Title VI related language. Individual departments and the finance director are responsible for making sure that this is done correctly.	Current

# I. INTRODUCTION

## A. THIS PROGRAM

This program, in response to FTA C4702.13, provides an overview of the responsibilities that the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has regarding the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (and related law) and how these responsibilities are carried out by MORPC. The program focuses primarily on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) functions at MORPC (see U.S. Code Title 23, section 134 and Title 49, section 5303). MORPC documents some of its non-discrimination-related activities in other reports and these are referenced and/or the current versions are included herein.

The information presented in this program is current as of the date of the report and will continue to provide an overview of Title VI and related non-discrimination activities and requirements. However, the information is subject to change and revision in accordance with new legislation, rules and policies at the federal, state, or MORPC levels, or due to MORPC updates of various documents. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that the MORPC staff or MORPC website and other internet links in Appendix A be consulted for the latest information.

### THIS PROGRAM IS INTENDED TO SERVE THREE PRIMARY AUDIENCES AND PURPOSES:

- **Federal and State Oversight Agencies:** To provide information to state and federal oversight agencies on how MORPC carries out its responsibilities in regard to Title VI and related non-discrimination requirements.
- **MORPC Staff:** As a reference for MORPC staff on Title VI-related requirements and responsibilities and procedures that MORPC follows related to non-discrimination.
- **General Public:** Information for the general public on the non-discrimination regulations that MORPC is obligated to follow (due to being a federal fund recipient and a public entity) and how MORPC responds to these requirements.

It should be noted that MORPC is responsible, contractually, to various jurisdictions in carrying out and properly and sensitively following non-discrimination requirements. The state and federal governments have significant oversight responsibility for MORPC in regards to non-discrimination, and for some MORPC funding sources, local governments or other entities also may have an oversight role. (See Appendix B.)

## B. CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 AND TITLE VI

At a time when significant amounts of open, overt and even government-sanctioned discrimination still existed against Americans of African descent across the United States, the U.S. Congress passed the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964. President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law on July 2, 1964. In considering the Title VI legislation, one senator addressed how North Carolina hospitals received substantial federal monies for construction, that such hospitals discriminated against blacks as patients and as medical staff, and that, in the absence of legislation, judicial action was the only means to end these discriminatory practices:

*“That is why we need Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, H.R. 7152 - to prevent such discrimination where Federal funds are involved...Title VI is sound; it is morally right; it is legally right; it is constitutionally right...What will it accomplish? It will guarantee that the money collected by colorblind tax collectors will be distributed by Federal and State administrators who are equally colorblind. Let me say it again: The title has a simple purpose – to eliminate discrimination in Federally-financed programs.”*

This made entities that receive federal funding, such as MORPC, directly subject to the federal Civil Rights Act and requirements to operate in accordance with federal non-discrimination law. Current Title VI law requires non-discrimination in all programs and activities, whether federally-funded or not, of those who receive federal funds.

**The term “program or activity” and the term “program” mean all of the operations of:**

1. A department, agency, special purpose district, or other instrumentality of a state or of a local government; or
2. The entity of such state or local government that distributes such assistance and each such department or agency (and each other state or local government entity) to which the assistance is extended, in the case of assistance to a state or local government;

*Any part of which is extended federal financial assistance. 42 U.S.C. § 2000d-4a(1)*

In the 50-plus intervening years, following the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the specific applicability of the Act has been clarified or expanded to include more than race, color and national origin. Discrimination protections based on age, handicap/disability, sex, religion, limited English proficiency, and income level have also been included in various federal statutes, regulations, executive orders, and policies.

MORPC and other federal fund recipients must adjust their programs and policies to conform with these requirements, as well. Federal, state and local discrimination prohibitions against lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals also are common (e.g., see June 2010 HUD press release No. 10-119).

Many programs have two recipients. The primary recipient or conduit directly receives the federal financial assistance. The primary recipient then distributes the federal assistance to a subrecipient to carry out a program. Both the primary recipient and subrecipient must act in accordance with Title VI. MORPC is a primary and subrecipient.

The specific Title VI-related activities discussed in this program are mostly in response to regulations and directives of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), particularly the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). DOT Title VI implementing regulations are contained in the Code of Federal Regulations, 49 CFR 21.

## C. AUTHORITIES

Most federal agencies have adopted regulations that prohibit recipients of federal funds from using criteria or methods of administering their programs that have the *effect* of subjecting individuals to discrimination based on race, color, or national origin. The Supreme Court has held that such regulations may validly prohibit practices having a disparate impact on protected groups, even if the actions or practices are not intentionally discriminatory. *Guardians*, 463 U.S. 582; *Alexander v. Choate*, 469 U.S. at 292-94; see *Elston v. Talladega County Board of Education*, 997 F.2d 1394, 1406 (11th Cir.), *reh’g denied*, 7 F.3d 242 (11th Cir. 1993).

While each federal agency extending federal financial assistance has primary responsibility for implementing Title VI with respect to its recipients, overall coordination in identifying legal and operational standards, and ensuring consistent application and enforcement, rests with the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

**Title VI claims against an entity such as MORPC may be proven under two primary theories:**

- Intentional discrimination/disparate treatment; and
- Disparate impact/effects.

The first refers to intentional discrimination based on race, color, or national origin. The second refers to actions that use a neutral procedure or practice that has a disparate impact on individuals of a particular race, color, or national origin, and when such a practice lacks a “substantial legitimate justification.”

