



## MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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Columbus, Ohio 43215  
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### NOTICE OF A MEETING

#### TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

**November 6, 2024**

**9:00 a.m.**

Microsoft Teams meeting

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### AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductions – James Young, Chair**
- 9:02 a.m. Approval of October 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes**
- 9:03 a.m. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Maria Schaper, MORPC  
Dave Dixon, MORPC**
- 9:15 a.m. Funding Programs**
- Attributable Funds Project Status Update – Thomas Graham, MORPC
- 9:30 a.m. Informational Items**
- TAC Member Update – Franklin County Engineer's Office
  - Mobility Management Update – Emma Strange, MORPC
- 9:50 a.m. Other Business**
- Nominating Committee Report/Election of Officers

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

**Chris Amorose Grooms**  
*Chair*

**Michelle Crandall**  
*Vice Chair*

**Ben Kessler**  
*Secretary*

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

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

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

**The next TAC meeting is  
December 6, 2024 at 9 a.m.**

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



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

Date: **October 2, 2024**  
Time: **9:00 a.m.**  
Location: **MORPC**

## **Members Present**

Andrako, Mike	Ankrom, Katharine	Boucher, Christine (online)
Cox, Barbara	Ferrigno, William (online)	Huffman, Matt (online)
Johnson, Daniel (online)	Komlanc, Tom	Lockhart, Josh (online)
Moran, Alan (online)	Moss, Kimberly (online)	Nittle, Tim
Owen, Jonathan	Sanders, Scott	Schamp, Letty
Stargell, Reynaldo	Risko, Michele	Volenik, Andy (online)
Weaver, Kevin	Wilfong, Gary	Young, James

## **Guests**

Avellano, Mike (online)	Bakare, Tajudeen (online)	Bush, Ryan
Ciotola, Michael (online)	Elsa, Amy (online)	Hibbard, Tom
Howdyshell, Jennifer (online)	Hibbard, Tom	Hill, Anthony (online)
Jeffers, Paul (online)	Madineni, Veena (online)	Mills, Jerry (online)
Schneider, Andrew	Trimble, Abbey (online)	Wawszkiewicz, Tina

## **MORPC Staff**

Agrawal, Parag	Cardoni, Lauren	Dixon, Dave
Graham, Tom	Heider, Jon	Henry, Brittany
Kuenzli, Jessica	Lewis, Elliott	Oldroyd, Shelby
Ratliff, Chuck	Ruscin, Hannah	Schaper, Maria
Vonstein, Melinda		

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

- Chair Young called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was not present.

### **II. Approval of September 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

- Once a quorum was present, Chair Young asked for a motion to approve the September 4, 2024 meeting minutes. Mr. Nittle moved; Vice-chair Weaver seconded; and the motion passed.

### **III. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report** – Maria Schaper/Dave Dixon, MORPC

- Money Monday Sessions:
  - Oct. 7: Charles D. Hillman, President and CEO, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority: Affordable Housing
  - Oct. 14: Indigenous Peoples' Day (holiday): No Money Mondays

- Oct. 21: Patty Huddle, President, Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority: Financing Options
- Oct. 28: Lynanne Gutierrez (Wolf), Esq., President & CEO of Groundwork Ohio: Childcare resources
- MORPC continues collaboration with regional partners to implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), focusing on transportation, housing, broadband, and sustainability.
- MORPC is working with Ohio EPA to address 34 brownfield sites. The Economic Development team is applying to the US EPA's community-wide assessment grant, due in November. Communities interested in assessments should contact MORPC.
- MORPC has applied to a US EDA Planning Grant to develop a regionwide freight plan. The proposed plan will analyze how freight moves through, and within, the 11-county central Ohio Economic Development District (EDD) and serves the economic interests of the region. The plan's recommendations will help address gaps in the freight network and integrate freight considerations into future regional transportation, economic development, and land use plans.
- The final 2024 LinkUS Town Hall is scheduled for October 9, 2024, to learn more about COTA's plan to link us with additional services and sidewalks in your community. Hear from guest speakers such as, Columbus City Council President Shannon Hardin, Reynoldsburg Mayor Joe Begeny, MORPC Executive Director William Murdock and more.
- MORPC will be coordinating four Trails and Active Transportation Collaboration meetings around the region during the week of October 21, 2024. Representatives from the LinkUS Transit Supportive Infrastructure team, the MORPC Active Transportation Program, the Central Ohio Greenways Program, and Rapid 5 will share updates and hear from you about your community's plans, visions, and goals. This will be an active meeting with opportunities to collaborate with your neighboring jurisdictions. We will be funding opportunities and strategies for critical cross-jurisdictional connections.
- The Center for Urban and Regional Analysis (CURA) at The Ohio State University and MORPC is hosting its 2<sup>nd</sup> webinar in the Responding to the Housing Crisis series featuring Journalist, Mya Frazier, and Legal Aid Attorney, Jyoshu Tsushima titled A Conversation on Evictions in Central Ohio on Friday, October 18, 2024 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. This is part two of the four-part series.
- The Electric Vehicle Ecosystem for Central Ohio (EV ECO) project, led by MORPC and partners including Prologis Mobility, local governments, and Smart Columbus, aims to establish a network of 13 publicly accessible zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) infrastructure hubs around Columbus. This initiative will provide at least 144 additional 150-kW charging connectors across strategically located sites, serving both medium- and heavy-duty vehicles as well as light-duty passenger EVs. This project aligns with national zero-emission freight corridor strategies, anticipates significant greenhouse gas emissions reduction, involves substantial private sector investment, and supports regional workforce development. Additionally, it will facilitate government fleet adoption and provide critical infrastructure for public passenger vehicle charging.
- The Summit on Sustainability will take place on October 29, 2024, featuring keynote speaker Jeff Speck, with discussions on environmental sustainability and community initiatives.

