



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

## NOTICE OF A MEETING

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
111 LIBERTY STREET, SUITE 100  
COLUMBUS, OH 43215  
*BOARD ROOM***

Thursday, March 6, 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: 221 619 410 525

Passcode: Wv74HS9z

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

[614-362-3056](tel:614-362-3056), Columbus

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

Phone conference ID: 599 213 000#

## AGENDA

1. **Welcome** – Ben Kessler, Acting Chair
2. **Consent Agenda**
  - Approval of [February 6, 2025 minutes](#)
3. **Executive Director’s Report** – William Murdock, Executive Director
4. **Committee Updates**
  - **Bylaws Committee** – Haley Lupton, Chair
  - **Regional Policy Roundtable** – Joseph Garrity, Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations
  - **Regional Data Advisory Committee** – Jessica Kuenzli, Chief Regional Planning Officer & Senior Director of Planning

**William Murdock, AICP**  
Executive Director

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
Chair

**Michelle Crandall**  
Vice Chair

**Ben Kessler**  
Secretary

- **Sustainability Advisory Committee** – Jessica Kuenzli, Chief Regional Planning Officer & Senior Director of Planning
  - **Proposed Resolution 01-25: “Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) regarding recently awarded Pedestrian/Bike Special Solicitation Grant Program funding and enter into related subcontracts”**
- **Transportation Policy Committee** – Parag Agrawal, Chief Mobility & Development Officer

**5. Draft Commission Agenda**

**6. Other Business**

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

**The next Executive Committee Meeting is  
Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 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. 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 is S. Front Street & W. Blenkner St. Buses that accommodate this stop are the Number 61 - Grove City, the Number 5 - West 5th Ave. /Refugee, and the Number 8 - Karl/S. High/Parsons. 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.



## Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 6, 2025  
Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Location: MORPC Board Room

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### **Members Attending in Person**

LaGrieta Acheampong

Chris Amorose Grooms

Lourdes Barroso de Padilla

Michelle Crandall

Laurie Jadwin

James Jewell

Ben Kessler

Kris Long

Haley Lupton

Matt Starr

### **Members Attending Remotely**

Jeff Benton

### **MORPC Staff Attending in Person**

Parag Agrawal

Steve Armstrong

Joe Garrity

Ralonda Hampton

Shawn Hufstedler

Jessica Kuenzli

Eileen Leuby

Kelsey Matson

William Murdock

Shari Saunders

Robert Williams

### **Welcome – Michelle Crandall**

Chair Michelle Crandall called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

### **Consent Agenda**

Laurie Jadwin made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, second by James Jewell; motion passed.

### **Executive Director's Report – William Murdock**

William Murdock presented the [Executive Director's Report](#). Two hundred people attended Data Day 2025 yesterday. MORPC's first big event of the year had two keynote speakers, sixteen breakout sessions, and record-breaking sponsorship. This is only the third year of the event that sells out each year. Team Members are already planning for Data Day 2026. Let us know of topics that might interest you.

Mr. Murdock announced that since the last Executive Committee meeting, the state advanced funds for technical assistance for communities on zoning and planning efforts through the townships bill. The Ohio Department of Development is tasked with dispersing the funds. MORPC is proactively suggesting to them how to do so since it was our idea to include this in the budget. The \$1.5 million need to be used or provided before June 30.

COTA's Board approved the Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). This is a five-year plan of projects going out. LinkUS principals are meeting at MORPC next week for a kick-off.

Yesterday, MORPC was informed that we received a \$325,000 bike/pedestrian grant from ODOT. The grant allows us to update our regional bikeways map for the first time in 10 years. We will also create a travel guide, a bike level stress map, and a trail town story map, among other things. Mr. Murdock congratulated Jessica Kuenzli and her team.

Mr. Murdock spoke on how MORPC is navigating the ongoing changes in people, programs, policies, and processes in the federal government, especially when there is not always clarity. For example, there was an eight-hour window last week where a pending freeze led to a rush to submit invoices. MORPC has 30-40 federally funded programs and there are a lot of unknowns affecting many of them.

We are adjusting as necessary and pausing some things while waiting for more guidance. We have a strong confidence the electric vehicle infrastructure programs will be impacted, including recent grants to MORPC for \$2 million to fix existing stations and \$15 million to build new stations across the region, so we have paused work awaiting further clarity. It is also uncertain if new guidance from USDOT will affect the funds MORPC distributes to communities, passenger rail, or other programs. A few MORPC representatives will be in Washington next week for the National Association of Regional Councils conference and Hill visits. We hope to learn more from our congressional delegation then.

