



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

NOTICE OF A MEETING

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

Thursday, February 13, 2025
1:30 p.m.

Remote Option

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

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 268 253 220 749

Passcode: k2XvQr

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

[+1 614-362-3056](tel:+16143623056) Columbus

[\(888\) 596-2819](tel:(888)5962819) United States (Toll-free)

Phone conference ID: 356 398 203#

AGENDA

1:30 p.m.

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

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

Committees

4. **Regional Policy Roundtable** – Lourdes Barroso de Padilla (City of Columbus), Regional Policy Roundtable Chair
 - **Legislative Update** – Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter and Joseph Garrity, MORPC Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations
5. **Bylaws Committee** – Haley Lupton (Village of Plain City), Bylaws Committee Chair
6. **Regional Data Advisory Committee** – Christina Drummond (City of Powell), Regional Data Advisory Committee Chair
7. **Sustainability Advisory Committee** – Ben Kessler (City of Bexley), Sustainability Advisory Committee Chair
 - **Gahanna Sustainable2050 Certification** – Brandi Whetstone, MORPC Director of Sustainability
 - **Updated Central Ohio Greenways Trail Vision** – Jessica Kuenzli, MORPC Chief Regional Planning Officer & Senior Director of Planning and Melinda Vonstein, MORPC Greenways Planning Studio Lead
8. **Transportation Policy Committee (MPO)** – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair
 - a. **Call to Order** – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair
 - b. **Metropolitan Planning Organization Report** – Parag Agrawal, MORPC Chief Mobility and Development Officer
 - c. **Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda**
 - 1) Approval of **December 12, 2024 Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**
 - 2) **Proposed Resolution T-1-25: “Amending the State Fiscal Year 2025 Planning Work Program (PWP)”**
 - d. **Adjourn Transportation Policy Committee (MPO)** – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair

9. Commission Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of **December 12, 2024 Commission Meeting Minutes**
- b. Approval of Actions of the Transportation Policy Committee

10. Other Business

2:45 p.m. 11. Adjourn – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair

PLEASE NOTIFY SHARI SAUNDERS AT 614-233-4169 OR ssaunders@morpc.org IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.

The next Commission Meeting is
Thursday, March 13, 2025, 1:30 p.m.
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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

Indoor bike parking is available for MORPC guests.

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



MORPC Monthly Agency Report
December 2024 – January 2026

Senior Directors

Parag Agrawal pagrawal@morpc.org
Joe Garrity jgarrity@morpc.org
Shawn Hufstedler shufstedler@morpc.org

Ralonda Hampton rhampton@morpc.org
Jessica Kuenzli jkuenzli@morpc.org
Robert Williams rwilliams@morpc.org

CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT FOR PROSPERITY

208 Planning and Areawide Designation Process

The 208 committee continues to review and provide input on key decisions, such as the operational structure and funding considerations for standing up a designated areawide planning agency. MORPC anticipates completing these initial steps for establishing an Areawide Planning Agency in the first quarter of 2025 for Board consideration. Following approval, MORPC will work with the Ohio EPA to conduct a public engagement process with affected stakeholders.

Regional Water Study

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

Transportation Safety

MORPC hosted a Steering Committee meeting that formally kicked off ODOT's 2025 update to the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). Working Groups will meet throughout 2025 to update each of the Emphasis Area action plans. The 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
- Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review Board
- Ohio Traffic Records Coordinating Committee Executive Council
- Ohio Traffic Records Coordinating Committee Technical Council
- ODOT Context Classification Working Group
- Franklin County Safe Communities Coalition
- Crash Research Network
- Focus Group Discussions for [NCHRP 17-103: A Guide and Toolkit for Strategic Decision-Making to Improve Traffic Safety](#) and for [NCHRP 08-171: Institutionalizing the Safe System Approach in Transportation Planning and Programming](#)

Gohio Commute

Commute Perks was added to Gohio Commute. The new program provides Ohio commuters the opportunity to earn discounts at local and national retailers for logging five days of eligible commutes to work per month. Team Members are reaching out to local employers to introduce the new program to their employees.

MORPC participated in a workforce transportation event at the Fairfield County Workforce Center that focused on workforce mobility options in Fairfield County.

Active Transportation Planning

The Active Transportation Committee met January 29. Meeting materials are available [here](#). The next meeting is April 23.

Team Members completed two Complete Streets reviews and provided relevant comments for PID 119514 Ferris Rd – Stage 1 plans and PID 112127 FRA Emerald Connector – Stage 1 plans.

MORPC is collaborating with an OSU City and Regional Planning studio on an Active Transportation and Placemaking project. Staff attended a studio class on January 10 to present information on the topic and provide guidance for their semester-long project. The project goal is to develop an Active Transportation and Placemaking toolkit for communities in Central Ohio to use to enhance their infrastructure investments.

