



MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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NOTICE OF A MEETING

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

February 3, 2025
5:30 p.m.

Microsoft Teams

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Phone conference ID: 141 027 530#

AGENDA

- 5:30 p.m. Welcome & Introductions – Erin Synk, Chair**
- 5:32 p.m. Approval of December 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes**
- 5:33 p.m. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Maria Schaper, MORPC, Jessica Kuenzli, MORPC**
- Transit Agency Reports
 - Delaware County Transit – Maria Schaper, MORPC
 - COTA Update – Kelsey Ellingsen, COTA
- 5:55 p.m. Resolutions**
- T-1-25 Amending the State Fiscal Year 2025 Planning Work Program (PWP) – Maria Schaper, MORPC

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

6:00 p.m. Informational Items

- Air Quality Update – JR Diaz-Hernandez, MORPC
- Central Ohio Greenways Vision Expansion – Melinda Vonstein, MORPC
- MPO Boundary Expansion – Maria Schaper, MORPC

6:30 p.m. Other Business

- CAC 2024 Accomplishments
- Roundtable Discussion

7:00 p.m. Adjourn

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

**The next CAC meeting is
March 3, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.**



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Maria Schaper, Transportation Director

DATE: January 29, 2025

SUBJECT: Informational Items for the Community Advisory Committee

The information below provides a brief introduction to the informational items on the February 3, 2025 CAC agenda.

Air Quality Program Updates

JR Diaz-Hernandez will provide an update on MORPC's Air Quality program. The 2024 ozone monitoring season officially ended on October 31, 2024; particulate matter monitoring will continue throughout the year. The Air Quality team has made great progress on the EPA-funded Community Led Enhanced Air Quality Network (CLEAN). In partnership with Franklin County Public Health, 40 PurpleAir II SD sensors were distributed throughout Franklin County, with deployment ending December 31, 2024. With the input of the Project Advisory Committee and the project's consultant, Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, Inc., sensors will be placed in a 3-kilometer grid system throughout the county, with special emphasis and additional sensors being placed in historically disinvested neighborhoods.

Central Ohio Greenways Vision Expansion

Melinda Vonstein will provide an update on the expansion of the Central Ohio Greenways vision. The Central Ohio Greenways Board approved the addition 200+ miles of proposed trails into the Regional Trail Vision. These trails focus on connecting our rural communities to our urban communities.

MPO Boundary Expansion

Maria Schaper will provide an update on MORPC's MPO boundary expansion to include the Village of Plain City and the City of Johnstown. The expansion is based upon recent and expected growth in these areas of the region and is consistent with 2020 US Census delineated Urban Area boundaries. A resolution will come before the CAC, TAC, and Transportation Policy Committee seeking approval to add the two communities in March.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

Date: **December 2, 2024**
Time: **5:30 p.m.**
Location: **MORPC**

Members Present

Barton, Tiarra (online)
Esterly, John
May, Eric
Roehm, Bob
Weiss, Ira

Beltran, Hugo
Girves, Catherine (online)
Needleman, William
Synk, Erin

Bohnert, Eli (online)
Howard, Quincy
Rist, John
Watson, Lonnie

Guests

Ellingsen, Kelsey

MORPC Staff

Cardoni, Lauren
Heider, Jon
Peggau, Karina (online)
Schaper, Maria

Diaz-Hernandez, Mauro
Kuenzli, Jessica
Ratliff, Chuck

Hampton, Ralonda
Lewis, Elliott
Ruscin, Hannah

I. Welcome & Introductions

- Vice-chair Synk called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. There was a quorum present.

II. Approval of November 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes

- Vice-chair Synk asked for a motion to approve the November 4, 2024 meeting minutes. Mr. Weiss moved; Mr. Esterly seconded; and the motion passed.

III. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Maria Schaper, MORPC

- Ms. Schaper provided the following updates:
 - Four communities were selected for the 2025 Technical Assistance Program:
 - Village of Galena: Complete Streets Safety Audit.
 - City of Gahanna: Capital Improvement Plan Visualization Tool.
 - City of Grove City: Transit-Supportive Infrastructure Planning on US-62.
 - City of Hilliard: Trail Town Visioning & Wayfinding Study.
 - Scopes of services will be developed for these communities and work will occur over the next year.

- Mr. Garrity, MORPC's Senior Director of Government Affairs and Community Relations, provided the following updates on legislative developments and funding priorities:
 - MORPC's Regional Policy Roundtable finalized a public policy agenda for 2025–2026 emphasizing values such as mobility, sustainability, and economic development.
 - The Senate's shift to a Republican majority is expected to influence cabinet nominations and federal funding allocations. With the loss of institutional knowledge from Senator Sherrod Brown's election defeat posing a challenge for Ohio's infrastructure priorities; efforts are underway to build relationships with new Senate members, such as Bernie Moreno, to maintain Ohio's representation in transportation advocacy.
 - MORPC is focusing on securing federal funding opportunities through the bipartisan infrastructure law, which remains critical for Central Ohio's infrastructure projects.
 - Particular attention is being placed on passenger rail development, with partnerships strengthening through regional coalitions and organizations such as All Aboard Ohio.
 - Central Ohio is heavily reliant on federal grants to support its economic growth, transportation infrastructure, and leveraging the Economic Development Administration reauthorization to fund comprehensive regional planning initiatives.
 - Continued support for rail transit and economic development programs is a key advocacy focus.
 - A committee member asked how the new Senate majority might impact MORPC's ability to secure funding for transportation projects. Mr. Garrity responded that MORPC remains confident in its advocacy efforts and will work closely with the new Senate leadership and Ohio's congressional delegation to ensure continued federal support for regional priorities.
 - A committee member asked about the FTA Small Starts Program, particularly considering COTA passing the levy. They inquired whether COTA could leverage the remaining federal funds within the next two years of appropriations and whether COTA is further along in the pipeline compared to other jurisdictions. Mr. Garrity explained that leveraging federal funds depends on the timing of levy approvals, with earlier approvals allowing communities to utilize funding sooner. He confirmed that COTA is well-positioned to maximize these opportunities.
 - A committee member asked about the potential impact of reduced federal grants on funding for sidewalks and buses. Mr. Garrity explained that while federal funding is important, local sales tax revenue provides a significant and stable funding source, ensuring project continuity.
 - A committee member inquired about MORPC's strategy for maintaining advocacy and accountability under the new Senate leadership. Mr. Garrity highlighted MORPC's work with regional coalitions, such as the Columbus Region Coalition, which unites 16 stakeholders to advocate for strategic investments and maintain accountability.
 - A committee member asked how the preliminary injunction against the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program will affect transportation equity and inclusion. Mr. Garrity acknowledged the issue and

reaffirmed MORPC's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in its projects. Additional information will be sent in a follow-up email.