The documents below are some of the major federal civil rights-related legislation, regulations, executive orders, and federal agency guidance that MORPC is subject to. These are generally listed chronologically by date enacted and are not all-inclusive. See Appendix A for links to actual documents and other related information.



**TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000):**

Prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin

**1970 UNIFORM ACT (42 USC 4601):**

Related to persons displaced/property acquired

**FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY ACT OF 1973 (23 U.S.C. 324):**

Prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex

**SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794):**

Prohibits discrimination based on handicap/disability

**AGE DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101):**

Prohibits discrimination based on age

**IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS (49 CFR 1.51, 49 CFR 21 AND 23 CFR 200):**

U.S. DOT and FHWA Title VI implementing regulations

**FEDERAL TRANSIT LAWS:**

Title 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 as amended by MAP-21

**CIVIL RIGHTS RESTORATION ACT OF 1987 (P.L. 100-259):**

Restored original intent and scope of Title VI to include all programs and activities of federal-aid recipients and contractors whether federally-funded or not

**FAIR HOUSING ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1988 (42 U.S.C. 3601-3631):**

Adds religion as a protected group for relocation purposes

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990 (P.L. 101-336):**

Non-discrimination based on disability

**DOT ORDER 1000.12:**

Implementation of DOT Title VI Program

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 12250:**

(28 CFR 42.401) Department of Justice coordination of enforcement of non-discrimination in federally assisted programs

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 12898 (EJ) IN 1994:**

Federal actions to address equity and fairness in minority and low-income populations (“Environmental Justice”)

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 13166 (LEP) IN 2000:**

Requires meaningful access to services for people with limited English proficiency

## E. STATE OF OHIO NON-DISCRIMINATION LAWS

The State of Ohio also includes many of the same non-discrimination requirements as the federal government in various sections of the Ohio Revised Code, Ohio Administrative Code, Executive Orders, and other documents. The location for some of this information is Section 4112 of the ORC. MORPC, in all of its functions, is also subject to following these state laws and regulations.

## D. MORPC ORGANIZATION AND FUNDING

MORPC is organized per sections 713.21 and 713.23 of the Ohio Revised Code as a “Regional Planning Commission” (RPC) and serves member jurisdictions in the Central Ohio area. The MORPC Transportation Policy Committee acts as the “Metropolitan Planning Organization” or “MPO” for the Columbus Urbanized Area (see “Prospectus” in MORPC Transportation Planning Work Program – link in Appendix A) as designated by the Ohio Governor and U.S. Department of Transportation.

MORPC has served as the MPO (or “Transportation Study”) since 1964 and as a planning entity per the Ohio Revised Code since 1943 (under different organizational arrangements and names). The current organization, under the name “Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission,” was formed in 1969.

MORPC currently includes four major “production” departments: 1) Transportation and Infrastructure Development (the “MPO”); 2) Data and Mapping; 3) Planning and Sustainability; that includes Energy and Air Quality. 4) Residential Services that includes home weatherization and housing rehab and within Transportation Infrastructure and Development there is a separate demand management program that provides ridesharing services in 15 counties. MORPC also includes several “support” departments including Executive Management, Finance, Information Technology, Communications and Engagement and Government Affairs and Strategic Initiatives.

MORPC is an independent, voluntary membership-run planning entity and receives part of its operations funding from member dues, which are also used to match grants. The MPO service area includes Delaware and Franklin Counties, and portions of northwest Fairfield County, southeast Union County and southwest Licking County.

The current MPO geographic area was generally established in 1973 except that portions of middle and northern Delaware County, not previously included in the MPO, were added in the early 1990s. Due to the increasing spread of urban growth beyond the central county in the past decade or so, and due to the larger 8-county U.S. Census Bureau-defined metropolitan statistical area, MPO work considers and sometimes includes, or extends into, areas beyond the MPO boundary.

MORPC is governed by a “commission” (or “board”) composed of officials appointed from member governments per MORPC bylaws and articles of agreement. The MPO is governed by the “Transportation Policy Committee” under advisement from the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Community Advisory Committee. The Transportation Policy Committee includes the members of the Commission who are from geographic areas within the MPO boundary and some additional members, per Transportation Policy Committee bylaws.

## BOARD DIVERSITY

To understand and effectively serve the needs of a diverse population, an organization's board should reflect the communities in which it represents, along with include the perspective of diverse voices. MORPC has made a concerted effort to recommend potential diverse leaders to fill Board vacancies.

Below are the demographics of the MORPC Board, which includes gender, race, and age. This data was collected in the spring of 2024.

### Total: 172 Board Members

- 52 - Females
- 120 - Males
- 10 - African American
- 0 - Hispanic
- 1 - Native American
- 141 - White
- 9 - Between the ages of 25 - 44
- 119 - Between the ages of 45 - 64
- 44 - 65 or older

MORPC operates differently from most public entities in that agency funding comes not from a committed or dedicated tax source but from the voluntary participation of local governments, and from performing work associated with various grants and agreements, which can change over time. These grants and agreements are from federal agencies, the State of Ohio, local governments, utility companies, foundations, and from other public and private entities, to perform, implement or administer specific programs, services or studies.

The funding for a large portion of this work comes directly or indirectly from the federal government, often through state agency recipients. Sometimes these funds come through other subrecipients. The primary federal agencies that provide funding to MORPC include the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Energy (DOE), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). MORPC currently operates three major programs, which normally provide the bulk of federal funding to the agency:

- Transportation/MPO functions funded by the DOT
- Home Weatherization program funded by the DOE & HHS
- Housing programs funded by HUD

## SECTION 5310 FUNDS

### PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO SUBRECIPIENTS CHAPTER III, 11

MORPC is the Designated and Primary Recipient of FTA Section 5310 funds in the Columbus, Ohio urbanized area. MORPC passes Section 5310 funds through to subrecipients as required by the grant program. MORPC is in the process of developing agreements/contracts using FFY 2018, 2019, and 2020 funds executed with FTA.