Team Members participated in the following active transportation meetings and events:

- Stakeholder interview for [NCHRP 07-31: State DOT and Tribal Use of Active Transportation Data: Practices, Sources, Needs, and Gaps](#).
- ODOT Active Transportation Conference Planning Committee
- OSU Active Transportation Advisory Group
- Regional Shared Mobility Meet-and-Greet with Veo (new Central Ohio bikeshare)

Technical Assistance Program

MORPC finalized scope documents and signed MOUs with the four 2025 Technical Assistance Program awardees. Team Members are working to launch a Technical Assistance (TA) Program dashboard that will highlight the TA program services completed since the program's inception.

Central Ohio Greenways (COG)

The COG Board met January 15 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.

- The COG Trail Towns Working Group is developing a brand for the program in partnership with Experience Columbus. The Outdoor Trails Pass partnership with Experience Columbus continues to be a popular program with hundreds of new sign-ups and check-ins monthly.

MORPC is offering support to communities interested in implementing the 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 (GPS) is crafting COG Forums for 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 and define their 2025 goals. The Environmental Stewardship Working Group is focusing on assembling guidance for Onion Bag Project Installations. The User Experience Working Group continues to advance the formation of a hazard removal consortium. The Water Trail Designation Working Group is refining an editable field map to distribute to communities along the waterways so they can provide details on amenities at access points, and any useful information on the waterways' navigability and seasonality.

Regional Housing Strategy

Team Members continue having conversations around housing issues with MORPC member communities. Staff continues to promote the identification of barriers and solutions related to housing for members through connections with MORPC's Community Assistance Programs and by giving presentations to councils and other organizations. Team Members continue to identify ways to expand upon the previous work of the regional Housing Strategy.

If you are interested in a housing/growth workshop for your community's elected officials, staff, or community leaders, MORPC is accepting requests for presentations and workshops. Our Team will work with you to design the agenda, including recommended speakers and learning objectives. Contact Jessica Kuenzli for more information (jkuenzli@morpc.org).

Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC)

The next Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting is March 19 at the City of Grandview Heights Parks Building. MORPC Staff is wrapping up the member appointment process and will announce new members soon. For more information, contact Brandi Whetstone at bwhetstone@morpc.org.

- The Regional Sustainability Agenda Subcommittee met January 23 and provided input on proposed Goal 1 strategies. Subcommittee Members will review Goals 2 and 3 strategies for the next meeting. MORPC Team Members presented feedback from the SAC and proposed an updated timeline to account for the time required to review over 100 strategies. MORPC anticipates sharing the draft agenda in April and plans to host information sessions with key stakeholders. The next

subcommittee meeting is February 19. For more information, contact Brandi Whetstone at bwhetstone@morpc.org.

Sustainable2050

Sustainable2050 met December 5 and 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 countywide tree canopy study.

Sustainable2050 membership is open to all MORPC members, and current Sustainable2050 members interested in earning their tier status certification should contact Brandi Whetstone (bwhetstone@morpc.org). A certification workbook will be provided, and a kick-off meeting is encouraged to review the process. Once a completed workbook is submitted and reviewed, the next step is to present the proposed certification to the SAC for approval.

Sustaining Scioto Board

The Sustaining Scioto Board met December 11 and discussed the board's transition to a Regional Water Advisory Council. 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.

Energy & Air Quality

The next Energy and Air Quality Working Group meeting is February 26 and will discuss the year ahead and how to be active in energy and air quality within your community. If interested, contact Brian Filiatraut (bfiliatraut@morpc.org).

MORPC selected Heartland Charging Services to assist with executing the scope of work of its \$2 million U.S. DOT-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.

Team Members are waiting 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 U.S. DOT-FHWA's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Round 1B Program.

The core project team led by Sustainable Columbus, MORPC, and others continue to flesh out the next deliverables of the Central Ohio Climate Action Plan (COCAP) for the ten-county Columbus MSA. 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 are the strategies that will reduce pollution and serve as a roadmap for the Columbus MSA. Later this month, MORPC will host the next CPRG Strategy Subcommittee meeting to help provide input and refine those mitigation measures. For more information, visit the [COCAP website](#) or email Brian Filiatraut at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

Neighborhood Air Monitoring Project/U.S. EPA Project

Team Members, in partnership with Franklin County Public Health, made great progress on the U.S. EPA funded air monitoring project. Under the advisement of the air quality modeling consultant, Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, MORPC created an interactive map of where sensors should be deployed and began sharing this with local community partners. MORPC extended the deadline for sensor deployment to January 31 to ensure the best possible placements for analyzing local PM2.5 levels within Franklin County. Thirty-five new sensors were placed by the end of January with the project data collection period beginning in February.

Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC)

The RDAC met January 7 and continues to focus on a number of areas through the working groups noted below. The Leaders Listen Survey on Economic Development closed January 8. Results will be released at MORPC's State of the Region on March 21.

- Cyber Security Working Group: The Working Group conducted intake calls with four MORPC member communities and one community stakeholder 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](#). The group met January 28 to discuss next steps in providing MORPC member support.
- Data Day Working Group: The Working Group finalized plans for Data Day 2025 and is beginning plans for Data Day 2026. Send 2026 themes and speaker suggestions or improvement suggestions to Jordan Inskeep at jinskeep@morpc.org.

- **D E I & Data Working Group:** The Working Group met January 15 to review progress and offer support needed for the group's 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 Coaching Working Group:** The Working Group met January 9 and 30 and discussed community outreach plans for 2025. The group plans to launch two distinct Office 365 groups, "Regional Data Coaches" and "Regional GIS Coaches," at Data Day. The group hosted the second pop-up event at the Columbus Metropolitan Library-main branch on December 7, 2024.
- **Workforce and Job Quality Working Group:** The Working Group met January 16 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 that engage with regional employers, including but not limited to local governments and workforce development boards. The group is participating 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.
- **Central Ohio GIS User Group:** The next Central Ohio GIS User Group meeting is February 26.
- **Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG):** At the January 7 RDAC meeting, members decided to update the RIDG charter and formality of the Steering Committee and Chair. After the next RIDG meeting on February 12, RIDG will begin to operate similarly to the Central Ohio GIS User Group. The RIDG Steering Committee and MORPC are working to develop topics for 2025. MORPC and Steering Committee members are evaluating the structure and charter of the Committee to assess areas for improvement and streamlining.

Data & Research Activities

Team Members continue to develop the MORPC Insights platform. Insights is 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. The platform is expected to feature content from trusted partners in addition to MORPC-produced content. MORPC completed development of the user interface for the platform and is preparing content for the initial set of insights. The first set of insights are expected to be released by the end of February.

Team Members are 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 (aka "value per acre") for parcels in Delaware County. Past studies in other locations 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 estimate.

DRIVE INVESTMENT

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 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 March 26 meeting.

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 meeting is March 11.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)/Economic Development District

MORPC launched the Leaders Listen – Economic Development Survey in December. 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 results are being analyzed.

Freight Planning

MORPC, in partnership with ODOT, hosted the Rickenbacker Area Freight Alliance Workshop on December 16. The event brought together representatives from the Columbus Regional Logistics Council, the Central Ohio Transit Authority, the Columbus Regional Airport Authority, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), One Columbus, and other key stakeholders from the Rickenbacker area. The 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.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

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

Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP)

The relaunch of the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP) program is on hold until federal funding priorities, particularly those of the U.S. Economic Development Administration, are clear.

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 MORPC's Trail Towns in the Nation's Heartland proposal was not selected for funding, both the 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 were approved for funding.

The U.S. DOT closed its Regional Infrastructure Accelerators (RIA) program on January 9. MORPC submitted a proposal titled "Connecting the Heartland: Revitalizing Rural Communities through Trail Development," requesting \$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 established a process for Letters of Support requests. The process not only helps Central Ohio communities and other partners receive MORPC's support letters in a timely manner but also helps track and record internally the letters provided for different funding opportunities. You can find the link [here](#).

MORPC submitted a grant application to the Ohio Department of Transportation for Mobility Management planning activities and the Regional Mobility Plan rewrite.

Team Members are collaborating with the Village of Minerva Park to determine an appropriate strategy and assist with their Safe Routes to School grant 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.

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 questions, contact Preston Frick at pfrick@morpc.org.

LinkUS

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.

Mobility Management

The Central Ohio Mobility Management Working Group met January 15. 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

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approved FY2024 Section 5310 funding selections in January. Team Members notified applicants of the status of their request. Team Members will finalize funding agreements in the coming weeks.

Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO)

CORPO submitted the first draft of the SFY 26-29 Transportation Improvement Program at the end of January for review by ODOT.

CORPO Team Members are 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 is due by August 2025.

The next round of CORPO County Subcommittee Meetings are the last two weeks of March.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

MORPC submitted the first draft of the SFY 26-29 TIP at the end of January for review by ODOT, the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

MORPC-Attributable Funding

A public comment period on the draft funding recommendations approved by the Attributable Funds Committee began in January and remains open through February 12.

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.

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

The District 3 (Franklin County) Natural Resource Assistance Council meets on March 20 to approve the methodology and schedule for Fiscal Year 2026. District 3 has approximately \$3.5 million available in the upcoming cycle.