The 208 Process Review Committee is almost done with their work. We anticipate a recommendation for MORPC to begin negotiations with Ohio EPA to set up an areawide district will come to the Executive Committee and Commission in March or April. The structure they suggest is one in which the MORPC Board will not resolve disputes but instead is an independent objective entity staffed by MORPC. Mr. Murdock is proud of the team for navigating the issue so well.

The 15-county Regional Water Study will be completed by the end of the month and rolled out in March or early April. MORPC will host a session in April on what it is and how to use the tools. Each county will have a special video module that talks about what the study means for them and how their employees can use the tools.

The Regional Housing Coalition is an effort to bring communities together to focus on regional housing issues. MORPC is providing information to the consultants and being supportive as the effort emerges. MORPC and a few other organizations are sending out a survey on the consultants' behalf on Monday.

The State of the Region is March 21. There are 300 tickets left. Mr. Murdock urged committee members to purchase tickets if their community has not done so already. On Monday, MORPC will announce the keynote speaker, Bruce Katz, an expert on opportunity zones and community investments. He is the author of the book, "The New Localism."

MORPC Chair Chris Amorose Grooms announced the appointment of the Bylaws Committee:

- Haley Lupton, Village of Plain City, Chair (already appointed)
- Mike Schadek, City of Columbus
- Kris Long, Franklin County
- Ben Collins, Plain Township
- Brittany Misner, Village of Hebron
- Joe Steager, City of Canal Winchester

### **Quarterly Financial Statements – Shawn Hufstedler**

Shawn Hufstedler announced the auditors are about to start their audit which means committee members are about to receive the Auditor of State's Fraud Risk Assessment Questionnaire. The standard routine form will come directly from the Auditor of State's office.

Mr. Hufstedler presented the [Quarterly Financial Report 2024 Q4](#) noting the [full report](#) is in the meeting packet. Mr. Hufstedler highlighted:

- Budget vs expenses – well under budget
- Operating Reserve – the lighter blue line is the 30-day mark, and the darker blue line is the 60-day mark; the 60-day mark is an aspirational goal
- Loss for the year
  - funds recognized in previous years and spent in this year

- weatherization is working on getting new clients and also restructured contractor payment schedules to provide relief on the Columbia Gas program
- Net favorable fringe and indirect rate for the year
- Impact of Government Accounting Standards Board mandates on financial statements – Net position would be approximately \$5.6 million greater or a positive balance of \$4,402,145
- Member dues was slightly over budget

### **Bylaws Committee – Haley Lupton**

Haley Lupton reported the first meeting of the Bylaws Committee is February 13 following the Commission meeting.

### **Regional Policy Roundtable – Joe Garrity**

Joe Garrity gave the legislative update highlighting:

- A group of MORPC leaders are going to Washington, DC next week for the National Association of Regional Councils Conference and to meet with our congressional delegation and Amtrak
  - Senator Jon Husted serves on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
  - Senator Bernie Moreno serves on the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
  - Representative Dave Taylor from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District of Ohio serves on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
- New Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy
- The RAISE grant program is now the BUILD program again
- Continuing resolution expires March 14
- HB 54 – Ohio Transportation Budget
- Passenger Rail Advocacy
- The next Regional Policy Roundtable meeting is February 18 featuring the state director for Senator Bernie Moreno's office

### **Transportation Policy Committee – Parag Agrawal**

Parag Agrawal reported the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundary expansion staff is working with the Village of Plain City and the City of Johnstown to bring them into the MPO boundary. We have resolutions of support from both their government councils. We will bring a resolution for approval before the Transportation Policy Committee next month.

The Planning Work Program (PWP) serves as the budget for the MPO. We are including three federal grants we received into the PWP. Two grants are from the Safe Streets for All program and one grant is from the prioritization process pilot program. The amendment will be presented for approval at the Transportation Policy Committee meeting next week.

MORPC and ODOT are working on US 23 Connect, a study looking at the combination of traffic signals, adding lanes, and widening lanes along a 33-mile stretch of US 23. ODOT is looking to minimize the number of traffic signals from 39 to 6. ODOT asked MORPC to also work with them on an active transportation study to see how we can build a bicycle/pedestrian network for the same stretch of roadway. The kick-off meeting for the Active Transportation Study was Monday. The study will be completed by the end of the year.

MORPC is working with ODOT on the Silicon Heartland Transportation Partnership doing land use and transportation studies within a 40-minute radius of the Intel site. Stakeholders provided infrastructure updates at the February 4 partnership meeting.

MORPC Chair Chris Amorose Groomes congratulated Mr. Agrawal for being selected to this year's Leadership Columbus class.

**Proposed Resolution EC-01-25: "Authorizing the updated Pay Range and Authorized Staff Positions by Job Title Table" – Shawn Hufstedler**

Every few years MORPC hires consultants to review MORPC's pay ranges. MORPC hired Clemans Nelson to determine what is needed. They recommend a simple 8.5 percent increase to the grades. Other changes included rolling Grade A into Grade B and editing a few titles; minor changes overall. This was discussed with the Benefits & Compensation Committee. Two positions were affected with a relatively minor impact on the budget.

Matt Starr made a motion to approve Resolution EC-01-25, second by Ben Kessler; motion passed.

**Draft Commission Agenda**

The Executive Committee reviewed the draft February 13, 2025 Commission Meeting Agenda.

**Other Business**

Ralonda Hampton announced a new effort to highlight communities. Every Monday, two member communities will be spotlighted on "Member Monday" on our social media channels.

Mr. Murdock reminded members the State of the Region will sell out so do not delay in purchasing tickets.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

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Ben Kessler, Secretary  
**Executive Committee**



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## Memorandum

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

**FROM:** Jessica Kuenzli  
Chief Regional Planning Officer & Sr. Director of Planning

**DATE:** February 28, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Resolution 01-25: **“Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) regarding recently awarded Pedestrian/Bike Special Solicitation Grant Program funding and enter into related subcontracts”**

In December, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) applied for \$325,000 via the Ohio Department of Transportation’s (ODOT’s) Pedestrian/Bike Special Solicitation Grant Program.

In February, MORPC was notified that their application was selected for funding. The application aims to update our Regional Bikeways Map for the first time in a decade with an enhanced “Central Ohio Cycling Travel Guide.” The final guide will include:

- A bike level stress map for the urbanized region
- A 15-county trail map to include a “subway style” map showcasing 7-10 curated cycling routes
- AI technology to assess route safety
- A Trail Town story map template

This project will be accomplished via MORPC staff and external consultants, under the oversight of MORPC staff. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by July of 2026.

Attachment: Resolution 01-25

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

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
*Interim Chair*

**Michelle Crandall**  
*Interim Vice Chair*

**Ben Kessler**  
*Interim Secretary*

RESOLUTION 01-25

**“Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) regarding recently awarded Pedestrian/Bike Special Solicitation Grant Program funding and enter into related subcontracts”**

WHEREAS, ODOT seeks to contract with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) to enable updates to the Regional Bikeways Map with an enhanced “Central Ohio Cycling Travel Guide,” with final deliverables to include: a bike level stress map for the urbanized region; a 15-county trail map to include a “subway style” map showcasing 7-10 curated cycling routes; and a Trail Town story map template.

WHEREAS, the services performed pursuant to this contract will be under the oversight of MORPC and be implemented through a combination of MORPC staff and subcontracted organizations and consultants; now therefore

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

- Section 1. That the executive director is authorized to enter into an agreement with ODOT for up to fifteen months to utilize ODOT Pedestrian/Bike Special Solicitation grant funds totaling \$325,000 and enter into related subcontracts.
- Section 2. That the executive director is authorized to approve one or more extensions for performance of services under the foregoing agreements and change orders for amounts up to the financial authorization levels in the MORPC bylaws without further authorization from this Commission.
- Section 3. That the executive director is authorized to take such other action and execute and deliver such other documents as, acting with the advice of legal counsel, he shall deem necessary and appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.
- Section 4. That this Commission finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this Commission concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this Commission.

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

Effective date: March 13, 2025  
Submitted by: Jessica Kuenzli, Chief Regional Planning Officer and Sr. Director of Planning  
Prepared by: Jessica Kuenzli, Chief Regional Planning Officer and Sr. Director of Planning  
Authority: Ohio Revised Code Section 713.21  
For action date: March 13, 2025