Subrecipients are to be held to the same non-discrimination standards and accountable to the FTA Master Agreement as well as more defined guidelines based on their particular projects as MORPC when using these funds. MORPC also complies FTA's Certification and Assurances each federal fiscal year as they become available.

Subrecipients can access MORPC's Title VI notice of rights, complaint form and procedures and adopted policies at [morpc.org/title-vi/](http://morpc.org/title-vi/). All Title VI complaints regarding services provided with Section 5310 funds are to be addressed to MORPC as well as the recipient using MORPC's complaint procedures.

Sample notices, procedures, demographic and other information will be coordinated and provided by MORPC to assist subrecipients in their Title VI compliance.

## **MONITORING SUBRECIPIENTS CHAPTER III, 12**

MORPC has developed a process and schedule to track subrecipients Title VI Program compliance and submissions. MORPC's grant administrator will perform site visits as appropriate to each subrecipient to ensure their projects are in compliance with the signed agreement and FTA standards. The administrator will receive reports that will be entered into FTA TrAMS.

As required by the project, selected subrecipients will submit invoices to MORPC for reimbursement. Additional information may be requested in the event documentation is needed for reimbursement to ensure they are in compliance.

## **Conduct Equity Analysis for Determination of Site or Location of Facilities Chapter III, 13**

MORPC and its subrecipients do not use FTA funds to determine the location of a new facility or make renovations to existing facility. No projects require an equity analysis for land acquisition and the displacement of persons from their residences or businesses.

## **Procedures MORPC uses to pass through FTA financial assistance to subrecipients in a non-discriminatory manner Chapter VI, 2, c (2)**

MORPC has a Section 5310 Program Management Plan (PMP) approved by FTA. The PMP documents the pass through of FTA financial assistance to subrecipients in a nondiscriminatory manner. As part of the Section 5310 funding request process, Title VI data collection and general reporting requirements, Limited English Proficiency Requirements and FTA Certification and Assurances is required. A description of procedures to request funding is also included in the PMP. (See Appendix K.)

When funding becomes available, MORPC submits a press release, posts on MORPC's website and social media, sends email blasts and mails post cards to potential subrecipients. MORPC's email and USPS mailing lists are inclusive of minority population organizations.

Each applicant is required as part of its Section 5310 funding request to provide information relating to the clientele to be served by the project, including the number of minority individuals broken down by African American, Hispanic, Asian or Pacific Islander, Native American, and Asian-Indian population groups. MORPC's Title VI complaint process will be used to solicit any complaints based on perceived discrimination based on race, color, or national origin. As a Designated and Primary Recipient, MORPC will monitor subrecipients with regard to Title VI.

## **Procedures MORPC uses to provide assistance to potential subrecipients applying for funding, including its efforts to assist applicants that would serve predominantly minority populations. Chapter VI, 2, c (3)**

As stated in MORPC's PMP when the funding cycles are announced the selection process is open and transparent, and every effort will be made to reach multiple agencies that provide services to the primary target populations, ensuring equity of access to the benefits of the grant programs among eligible groups, as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

MORPC contacts interested parties representing all segments of the study area, including advocates for people with disabilities, the elderly and minority populations have been maintained. In addition to mailing announcements and web postings, funding availability will be communicated using MORPC's Transportation Public Participation Plan. (See Appendix G.)

The selection process includes an informational workshop where outlining the development of project and criteria is offered. The workshop and assistance in developing proposals are advertised and offered to all interested parties.

## II. TITLE VI ORGANIZATION AT MORPC

### A. INTRODUCTION

In general, routine Title VI and related non-discrimination responsibilities at MORPC are handled in a decentralized manner, being primarily the responsibility of individual departments. This reflects the reality that MORPC operates through many different agreements, contracts and programs, and each of them may have somewhat different requirements and responsibilities relating to Title VI and non-discrimination.

Though MORPC is one entity, each production department operates their programs in different functional areas, somewhat independently utilizing different funding sources and agreements, and under varying requirements, roles, and constraints, which individual departments are most familiar with. This affects how Title VI responsibilities are organized at MORPC.

It should be noted that all of MORPC, without exception and across all departments, is subject to following federal Title VI and non-discrimination requirements. In that MORPC receives any federal funds, it is subject to these regulations, but in fact, MORPC receives significant amounts of federal funds that infiltrate every activity and operation of MORPC. This makes the entire agency subject to the related federal laws in all its operations.

### B. KEY STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

As shown in the MORPC Title VI organization chart in Appendix F, the agency Executive Director, who is hired by the Commission, has overall responsibility for non-discrimination and implementation of the Title VI program. Directly reporting to the Executive Director on non-discrimination and civil rights issues is the Senior Communications and Engagement Director who serves as the overall agency, "Title VI Coordinator."

This person is the key contact person that has general responsibility over civil rights-related and non-discrimination issues that may arise within the agency. The Senior Communications and Engagement Director is responsible for Title VI as it relates to public outreach and Title VI notifications.

The other key staff member related to Title VI, is the DEI and Engagement Officer. This individual is responsible for making certain that the agency meets Title VI requirements in purchasing and in professional service or other contracts. This person is also responsible for employment and hiring and for the agency's Equal Employment Opportunity reporting.