In December, the Commission approved MORPC to provide liaison and administrative services to District 17 (Delaware, Pickaway, Fairfield, Knox, Licking and Morrow Counties). The District 17 Natural Resources Assistance Council met January 17 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 September 19.

For more information about Clean Ohio funding, contact Edwina Teye at eteye@morpc.org or visit our [website](#).

Money Mondays

MORPC hosted the following Money Monday sessions:

- December 2 – EPA's \$8 Million for Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants
- December 9 – State and Federal Funding for Priority Projects in Upper Arlington
- December 16 – Small Surface Water and Groundwater Storage Projects
- January 27 – FY 2024 and FY 2025 Continuum of Care Competition and Renewal or Replacement of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Grants

Upcoming sessions:

- February 3 – 2025 AARP Community Challenge Grant
- February 10 – Energy and Environmental Policy: State and Federal Legislation and the Impact on Municipalities/Counties
- February 24 – U.S. Department of Transportation's \$27 million available for Rural and Tribal Community Technical Assistance Grants

PAY IT FORWARD

Membership Services

Team Members completed twenty-two member visits.

Events

MORPC hosted/held the following events:

- December 4 – Southeast Area of Central Ohio Regional Planning Update
- December 12 – Pre-Commission Reception celebrating 90 members
- January 22 – Northeast Area of Central Ohio Regional Planning Update

Public Involvement & Engagement

Team Members participated in the following opportunities:

- RISE Together Innovation Institute's Release of the annual Poverty Snapshot Report
- Licking County Township Association Annual Meeting
- Franklin County Township Association Annual Meeting

MORPC promoted the following through social media and our website: 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.

To celebrate our diverse communities, MORPC is launching a new social media series titled Member Monday, spotlighting the places and people that make our region special.

MORPC is a member of the Central Ohio Diversity Consortium (CODC) and attended their Culture Connection Awards in December. The inaugural event recognized leaders in Central Ohio who foster a culture of belonging.

MORPC in the News

Links to press releases and news article for the month are available at www.morpc.org/MORPCInTheNews

BUILD VALUE FOR OUR MEMBERS

STEPZ Workshop

Team Members are organizing the second STEPZ workshop; *STEPZ: Planning Staff* for 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 (talam@morpc.org).

Community-Based Planning Assistance

The Community-Based Planning Assistance Program (CBPA) continues to be a resource for members, and we are always looking for ways to improve to better serve your needs. Members can learn more and request assistance from the program by visiting <https://www.morpc.org/community-based-planning-assistance> or contacting Jessica Kuenzli at jkuenzli@morpc.org.

Planner Pool Program

Members are invited to submit applications for assistance through the Planner Pool Program. If you are interested in additional staffing support related to planning, zoning, and/or sustainability, please contact Jessica Kuenzli to schedule a time to discuss your community's needs and ways that MORPC may be able to help.

MORPC is assembling a list of fixed-fee services that relate to the most common issues communities in Central Ohio are experiencing. Suggestions on potential services are greatly appreciated and can be directed to Jessica Kuenzli at jkuenzli@morpc.org.

Consultant Services Program

The Consultant Services Program assists communities with the Request for Proposal (RFP) process through the drafting of RFP documents, prequalifying consultants in the eligible program areas, reviewing initial proposals and facilitating final presentations.

Each year, the Consultant Services Program prequalifies Consultants to submit proposals for – and complete work on – long-range planning projects initiated by communities in Central Ohio. Eligible project types include the completion of – or updates to – comprehensive planning and zoning codes, economic development activities, public engagement, neighborhood or area plans, housing action plans, active transportation plans, and parking plans or assessments.

Team Members are currently working to finalize the list of prequalified consultants for 2025. New eligible services added this year include cost estimates and feasibility studies.

If you have a RFP you would like advertised through the Consultant Services Program or need assistance with writing an RFP, please contact consultantservices@morpc.org for additional information.

Human Resources Updates

MORPC is rolling out our new HRIS (Human Resources Information System), BambooHR, to help streamline our HR processes and information sharing for applicants, MORPC Team Members, and the HR Team. BambooHR is now being used for recruitment, as can be seen with our vacant HR Director position now posted and available on our website noted below.

Personnel Updates

MORPC is currently recruiting for open positions:

- Programming Executive Assistant
- Energy Auditor
- Programming Intern
- Human Resources Director
- 10 Summer Intern Positions

The requirements for the posted positions are available for review on the website at <http://www.morpc.org/careers/>.