- A committee member asked how the remaining years of the bipartisan infrastructure law will impact COTA and regional projects. Mr. Garrity emphasized the importance of leveraging available funds quickly and highlighted efforts to ensure COTA maximizes funding opportunities within the next two years.

- Ms. Kuenzli announced that registration for Data Day on February 5, 2025, at Columbus State Community College is open. This event will showcase tools, analysis, and research aimed at enhancing regional data capabilities.

- Ms. Ellingsen provided updates on LinkUs and the COTA short-range transit plan:
 - The levy received 57% voter approval, enabling significant investments in regional transit.
 - Five new rapid transit corridors are planned, with the West Broad Street bus rapid corridor expected to reach 90% design by early 2025.
 - By 2030, three BRT corridors—West Broad, East Main, and Northwest—are anticipated to be operational.
 - COTA Plus zones will expand from three to twelve by 2050 as a part of COTA's overall 45% increase in service.
 - Fourteen new or improved fixed-route transit lines are planned to support regional growth and connectivity.
 - Ms. Ellingsen highlighted progress on Transit-Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) program, the first capital improvements plan for which will include 83 projects brought forward by the jurisdictions in COTA's service territory.
 - By 2030, 150 miles of new infrastructure improvements are expected, with 65 projects already under construction.
 - The COTA sales tax increase from 0.5% to 1% will help leverage \$800 million in federal grants to support transit projects.
 - The overall LinkUS plan is projected to generate \$2 billion in new revenue by 2030 and \$8 billion by 2050.
 - The short-range transit plan for 2025-2029 catalogs current services, identifies future needs, and determines necessary resources for implementation. Stakeholder engagement will begin in early 2025, with the plan expected to be finalized by mid-2025, incorporating community input on development needs, service expansions, and coverage gaps.
 - A committee member asked when the three BRT corridors would be completed. Ms. Ellingsen explained that the West Broad, East Main, and Northwest corridors are expected to open in successive years between 2028 and 2030.
 - A committee member inquired how underserved areas, such as Eastland, would benefit from the transit expansion. Ms. Ellingsen responded that Line 24 currently serves that area and was expanded in September with 1) an increase in weekday frequency from 1 hour to 30 minutes; and 2) moving the southerly terminus on weekends from Eastland Mall to Rickenbacker, enabling residents to be able to access all the way from Easton down to Rickenbacker seven days per week. She also mentioned that the riders to Rickenbacker will benefit from the mobility center at Rickenbacker currently

under construction, which will provide a more comfortable experience, including access to food, childcare, and connection to the GREAT shuttle.

- A committee member asked what would happen if the \$800 million in federal grants were not secured. Ms. Ellingsen emphasized that \$6 of the \$8 billion in the LinkUS financial plan comes from local sales tax, that COTA is continuing to work closely with federal partners to draw down federal funds that have been awarded, and they are looking forward to engaging new federal representatives to ensure transit's value proposition for the economy and the public's quality of life is clear. COTA and MORPC are planning for robust advocacy to build relationships with new federal actors.

IV. Resolutions

- Resolution T-13-24 Amending the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program
 - Mr. Graham highlighted the resolution's modifications:
 - Delaware County Transit's 2025 Vehicle Replacement Funding: Adjustments were made to reduce funding in FY 2025, with plans to reallocate these funds to future projects during the next TIP cycle.
 - Franklin County's Alum Creek Drive Corridor Project: A reallocation of \$2.5 million in funding from the detailed design phase to preliminary engineering in FY 2025.
 - I-71/I-270 Interchange Modification Project: An additional \$13.8 million in funding from a combination of state and federal sources.
 - Section 5310 Program Updates: The inclusion of updated project recommendations aimed at enhancing mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities.
 - Ms. Ruscin presented details on the 2024 Section 5310 funding cycle:
 - \$1.76 million in federal funds available for seniors and individuals with disabilities.
 - Fifteen applicants are recommended to receive funding for 18 projects, including vehicle purchases and preventive maintenance.
 - Mr. Lewis thanked Mr. Needleman for their service on the 5310 Advisory Committee.
 - Vice-chair Synk asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Weiss moved; Mr. Esterly seconded; and the motion passed.
- Resolution T-14-24 Support the 2025 ODOT Safety Performance Measure Targets
 - Ms. Cardoni presented information about MORPC's Transportation Safety Program as background for Resolution T-14-24.
 - Multiple Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) funding awards to MORPC were highlighted, along with other initiatives MORPC through which is collaborating with partners to help improve safety throughout the region.

- Ms. Cardoni stated that the proposed resolution supports the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) 2025 Safety Performance Measure Targets and aligns MORPC's safety initiatives with ODOT's goal of achieving a 2% annual reduction across five key safety metrics: total fatalities, total serious injuries, fatalities and serious injuries per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (MVMT), and total non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries.
- Ms. Cardoni noted that MORPC had previously adopted the 2% annual reduction target as part of its Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) earlier in the year.
- Ms. Cardoni highlighted that fatalities and serious injuries remain a critical issue in the region, including incidents involving pedestrians and cyclists, which are tracked as specific safety metrics.
- Referring to fatalities, a committee member asked if this is broken down by road classification. Ms. Cardoni replied that this information is available in the safety plan, which includes detailed breakdowns, though the plan is outdated and will be updated soon.
- Regarding how MORPC compares to other cities or regions, a committee member commented that the data shows a significant 40% increase in fatalities over the past decade, suggesting the need for different approaches and partnerships and asked if any benchmarking has been made. Ms. Cardoni replied that comparisons are generally made with other regions or states, not cities. MORPC is comparatively similar to others.
- A committee member asked if MORPC has any programs addressing safety education. Ms. Cardoni replied that MORPC does not run its own programs but works with regional committees and coalitions to share relevant safety materials and messaging based on data analysis.
- A committee member expressed their appreciation that safety is being incorporated more throughout programming. However, we need to look at whole scale changes and different approaches if we really want to get not just to 2%, but beyond that.
- A committee member asked if mass transit is being looked at as a means to reduce fatalities. Ms. Cardoni replied yes, if more people took transit, it would certainly factor into the equation.
- Regarding enforcement and infrastructure, a committee member felt that enforcement is vital. Ms. Cardoni replied that enforcement is part of it, but infrastructure is an important part of the larger picture. MORPC's primary role to play in safety is helping communities improve the safety of their roadway infrastructure.
- A committee member asked if data exists to classify the causes of fatalities by factors such as drunk driving or distracted driving and whether a breakdown is available. Ms. Cardoni replied that this information is accessible through the current safety plan and CORPO dashboard, which allows detailed interaction with data, and that similar tools will be developed for the MPO area during upcoming updates.
- Vice-chair Synk asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Weiss moved; Mr. Esterly seconded; Mr. May abstained; and the motion passed.