- Ms. Schaper introduced Jessica Kuenzli, MORPC's new Chief Regional Planning Officer & Senior Director of Planning. Ms. Kuenzli continued by providing the committee with their background.
- Ms. Cardoni provided an update on the 2024 Safe Streets Central Ohio event, acknowledging the recipients of the inaugural Safety Awards. The Village of Richwood was awarded the Rural Transportation Safety Project, specifically for pedestrian safety improvements in collaboration with the Union County Health Department to help residents access healthy food. The City of Columbus was honored for the Urban Transportation Safety Project for its efforts in reducing speed limits on downtown streets from 35 mph to 25 mph as part of their Vision Zero initiative. Jeannie Willis from the City of Dublin was awarded the Regional Safety Champion for her leadership in improving safety within the city.

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

- Attributable Funds Project Status Update – Thomas Graham, MORPC
  - No changes have occurred since the last report. However, updates are expected following the Attributable Funds Committee (AFC) meeting.
- FTA 5310 Program Update – Hannah Ruscin, MORPC
  - Approximately \$1.7 million in formula funding is available, with \$1.5 million allocated for projects, including a required 20% local match.
  - The application period opened last week and will close on October 25, 2024.
  - Project scoring will take place in November, with TIP amendments in December and STIP amendments in January. The final grant submission will occur in February 2025.

#### **V. Informational Items**

- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Committee Update – Jon Heider, MORPC
  - The City of Dublin and the Northwest 33 Innovation Corridor are exploring RAISE grants for pedestrian detection technology. The focus is on improving safety through vehicle-to-pedestrian and infrastructure-to-pedestrian communication systems.
  - The ITS committee discussed ongoing research into various pedestrian detection technologies, including sensors and cameras. These technologies aim to alert both vehicles and pedestrians of potential dangers to prevent accidents at intersections. Concepts such as vehicle-to-vehicle and infrastructure-to-pedestrian alerts were explored as ways to reduce collisions.
  - Potential projects involve implementing these technologies across transit and municipal vehicle fleets to enhance safety on a broader scale.
  - The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2024, to continue discussions and project updates.
- Active Transportation Committee Update – Lauren Cardoni, MORPC
  - The Active Transportation Committee met on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup> and heard several important updates from local community members and other partners.

- The Delaware County Public Health District and Nationwide Children's Hospital are leading efforts to implement Safety Town and Safety City programs, focusing on pedestrian and cyclist safety. Presentation materials and contact information are available for communities interested in these programs.
- The City of Dublin provided an update on their Speed Management Plan and related efforts. Their Slow Down Dublin campaign piloted the installation of speed cameras in four locations across the city. These cameras are used to educate drivers, with letters (instead of fines) sent to those drivers caught exceeding the speed limit.
- The National Safety Council has been working with the Ohio Traffic Safety Office to develop resources for employers in the state of Ohio focused on adopting policies and programs to educate their employees about safe driving habits – specifically the use of seat belts and not driving distracted. More information is available online at <https://oh.ourdrivingconcern.org/>.
- ODOT updated its design manuals most recently in July. The L&D Manual was updated to account for new FHWA guidance around use of locally adopted design manuals on non-NHS roadways. Additionally, the speed zone study requirements in the TEM have been revised to allow the use of the USLIMITS2 tool, providing more flexibility in adjusting speed limits on local roads.
- Ms. Cardoni asked the committee for recommendations on how to address a situation involving a visually impaired resident who had difficulty safely crossing a street without a signalized crossing, a concern that could arise in other communities. One suggestion was the use of a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB), as it provides dedicated time and right of way for pedestrians by completely stopping traffic, which is critical for visually impaired pedestrians. It was recommended to avoid Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons (RRFB) since they are a yielding device and may not provide adequate protection. Finally, it was suggested to consult with Pilot Dogs, a local organization, whose representatives favor PHBs for their ability to stop traffic and ensure pedestrian safety.

## VI. Other Business

- Membership Updates
  - Four-year term expiring members will receive notifications regarding term limits and reappointments.
- Nominating Committee
  - Chair Young asked for volunteers to recommend nominees for Chair and Vice-chair for the 2025 term. The following members accepted: Ms. Schamp, Mr. Stargell, Mr. Komlanc.

## VII. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

*Maria M. Schaper*



# METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION REPORT

October 2024

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## PROGRAMMING

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

### Transportation

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

#### Metropolitan Transportation Plan:

- Ensured applications for MORPC Attributable Funds, OPWC, and other infrastructure funding and technical assistance programs were evaluated in congruence with adopted MTP goals.

#### Transit, Mobility & Human Services:

##### *Mobility Management*

- Created a “Getting Around Franklin County” guide to highlight the available transportation options for seniors and people with disabilities. This guide should be in circulation by the end of November 2024.
- The quarterly Central Ohio Mobility Management Working Group meeting was held on October 1, 2024.
- The mobility team continued to present to multiple interest groups and organizations on mobility management services and mobility planning activities.

##### *FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient*

- The fiscal year 2024 Section 5310 application period opened on September 25, 2024, and closed October 25, 2024. Approximately \$1.7 million is available for eligible activities. Applications are being reviewed, and award notifications are expected later this year.