RFP/RFQ Postings

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

- HVAC Contractor for Residential Energy Programs
- Insulation Contractor for Residential Energy Programs

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



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: December 12, 2024
Time: 2:34 p.m.
Location: MORPC Town Hall

Transportation Policy Committee Members Present in Person

LaGrieta Acheampong	Dave Gulden	Rory McGuinness
Chris Amorose Groomes	Laurie Jadwin	Eric Meyer
Gary Burkholder	James Jewell	Heidi Munc
Michelle Crandall	Carol Kauffman	Megan O'Callaghan
Tracie Davies	Ben Kessler	Kelly Scocco
Brad Ebersole	Joseph Laborie	Joe Steager
David Efland	Bill LaFayette	Robyn Stewart
Cindi Fitzpatrick	Kris Long	Christie Ward
Jeremiah Gracia	Glenn Marzluf	Trenton Weaver

Transportation Policy Committee Members Attending Remotely

Herb Asher	Jennifer Fening	Dave Medley
Kirsten Atha	Daryl Hennessy	Eric Richter
Jeff Benton	Rebecca Hermann	Stephen Sayre
Michael Bivens	Christine Houk	Brandon Standley
Paul Brake	Emily Keeler	Joe Stefanov
Ron Bullard	Jamie Leesberg	Tim Wilson
Shane Farnsworth	Joe Long	Kenneth Wright

Commission Members Present in Person

Joe Antram	Jeff Hall	Matt Starr
Mike Bodine	Mark Johns	RC Wise
Jamie Brucker	Eric Phillips	

Commission Members Attending Remotely

Michelle Blanton	Alexis Fitzsimmons	Bill Narducci
Chasilyn Carter	Mark Mauter	Nick Shultz
Terry Emery	Brittany Misner	Hannah Wynne

MORPC Staff Present in Person

Parag Agrawal	Ralonda Hampton	Kyle Probert
Steve Armstrong	Shawn Hufstедler	Padmini Roy-Dixon
Todd Bradley	Jessica Keunzli	Shari Saunders
Dave Dixon	Eileen Leuby	Maria Schaper
Preston Frick	Yan Liu	Mary Turner
Rebecca Garrett	Kelsey Matson	Brandi Whetstone
Matika Garrison	Amanda McEldowney	
Joe Garrity	William Murdock	

MORPC Staff Attending Remotely

Emily Brown	Morgan Fuller	Alisa Obukhova
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Guests Present in Person

Brian Ball, City of Mount Vernon	Gavin Lavene
Zoe Brown, City of Marion	Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter
Grace Byler, Morrow County	

Guests Attending Remotely

Andy Shifflett, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter

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

Chair Chris Amorose Groomes called the Transportation Policy Committee Meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

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

Parag Agrawal presented the [Metropolitan Planning Organization Report](#). Mr. Agrawal noted the resolutions on the consent agendas.

- Resolution T-13-24 is the regular quarterly Transportation Improvement Program amendment. It represents an addition of \$55.5 million in new transportation funding.
- Resolution T-14-24 supporting ODOT's 2025 safety performance measure targets, calls for a two percent annual reduction for each of the five safety measures (number of fatalities, fatality rates, number of injuries, serious injury rates, number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries).
- Resolution 23-24 authorizes the executive director to accept the \$1.4 million grant awarded to MORPC last week for the Prioritization Process Pilot Program.
- Resolution 24-24 authorizes the executive director to accept the \$2.11 million awarded to MORPC a couple of months ago for the Safe Streets and Roads for All program.
- Resolution 29-24 is required for a grant application for the regional mobility plan. The grant application is due December 31.

MORPC received 18 applications (37 different projects) for the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 funding. There is \$1.7 million available this round. The Review Committee and Staff recommend funding 18 projects from 15 different applications.

The Technical Assistance Program works with member communities to enhance bike and pedestrian facilities. In 2025, MORPC will be working with the Village of Galena, the City of Hilliard, the City of Gahanna, and the City of Grove City.

Earlier this year, MORPC submitted a RAISE grant application for Trail Towns in the Nation's Heartland. While not awarded, the application was named a project of merit. We resubmitted the application December 2 and are expecting the award announcement in January 2025.

MORPC received a \$1.4 million award from U.S. DOT for the Prioritization Process Pilot Program (PPPP) for Sustainable Transportation Development. Our application, Building Equitable and Safe Transportation (BEST) will help us reinvent the Metropolitan Transportation Plan process to enhance the plan and incorporate safety and economic development in the evaluation process.

MORPC is working with the Ohio Department of Transportation on the December 16 Rickenbacker Freight Alliance Workshop to look at economic development and transportation investments in the Rickenbacker area.

The November 21 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee meeting featured the City of Hilliard City Lab.