V. Informational Items

- COMTO Columbus 10 Year Anniversary Update
 - Mr. Howard informed the committee that COMTO recently celebrated its 10th anniversary of the Columbus chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO).
 - They emphasized COMTO's mission to advance opportunities for minorities, veterans, individuals with disabilities, and disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs) in the transportation industry.
 - The chapter has supported numerous professional development and equity initiatives, including leadership training, scholarships, and workforce development programs.
 - Mr. Howard acknowledged the contributions of local and regional partners in promoting equity and inclusion in transportation projects across Central Ohio.
 - The chapter's milestone was marked with a gala event highlighting the achievements of its members and the broader transportation community.

- Adjusted Urban Boundary and Functional Class Update
 - Due to time constraints, this agenda item was deferred to a future meeting.

- Air Quality Program Updates
 - Due to time constraints, this agenda item was deferred to a future meeting.

VI. Other Business

- Ms. Schaper provided an update on membership for the 2025-2026 term. MORPC is finalizing recommendations for new and returning members.
- Ms. Schaper stated that for next year, MORPC would like members serving on other MORPC committees to provide regular update to the committee.

VII. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.



Maria Schaper, Secretary
Community Advisory Committee



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION REPORT

December 2024 & January 2025

MOBILITY & DEVELOPMENT

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

Transportation

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

Metropolitan Transportation Plan:

- Ensured work on the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development was consistent with the 2024-2050 MTP.

Transit, Mobility & Human Services:

Mobility Management

- Submitted a grant application to the Ohio Department of Transportation for Mobility Management planning activities and the Regional Mobility Plan rewrite.
- The Franklin County Mobility Advisory Committee met on December 10, 2024 and January 14, 2025.
- The Central Ohio Mobility Management Working Group had their first quarterly meeting of the year on January 15, 2025. Mobility managers from Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Licking, Logan, Madison, Pickaway, and Union counties discussed county transportation updates and plans for Ohio Loves Transit Week/Day.

FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient

- FY2024 Section 5310 funding selections were approved by FTA in January. Applicants were notified of the status of their request, and funding agreements will be finalized in the coming weeks.

Gohio Commute

- Participated in a workforce transportation event at the Fairfield County Workforce Center. This event was focused on educating Fairfield County Employers on current workforce mobility options in Fairfield County.
- A new program called Commute Perks has been added to the Gohio Commute program. Ohio commuters can now earn discounts at local and national retailers for logging 5 days of eligible commutes to work per month. Staff will be reaching out to local employers to introduce this new program to their employees. The purpose of this program is to encourage commuters to try a mode of transportation to work besides driving alone.

Transportation Planning Activities:

LinkUS Mobility Initiative

- MORPC continues to work with COTA and local partners to develop and finalize initial funding agreements for transit-supportive infrastructure projects over the next several months.

Passenger Rail

- Step 1 activities to develop a scope, schedule, and budget for passenger rail service development planning is ongoing, with draft deliverables to be submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration this month.
- The next Central Ohio Passenger Rail Committee (COPRC) will meet at MORPC on Tuesday, March 11 at 2 p.m.

Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO):

- Submitted the first draft of the SFY 26-29 TIP at the end of January for review by ODOT.
- CORPO staff have been preparing data and supporting materials needed to complete the Functional Classification Review process, then will coordinate with CORPO counties on draft revisions to functional classification. The full review will need to be completed by August 2025.
- The next round of CORPO county subcommittee meetings will be held in-person during the last two weeks of March in each of the seven counties.

Active Transportation Planning:

- The Q1 MORPC Active Transportation Committee meeting was held on January 29, 2025. Meeting materials will be available on the MORPC website at: www.morpc.org/committees/active-transportation-committee. The Q2 meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2025 from 10 a.m. to noon.
- Completed two Complete Streets reviews and provided relevant comments for the following projects:
 - PID 119514 Ferris Rd – Stage 1 plans
 - PID 112127 FRA Emerald Connector – Stage 1 plans
- Team members are collaborating with an OSU City and Regional Planning studio on an Active Transportation and Placemaking project. Staff attended a studio class on January 10, 2025 to present information on the topic and provide guidance for their semester-long project. The goal for the student project is to develop an Active Transportation and Placemaking toolkit for communities in Central Ohio to use to enhance their infrastructure investments.
- The Village of Minerva Park requested assistance developing a Safe Routes to School funding application for 2025. MORPC team members have been collaborating with staff from the Village to determine an appropriate strategy and assist with their application. Safe Routes to School funding applications (for infrastructure, non-infrastructure, or consultant assistance to develop/update School Travel Plans) are due by March 7, 2025.
- Team members participated in the following Active Transportation related meetings and events:
 - Stakeholder interview for [NCHRP 07-31: State DOT and Tribal Use of Active Transportation Data: Practices, Sources, Needs, and Gaps](#) on December 3, 2024.
 - ODOT Active Transportation Conference Planning Committee meetings on December 9, 2024, January 6, 2025 and January 27, 2025.

- OSU Active Transportation Advisory Group meeting on December 9, 2024, and January 13, 2025.
- Regional Shared Mobility Meet-and-Greet with Veo (new bikeshare provided for Columbus and Central Ohio) on January 29, 2025.

Transportation Safety:

- ODOT formally kicked off the 2025 update to the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) with a steering committee meeting hosted at MORPC on December 18, 2024. Working groups will be meeting throughout 2025 to update each of the Emphasis Area action plans and the 2025 SHSP will be completed before the end of the year. This plan establishes Ohio's safety priorities and what is eligible for highway safety funding in Ohio.
- Team members participated in the following safety committee meetings and safety-related events:
 - Central Ohio Alliance for Safe Transportation (COAST) meeting on December 5, 2024.
 - Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review Board meeting on December 5, 2024.
 - Ohio Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC) Executive Council and Technical Council meetings on December 10, 2024.
 - ODOT Context Classification working group meeting on December 19, 2024.
 - Franklin County Safe Communities Coalition meeting on January 8, 2025.
 - Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review Board meeting on January 9, 2025.
 - Crash Research Network meeting on January 10, 2025.
 - Focus group discussion for [NCHRP 17-103: A Guide and Toolkit for Strategic Decision-Making to Improve Traffic Safety](#) on January 22, 2025.
 - COAST meeting on January 23, 2025.
 - Focus group discussion for [NCHRP 08-171: Institutionalizing the Safe System Approach in Transportation Planning and Programming](#) on January 30, 2025.