MORPC has an internal Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, which consist of staffers from each department. The purpose of the DE&I Committee is to cultivate an environment where individuals of diverse race, gender, and ethnicity may succeed and feel comfortable in the workplace. The committee will convene and engage MORPC employees while promoting the agency's diversity initiatives. Committee members will work alongside the Diversity Officer in achieving MORPC's strategic goals within the Diversity & Inclusion Work Plan. The committee will also guide the diversity efforts of the MORPC Board and Staff. While not specifically designated to address federal Title VI compliance issues, this committee may have participation in this in the future. Ultimately though, most of the on-going responsibility for meeting program-related Title VI requirements at MORPC rests with each department director.



# III. KEY MPO TITLE VI ACTIVITIES

## A. INTRODUCTION

MORPC conducts various activities to address and respond to Title VI-related issues, concerns, and requirements, Section III focuses on the primary Transportation and Infrastructure Development Funding/MPO and related departments activities regarding Title VI and includes planning sub-sections on data collection.

## B. PLANNING PROCESS

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The MORPC Planning Department carries out a *comprehensive, cooperative and continuing* planning process in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 450. The principal products of this process are the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program MORPC continually monitors the impacts of its planning to avoid, minimize or mitigate disproportional impacts on Title VI-protected populations through various impact analyses and performance monitoring. These activities are carried out through data collection and public participation, as described in subsections 2 and 3.

- Data collection
- Public participation

The primary responsibility for ensuring that these tasks are appropriately and sensitively carried out lies with the Chief Mobility and Infrastructure Officer and Senior Director of Programming, while the specific tasks are normally sub-delegated within the department. The Senior Communication and Engagement Director also has a significant role in the public participation and notification responsibilities.

The MORPC Planning Department has often performed special activities or planning studies outside the MPO's core planning process that are specifically directed to the Title VI-protected populations. Examples include the MPO's past participation with (and ongoing interest in) developing and maintaining the following:

- Human services transportation planning, mobility, and job access for the transportation disadvantaged as elements of the *Regional Mobility Plan* or *Coordinated Plan*.
- *Transportation Demand Management Plan* that incorporates mobility management.
- *Planning Framework for the Evacuation of the Transportation Needs Populations* in Central Ohio.
- *Insight2050* study that proactively plans for development and growth over the next 30+ years. This report considers changing demographics and impacts to the mobility of the transportation system.
- *Active Transportation Plan* encourages comprehensive and long-range active transportation planning to move the region towards an equitable and connected transportation network.
- *Rickenbacker Area Study* a community driven study of the intermodal hub to develop comprehensive approaches to economic development, infrastructure improvement, workforce mobility and affordable housing.

**Minority Mobility Needs:** During our outreach we did not identify any transportation needs specific to minority populations. Our planning process continuously reaches out to minority populations. To date we have not identified that minority populations in our region have transportation needs different from the population as a whole. These needs are access to jobs and other services; improve the safety of the transportation system; and minimize congestion. MORPC also considers the needs of the population with lower incomes, older adults and the transportation challenges associated with not having a car or the ability to drive in our region. Over the last several years, the agency has seen an increase in the need to improve transit services and provide more biking and walking infrastructure to create better and more sustainable neighborhoods. Our transportation planning process includes minority population groups and viewpoints.

**Impacts of State and Federal Funds:** MORPC's analysis of the impact of the distribution of State and Federal funds is shown in Figures IV-1 to IV-35 on pages 15- 31 of the Environmental Justice documentation. The charts identify the impacts of the TIP projects with respect to particular measures on various populations groups which specially include minority and non-minority populations groups. A disparate impact would show up in these graphs if the trends depicted on the graph would be different between minority and non-minority population. In all measures the trend lines of minority and non-minority population follow a similar pattern as a result of the TIP projects when compared to the no build situation. More details can be derived by the paragraph associated with each measure. (See Appendix H.)

This type of work is done periodically in addition to the standard MPO activities discussed below.

## 2. DATA COLLECTION

MORPC is a major collector, user and generator of economic, demographic, land use, transportation, and other data. Collecting certain types of data is a regulatory requirement: Develop procedures for the collection of statistical data (race, color, sex, age, disability, and national origin) of participants in, and beneficiaries of State highway programs, i.e., relocates, impacted citizens and affected communities (23 CFR 200.9(b)(4)). Some of the purposes identified for collecting data, include:

### To Identify:

- Impacts and persons/businesses impacted by transportation projects
- Transportation needs of all persons/groups within plans or project area
- People to include in the decision-making process
- Leaders/"Champion(s)" for various modes and transportation options
- Benchmark and monitor MORPC diversity efforts

Historically, the major need for data at MORPC has been related to the travel demand modeling component of the transportation work program and is a core part of MORPC's ongoing work. The need for data, however, goes beyond modeling and permeates most planning and service outreach activities at MORPC.

The MPO provides forecasts of population, housing, economic and transportation trends that provide the basis for addressing current issues and exploring future needs. Additional MORPC data for planning purposes includes infrastructure inventories, development inventories, traffic counts, crash analysis, bicycle travel level of stress and travel flow patterns. MORPC also serves as a center for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information in Central Ohio.

Some data is important to the planning process and Title VI because it helps identify the geographic locations and extent of traditionally underserved populations that are protected through Title VI plans and projects.