##### *Gohio Commute*

- Gohio Commute and Gohio Mobility hosted a webinar with Nationwide Children’s Hospital to educate their employees on the benefits of both programs.
- Participated in various program tabling events, including those at the Defense Supply Center Columbus, Columbus Metropolitan Library Job & Resource Fair, and the Franklin County Expungement Event.
- The OARC Rideshare Subcommittee is collaborating to introduce a new Commuter Perks program and a branded Gohio Commute app, set to launch in Q1 and Q2 of 2025. MORPC staff is leading

these efforts to provide this valuable enhancement to all Gohio Commute Rideshare program across Ohio.

## Transportation Planning Activities:

### *LinkUS Mobility Initiative*

- MORPC team members continued to support LinkUS partner agencies with public engagement activities around the region.

### *Passenger Rail*

- The Corridor ID Program study team met in early October to begin drafting the vision and scope of planning activities. Representatives from MORPC were joined by the City of Fort Wayne, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, and the HNTB consultant team. Step 1 pre-planning activities are expected to wrap up in Spring 2025, with service development planning to begin thereafter.
- Local leaders from Central Ohio will travel to Indiana on October 31, 2024 to meet with Mayor Sharon Tucker and other officials with the City of Fort Wayne.
- The next Central Ohio Passenger Rail Committee has been rescheduled for November 12, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

### *Get Ready Initiative*

- The consultant team developed and distributed a survey to local governments within the study area. The survey is intended to learn how development pressures and desired land uses have changed in the last three years and what needs communities need assistance with as they plan for growth.
- The data and modeling team continued to work with the consultant team on expansion of the travel demand model.

## Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO):

- CORPO September subcommittee meetings were held in all seven counties in person in the last two weeks of September. These meetings also served as Rural Consultation Meetings to kick-off the development of the 2026-2029 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP/TIP).
- The interactive, online dashboard for the CORPO Safety Action Plan was developed and will be complete and available to use in November for the public and CORPO community stakeholders. This dashboard will be updated annually as new crash data is available.
- CORPO staff will attend an ODOT workshop to prepare for the Functional Classification Review process, then will coordinate with CORPO counties starting in November to complete the review. The full review will need to be completed by August 2025.
- The CORPO Committee will meet for their next meeting in-person at MORPC on Monday, November 4 at 2 p.m.

## Active Transportation Planning:

- The fourth quarter ATC meeting was held on Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at 10 a.m. Updates were provided on the City of Columbus Shared Mobility Program, the City of Columbus Bike Plus Plan, the Central Ohio Greenways Wayfinding Strategy, and more. Presentation materials are available on the MORPC website at [www.morpc.org/committees/active-transportation-committee](http://www.morpc.org/committees/active-transportation-committee).
- The MORPC team is participating in the planning committee for the first statewide Active Transportation conference. The conference will be hosted by ODOT in the spring of 2025 in Central Ohio. The first Conference Coordination Committee meeting was held on October 7 and will be held on a recurring



basis as ODOT gears up for the spring conference. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

- MORPC team members collaborated with partners across the region to conduct four Trails and Active Transportation Subregion meetings during the week of October 21-25, 2024. During each meeting, participants were invited to discuss sidewalk, bikeway, and trail connectivity in their communities and surrounding subregion. Representatives from the LinkUS Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) team, the MORPC Active Transportation Program, the Central Ohio Greenways Program, and Rapid 5 also shared relevant updates with attendees. The meetings were an opportunity for neighboring communities to collaborate and discuss their goals, visions, and potential funding strategies for trails and active transportation facilities. The four meetings included:
  - The Northeast Subregion, hosted at the Westerville Community Center on October 21.
  - The Northwest Subregion, hosted at the City of Dublin on October 22.
  - The Southeast Subregion, hosted at the Wigwam Event Center in Pickerington on October 23.
  - The Southwest Subregion, hosted at the Scioto Grove Metro Park in Grove City on October 25.
- MORPC continues to host virtual group viewings of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) monthly Professional Development webinars. These webinars are eligible for 1.0 hour of American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Certification Maintenance credit. Contact Jordan Petrov ([JPetrov@morpc.org](mailto:JPetrov@morpc.org)) to attend a MORPC group viewing. The next webinar is on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, on the topic of, “Multi-benefit Corridors: Designing Our Streets for Multisystem Benefits.”
- Team members participated in the following Active Transportation related meetings and events:
  - Gahanna Transportation and Mobility Plan Steering Committee kick-off meeting on October 16.
  - OSU Active Transportation Advisory Group meeting on October 15.

## Transportation Safety:

- The MORPC team collaborated with the Delaware Public Health District (DPHD) for a second semester to teach Public Health Students at Ohio Wesleyan University about the impacts of the built environment on public health. MORPC assisted DPHD to engage the students in conducting walk audits of the built environment around campus. The walk audits also involved staff from the City of Delaware. The students are responsible for creating final recommendations based on their observations and presenting their findings to DPHD and City of Delaware staff. Past walk audits with the public health students have resulted in City staff implementing basic infrastructure improvements.
- MORPC team members participated in the following safety committee meetings:
  - Franklin County Safe Communities Coalition meeting on October 2.
  - Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review Board meeting on October 3.
  - ODOT SHSP Steering Committee meeting on October 28.
  - Crash Research Network meeting on October 31.

## Technical Assistance Program:

- The application window for the 2025 Technical Assistance Program closed on Friday, October 11, 2024. Four applications were received and are being reviewed by the evaluation committee. Awardees will be notified on or before November 15, 2024.