Technical Assistance Program:

- Scoping meetings were held with all four 2025 Technical Assistance Program awardees throughout the month of December 2024. Scope documents were finalized, and MOUs were signed in January so that work can begin in February. Updates on each of the 2025 Program services will be provided throughout the year at key milestones.
- Team members are working to launch a Technical Assistance (TA) Program dashboard in 2025 that will highlight all the TA program services that have been completed since the program's inception.

Infrastructure Funding:

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- MORPC transmitted the December 2024 TIP amendment to ODOT for inclusion in the January 2025 STIP amendment.
- MORPC submitted the first draft of the SFY 26-29 TIP at the end of January for review by ODOT, FHWA, and FTA.

MORPC-Attributable Funding

- A public comment period on the draft funding recommendations approved by AFC on 12/18/2024 began in January and will remain open through February 12, 2025.

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)

- Final ranking slates for SFY 26 SCIP/LTIP funding for District 3 (Franklin County) were approved in December and transmitted to OPWC.

Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

- At their January meeting, TRAC discussed increased costs for four projects in the MPO area. TRAC is expected to vote on additional funding for these projects at their February 26, 2025 meeting. TRAC continues to evaluate applications for the 2026-2029 program. A draft program is scheduled to be approved for public comment at TRAC's meeting on March 26, 2025.

Federal Competitive Programs

- The United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) announced the Round 1 awards for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program in January. While MOPRC's Trail Towns in the Nation's Heartland proposal was not selected for funding, both City of Columbus and the City of Lancaster obtained an award for their respective projects.
- The City of Circleville and Delaware County each partnered with the Ohio Rail Development Commission to submit two separate applications under U.S. DOT's Railroad Crossing Elimination program. Delaware County's application will eliminate one at-grade railroad crossing on East Orange Road and replace it with a rail-over grade separation. Circleville's application will replace an at-grade crossing with a grade separation. Both applications have been approved for funding.
- The U.S. DOT closed its Regional Infrastructure Accelerators (RIA) program on January 9, 2025. MOPRC submitted a proposal titled Connecting the Heartland: Revitalizing Rural Communities through Trail Development, which requested \$1 million in federal funding. The funding will enable MORPC to provide partnership development, innovative financing strategies, and innovative project delivery for rural trail projects.
- MORPC has established a process for Letters of Support requests. The process will not only help Central Ohio communities and other partners receive MORPC's support letters in a timely manner but will also help track and record internally the letters provided for different funding opportunities. You can find the link here: <https://www.morpc.org/tool-resource/funding-opportunities/>.

Money Mondays

- The following Money Mondays sessions were held:
 - December 2, 2024: Brandi Whetstone, Director of Sustainability, MORPC - Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants.
 - December 9, 2024: Ukeme Awakessien Jeter, Mayor & Council President, City of Upper Arlington – State and Federal Funding for Priority Projects in Upper Arlington.
 - December 16, 2024: Small Surface Water and Groundwater Storage Projects (Small Storage Program).
 - January 27, 2024: FY 2024 and FY 2025 Continuum of Care Competition and Renewal or Replacement of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Grants.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

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

- MORPC, in partnership with One Columbus, hosted a panel at ED411 this year. Titled, The Future of Infrastructure: Building a Blueprint for Tomorrow, it included panelists from Maricopa Council of Governments (MAG), Pheonix, AZ; North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), Arlington, TX; and Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County (RTC), Reno, NV who spoke about lessons learned in securing mega projects, the regional challenges that follow and how to prepare the region for transformative growth.
- The Leaders Listen – Economic Development Survey was launched in December 2024. Promoted by MORPC and Columbus Dispatch across print and digital channels, this year's survey focused on Central Ohio residents' thoughts on the region's economic growth and development. The survey has closed, and the results are currently being analyzed.

Freight Planning:

- MORPC, in partnership with ODOT, hosted the Rickenbacker Area Freight Alliance Workshop on December 16, 2024. The event brought together representatives from the Columbus Regional Logistics Council (CRLC), the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA), the Columbus Regional Airport Authority (CRAA), the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), One Columbus, and other key stakeholders from the Rickenbacker area. This event was an opportunity for stakeholders to provide project updates and share the challenges they face. Key findings will help set MORPC's priorities for freight planning in that area.

Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP):

- The relaunch of the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) program is on hold. The program will go live once federal funding priorities, particularly those of the US Economic Development Administration, are clear.

Drive Investment Portal:

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

PLANNING

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

Community Development

Central Ohio Greenways (COG):

- The COG Board met on January 15, 2025 to review and adopt approximately 250 new proposed trail miles to the COG Vision. In March, the COG Board will welcome new COG Board Members and set goals for the next two years.
- In 2025, COG will begin adding Gateways of Regional Significance to the map to identify existing and proposed locations for premier trailheads that offer the amenities trail users need to travel the trails safely and comfortably.
- The COG Trail Towns Working Group is developing a brand for the program in partnership with Experience Columbus. The initial draft of the brand will be shared during the March 10, 2025 working group meeting. 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's review in November.
- The COG Trail Closure and Detours Steering Committee will finalize the Guide by the end of January.
- The COG Mapping Natural Assets Steering Committee finalized the project. It will be available on the COG website soon.
- 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 is the first community to be awarded this support.
- The Greenways Planning Studio is crafting COG Forums for 2025.
- In December 2024, COG submitted a proposal to ODOT's special solicitation for bike and pedestrian funding for an updated Bike User Guide.
- GPS is developing project priorities for four workshops in 2025.
- 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 Working Groups continue to prioritize their goals for 2025.
- The Environmental Stewardship Working Group is focusing on assembling guidance for Onion Bag Projects Installations. The Group is currently reviewing a draft implementation guide for the installation of Onion Bag Project installations. The Group meets monthly; the next two meetings will be on January 27, 2025 and February 24, 2025.
- The User Experience Working Group is continuing to advance the formation of a hazard removal consortium. The Group is currently discussing various details to include in a potential cooperative agreement and trying to identify potential organizations who engage in hazard removal to contact for quotes. The Group's next meeting will be on January 30, 2025.
- The Water Trail Designation Working Group is refining an editable field map to distribute to communities along the waterways so that they can provide details on the amenities at access points,

and any useful information on the waterways' navigability and seasonality. The Group's next meeting will be on January 30, 2025.

Regional Housing Strategy (RHS):

Outreach

- Conversations around housing issues continue with MORPC member communities. The Community Development Team is continuing to promote the identification of barriers and solutions related to housing for members through connections with MORPC's Community Assistance Programs and by giving presentations to councils and other organizations. The MORPC team is working on identifying ways to expand upon the previous work of the Regional Housing Strategy.

Implementation Assistance

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

Community Based Planning Assistance:

- 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 at 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.

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 for additional information.