Demographic data regarding characteristics of these target populations for the metropolitan planning area is gathered and distributed into MORPC's traffic analysis zones. This is done so that the data can be further analyzed through the travel demand model. The analyses result in the identification of planning measurements that can be used to identify geographic areas of high densities of target populations and monitor the impacts of transportation plans and projects.

### 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

An effective public participation process is a cornerstone to due process protection under the law. The rationale is the desire for a public participation process that proactively seeks and is open to addressing the needs of all persons, including those traditionally underserved or underrepresented. Furthermore, the rationale is to provide public access and the opportunity for input in the development of agency programming.

The public participation, consultation and notification requirements of MPOs are described in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 23, Section 450.316. CFR 450.316 (1) (vii): *Seeking out and considering the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, such as low-income and minority households, who may face challenges accessing employment and other services.*

Public participation is defined as the *process by which interested and affected individuals or entities are consulted and included in decision-making process.* The public participation process includes:

- Information dissemination (timely and relevant)
- Consultation (honest and open exchanges)
- "Stakeholder" participation (collaborative engagement)

Communication and public outreach are important to MORPC programs and activities. Planning studies conducted by staff often need to include participation by a broad spectrum of area residents. Services offered by the housing or weatherization programs particularly, must reach lower and moderate-income groups, minorities, non-English speaking persons, and others. Results of the public participation efforts are included in the Public Participation Appendix of each document. The Diversity and Inclusion plan also benchmarks the effectiveness of reaching out to these populations. See Focus Area: Service to Diverse Populations in the Diversity and Inclusion Plan. (See Appendix N.)

MORPC's Public Participation Plan for the metropolitan planning organization is updated periodically, and helps to guide the engagement and outreach efforts for the transportation planning process. The current version of this plan is in Appendix G.

***Some of the tools that MORPC uses to help keep the public informed include the following:***

**Website:** MORPC maintains an extensive website that is updated frequently. The site includes information on the agency's responsibilities, policies, programs, publications, on-going activities, and press releases. Direct staff links are provided for most of the information on the website.

**Social media:** MORPC's social media efforts include Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn.

**Publications:** Each year, MORPC issues a multitude of publications, reports, and maps as part of the agency's work, and responds to and processes a large number of data requests. Much of this can be accessed through the website. Plans and programs – such as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program are also distributed to the metropolitan libraries located within the transportation planning area.

**Electronic newsletters:** MORPC utilizes electronic newsletters such as its regional eSource and other periodic emails to inform the public of its programs, projects, events, and initiatives.

**Press Releases:** Press releases are routinely sent to media contacts, including daily and weekly newspapers, and television and radio stations throughout the Central Ohio area. These include numerous Title VI protected groups. The press releases are also placed on the website.

**Meetings Open to the Public:** All MORPC board and committee meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates, times and agendas for board and major committee meetings are posted in advance on the agency's website, with some meetings taking on a hybrid, in-person and online format as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Opportunities for Public Comment:** MORPC routinely provides opportunities for public comment through social media, online, email, U.S. mail, fax, phone, and through public comment at meetings. MORPC responds to all comments received.

**Staff is Accessible:** Staff is accessible in person, on the phone, by mail, by fax, and by email. Contact information for many staff members is included on the agency website.

**Mailings:** MORPC routinely uses direct mail and email to keep the public informed of the agency's services, programs, public comment periods, meetings, and publications. These mailings include a large number of community groups and social service agencies, some of which represent Title VI protected groups. MORPC also sends press releases to newspapers that are published by and for traditionally underserved populations.

**Events:** Events such as workshops, open houses, and forums are held regularly. MORPC routinely offers the following different ways for people to comment on activities, programs, and decisions made at the agency, as follows:

- **Comments are Accepted at Any Time:** Comments are accepted through social media, online, phone, email, U.S. mail, through interactive web maps, and in person at any board, committee or public meeting.
- **Formal Public Comment Periods for Major Activities:** Formal public comment and review periods are used to solicit comments on major planning and programming activities. This includes major amendments to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program and changes to important MORPC policies such as the Public Participation Plan.

MORPC also has an active Community Advisory Committee that is a major component of the public participation process and provides public input and recommendations to the Transportation Policy Committee. It is the responsibility of MORPC Staff to make sure that the Community Advisory Committee has representation from Title VI relevant populations.

The Community Advisory Committee includes diverse members from different backgrounds who represent minorities and people with disabilities. MORPC consistently recruits for new committee members. MORPC also reviews and requires that project-specific committees include representation of diverse populations from the study areas.

The Transportation Advisory Committee serves as the technical component of the public participation process and provides recommendations to the Transportation Policy Committee.

In recent years, MORPC has taken steps to reach out to the growing non-English speaking communities in Central Ohio. MORPC has some of its outreach material translated into Spanish, Somali and French. It also makes efforts to distribute information to Spanish and Somali residents and publications in the region. The MORPC website can be translated into various languages. MORPC also has under contract various agencies that provide interpretation, translation and services for the deaf and hearing impaired. This information is available to all staff members so they can assist people who require translation services. See additional information in the Diversity and Inclusion plan under Focus Area: Service to Diverse Populations. (See Appendix N.)

Additional information on public participation is included on the MORPC website. See the MORPC "Public Participation Plan and "Metropolitan Transportation Plan" links in Appendix A.



## 4. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PLAN

In 2009 MORPC formed the Diversity & Inclusion Committee to investigate the agency's approach to diversity. The committee inventoried each department's policies in serving diverse populations. The committee also hired a consultant, Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence (MACC), to help MORPC enhance its diversity efforts.

In 2013, MORPC created the first MORPC Diversity & Inclusion Work Plan. The plan utilized the suggestions from MACC based on surveys and focus group interviews with staff and board members, as well as information provided from a MORPC self-assessment for cultural competence in the workplace completed for United Way.

The goal of the yearly work plans is to cultivate a work environment that is welcoming and inclusive; provide services and programs to the Central Ohio community creating a special place to live, work, and raise a family; and create a place for businesses to want to locate. The work plans assist MORPC in its planning and decision-making, establishing priorities, providing relevancy to the MORPC region, building capacity, maintaining accountability, allocating resources and improving services to the Central Ohio community.

MORPC's commitment to diversity is evident in its Diversity Statement:

*"Diversity refers to the differences that make us unique. MORPC recognizes, values, embraces and celebrates diversity by respecting and utilizing all of our differences to enhance our lives and our society."*

The current Diversity Work Plan reviewed the efforts of the previous Work Plan and the six focus areas.

The matrices, sorted by focus area, identifies: the process in which to achieve desired outcomes (Infrastructure); the capability to implement the processes (Competency); and the MORPC Team Member(s) responsible for the specific infrastructure (Staff). Each matrix provides an area for reporting results (Outcome).

**Workforce & Leadership:** Commit to the preparation of a culturally competent workforce and Board.

**Workplace:** Improve accessibility and accommodations for all.

**Supplier Diversity & Procurement:** Maintain agency spend of 15%.

**Service to Diverse Populations:** Increase/enhance service to diverse populations.

**Diversity Requirements:** Continue to meet the federal requirements for DBE and Section 3 HUD monitoring and reporting.

**Diversity Communications:** Increase the promotion of MORPC's services and programs to diverse audiences, and increase the awareness of MORPC's Diversity & Inclusion efforts.

As a result of the outcomes from the previous Work Plan new actions were developed to improve performance on priority Diversity & Inclusion goals and to implement new internal structure to improve capacity, results and priority. The results of those efforts are revealed in the current Diversity Work Plan.

See Appendix N for the complete Diversity and Inclusion Work Plan.

# IV. OTHER TITLE VI-RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES AT MORPC

## A. TITLE VI RESOLUTION, POLICY STATEMENT AND

MORPC is required by the U.S. Department of Transportation to submit approval of the three-year Title VI program and to maintain a Title VI policy statement signed by the Executive Director and Title VI assurances. (See Appendix J.) The policy statement, included in Appendix C, is an express commitment to non-discrimination and is signed by the chief administrative officer. The policy statement is required to be circulated throughout the organization and general public.

The Title VI assurances are now included as part of the annual MPO self-certification resolution, usually adopted in May of each year. Appendix C includes a copy of this from FY 2021.

It is relevant to note that by signing an assurance, the recipient has provided documentation that may be a basis for a 'breach of contract' action. Even without such writing, courts describe Title VI obligations (and other non-discrimination laws) as similar to a contract; "the recipients' acceptance of the funds triggers coverage under the non-discrimination provision" (Paralyzed Veterans, 477 U.S. at 605).

Assurances serve two important purposes: they remind prospective recipients of their non-discrimination obligations, and they provide a basis for the federal government to sue to enforce compliance with these statutes.

**The notice, Notifying the Public of Rights Under Title VI, can be found on MORPC's website at [Title VI Non-Discrimination – MORPC.org](#) in MORPC's lobby, and in the employee lounge.**

## B. ON-SITE TITLE VI FEDERAL OR STATE REVIEWS

The federal agency providing the financial assistance is primarily responsible for enforcing Title VI as it applies to its recipients. Federal agencies have several mechanisms available to evaluate whether recipients are in compliance with Title VI, and additional means to enforce or obtain compliance should a recipient's practices be found lacking. Evaluation mechanisms include pre-award reviews, post-award compliance reviews, and investigations of complaints.

Much more common, are special Title VI reviews pertaining to one project (see next section), activity or to complaints, usually requiring a written response. Title VI issues are also usually reviewed as part of the MPO on-site certification review conducted by FHWA and FTA every four years. MORPC strives to comply to proper procedures and maintenance of documentation of all activities related to Title VI.

## C. SPECIAL GRANTS

It is not unusual for MORPC to apply for special grants from various federal agencies or for federal grants through state agencies. These grants may be initiated by the MPO or another department at MORPC and may be a joint effort across departments. Often, in these cases, the federal agency (or state agency representing the federal agency) will require their own Title VI assessment – primarily answering various questions (and perhaps providing documentation) regarding Title VI at MORPC. This assessment is in accordance with U.S. Justice Department - recommended procedures for federal agencies.

Completing the required forms and documentation may be a combined effort at MORPC. As noted in the previous section, MORPC having correctly followed and documented Title VI procedures in the past can make responding to these Title VI reviews less difficult. The current document also should help with this.



Federal agencies typically require that an applicant submit an assurance of compliance with Title VI (and other applicable non-discrimination related laws) as part of a pre- grant award review. They may request information on pending lawsuits or complaints, prior compliance determinations, ethnic makeup of staff and decision-making bodies, and other related information. As part of the federal agency internal screening process, agency civil rights officials are normally notified of potential assistance grants and are provided the opportunity to raise a “red flag” or concern about potential grant recipients, such as MORPC.

## D. COMPLAINT PROCESS

Any individual may exercise their right to file a complaint with MORPC, or oversight federal or state agencies, if that person believes that they have been subject to unequal treatment or discrimination, in their receipt of benefits/services on grounds of race, color, or national origin. MORPC adopted an external Title VI complaint process in 2004.