## Infrastructure Funding:

### *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*

- MORPC is preparing for the development of the SFY 2026-2029 TIP, including integration with ODOT's new E-STIP platform which is being rolled out this fall.
- Administrative modifications to the SFY 2024-2027 TIP were processed in October.

### *MORPC-Attributable Funding*

- Final applications for new funding commitments were received at the end of September. MORPC is working to evaluate these applications and will be providing draft scoring to the AFC in November.

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

- The Public Works Integrating Committee for District 3 (Franklin County) held an applicant presentations meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Applications for SFY 26 SCIP/LTIP funding are currently being evaluated.

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

- The priority list of applications from the MORPC area was presented to TRAC members at the Central Ohio regional public hearing on October 16, 2024.

### *Federal Competitive Programs*

- The Economic Development team met with JobsOhio to discuss its federal priorities for 2025 -- innovation districts; space, defense, and aerospace; and alignment with biomanufacturing, next generation technology. This conversation allows MORPC to work more strategically with JobsOhio and One Columbus going into 2025.
- MORPC staff has established a process for Letters of Support requests. The process will help Central Ohio communities and MORPC partners receive MORPC's support letter in a timely manner and simultaneously track and record internally all the letters provided for different funding opportunities. You can find the link here: <https://www.morpc.org/tool-resource/funding-opportunities/>.
- The Economic Development team met with staff from Marion County and administrators of the All Ohio Future Fund (AOFF) program to discuss a site development project. If funded, the grant will pay for a sewer line extension to a key industrial park in the region.
- MORPC's Economic Development District provided two Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Letters of Alignment to support the EDA Build to Scale grant. Providing these letters confirm the application's alignment with CEDS, the regional blueprint for economic development.

### *Money Mondays*

- The following Money Mondays sessions were held:
  - Oct. 7: Charles D. Hillman, President and CEO, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority: Affordable Housing
  - Oct. 14: Indigenous Peoples' Day (holiday): No Money Mondays
  - Oct. 21: Patty Huddle, President, Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority: Financing Options
  - Oct. 28: Lynanne Gutierrez (Wolf), Esq., President & CEO of Groundwork Ohio: Childcare resources

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

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

- The Regional Freight Study grant application to the EDA was not successful. During the debrief call with the EDA, we received feedback to reapply after modifying the project scope and the team will explore the possibility of rescoping the application with more of an economic development focus.
- The Economic Development team has completed MORPC's first Performance Progress and Federal Financial reports as an Economic Development District. These reports are required to comply with EDA's Partnership Planning Grant award.
- The next CEDS Committee meeting is scheduled for November 21.

## Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP):

- The Economic Development team is relaunching the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) program to increase its breadth and deepen its reach. A draft proposal was shared with MORPC's Senior Director for Programming and will be further socialized with other MORPC leadership.

## Brownfield Assessments:

- MORPC is applying to U.S. EPA's Community Wide Assessment Grant to support brownfield redevelopment projects. Linden, South Side, and Mt. Vernon are target areas for the grant, but all MORPC members are eligible for assistance. Grant funds totaling \$500,000 can pay for phase 1&2 assessments, hazardous material assessments, community engagement efforts, and site reuse or clean up planning. The team has spent the past month building relationships with community partners in the target area and collecting data to support the application that is due on November 14, 2024.

## Drive Investment Portal:

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

# PLANNING

Jessica Kuenzli, Chief Regional Planning Officer & Senior Director of Planning – [jkuenzli@morpc.org](mailto:jkuenzli@morpc.org)

## Community Development

### Central Ohio Greenways (COG)

- The COG Board met on October 1, 2024, to discuss Working Group updates and review a draft work plan for 2025.
- The COG Trail Towns Working Group is developing a brand for the program. The group will continue to build consensus around the brand and introduce concepts of the brand during the Summit on Sustainability. The group is continuing to seek funding for a Trail Town Ambassador Training Program, the Trail Towns in the Nation's Heartland Project, and Operational Funding.
- The Outdoor Trails Pass partnership with Experience Columbus continues to be a popular program with hundreds of new sign-ups and check-ins monthly.
- COG is considering opportunities to utilize a statewide trail mapping platform called Outerspatial that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has recently begun utilizing. Outerspatial is providing a regional pricing schedule for MORPC review in November.
- The COG Trail Closure and Detours Steering Committee has met twice to discuss recommendations for designing and marketing trail detours. They will meet once more to finalize the recommendations.
- The COG Mapping Natural Assets Steering Committee kicked off their project in April. A technical working group met throughout July and August to guide the data indexing process. The project is on track to be completed this fall.
- MORPC is offering support to communities interested in implementing the recently released COG Wayfinding Strategy through the MORPC Technical Assistance Program. The City of Hilliard applied for these services during the most recent round.
- A Forum will be held in December. The agenda will be released in November.
- MORPC partnered with the City of Columbus on an Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) application to advance trail town program work. The application was submitted on July 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The Greenways Planning Studio (GPS) launched in July 2024 in partnership with RAPID 5. GPS has been supporting RAPID 5 in technical assistance, strategic planning, and regional collaboration. GPS is interested in collaborations with local government partners to expand greenway planning beyond trails, to conservation, public access, and connectivity of all green spaces.
- GPS hosted regional collaboration meetings in the four quadrants of the MPO area the week of October 21, 2024. An additional four quadrant meetings will be held in rural quadrants in November.
- GPS is developing a strategic plan to leverage existing MORPC and partner resources and is working with Rapid 5 on grant strategies.