Planner Pool Program

- Planning Staff at MORPC is assembling a list of fixed-fee services that relate to the most common issues that communities in Central Ohio are experiencing. All suggestions on potential services are welcomed. If you have suggestions for services that MORPC should be offering through the Planning Pool, contact Jonathan Miller at jmiller@morpc.org.
- 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, 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 at jmiller@morpc.org to schedule a time to discuss your community's potential needs and ways that MORPC may be able to help.

STEPZ Workshop

- Planning is organizing STEPZ: Planning Staff, the second installment of the STEPZ Workshops. This workshop will be held in May 2025. 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 at talam@morpc.org.

Sustainability

Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC):

- The next SAC meeting will take place on March 19, 2025 at the City of Grandview Heights Parks Building. The MORPC team is wrapping up the member appointment process and will announce new members soon. For more information, please contact Brandi Whetstone at bwhetstone@morpc.org.

Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) Sub-committee

- The Sub-committee held their fourth meeting on January 23, 2025 and provided input on proposed strategies for Goal 1. Sub-committee Members will continue their work to review strategies for Goals 2 and 3 in preparation for their next meeting. The MORPC team also presented feedback from the SAC and proposed an updated timeline to account for the time required to review over 100 strategies. The team anticipates sharing a draft for input in April and will plan to host information sessions with key stakeholders. The next Sub-committee meeting will be February 19, 2025 at 10:00 am. For more information, please contact Brandi Whetstone at bwhetstone@morpc.org.

Sustainable2050:

- The Q4 Sustainable2050 meeting was held at the MORPC office on December 5, 2024. The meeting included updates on the Regional Sustainability Agenda and a presentation from Jennie McAdams, Franklin County Public Health, and John Bowers, City of Columbus Recreation and Parks, about a recent county-wide tree canopy study. Municipalities within Franklin County can contact Jennie McAdams, JennieMcAdams@franklincountyohio.gov, for study results tailored to your community. Sustainable2050 members also provided their input and suggestions for topics of interest in 2025, which include the Appalachian Hydrogen Hub, composting and textile recycling, community engagement, and impactful climate actions.
- Sustainable2050 membership is open to all MORPC members, and current Sustainable2050 members interested in earning their tier status certification should contact Brandi Whetstone at bwhetstone@morpc.org. A certification workbook will be provided, and a kick-off meeting is encouraged to review the process. Once a completed workbook has been submitted and reviewed by the MORPC team, the next step is to present the proposed certification to the SAC for approval at their quarterly meetings.

Water Resources Program:

Sustaining Scioto Board

- The board met on December 11, 2025 and discussed the board transition to a Regional Water Advisory Council. The discussion focused on the proposed by-laws, charter, member representation and scope of work. The proposed Regional Water Advisory Council will continue to advance broad regional water priorities including sustainable water resource management, climate resiliency, and adaptation in the face of growth, development, and changing weather patterns.

Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team

- As part of the Board transition the Outreach Team will move to a quarterly meeting cadence. The team will meet on April 3, 2025.

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

- District 3 – Franklin County

- The District 3 Natural Resource Assistance Council will meet on March 20, 2025 to approve the methodology and schedule for Fiscal Year 2026. District 3 has approximately \$3.5 million in COCP funds in the upcoming cycle.
- For more information about Clean Ohio funding for Franklin County, please contact Edwina Teye at eteye@morpc.org or visit our website at <https://www.morpc.org/program-service/clean-ohio-conservation-fund/>.
- District 17 – Delaware, Fairfield, Knox, Licking, Morrow & Pickaway Counties
 - The Commission approved MORPC to provide liaison and administrative services to District 17 which covers Delaware, Pickaway, Fairfield, Knox, Licking and Morrow counties. The D17 Natural Resources Assistance Council met on January 17, 2025 to approve the schedule, workplan and methodology for FY 26. The district has approximately \$2.5 million available in the FY 26 cycle. Final applications are due on September 19, 2025.
 - For more information about Clean Ohio funding for Delaware, Fairfield, Knox, Licking, Morrow and Pickaway counties, please contact Edwina Teye at eteye@morpc.org.

Regional Water Study

- The Central Ohio Regional Water Study consultants have requested an extension through February to complete the study. The delay is due to significant modeling efforts to account for numerous growth and weather scenarios over the next few decades.
- Webinar recordings and slide deck information from prior meetings can be accessed [here](#). Scroll to the bottom of the page to the Regional Water Study section.

208 Planning and Areawide Designation Process

- MORPC continues to engage the ad hoc 208 Review Process Committee to consider the State's request for MORPC to become a designated Areawide Planning Agency. Among other tasks, the Committee continues to review and provide input on key decisions, such as the operational structure and procedures, and funding considerations for creating a designated Areawide Planning Agency.
- MORPC anticipates completing these initial steps for establishing an Areawide Planning Agency in the first quarter of 2025 for MORPC Board consideration. Following approval, MORPC will work with the Ohio EPA to conduct a public engagement process with affected stakeholders.

Energy Planning:

Energy & Air Quality Working Group

- The Energy and Air Quality Working Group (EAQWG) will hold its first meeting of the year on February 26, 2025. Members and staff will discuss the year ahead and how to be active in energy and air quality within your community, and we hope you can join us. Please reach out to Brian Filiatraut, Senior Energy and Sustainability Program Manager, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org for an invite.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure

- MORPC has selected Heartland Charging Services to assist with executing the scope of work of its \$2 million USDOT-FHWA Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator (EVC RAA) award to repair and or replace non-operational EV chargers throughout the 15-county region.
- Concurrently, MORPC is awaiting to finalize the grant agreement with FHWA on its \$15 million MORE EVS project award to install over 400 EV charging ports in 13 counties as part of the USDOT-FHWA's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Round 1B Program.
- MORPC is closely monitoring the federal transition to see how these programs may be impacted.

US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program

- The core project team led by Sustainable Columbus, MORPC, and others continues to flesh out the next deliverables of the Central Ohio Climate Action Plan (COCAP) for the ten-county Columbus MSA. Currently, Power a Clean Future Ohio is conducting the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets, the GHG emissions projections from the regional GHG inventory that MORPC completed, and the GHG measure quantification. Sustainable Columbus is leading the GHG measure selection, which will be the strategies that will reduce pollution and serve as a roadmap for the Columbus MSA. Later this month, as part of COCAP education and outreach efforts, MORPC will host the next CPRG Strategy Subcommittee (CSS) meeting to help provide input and refine those mitigation measures. If you'd like more information, please visit the COCAP website or email Brian Filiatraut, Senior Energy and Sustainability Program Manager, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

Air Quality Alerts

- No Air Quality Alerts were issued for the Columbus region in December 2024.