Under MORPC’s Requirement to Record and Report Transit-Related Investigations, Complaints, and Lawsuits, MORPC has not, in the past three years, received a Title VI complaint, investigation or lawsuit.

MORPC makes a concerted effort to resolve complaints informally at the lowest level, using the agency’s non-discrimination complaint process or other procedures. The complaint process is intended to be used for external discrimination complaints. It includes a multi-step process for resolving complaints in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Transportation and federal agencies.

MORPC is also required to make it known that discrimination-related complaints can be submitted to MORPC using this procedure or through the federal highway or transit administrations, or other federal agencies.

Per the complaint process, complaints would first be submitted to the Senior Director of Communications and Engagement. This person will review the complaint then request assistance in the response from the appropriate department director. The current complaint process is in Appendix E and on the MORPC website.

## E. NOTIFYING BENEFICIARIES OF PROTECTION UNDER TITLE VI

In order to comply with 49 CFR Section 21.9(d) and the FTA Civil Rights Assurance (that MORPC has signed) and other requirements, recipients and subrecipients shall provide information to the public regarding their Title VI obligations and apprise members of the public of the protections against discrimination afforded them by Title VI. The information shall include:

- A statement that the agency operates programs without regard to race, color, and national origin.
- A description of the procedures that members of the public should follow in order to request additional information on the recipient’s or sub-recipient’s non-discrimination obligations.
- A description of the procedures that members of the public should follow in order to file a discrimination complaint against the recipient or subrecipient.

Notices of Title VI obligations and protections against discrimination are located on MORPC’s website [Title VI Non-Discrimination – MORPC.org](#) in MORPC’s main lobby and in the employee lunchroom. The notices are written in English and Spanish. Information regarding the notices is also available in the Diversity and Inclusion Plan under Area of Focus: Workplace.

The FTA Title VI Assurance says:

*The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission will make it known to the public that the person or persons alleging discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin as it relates to the provision of transportation services and*

transit-related benefits may file a complaint with the Federal Transit Administration and/or the U.S. Department of Transportation.

## F. LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES

A limited English proficiency or LEP person is one who does not speak English as primary language and has limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English. MORPC is required to implement *sound measures* and take reasonable steps for meaningful access to programs and activities by LEPs.

Requirement to Provide Meaningful Access to LEP Persons: Language Assistance Plan or LEP Plan is located in Appendix I.

Additional information on the LEP population is available in the Diversity and Inclusion Plan under Area Focus: Service to Diverse Populations and the ODOT Title VI Assessment. (See Appendix N.)

Illiteracy is another situation that can make communication, especially written communication, difficult. MORPC staff is available to help client's complete applications for service and other documents and to take verbal comments. Public meetings are also frequently held which allow for communication verbally with staff and in written form.

## G. ANNUAL TITLE VI REPORT FOR ODOT

Annually, in May, in conjunction with developing the coming year's planning work program, MORPC updates the Title VI report required by the Ohio Department of Transportation. The MPO is mostly a subrecipient of federal transportation funds and ODOT is usually the primary recipient for MORPC.

The ODOT report, which helps to satisfy federal requirements for the primary recipient and the subrecipient, is submitted to ODOT with the transportation work program and currently includes information related to: the composition of the MPO staff; Title VI complaints; use of minority contractors; and citizen participation activities. A copy of the most recent report is included in Appendix D and on the MORPC website.

## H. CONTRACT PROCEDURES

### Contract Procedures

MORPC's contracting and pre-contracting steps are generally done on a decentralized basis by individual departments, though all contracts are reviewed by the MORPC Chief Operating Officer. MORPC's current contracting procedures, as adopted by the Commission, are contained and available in Appendix O. These are general requirements that apply agency-wide.

The requirement is to include specific Title VI related text in all MORPC requests for proposals (RFPs), requests for qualifications (RFQs) and contracts. MORPC is required to include the following language in all RFPs or RFQs:

***[The following section is for projects funded by federal transportation funds.]***

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the related nondiscrimination statutes, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, all bidders including disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, low-income status, or limited English proficiency in consideration for an award.

The following text is required to be included in all contracts:

**The background of this Agreement is as follows:**

1. Pursuant to the FAST Act of 2016, the Federal Highway Administration (“FHWA”) made certain funds available to the State of Ohio for surface transportation planning programs. MORPC is the sub-recipient of some of these funds (“GRANT”).
2. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (hereinafter referred to as the “SUBRECIPIENT”) HEREBY AGREES THAT as a condition to receiving any Federal financial assistance it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000d-42 U.S.C. 2000d-4 (hereinafter referred to as the Act), and all requirements imposed by or pursuant to Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, nondiscrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs of the Department of Transportation- Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations) and other pertinent directives, to the end that in accordance with the Act, Regulations, and other pertinent directives, no persons the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex or gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability or other handicap, genetic information, marital/familial status, veteran status, or income or status with regard to public assistance, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the SUBRECIPIENT receives Federal financial assistance including the Ohio Department of Transportation, and HEREBY GIVES ASSURANCE THAT it will promptly take any measures necessary to effectuate this agreement. This assurance is required by subsection 21.71(a) of the regulations.

Non-Discrimination

CONSULTANT shall carry out the applicable requirements of 49 CFR part 26 in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. Failure by CONSULTANT to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy as MORPC deems appropriate.

To effectuate compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. Section 2000d et seq.) as amended, the following notice to the CONSULTANT regarding federal aid recipients applies. MORPC has made similar notice of compliance via the GRANT agreement. During the performance of this Agreement, CONSULTANT for itself, its assignees and successors in interest agrees as follows:

1. CONSULTANT will ensure that applicants are hired and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, religion, color, sex, national origin (ancestry), disability, genetic information, age (40 years or older), sexual orientation, military status (past, present, or future), creed, gender identification, marital/familial status, limited English proficiency, or status with regard to public assistance. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, the following: Employment, Upgrading, Demotion, or Transfer; Recruitment or Recruitment Advertising; Layoff or Termination; Rates of Pay or other forms of Compensation; and Selection for Training including Apprenticeship.
2. CONSULTANT agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause. CONSULTANT will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of CONSULTANT, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, color, sex, national origin (ancestry), disability, genetic information, age (40 years or older), sexual orientation, military status (past, present, or future), creed, gender identification, marital/familial status, limited English proficiency, or status with regard to public assistance.

CONSULTANT agrees to fully comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC Sec 2000. CONSULTANT shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin in its programs or activities. MORPC may monitor OONSULTANT’s compliance with Title VI.

3. *Compliance with Regulations:* CONSULTANT will comply with the regulations relative to nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. DOT Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 21, as amended, (hereinafter referred to as “Regulations”), which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this Agreement.
4. *Nondiscrimination:* CONSULTANT, with regard to the work performed by it after the execution of this Agreement, will not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, low-income status, limited English proficiency, religion, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identification, creed, military status (past, present, or future) or marital/familial status in the selection and retention of contractors and consultants, including in the procurement of materials and leases of equipment. The CONSULTANT will not participate either directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by Section 21.5 of the Regulations, including employment practices when the contract covers a program set forth in Appendix B to Part 21 of the Regulations.
5. *Solicitations for Contracts, including Procurement of Materials and Equipment:* In all solicitations either by competitive bidding or negotiation made by CONSULTANT for work to be performed under a contract, including procurement of materials or equipment, each potential contractor or supplier will be notified by CONSULTANT of the CONSULTANT’s obligations under this Agreement and the Regulations relative to nondiscrimination on the grounds of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, low-income status, limited English proficiency, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identification, creed, military status (past, present, or future) or marital/familial status.
6. *Information and Reports:* CONSULTANT will provide all information and reports required by the Regulations or directives issued pursuant thereto, and will permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information and its facilities as may be determined by ODOT, FHWA, or FTA to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such Regulations or directives. Where any information required of CONSULTANT is in the exclusive possession of another who fails or refuses to furnish this information, the CONSULTANT will so certify to ODOT, FHWA or FTA as appropriate, and will set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.
7. *Sanctions for Noncompliance:* In the event of CONSULTANT’S noncompliance with the nondiscrimination provisions of this Agreement, ODOT will impose such Agreement sanctions as ODOT, FHWA, or FTA may determine to be appropriate, including, but not limited to:
  - i. Withholding of payments to CONSULTANT under this Agreement until CONSULTANT complies, and/or;
  - ii. Cancellation, termination, or suspension of this Agreement, in whole or in part.
8. *Incorporation of Provisions:* CONSULTANT will include the provisions of paragraphs a) through g) in every contract, including procurement of materials and leases of equipment, unless exempt by the Regulations, or directives issued pursuant thereto. CONSULTANT will take such action with respect to any contracts or procurement as ODOT, FHWA, or FTA may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance; provided, however, that, in the event CONSULTANT becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a contractor, consultant, or supplier as a result of such direction, MORPC may request ODOT to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of ODOT, and, in addition, MORPC may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interest of the United States.

9. During the performance of this contract, the CONSULTANT, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the ‘CONSULTANT’) agrees to comply with the following non-discrimination statutes and authorities, including but not limited to:

*Pertinent Non-Discrimination Authorities:*

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., 78 stat. 252) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin); and 49 CFR Part 21
- The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. § 4601) (prohibits unfair treatment of persons displaced or whose property has been acquired because of Federal or Federal-aid programs and projects)
- Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973 (23 U.S.C. § 324 et seq.,) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex)
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794 et seq.), as amended (prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability) and 49 CFR Part 27
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of age)
- Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982 (49 U.S.C. § 471, Section 47123), as amended (prohibits discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, or sex)
- The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (PL 100-209) (broadened the scope, coverage, and applicability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, by expanding the definition of the terms “programs or activities” to include all of the programs or activities of Federal-Aid recipients, sub-recipients, and contractors, whether such programs or activities are Federally funded or not)
- Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12189), as implemented by Department of Transportation regulations at 49 CFR parts 37 and 38 (prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in the operation of public entities, public and private transportation systems, places of public accommodation, and certain testing entities)
- The Federal Aviation Administration’s Non-Discrimination Statute (49 U.S.C. § 47123) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, and sex)
- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (ensures non-discrimination against minority populations by discouraging programs, policies, and activities with disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations)
- Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for People with Limited English Proficiency, and resulting agency guidance, national origin discrimination includes discrimination because of limited English proficiency (LEP). To ensure compliance with Title VI, you must take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to your programs (70 Fed. Reg. at 74087 to 74100)
- Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act), as amended (prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or familial status (presence of child under the age of 18 and pregnant women)
- Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1682 et seq.) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities)

MPO contracts also need to include the “Contractor Contractual Requirements.” This is included as part of the “Standard DOT Assurances” document, currently included as part of MORPC’s annual self-certification resolution. A copy of this is in Appendix C.