### Central Ohio Blueways

- Central Ohio Blueways held a large-scale river cleanup on September 28, 2024 with multiple partners including Keep Columbus Beautiful, Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks, the City of Columbus, FLOW, FACT, the Scioto Watershed Action Group, Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District, the Cities of Bexley and Gahanna, and RAPID 5. With over eight locations along the Scioto River,

Olentangy River, Alum Creek, and Big Walnut Creek, the cleanup effort pulled out 3,750 pounds of litter from Central Ohio waterways. Planning for a second coordinated cleanup effort will begin in November.

- The Working Groups continue to prioritize and define their goals for 2025. The Environmental Stewardship Working Group will focus on invasive and native species guides, and installations of the Onion Bag Project. The User Experience Working Group will focus on assembling a hazard mitigation consortium, assembling a signage package, and creating an access point sponsorship program. Additionally, the Water Trail Designation Working Group will focus on updating the partnership agreement drafts, updating the required mapping, and will begin meeting with Big Walnut Creek communities.

## Regional Housing Strategy (RHS)

### Outreach

- Conversations around housing issues continue with MORPC member communities. The Community Development Team is continuing to promote the identification of barriers and solutions related to housing for members through connections with MORPC's Community Assistance Programs and by giving presentations to councils and other organizations. The MORPC team is working on identifying ways to expand upon the previous work of the Regional Housing Strategy.
- The Community Development Team also worked with the City of Columbus to include supplemental planning activities in their Pathways to Removing Obstacles in Housing (PRO Housing) grant application.
- Proposed assistance includes a pilot study to assemble a housing action plan for the City of Reynoldsburg, along with public engagement activities over the six-year life of the grant.

### Implementation Assistance

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

## Community-Based Planning Assistance (CBPA)

- The Community-Based Planning Assistance Program (CBPA) continues to be available as a resource. Members may learn more about – or request assistance from – CBPA by visiting <https://www.morpc.org/community-based-planning-assistance>. Please contact Jonathan Miller ([jmiller@morpc.org](mailto:jmiller@morpc.org)) with any questions or to discuss potential ways that MORPC may assist.
- The Community Development Team is also reviewing the community assistance provided through the Consultant Services and Planner Pool Programs to identify potential additions. If there is any specific topic or area of planning that you think should be included in the community assistance services that MORPC provides, please contact Jonathan Miller at [jmiller@morpc.org](mailto:jmiller@morpc.org).

### Consultant Services Program

- The Community Development Team is working on opening prequalification for 2025. New eligible services will include cost estimating and feasibility studies.
- If you have a Request for Proposal (RFP) you would like advertised through the Consultant Services Program or need assistance with writing an RFP, reach out to [consultantservices@morpc.org](mailto:consultantservices@morpc.org) for additional information.

## Planner Pool Program

- Members are invited to submit applications for assistance from the Planner Pool Program. The Community Development Team is accepting projects related to planning, zoning, and sustainability.
- If you are interested in additional staffing assistance, filling staff vacancies during staff vacations or periods of leave, or other planning or pre-planning activities such as guidance with best practices, getting started with a new or updated zoning code or Comprehensive Plan, contact Jonathan Miller ([jmiller@morpc.org](mailto:jmiller@morpc.org)) to schedule a time to discuss your community's potential needs and ways that MORPC may be able to help.

### Strategic Training for Effective Planning and Zoning (STEPZ) Workshop:

- The Community Development Team will be hosting the first workshop aimed at training and providing context for elected and appointed planning officials for MORPC's Member Communities. The STEPZ Workshop for Planning Officials will feature sessions on the roles and responsibilities of planning commissions and zoning boards, connecting the work of these entities to community planning as a whole, and discussions around the legalities of zoning and how to interact with engaged members of the public. The workshop will also feature an interactive element in partnership with the Urban Land Institute where attendees will get hands on experience in the role of a developer.
- The workshop will be held on November 19, 2024, from 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM. You can register for the event [here](#), and if you have any questions about the event and how it can assist your community's planning commissions and boards of zoning appeals, contact Tunazzina Alam ([talam@morpc.org](mailto:talam@morpc.org)).

## Sustainability

### Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC)

- The next SAC meeting will take place on December 18, 2024 at 2:15 p.m. at the Jeffrey Mansion in Bexley and will include a special holiday celebration. The MORPC team will also be working to confirm member appointments that are effective in 2025. If you're interested in being considered or would like to recommend another MORPC member or private sector partner, please contact Brandi Whetstone ([bwhetstone@morpc.org](mailto:bwhetstone@morpc.org)).

### Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) Sub-committee

- The sub-committee held their second meeting on October 17, 2024 and made progress on reviewing and updating goals and objectives. Committee members will continue to provide their input between meetings. The next meeting will be virtual and is scheduled for November 22, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. For more information, please contact Brandi Whetstone ([bwhetstone@morpc.org](mailto:bwhetstone@morpc.org)).

### Sustainable2050

- The Q4 Sustainable2050 meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. and will be a hybrid meeting. The agenda will include updates on the Regional Sustainability Agenda and a presentation from Jennie McAdams, Franklin County Public Health, about a recent tree canopy study conducted countywide. Sustainable2050 membership is open to all MORPC members, and current Sustainable2050 members interested in earning their tier status certification should contact Brandi Whetstone at [bwhetstone@morpc.org](mailto:bwhetstone@morpc.org). A certification workbook will be provided, and a kick-off meeting is encouraged to review the process. Once a completed workbook has been submitted and reviewed by the MORPC team, the next step is to present the proposed certification to the SAC for approval at their quarterly meetings.

## Water Resources Program

### [Sustaining Scioto Board](#)

- The Board met on October 22, 2024 and discussed 2025 priorities including transitioning from a board focused on the Scioto Watershed to a more regional focus under the proposed Regional Water Advisory Council (RWAC). This is timely considering the growth and development in the region as well as ongoing efforts including the Regional Water Study (RWS). The board is repositioning itself to be a convening body focused on advancing broader regional priorities, including 208 planning, and the recommendations and outcomes of the RWS upon its completion. MORPC staff and the Board will continue to work through the components needed for the transition including by-laws and a charter to guide the work of the RWAC.

### [Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team](#)

- The next team meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2024.

### [Clean Ohio Conservation Fund](#)

- The Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) met on October 7, 2024 to review and approve scoring completed by MORPC staff for components of the applications, including the Local Coordination and Support. The Committee also voted on the cost effectiveness of each proposed project based on Clean Ohio criteria for cost per acre / cost per linear feet. The Committee will meet on November 4, 2024 to vote and approve projects for funding.
- For more information about Clean Ohio funding for Franklin County, please contact Edwina Teye at [eteve@morpc.org](mailto:eteve@morpc.org) or visit our website at <https://www.morpc.org/program-service/clean-ohio-conservation-fund/>.

### [Regional Water Study](#)

- The Hazen and Sawyer consultant team continues to work through the deliverables of the Regional Water Study following the second update provided in August. Updates on progress will be shared as they become available.
- Previous webinar recordings and slide deck information can be accessed [here](#). Scroll to the bottom of the page to the Regional Water Study section. If you would like to receive information for future webinars, please contact Edwina Teye at [eteve@morpc.org](mailto:eteve@morpc.org).

### [208 Planning and Areawide Designation Process](#)

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

## Energy Planning

### [Energy and Air Quality Working Group](#)

- The next and final EAQWG meeting of the year is scheduled on November 20, 2024 from 1 – 2:30 p.m.

## [Electric Vehicle \(EV\) Infrastructure](#)

- MORPC just closed the RFP looking for EV vendors to repair and/or replace broken or non-operational EV charging ports throughout the 15-county region as part of MORPC's \$2M award from the US DOT-FHWA's Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator (EVC RAA) Program. Over the next few weeks, MORPC will review proposals and award the best-fit vendor(s) to complete the EVC RAA work as quickly as possible. If you have any questions or need more information, please reach out to Brian Filiatraut, Energy and Sustainability Program Manager, at [bfiliatraut@morpc.org](mailto:bfiliatraut@morpc.org).
- As previously announced last month, MORPC won a \$15M award for its MORE EVS proposal as part of the USDOT-FHWA's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Round 1B grant program. MORE EVS will unlock an additional \$6.9M in regional investment to install sixty-two new charging sites, both L2 and DCFC, across thirteen counties, further extending the EV charging network in Central Ohio. Over the next couple of months, MORPC will be working with the FHWA to finalize the grant agreement. Stay tuned for more details.
- Additionally, MORPC submitted a \$69M CFI Round 2 application in mid-September, focusing on building out both passenger and medium- and heavy-duty EV charging hubs along the Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs). MORPC was the lead applicant working collaboratively with Prologis Mobility, several local government members, the Electrification Coalition, Smart Columbus, the National Center for Urban Solutions, and others to increase the EV charging network and the workforce development ecosystem.

## [US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant \(CPRG\) Program](#)

- Work on the CPRG Central Ohio Climate Action Plan (COCAP) continues. COCAP aims to create a unified approach to regional planning and pollution mitigation actions. The COCAP team, led by Sustainable Columbus, MORPC, and others, just closed its COCAP Community Priorities Survey. The team conducted technical working sessions in late October with regional stakeholders across public and private sectors providing key information to update the region's pollution reduction strategies. If you'd like more information, please visit the [COCAP website](#) or email Brian Filiatraut, Energy and Sustainability Program Manager, at [bfiliatraut@morpc.org](mailto:bfiliatraut@morpc.org).

## [Air Quality](#)

### [Air Quality Alerts](#)

- No Air Quality Alerts were issued for the Columbus region in October. There was an isolated particulate matter exceedance at the Fairgrounds monitoring station on October 19, 2024 which was attributed to activities at the Fairgrounds that increased particulate levels locally. Particulate matter 2.5 levels reached the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups on the national Air Quality Index (AQI) scale on this day.

## [US EPA Funded Neighborhood Air Monitoring Project \(CLEAN\)](#)

- The team, in partnership with Franklin County Public Health, has made great progress on the US EPA funded air monitoring project. Under the advisement of the air quality modeling consultant, Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, the team has created an interactive map of where sensors should be deployed and have been sharing this with local community partners. The team extended the deadline for sensor deployment from October 31, 2024 to November 30, 2024 to ensure the best possible placements for analyzing local PM2.5 levels within Franklin County.

## [Outreach](#)



- The Air Quality team presented to the Ohio Organizing Collaborative on October 15, 2024, two classes at the Ohio State University on October 22, 2024, the Clintonville GreenSpot group on October 22, 2024, and convened air quality practitioners from across the state to present in a breakout session at the Summit on Sustainability on October 29, 2024.

## Data, Mapping & Modeling

### Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC):

- The RDAC met on October 1, 2024 at MORPC. RDAC continues to focus on the areas of Workforce & Job Quality, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Cybersecurity, and Regional Data Coaching projects and initiatives. Notably, registration was opened for the Cybersecurity for Local Leaders event to be held at MORPC on October 31, 2024, the call for proposals for Data Day 2025 has opened and will close on November 30<sup>th</sup>, and the DEI & Data working group held its first pop-up help sessions at the Main Columbus Metropolitan Library.

### Data Day Working Group

- The Data Day Working Group sent out a Call for Proposals for Data Day 2025 at the end of September. The working group is also focusing their efforts on identifying potential morning and lunch speakers. If you have any suggestions on local leaders in data who would make an excellent addition to the Data Day program, contact Jordan Inskeep at [jinskeep@morpc.org](mailto:jinskeep@morpc.org).

### Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG)

- The final meeting for RIDG will be held at MORPC on November 13, 2024. The RIDG Chair and MORPC have met with the Steering Committee discussing plans for the next meeting. At this time, the main presentation topic will focus on Data Privacy. We are currently seeking and accepting proposals.

### Central Ohio GIS User Group (COGUG)

- The user group will meet again on World GIS Day, November 20, 2024.

### Regional Data Coaching Working Group

- The working group met on October 3, 2024 to report out on their first pop-up event held at The Columbus Metropolitan Main Library, which was attended by representatives from two community organizations. The group discussed ways to expand outreach and participation and plan future pop-up events. Additionally, the group continued planning for the intended soft launch of the persistent online Data Coaches group at Data Day in February of 2025.

### Workforce and Job Quality Working Group

- The working group last met on September 19, 2024 and began to define regional standards associated with five dimensions of job quality, namely earnings, schedules, benefits, safety and security, and learning and development. The group intends to refine the draft standards with the participation of regional workforce stakeholders. The group continues to participate in the Results for America Workforce Fellowship, a free six-month program that includes monthly webinars, office hours with RFA staff, and engagement with other organizations pursuing work related to job quality. The group is considering applying for a follow-up session of the fellowship that is intended to help participants act on the concepts introduced in the first session.

## DEI & Data Working Group

- The working group met on October 9, 2024 to evaluate progress and identify the support needed to complete content and assure alignment between proposed still-in-development DEI sessions. The group unanimously agreed to pivot the venue for delivering their content from a standalone event to breakout sessions at Data Day 2025. All working group members are engaged in one session and plan to submit proposals before the November 30, 2024 deadline.

## Cyber Security Working Group

- The working group met on October 22, 2024 to finalize the run of show and joint presentation for the “Cybersecurity for Local Leaders” event to be held at MORPC on October 31, 2024. Event registration is open to MORPC members. Interested parties should contact Dave Dixon at [ddixon@moprc.org](mailto:ddixon@moprc.org) with any questions.

## Data Management

- Development continues on the MORPC Insights platform. Insights will be a web application whose purpose is to provide data-derived insights on various topics at the regional, county, and community levels. Each insight will be supported by data, visualizations, and expert commentary. Insights is eventually expected to feature content from trusted partners in addition MORPC-produced content. The team is wrapping up development of the user interface for the platform and is developing tools for collection and management of data and expert commentary. The team met with MORPC staff experts on transportation, housing, and sustainability to determine what data related to those subjects should be included in the platform and how it should be presented and will continue to work with these collaborators to produce the content to be hosted in the platform.
- The team also pursued several continuous improvement efforts:
  - Created script to summarize small-area (TAZ/GridMAZ) forecasts for arbitrary geographies.
  - Created script to summarize county-level forecasts for various regional collections of counties (15-county region, 10-county region, CORPO region, CEDS region, and Columbus MSA) and visualize the summarized data.

## Data Analytics, Mapping, and Research Activities:

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

## Data & Research Activities

- A draft of the next Leader’s Listen survey is finished and is being reviewed for release. This will be the first of an annual series of comprehensive surveys that cover transportation, housing, sustainability, and other topics.
- Team members continue to manage the organization’s air quality sensors in support of the US EPA Air Quality Monitoring Grant. The team is working with a third-party consultant to develop improved scripts for retrieving, standardizing, and validating PurpleAir data. The team continues to assist with other aspects of the project, such as sensor siting.
- County population estimates as of January 1, 2024, have been produced. Historically these were used to create sub-county population estimates but were not released as a standalone data product, however we plan to release the latest estimates on the Population Hub in October.

- Population estimates for sub-county jurisdictions as of January 1, 2024, have been published [on the Population Hub](#).
- The team is collaborating with a group of graduate students in The Ohio State University Master of Translational Data Analytics program to conduct a property tax productivity analysis (a.k.a “value per acre”) analysis for parcels in Delaware County. Past studies in other locations have revealed that traditional walkable neighborhoods characteristic of those built prior to World War II produce significantly more tax value per acre than automobile-oriented development characteristic of post-WWII development patterns. The project is structured as a two-semester capstone course which will end in May 2025. The students are carrying out the analysis under supervision from MORPC staff. A key project goal is that the analysis will be reproducible and easily adaptable to other counties. The processes for working with county parcel data may also facilitate other critical MORPC work including sub-county population estimates.

### Upcoming updates to standard data products:

- Detailed migration analysis by county (temporarily suspended in favor of other priorities)
- County-level population estimates as of January 1, 2024 (October)
- Key ACS 2023 5-year estimate data for MORPC counties will be published on the Population Hub with new and improved user interface in Q1 2025.

### Mapping Activities

- Established Green Infrastructure Story map application.
- MORPC attributable funding project evaluation.
- US EPA Community Change grant application maps and interactive applications.
- Title VI/Non-Discrimination Program – worked with data team to acquire Limited English Proficiency data from Census ACS data and provided maps for Limited English Proficiency Plan.
- Provided SWACO’s School Programs Administrator with an updated district map.
- Network Analysis assistance was provided to planning staff for Newark’s park planning project.
- Increased focus on procedure documentation.
- Updates to existing and future land use.
- Identifying government owned and vacant lands.
- Staff are working to improve the Active Transportation Network to be used for various projects, like Rapid5, TSI and Technical Assistance.

### Modeling Activities

- Completed MORPC Attributable Funding Projects - Evaluation Needs.
- Completed GHG Inventory for Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (COCAP).
- Del/Lic Drive times, model of record update, Intel Long Range Planning—model expansion, SR 37 corridor project, City of Delaware Thoroughfare Plan are in progress.
- Five traffic growth rates have been completed from October 1, 2024 to the present.
- A task order (No. 5) for traffic counts has been issued to the consultant, Southern Traffic Services.
- Traffic count data for seventy-five locations in Delaware County has been processed.

# COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

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

## News Releases/Advisories:

- [Garrison Appointed as MORPC's Strategic Director of Technology – MORPC.org](#) (10/17/2024)
- [MORPC Announces Leadership Promotions in Communications, Transportation and Sustainability – MORPC.org](#) (10/24/2024)

## MORPC in the News:

- [COTA to expand bus rapid transit line through East Main Street](#) (9/20/2024)
- [Etna Township moving in a positive direction, trustees' president says](#) (9/21/2024)
- [\(316\) Columbus Dispatch reporter Jordan Laird explains the COTA LinkUS sales tax - YouTube](#) (9/23/2024)
- ["THE Big Table" event, hosted by Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission](#) (9/24/2024)
- [Amtrak offering temporary train service from Cleveland to Florida starting in November](#) (9/25/2024)
- [Some city leaders want to see integration of several downtown groups](#) (9/27/2024)
- [Chillicothe Sets 2024 Trick or Treat Date](#) (10/1/2024)
- [All aboard in Ann Arbor: What Ohio can learn from Michigan when it comes to Amtrak service](#) (10/4/2024)
- [The LinkUs sales tax levy](#) (10/11/2024)
- [Two countywide issues on the ballot in Franklin County and a dozen in various municipalities](#) (10/13/2024)
- [Columbus to add 1 million people by 2050? Where the mammoth population projection comes from](#) (10/13/2024)
- [How Halloween celebrations have changed since the early days of Columbus](#) (10/13/2024)
- [Examining how LinkUs could change public transportation in Columbus](#) (10/14/2024)
- [Issue 47: What the new sales tax levy means for Franklin County residents](#) (10/17/2024)
- [Bishop provides update on diocesan initiatives in men's club talk](#) (10/20/2024)
- [How much faster would Columbus Bus Rapid Transit be? Sales tax levy could make commute faster](#)
- [Our View: Columbus needs better public transport. Vote yes for LinkUS' bus rapid transit](#) (10/21/2024)
- [Transit Update with MORPC](#) (10/22/2024)
- [What Columbus could expect from BRT based on success in other cities](#) (10/22/2024)
- [Council reviewing CW's 2025 city budget](#) (10/24/2024)

## Digital Content:

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

- Air Quality; Blueways; eSource; Trail Pass; Gohio Commute; Housing; LinkUS; Careers; Residential Services; RFPs/RFQs; Summit on Sustainability; Voter Education; CAC Applications; Stepz Workshop; Housing Crisis Series; Indigenous Peoples Day; Yom Kippur; Technical Assistance Program; Pedestrian Safety Month; Safe Streets Central Ohio; Global Diversity Month; Stormwater Awareness; Big Table; World Rivers Day Clean Up; 5310 Applications; eSource; MORPC News

Reach

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

Top Posts

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

## Diversity & Inclusion:

- MORPC's C&E Team participated in the Franklin County Office of DEI annual Diversity Conference held on October 22, 2024 and October 23, 2024. This year, the theme was "Serving Through the Lens of Inclusion: Celebrating Differences & Building Inclusive Futures."
- MORPC joined the Columbus Urban League for their annual Empowerment Day on October 22, 2024. Empowerment Day is their annual signature event that celebrates community leaders and businesses who are making a difference in the community and working towards a fully inclusive economy.
- 5310 Applications: [9/24](#)

## Public Involvement & Engagement:

- Stepz Workshop: [9/30](#), [10/10](#), [10/17](#)
- 5310 Applications: [9/24](#)
- World River's Day Clean-Up: [9/25](#)
- Technical Assistance Program: [10/4](#)
- Summit on Sustainability: [9/17](#), [9/25](#), [10/2](#), [10/8](#), [10/12](#), [10/14](#)
- LinkUS Town Hall: [10/7](#), [10/9](#)
- CURA & MORPC Housing Crisis Forum: [9/23](#), [9/30](#), [10/15](#)
- Community Advisory Committee: [10/9](#), [10/24](#)

## Marketing Campaigns:

- MORPC's Residential Services department is currently being promoted to Franklin County residents through billboard advertisements to increase awareness for low-income homeowners and renters.

# MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

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

## Member Visits Completed

- Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District 10/9; Village of Lexington 10/23; City of Lancaster 10/23; City of Dublin 10/30.

## Upcoming Member Visits

- Delaware City 11/4; Delaware County 11/4; Bloom Township 11/6; City of London 11/12; Madison County 11/12; Logan County 11/12; CMHA 11/19; Village of Granville 11/19; Village of Marble Cliff 11/20; City of Johnstown 11/20; City of Sunbury 11/20.

## Communications

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

## Member Benefits

- Featured the Ohio University (OU) Partnership and announced two new benefits:
  - The OU Online Program.
  - Multiple options with Otterbein University, including a spouse and children benefit.