US EPA funded Neighborhood Air Monitoring Project (CLEAN)

- In partnership with Franklin County Public Health, the team continued their progress on the US EPA-funded air monitoring project. Under the advisement of the air quality modeling consultant, Ramboll America's Engineering Solutions, the team has created an interactive map of where sensors will be deployed and have been sharing this with local community partners. The team extended the deadline for sensor deployment to January 31, 2025 to ensure the best possible placements for analyzing local PM2.5 levels within Franklin County. Thirty-five new sensors will be placed by the end of January, with the project's data collection period beginning in February.

Outreach

- The Air Quality team met with stakeholders during sensor installations and outreach, including staff from the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, John Glenn Airport, Prairie Township, the Breathing Association, South Side Family Farms, and the South Side Area Commission.

DATA, MAPPING & MODELING

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

Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC):

- The RDAC met on January 7, 2025 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, we have had steady registration and fundraising for Data Day 2025. Speaker and session information is available on MORPC's website. Event registration closed on January 24, 2025. The latest Leaders Listen Survey on Economic Development closed on January 8, 2025 and results will be released at MORPC's State of the Region on March 21, 2025.

Working Groups

- Cybersecurity Working Group
 - The group met on November 19, 2024 to discuss takeaways from the Cybersecurity for Local Leaders event. The group is conducting intake calls with four MORPC Member communities and one community stakeholder who have signed up to engage with the Working Group for assistance in advancing their cybersecurity objectives. Interested parties should complete a Cybersecurity Working Group Interest Form at the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/fc8qz5y6zh>. The group will meet next on January 28, 2025 to discuss the next steps in providing MORPC Member support.
- Data Day Working Group
 - The Data Day Working Group is finalizing plans for Data Day 2025. Registration to attend closes January 24, 2025. The group is beginning to make plans for Data Day 2026. If you have any suggestions for themes, keynote speakers, or improvements for Data Day 2026, please contact Jordan Inskeep at jinskeep@morpc.org.
- DEI & Data Working Group
 - The group met on January 15, 2025 to review progress and offer support needed for the three of the Groups' session proposals which were accepted for Data Day 2025. The group also discussed strategies for addressing additional objectives within the "Expand & Include" goal of the Regional Data Agenda through various potential projects in Q2 of 2025 and beyond.
- Regional Data Coaches Working Group
 - The group plans to launch two distinct Office 365 groups, "Regional Data Coaches" and "Regional GIS Coaches," at Data Day, with sign-ups managed via a Microsoft Office form. The group hosted the second pop-up event at the Columbus Metropolitan Library-main branch on December 7, 2024. The Working Group met on January 9, 2025 and discussed community outreach plans to be implemented throughout 2025. The group will meet again on January 30, 2025.
- Workforce and Job Quality Working Group
 - The group met on January 16, 2025 and worked to better specify the target output and audience. Members are currently developing a statement of principles and a series of fact sheets related to specific job quality standards, which are intended to be tailored to organizations who engage with regional employers, including but not limited to local governments and workforce development boards. The group has been accepted to participate in the implementation phase of the Results for America Job Quality Fellowship and three Group Members will join other fellowship participants at a conference in February to get feedback on ideas and learn from teams who are further along in their job quality efforts.

User Groups

- Central Ohio GIS User Group (COGUG)

- The group will meet at the MORPC office on February 26, 2025.
- Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG)
 - The final 2024 meeting for RIDG was held at MORPC on November 13, 2024. During this meeting, MORPC staff discussed group and general MORPC updates provided by Dave Dixon and Adam Porr. The content of the meeting was focused on data privacy. Langdon Sanders, City of Dublin, presented a brief history and current state of data privacy in overview. Dr. Ayaz Hyder, Smart Columbus, presented his work on developing the Community Information Exchange (CIE). The discussion about the CIE focused on a major tenet of the project, how it ensures and will implement protocols to ensure data privacy.
 - At the January 7, 2025 RDAC meeting, MORPC received the go-ahead to update the RIDG charter and formality of the Steering Committee and Chair. After the next RIDG meeting on February 12, 2025 RIDG will begin to operate similarly to COGUG. The RIDG Steering Committee and MORPC are working to develop topics for 2025. MORPC and Steering Committee members are currently evaluating the structure and charter of the Committee to assess areas for improvement and streamlining.

Data Management:

- The MORPC Insights platform development continues. Insights will be a web application whose purpose is to provide data-derived insights on various topics at the regional, county, and community levels. Each insight will be supported by data, visualizations and expert commentary. This platform is expected to feature content from trusted partners in addition to MORPC-produced content. MORPC staff has completed development of the user interface for the platform and is preparing content for the initial set of insights to be featured on the platform. The first set of insights are expected to be released on the platform by the end of February 2025.
- The team also pursued several continuous improvement efforts:
 - Development of a Data Team handbook has begun, which captures process standards, data standards, quality standards, and more for work conducted by the team.
 - Created a script to automatically generate graphical workflow diagrams for the team's many workflows based on metadata already captured for each workflow.
 - Began work on a standard function to automatically generate thumbnail images from arbitrary datasets which can be included in presentations, data catalogs, or the Insights platform.

Data Analytics, Mapping, and Research:

- Work continues the initiative to improve the speed and quality of TAZ-level socioeconomic forecasts for the 2028 MTP cycle. MORPC 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

- The response period has ended for the latest Leaders Listen Survey, which highlighted economic development. Analysis of the 2,000+ responses is underway. A report on key findings is expected to be produced and presented at the State of the Region event in March 2025. This is the first of a series of annual surveys, each of which will cover the same core content but rotate focus among other topics as well, including transportation, housing, and sustainability.
- 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.

- 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 students recently completed the first semester of the two-semester course, in which they completed analysis planning and exploration data analysis. 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.

Mapping Activities

- Updated existing land use as part of Get Ready Intel project.
- Created a web map of government-owned and vacant lands.
- Updated bikeways and sidewalks.
- Reworked the ZSED file to new expanded TAZ and MAZ files.
- Started the Green Infrastructure story map design.
- Created a commentor map for Attributable Funding.
- Inventoried roundabouts in central Ohio and created a web map and dashboard.

Modeling Activities

- Reviewed a model of record for expansion projects.
- Processing traffic counts.
- Completed various Traffic Growth rate requests.

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

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

News Releases/Advisories:

- [US Department of Transportation's Prioritization Process Pilot Program Awards \\$1.4 Million Grant to MORPC](#)
- [Happy Holidays from Your MORPC Team](#)
- [MORPC Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Transportation Projects to Receive More Than \\$52 Million in Federal Funding](#)

MORPC in the News:

- [MORPC Summit on Sustainability brings together community leaders, Voinovich School members](#) (12/3/2024)
- [Central Ohio leaders strategize for growth, focusing on region's housing, infrastructure](#) (12/6/2024)
- [Central Ohio population growth: Leaders discuss solutions | 10tv.com](#) (12/6/2024)
- [City approves operating budget - Delaware Gazette](#) (12/11/2024)
- [Voters choose transit in two sprawling cities | CNU](#) (12/11/2024)
- [Ohio State faculty, industry experts offer affordable housing solutions](#) (12/12/2024)
- [COTA's budget plans for bus rapid transit and fleet upgrade progress - Columbus Business First](#) (12/13/2024)
- [Peer cities show pitfalls, potential as LinkUS initiative brings Bus Rapid Transit to Columbus – Matter News](#) (12/18/2024)
- [like the LinkUs transit plan.](#) (12/23/2024)
- [Mount Vernon offers a tour of planes, trains, automobiles & river corridors](#) (12/23/2024)
- [Slow your roll. COTA levy won't mean changes overnight but here's what is coming in 2025](#) (12/27/2024)
- [Columbus in 2025 will grapple with housing, school closures, more](#) (12/29/2024)
- [MORPC to address growth challenges](#) (12/31/2024)
- [Origins of Columbus' Housing Crisis Shed Light on Possible Solutions](#) (1/3/2025)
- [Here Are 5 Key Projects That Will Shape Columbus for Decades to Come](#) (1/3/2025)
- [Mayor Ginther reflects on 2024: cyber attack, housing, decreasing crime and COTA levy](#) (1/4/2025)
- [HUD gives federal funds for healthy Ohio homes | Ohio | thecentersquare.com](#) (1/7/2025)
- [See how much Franklin County suburbs pay their mayors, administrators](#) (1/9/2025)
- [Which Columbus-area suburbs want to join regional housing effort?](#) (1/15/2025)
- [Amenities Planned for Newly-Preserved Areas, Including 50-Acre Woods on West Side - Columbus Underground](#) (1/15/2025)
- [County births outpace deaths - Marysville Journal Tribune](#) (1/16/2025)

Digital Content:

- Social Media: Instagram, Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Threads:
 - Air Quality; Blueways; eSource; Trail Pass; Gohio Commute; Housing; LinkUS; Careers; Residential Services; RFPs/RFQs; Water Quality; Older Driver Safety Awareness Week; Leaders Listen Survey, Internship Program, SOTR Award Nominations; Data Day; Careers; Attributable Funds; Christmas; Kwanzaa; Hanukkah; New Years; MLK Day and MORPC News
- Reach:
 - [Instagram](#)

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

Top Posts:

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

Diversity & Inclusion:

- MORPC is a member of the Central Ohio Diversity Consortium (CODC) and in December they hosted the Culture Connection Awards. This inaugural event was to recognize leaders in Central Ohio who foster a culture of belonging and MORPC's C&E Director attended.
- C&E has been asked to serve as a MORPC representative on the Equity Now Coalition (ENC), which meets virtually monthly. The ENC was built to implement a sustainable equity movement in Central Ohio while forming policies that impact our community.

Public Involvement & Engagement:

- Executive Director, William Murdock, was an original member of the Blueprint Steering Committee, which was established to fight poverty in our community. In support, individuals from the MORPC leadership team attended the RISE Together Innovation Institute's release of the annual Poverty Snapshot report. This gathering addressed how the community is working together to fight poverty and structural racism in Franklin County.
- Franklin County has now implemented a One Door policy which will provide a one stop shop to residents for essential services. While at the event, the county mentioned a potential partnership with MORPC to host a MORPC Day. The goal will be to amplify MORPC's programs and services to residents.

Social Media:

- Data Day Registration: [12/6](#), [12/19](#), [1/3](#), [1/10](#), [1/15](#), [1/16](#), [1/21](#)
- State of the Region Award Nominations: [12/9](#), [12/16](#)
- State of the Region Registration: [12/30](#)
- Leaders Listen Survey: [12/13](#), [12/23](#), [1/2](#), [1/8](#)
- Summer Internship Program: [12/16](#), [12/27](#), [1/15](#)
- Attributable Funds: [1/14](#)

Marketing Campaigns:

- To celebrate our diverse communities, we're excited to launch a new social media series titled Member Monday, which is a spotlight on the places and people that make our region special.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

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

Member Visits Completed

- Bloom Township 12/4; Union County (12/18); Marion County (12/19); City of Marion (12/19); Licking County (12/19); Granville Township (12/19); City of Newark 12/19; Blendon Township (1/15); City of Heath (1/15); Village of Hebron (1/15); Village of Alexandria (1/15); Village of Shawnee Hills (1/22); Village of Plain City (1/22); Washington Township (1/22); Jerome Township (1/22); Village of Minerva Park (1/23); Clinton Township (1/23); Metro Parks (1/23); City of Whitehall (1/29); City of Grandview Heights (1/29); Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District (1/29); META (1/30).

Events

- Southeast Area of Central Ohio's regional planning update on December 4, 2024 at Ohio Health's Pickerington Methodist Hospital.
- Pre-commission reception on December 12, 2024 to welcome the Village of Alexandria and the City of Marion. The MORPC member government roster set a record of 90 members effective Jan 1, 2025.
- Northeast Area of Central Ohio regional planning update luncheon on January 22, 2025 at Jerome Township Administrative office. Over 40 guests attended.
- MORPC provided an update to the Licking County Township Association at their annual meeting on January 11, 2025.
- Attended the Franklin County Township Association Annual meeting on January 16, 2025.

Communications

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



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

Memorandum

TO: Transportation Policy Committee
Transportation Advisory Committee
Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Maria Schaper, Transportation Study Director

DATE: January 29, 2025

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution T-1-25: **"AMENDING THE SFY 2025 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM"**

Resolution T-1-25 amends the SFY 2025 Planning Work Program (PWP) to add one new work element and a budget modification for another.

This resolution adds 66516-3000 Prioritization Process Pilot Program. MORPC was awarded funds to complete this activity upon a successful application to U.S. DOT's Prioritization Process Pilot Program in 2024. This activity will conduct a comprehensive review and revision of MORPC's project prioritization and selection process for inclusion in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The purpose of this activity is to create a publicly transparent project prioritization process which emphasizes safety and equity when selecting projects.

An additional \$2,650,000 is being added to the budget of 66584-3000 - Safe Streets For All Action Plan and Demonstration Activities. In 2023, MORPC applied to U.S. DOT's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program for safety planning funds. In December 2023, MORPC received notification of the award, which was included in the FY 25 PWP. In 2024, MORPC, in partnership with The Ohio State University, applied to SS4A and was awarded funding for a separate activity of crash analytics and injury research. The additional funding amount being added to the budget of 66584-3000 is to account for this funding award and work activity.