MORPC continues to work with partners at the state and local levels in Indiana and Pennsylvania to manage the Midwest Connect Corridor Project. Stage one will be completed early next year. We expect to get approval from the Federal Railroad Administration by spring 2025. Stage two includes station area planning, passenger rail frequency, and funding required for infrastructure improvements. MORPC continues to coordinate the planning process with external stakeholders

such as Amtrak, the Ohio Rail Development Commission, and the Indiana and Pennsylvania Departments of Transportation.

Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda

Laurie Jadwin made a motion to approve the Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda, second by Bill LaFayette; motion passed.

The Transportation Policy Committee Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Ben Kessler, Secretary

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

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.



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

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

Commission Members Present in Person

LaGrieta Acheampong	Dave Gulden	Eric Meyer
Chris Amorose Groomes	Jeff Hall	Heidi Munc
Joe Antram	Laurie Jadwin	Megan O'Callaghan
Mike Bodine	James Jewell	Eric Phillips
Jamie Brucker	Mark Johns	Kelly Scocco
Gary Burkholder	Carol Kauffman	Matt Starr
Michelle Crandall	Ben Kessler	Joe Steager
Tracie Davies	Joseph Laborie	Robyn Stewart
Brad Ebersole	Bill LaFayette	Christie Ward
David Efland	Kris Long	Trenton Weaver
Cindi Fitzpatrick	Glenn Marzluf	RC Wise
Jeremiah Gracia	Rory McGuinness	

Commission Members Attending Remotely

Herb Asher	Jennifer Fening	Brittany Misner
Kirsten Atha	Alexis Fitzsimmons	Bill Narducci
Jeff Benton	Daryl Hennessy	Eric Richter
Michael Bivens	Rebecca Hermann	Stephen Sayre
Michelle Blanton	Christine Houk	Nick Shultz
Paul Brake	Emily Keeler	Brandon Standley
Ron Bullard	Jamie Leesberg	Joe Stefanov
Chasilyn Carter	Joe Long	Tim Wilson
Terry Emery	Mark Mauter	Kenneth Wright
Shane Farnsworth	Dave Medley	Hannah Wynne

MORPC Staff Present in Person

Parag Agrawal	Ralonda Hampton	Kyle Probert
Steve Armstrong	Shawn Hufstedler	Padmini Roy-Dixon
Todd Bradley	Jessica Keunzli	Shari Saunders
Dave Dixon	Eileen Leuby	Maria Schaper
Preston Frick	Yan Liu	Mary Turner
Rebecca Garrett	Kelsey Matson	Brandi Whetstone
Matika Garrison	Amanda McEldowney	
Joe Garrity	William Murdock	

MORPC Staff Attending Remotely

Emily Brown	Morgan Fuller	Alisa Obukhova
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Guests Present in Person

Brian Ball, City of Mount Vernon	Gavin Lavene
Zoe Brown, City of Marion	Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter
Grace Byler, Morrow County	

Guests Attending Remotely

Andy Shifflett, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter

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

Chair Chris Amorose Groomes called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Eileen Leuby welcomed City of Marion Director of Public Service and Commission Representative Michael Bodine and City of Marion Grant Writer Zoe Brown. Ms. Leuby welcomed Village of Alexandria Representative Sean Barnes who is attending remotely.

Executive Director's Report – William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director

William Murdock gave the [Executive's Director Report](#). Mr. Murdock welcomed the new members and thanked the MORPC Team for organizing the 90-member celebration held before the Commission meeting.

Mr. Murdock reminded Commission members that one of MORPC's core values is driving investment. Just in transportation this past year, we received five federal infrastructure grants totaling \$21 million. Last week we learned MORPC received a \$1.4 million award from U.S. DOT for the Prioritization Process Pilot Program (PPPP) for Sustainable Transportation Development to enhance and improve the planning process for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. We are the only entity in the Midwest to receive one of these grants.

Mr. Murdock congratulated the John Glenn Columbus International Airport for breaking ground on their new terminal earlier this week. He congratulated the City of Columbus on passage of their Bike Plus Plan.

Mr. Murdock announced that MORPC's HR Director Andrea Doolittle is retiring at the end of the year. We will miss her.

The Columbus Partnership named Jason Hall as their new CEO. Mr. Murdock met with him this morning.

Mr. Murdock noted that, as with any new federal administration and the resulting transition in agencies and policies, there could be delays, changes, or slowdowns and that MORPC is proactively working to navigate this environment. The Commission Consent Agenda includes potential grants that could happen in the next couple months, and we want to be able to move if we receive those grants. We have not received word of receiving any of the potential grants.

A lot has been going on in regional housing since the Commission last met. A number of communities stood up a Regional Housing Collaborative. MORPC talked with the consultant and is trying to help them get information. They are also asking for communities that want to be involved. If interested, contact the City of Columbus or MORPC. Mr. Murdock shared other efforts MORPC is doing in the area of housing which include policy advocacy, the CURA webinar series with OSU, leading the National Association of Regional Councils group on regional housing strategies, working with OSU's Glenn College on housing policy briefs, working with Delaware County, and the rural forums.