Attachment: Resolution T-1-25

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

RESOLUTION T-1-25

"AMENDING THE SFY 2025 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM"

WHEREAS, following review by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA), the Transportation Policy Committee accepted the MORPC Planning Work Program (PWP) for Fiscal Year 2025 by Resolution T-6-24; and

WHEREAS, a new work element, Prioritization Process Pilot Program, as shown in the attachment, has been developed to be added to the SFY 2025 PWP; and

WHEREAS, U.S. DOT is providing MORPC \$2,650,000.00 in funding for our Safe Streets For All Action Plan and Demonstration Activities; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its February 3, 2025 meeting, and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its February 5, 2025 meeting recommended approval to the Transportation Policy Committee; now therefore

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

- Section 1. That it hereby amends the SFY 2025 Planning Work Program (PWP) to add or modify the work elements as shown in the attachment.
- Section 2. That staff is authorized to make such changes to the work elements as are needed to satisfy clarifying comments from the Ohio Department of Transportation and U.S. Department of Transportation, but which do not change the intent of an activity.
- Section 3. That this resolution be forwarded to ODOT and the Federal Highway Administration as evidence of acceptance of this amendment by the Transportation Policy Committee.
- Section 4. That the Transportation Policy Committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of the committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

Chris Amorose Groomes, Chair
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Prepared by: Transportation Staff
Attachment : State Fiscal Year 2025 Work Element Adjustments

66515-3000 - Prioritization Process Pilot Program

Primary Contact: Thomas Graham

This activity will conduct a comprehensive review and revision of MORPC’s project prioritization and selection process for inclusion in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The purpose of this activity is to create a publicly transparent project prioritization process which emphasizes safety and equity when selecting projects.

MORPC applied to FHWA’s Prioritization Process Pilot Program in May of 2024 for this activity, which is being referred to as the Building Equitable and Safe Transportation (BEST) Initiative.

Product/Method	Agencies	Schedule
<p>Comprehensive Review of Current MTP Goals, Objectives, and Prioritization Process</p> <p>Develop a process for reviewing MTP Goals, Objectives, and project evaluation metrics with significant public involvement. This will include targeted public outreach, review of the best practices across the nation, and general analysis of the region’s current goals.</p>	MORPC	Ongoing through 2026
<p>Revise Existing Evaluation Criteria to Best Reflect the Goals of the MTP</p> <p>Develop updated evaluation criteria for MTP project prioritization, with a focus on developing criteria which can be transparently and quantifiably utilized to produce a ranked project list. MORPC will look to other MPO’s for best practices around project evaluation, while also considering in-house improvements to existing criteria. Furthermore, all existing criteria will be analyzed for their continued value in the evaluation process, and new criteria may be considered to further improve the process.</p>	MORPC	Ongoing through 2026
<p>Develop Improved Process for Public Involvement in Project Prioritization</p> <p>Develop a standard process for public involvement in MTP development and project prioritization moving forward. This will include targeted public outreach and all stages of MTP development but importantly will add public input as an emphasized aspect of project prioritization.</p>	MORPC	Ongoing through 2026
<p>Develop Network Safety Analysis and Improved Safety Evaluation Tool</p> <p>Develop a proactive safety analysis tool which analyzes safety risks on federal aid roadways in the region based upon roadway characteristics alongside crash history. Utilize this tool to develop more comprehensive safety evaluation criteria for proposed projects.</p>	MORPC	Ongoing through 2026

Product/Method	Agencies	Schedule
<p>Update MORPC Environmental Justice Analysis</p> <p>Update MORPC's existing process for conducting environmental justice analysis, with a focus on a more context sensitive analysis. This process will include review of other MPO's methodologies for conducting EJ analysis, alongside internal review for improvements to MORPC's existing methodology.</p>	MORPC	Ongoing through 2026

Related Activities

- 60135-3000 - Safety Planning
- 60205-3000 - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Implementation
- 61015-3000 - Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Planning
- 61025-0400 - Transportation Public Involvement

Budget

Total Work Element Budget: \$1,400,000

Spent Previous Year: \$0

Remaining Work Element Budget: \$1,400,000

Funding Sources: FHWA: \$1,400,000

Budget Note: N/A

66584-3000 - Safe Streets For All Action Plan and Demonstration Activities

Primary Contact: Lauren Cardoni

In 2023, MORPC applied to USDOT's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program for safety planning funds. In December 2023, MORPC received notification of the award. These funds will be used to update the Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan and conduct the following supplemental planning activities:

- Advance MORPC's Regional Non-Motorized Volume Data Program
- Develop a regional Complete Streets Safety Audit Program
- Conduct Pedestrian Safety Improvement demonstration projects

In 2024, MORPC, in partnership with The Ohio State University, applied to SS4A and was awarded funding for a separate activity of crash analytics and injury research. The activity is intended to uncover valuable insights into the causes, patterns, and contributing factors in fatal and serious injury crashes in Central Ohio.

Product/Method	Agencies	Schedule
<p>Safety Plan Update</p> <p>Complete an update to Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan in accordance with the funding program guidelines and requirements.</p>	<p>Local Governments, MORPC, ODOT</p>	<p>Spring 2025</p>
<p>Non-Motorized Volume Data Program</p> <p>Collaborate with local and state partners to enhance MORPC's existing non-motorized volume data program.</p>	<p>MORPC, ODOT</p>	<p>2026</p>
<p>Complete Streets Safety Audit Program</p> <p>Collaborate with local partners to enhance existing initiatives focused on conducting walk audits and identifying proven safety countermeasures for implementation.</p>	<p>MORPC, Public Health</p>	<p>2026</p>
<p>Pedestrian Safety Demonstration Projects</p> <p>Collaborate with local partners to install quick-build, low-cost, high-impact pedestrian safety countermeasures at 20 priority locations throughout the region.</p>	<p>Local Agencies, MORPC</p>	<p>2026</p>

Product/Method	Agencies	Schedule
<p>Crash Analytics and Injury Research</p> <p>Collaborate with researchers in Ohio State's CAIR program to conduct research and analysis on causes, patterns, and contributing factors in fatal and serious injury crashes in Central Ohio. Manage and facilitate grant activities and reporting.</p>	Local Agencies, MORPC	Ongoing through 2026

Related Activities

60135-3000 - Safety Planning

Budget

Total Work Element Budget: \$3,940,000

Spent Previous Year: \$0

Remaining Work Element Budget: \$3,940,000

Funding Sources: FHWA: \$3,152,000, ODOT: \$90,300, MORPC: \$70,705, Local: \$626,995

Budget Note: Original budget \$1,290,000.00. An additional \$2,650,000.00 added through resolution T-1-25.