Mr. Murdock asked members to help get the word out about MORPC's weatherization program. Weatherizing and stabilizing a home actually saves two homes. For those outside Franklin County, MORPC can connect you with the appropriate agencies. MORPC is assertive in marketing the program to engage and find clients. Mr. Murdock shared the link to the newest [commercial](#).

Mr. Murdock congratulated partners at MODE and One Columbus for the excellent ED 411 event. MORPC is proud to partner with ED 411. The Economic Development Administration reauthorization may happen. If so, that provides more resources for communities and gives MORPC the ability to provide technical assistance.

The 208 Process Review Committee met this morning. Mr. Murdock thanked those serving on the committee that is positioning the region to navigate the issue of providing sewer to the growing region. The committee hopes to bring recommendations to the Commission to consider in the first quarter of 2025.

Preliminary findings of the Regional Water Study will start coming out in the next few weeks and the final findings will be issued in February or March 2025. The study touches all counties in MORPC's region.

The next Leaders Listen Survey, in partnership with The Columbus Dispatch, opens today at 4 p.m. The survey focuses on economic development and is available at [Leaders Listen Survey Series – MORPC.org](#).

The Member Benefit of the Month is the Annual Member Visit with the Executive Director and Member Services. MORPC tries to visit every community every year. Mr. Murdock thanked the communities for meeting with us.

The Grant of the Month is the ODOT Pedestrian & Bicycle Special Solicitation for projects that make walking and biking a safe, convenient, and accessible transportation option. The second cycle opens January 1, 2025.

Registration for Governing Essentials for Local Elected Officials begins January 2025. The program begins February 28, 2025. This is a great opportunity for any elected official, but especially newly elected officials.

Registration is open for Data Day 2025, February 5 at the Columbus State Community College Workforce Development Center.

The Northwest Area Regional Planning Luncheon is January 22, 2025 in Plain City.

[Registration](#) is open for the March 21, 2025 State of the Region. Mr. Murdock encouraged members to nominate regional leaders for the upcoming State of the Region awards.

Proposed Resolution 19-24: “Accepting the Village of Alexandria as a member of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)” – William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director

Joe Antram made a motion to approve Resolution 19-24, second by Mark Johns; motion passed.

Proposed Resolution 20-24: “Accepting the City of Marion as a member of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)” – William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director

Laurie Jadwin made a motion to approve Resolution 20-24, second by Matthew Starr; motion passed.

Resolution 20-24 brings MORPC's membership to 90.

Proposed Resolution 17-24: “Acceptance of the fiscal budget and fund account appropriations for the operation of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission for 2025” – William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director and Shawn Hufstedler, MORPC Chief Operating Officer

William Murdock and Shawn Hufstedler presented the [2025 Budget](#). The Commission approves the MORPC Budget. The 2025 budget is assertive and complex. Mr. Murdock is grateful for the Team

navigating the complicated and diverse funding sources. While taking into account major opportunities in a growing region, the focus of MORPC's budget is to:

- Advance the Strategic Framework
- Be assertive in uncertain times
- Enhance the MORPC Team
- Strengthen operations, reporting and finances

Mr. Murdock shared priority initiatives for each pillar of the Strategic Framework.

Mr. Hufstедler gave an overview of the 2025 Budget Book included in the meeting packet. He recognized and thanked Steve Armstrong, Alisa Obukhova, and Besty Hunkar for their work on putting together the budget. He thanked Mr. Murdock for his guidance and support. The Department Heads were also a great help.

The overall budget is \$30 million (up \$6.8 million from last year) with federal funding as the largest revenue source. The first three columns on the 5-year revenue comparison chart are actual figures while the last two columns are budget figures. The actual figures are noticeably less than the budget columns. This is expected and consistent with our budget approach of budgeting on the high end of what we might do in a calendar year. We are more than 90 percent grant funded; most of the grants are on a reimbursement basis.

Salaries/benefits and subcontractor expenses combined account for 75 percent of operating uses. The increase in staff salaries and benefits is due to an increase in FTE's, wage increases across the board, a few promotions and wage adjustments, and salary enhancements. The combined fringe and indirect rates are flat.

The \$90,000 increase in member dues is due to acceptance of new members, population changes, and dues rate increases.

If transfers are needed, they will be consistent with our operating reserve policy.

Matthew Starr made a motion to approve Resolution 17-24, second by LaGrieta Acheampong; motion passed.

Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization – Brian Ball (City of Mount Vernon), Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization Vice Chair

Brian Ball presented the [Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization Report](#). Mr. Ball announced the Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO) has new leadership. The Chair is Jeff Stauch, Union County Engineer. The Vice Chair is Brian Ball, City of Mount Vernon Engineer.

CORPO is working toward a Bylaws update to align with ODOT and the regulations of regional transportation organizations. They are also emphasizing the importance of representatives attending the meetings so they can have a quorum and do business.

The CORPO Safety Action Plan is finalized and available [online](#). The plan established a goal of two percent annual reduction in crashes. With the plan in place, each CORPO community can ask for federal money to implement projects.

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

- **Proposed Resolution 18-24: “Adoption of MORPC’s 2025-2026 Public Policy Agenda”**

Joe Garrity presented a [Review of the 2025-2026 Public Policy Agenda and the Regional Policy Roundtable Update](#). Mr. Garrity thanked City of New Albany Mayor Sloan Spalding for leading the collaborative effort to focus on how to best advocate on behalf of 90 different local governments at the state and federal levels. Our advocacy is structured in two ways: lead goals and collaborative goals. The key changes from the last Public Policy Agenda include integrating the data and digital infrastructure lead goal into regionalism; aligning the goals with the Strategic Framework and department names; and emphasizing protection of federal investments.

Mr. Garrity thanked Kyle Probert for coordinating the working group meetings and making certain language was consistent in crafting the agenda.

Brad Ebersole made a motion to approve Resolution 18-24, second by Heidi Munc; motion passed.

Jo Ingles from the Ohio News Bureau gave a political analysis and update following the November election at the last Roundtable Meeting. The next Regional Policy Roundtable meeting is February 18, 2025.

MORPC Team Members will produce a finalized document of the 2025-2026 Public Policy Agenda in time for the February 2025 National Association of Regional Councils Conference and congressional visits in Washington, DC.

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

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

- Nominee for Secretary of Transportation and other new leadership in Washington
- Federal funding
- EDA reauthorization
- Passenger rail advocacy
- Ohio Public Works Commission
- HB 315 – Township Omnibus Bill
- HB 296 – Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund Contributions
- HB 331 – Village Dissolution Bill
- HB 257 – Virtual Meetings
- Central Ohio Defense Group

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

Ben Kessler presented the [Sustainability Advisory Committee Report](#). Every four years MORPC revises the Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA). A subcommittee with broad regional representation is working on the 2025-2028 RSA. Mayor Kessler thanked subcommittee members for lending their expertise. The subcommittee anticipates presenting the updated RSA to the Commission for adoption in April 2025.

MORPC announced the 2025 Clean Ohio Conservation Program projects awarded in Franklin County. The grants, provided by the Ohio Public Works Commission, support the preservation of green space and the protection of waterways in the region.

The District 3 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) is seeking nominations to fill three vacancies on its Council. The vacancies must include representatives from the following categories:

- Agriculture/Forestry

- Business/Planning and Realtor
- Other eligible categories (local governments, conservation organizations, park systems, etc.)

Contact Dr. Edwina Teye for more information.

The next Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting is December 18 at the Jeffrey Mansion. The meeting includes live holiday music, refreshments, and a presentation regarding the City of Gahanna's proposed Sustainable2050 recertification level.

We are still considering committee member appointments for next year. If you are interested, contact Brandi Whetstone.

- **Proposed Resolution 21-24: "Authorizing the executive director to enter into an agreement with District 17 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) to serve as the liaison for the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program" – Jessica Kuenzli, MORPC Chief Regional Planning Officer & Senior Director of Planning**
Jessica Kuenzli shared information on the [Clean Ohio Administrative Services Request](#). Since 2014, MORPC has provided administrative and liaison support for District 3 which covers Franklin County. MORPC was asked by the Natural Resources Assistance Council in District 17 to assume administrative and liaison roles for the district for FY 2026. District 17 covers Delaware, Fairfield, Knox, Licking, Morrow, and Pickaway Counties. Districts 3 and 17 are the only districts fully contained in MORPC's area. We do not need to hire additional staff. Licking County served as the previous liaison but stepped down due to staffing issues.

Gary Burkholder made a motion to approve Resolution 21-24, second by Kris Long, motion passed.

Transportation Policy Committee – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair
Chair Amorose Grooms called the Transportation Policy Committee Session to order at 2:34 p.m. The session adjourned at 2:45 p.m. Separate minutes are attached.

Commission Consent Agenda

Mark Johns made a motion to approve the Commission Consent Agenda, second by Mike Bodine; motion passed.

Other Business

Bill LaFayette invited members to attend the 46th Annual Central Ohio Blue Chip Forecast on January 8, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Ben Kessler, Secretary
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission