



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS BOARD MEETING
HYBRID
MICROSOFT TEAMS
OR
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
111 LIBERTY ST, SUITE 100
COLUMBUS, OH 43215

May 15, 2024 10:00 – 11:30
AGENDA

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions:** *Mike Andrako, COG Board Chair*
- 2) **MORPC Updates – MORPC Staff**
 - a. Legislative
 - b. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
John Heider provided an update on the MTP adopted last week, highlighting \$35 billion in regional investment. 725 miles of new bike and pedestrian projects are included in the plan.
 - c. Ohio Public Works Committee (OPWC)
Staff provided an update on OPWC infrastructure funding, highlighting the eligibility of standalone bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects. The next application workshop scheduled for May 21, 2024.
 - d. Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO)
Staff gave a brief update on a trail project in Gambier funded through CORPO.
 - e. Clean Ohio Conservation Funds
Staff led a discussion on available funds for conservation and the process for application. Submissions due by August 30, 2024. Staff also noted that there is a vacancy in the Natural Resources Advisory Council for business representatives.
 - f. LinkUS
Staff updated Members on the LinkUS initiative, focusing on transit supportive infrastructure and capital improvement plans.
 - g. Blueways
Staff gave an overview of the Blueways Steering Committee's progress and upcoming events, including river cleanup efforts.
 - h. Events
River Fest 2024 will be June 8-9, 2024
- 3) **COG Summer Research Project – Katie McMahon**
Katie McMahon presented on the Mental Health Wellness Project, exploring the impact of trails and green spaces on social connection and mental health.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

4) COG Working Group and Steering Committee Updates - *Melinda Vonstein, MORPC*

a. COG Board Project Updates

i. COG Wayfinding Strategy

Staff reported that the strategy to improve navigation and user experience across the trail network has been finalized, with a focus on cohesive signage that allows for regional identity while enhancing user understanding and safety. Implementation plans are being developed to start integrating these wayfinding improvements in phases.

ii. COG Mapping Natural Assets

This project is aimed at cataloging and assessing the natural resources accessible through the greenways network. Objectives include enhancing access to these assets for recreation and conservation purposes. The mapping will inform future planning and development efforts to ensure sustainable use and integration into the COG network.

iii. COG Detours and Reroutes Guidelines

Staff reported that guidelines are being developed to help manage temporary closures and reroutes due to construction, events, or emergencies. The aim to minimize disruption for users and maintain safety and accessibility. The guidelines will be shared with local municipalities and other stakeholders to ensure consistent application across the region.

b. Trail Development Working Group


The Working Group is working to maintain the Regional Trail Vision by aligning ongoing and future trail projects with the overarching vision of creating an accessible, interconnected network of trails. Efforts to expand the regional trail network to include more underserved areas, enhancing access to natural spaces across all demographics. The Working Group is also actively supporting the Steering Committee for Detours and Closures to develop comprehensive guidelines that ensure minimal disruption during infrastructure improvements or events. Members are also working on collaboration with the Wayfinding Strategy Committee to implement new signage that enhances user experience and safety on the trails and providing support to the Trail Towns Working Group to promote economic development through trail-related tourism and local engagements.

c. Trail Towns Working Group

The Trail Towns Working Group has been working on the implementation of the Trail Town Framework, which aims to boost local economies by increasing trail-related tourism and enhancing engagement through promoting "Trail Towns." Progress was noted in integrating trail town criteria into local planning to improve trail accessibility and amenities, fostering a more trail-friendly environment. Efforts to engage local businesses and community leaders were also underway, encouraging the development of trail-oriented services and events.

i. Outdoor Trails Pass

The Outdoor Trails Pass program is being updated. Staff highlighted its success in increasing trail usage through incentives for pass holders, with a significant rise in



community participation. Strategies to enhance the program's visibility and appeal, including partnerships with local businesses, were also discussed.

5) Other Business – *Board Members*

6) Closing – *Mike Andrako, Board Chair*

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Central Ohio Greenways Board
Attendance

May 15, 2024, 10:00 am

Members Present

Chair Mike Andrako, Franklin County
Engineer's Office
Laura Ball, City of Westerville
Kacey Brankamp, Capital Crossroads &
Discovery SID's
Sarah DeMeo
Jody Dzurainin, Ohio to Erie Trail
Adrienne Joly, City of New Albany
Kari Kauffman, Experience Columbus

Tamisha Matus, Union County Health Dept
Alex Nouanesengsy, LCATS
Eric Oberg, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Andrew Overbeck, AICP, MKSK
J.M Rayburn, AICP, City of Dublin
Letty Schamp, City of Hilliard
Kelly Scocco, City of Columbus
Julie Walcoff, Toole Design
Brad Westall, City of Columbus

Public Present

Lauren Guidoth, COTA

MORPC Staff Present

Tunazzina Alam
John Heider
Lynn Kaufman

Katie McMahon
Jonathan Miller
Karina Peggau

Jordan Petrov
Kyle Probert
Edwina Teye

Melinda Vonstein



CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS

Board Meeting

May 15, 2024



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Central Ohio Legislative Update



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2024 - 2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

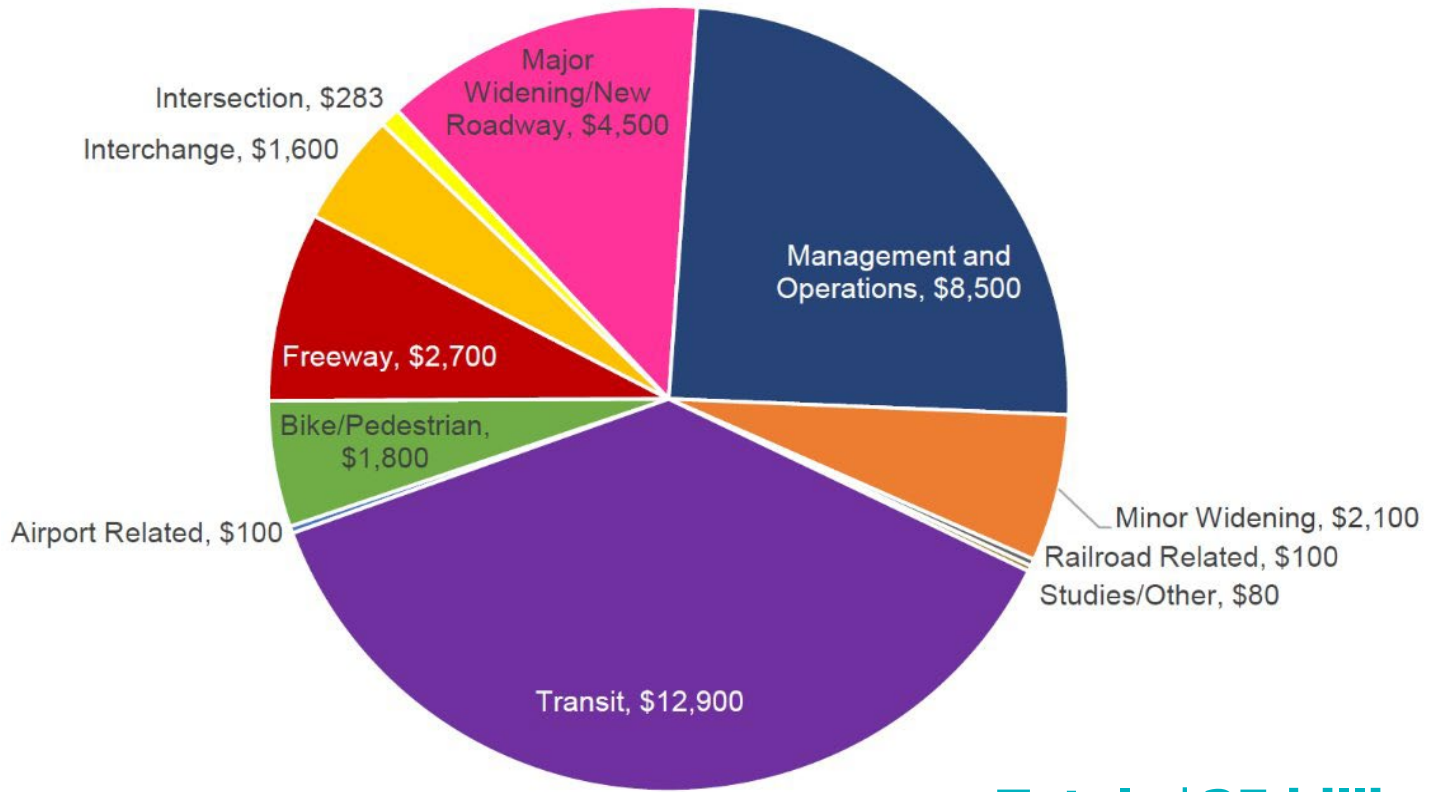


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INCLUDED PROJECTS

(costs in millions)



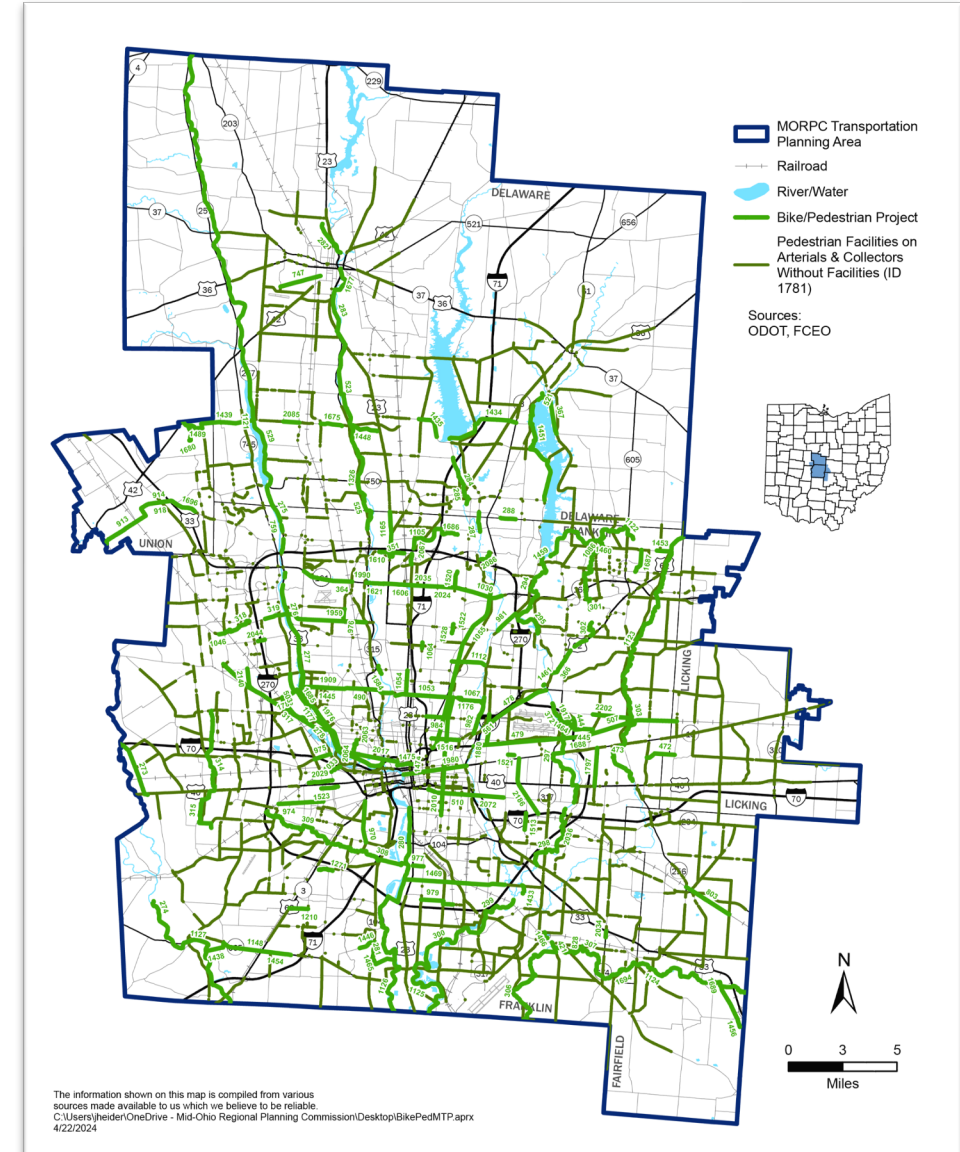
Total: \$35 billion



Webmap available at: www.morpc.org/mtp2050

BIKE & PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS

- Adds 725 miles of stand-alone bike and/or pedestrian facilities
- Assumes full implementation of COG Vision by 2050
- Adds pedestrian facilities on every arterial and collector in urban area without existing facilities



OPWC Infrastructure Funding for SFY 2026



- MORPC administers OPWC District 3 (Franklin County)
- Applications for SFY 2026 Infrastructure Funding are open now through **August 30th, 2024.**
- Eligible Project Types
 - Roads
 - Bridges
 - Water
 - Wastewater
 - Stormwater
 - **(New for this Round) Stand-alone bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects along a roadway to enhance safety**
- MORPC will be holding a virtual applicant workshop on Tuesday, May 21st at 3:30 p.m.
- Workshop login information and application materials/instructions are available on MORPC's website at the link below:

<https://www.morpc.org/tool-resource/local-infrastructure-funding-from-ohio-public-works/>
- Contact Tom Graham (tgraham@morpc.org) with any questions.

CORPO UPDATES



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Ohio Public Works Commission Program Update – Clean Ohio Conservation Program



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CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND



District 3/Franklin County Preliminary Screener Application:
Due June 3, 2024

Submit to: Edwina Teye, 614-233-4233, eteye@morpc.org

Final Application: August 30, 2024

Purpose: Acquire open space, protect and enhance riparian corridors or wetlands

Eligible Applicants: Local governments, non-profits, Soil & Water Districts, other political subdivisions (park districts, etc.)

More information: <https://publicworks.ohio.gov/districts>
for info on surrounding districts/counties



NATURAL RESOURCES ASSISTANCE COUNCIL

- Policies & selection criteria
 - Recommends projects for funding
 - 1 appointed to represent the District Integrating Committee
 - 1 appointed by the local Soil & Water Conservation District
 - 9 members selected from five groups:
 - Group 1 Local Governments
 - Group 2 Environmental Groups
 - Group 3 Park System
 - Group 4 Agriculture & Forestry
 - Group 5 Business, Realtors & Planning
 - 3-year terms
- *Vacant Seat – Group 5



CONSERVATION FUNDS AVAILABLE – DISTRICT 3

- *Annual Allocation \$3.5million

Round	Available	Applications	
		Received	Funded
14	\$3.9 million	7	7
15	\$5.4 million	9	6
16	\$3.1 million	5	4
17	\$4.2 million	3	3
18	\$3.8 million	3	3
19	\$5.8 million	--	--

CONSERVATION SCHEDULE – ROUND 19/FY 25

- Preliminary screener
 - Confirm eligibility
 - NRAC members ask questions and offer suggestions
 - Strongly encouraged but not required
- Final application
 - Scored by NRAC members

June 3	Preliminary Screenings Due
June 24	Applicant Presentations
August 30	Final Applications Due
September 12	Site Visits
October 7	Application Scoring Session
November 4	Final Action – Award Funds

EDWINA TEYE, Ph.D.

Water & Natural Resources Prog. Mgr.
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

T: 614.233.4233

eteye@morpc.org

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43215



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SAVE THE DATE RIVERFEST 2024



Join us at the Columbus Arts Festival for Riverfest! Enjoy free kayaking, paddle boarding and canoeing for the entire family on a first come, first served basis. Safety vests will be provided.

Where: Scioto Mile Downtown Riverfront

When: June 8-9, 2024. 11am – 4 p.m.



BetheChange
for clean water .org

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES



Clean Ohio Conservation Funds



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LinkUS Update



Link **US**

Moving our region. **Together.**

MEETING DATES

- January 8: 10:00 – 11:00
- March 11: 10:00 – 11:00
- May 13: 10:00 – 11:00
- July 15: 10:00 – 11:00
- September 9: 10:00 – 11:00
- November 18: 10:00 – 11:00

Blueways

To participate in the steering committee contact:

Jonathan Miller, jmiller@morpc.org



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Rapid 5 Update

Luke Messinger – new CEO





Mental Health Wellness Project and Central Ohio Greenways

Board Overview

05/15/2024



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Introduction

Katie McMahon

Intern with MORPC – Master of Public Health, Ohio University



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Purpose



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The purpose of the Mental Health Wellness Project is to explore ways in which the behaviors that contribute to poor mental health, **in particular poor social connection**, can be influenced and improved by leveraging trails and features of Central Ohio Greenways.



Source: Central Ohio Greenways

Social Connection



What is Social Connection and why does it matter?

How is Social Connection measured?

What can happen when there is a lack of Social Connection?



The Impact



Increased likelihood for poor health outcomes:

- Increased risk for premature death by up to 29%
- Increased risk of heart disease by 29%
- Increased risk of stroke by 32%
- Increased risk for anxiety, depression, and dementia

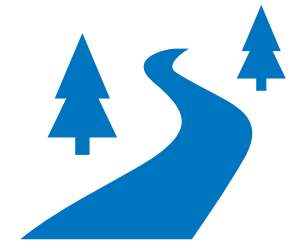
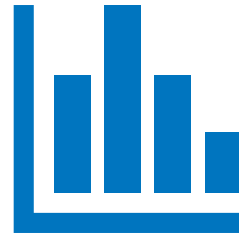
Increased economic cost and impact:

- Estimated 6.7 billion in excess Medicare spending
- Lower academic achievement and worse performance at work – estimated \$154 billion annually for absenteeism
- Poorer community well-being, resiliency, safety, prosperity, and representative government

Source: <https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/priorities/connection/index.html>

This Project Will Explore

- What are the behaviors associated with a lack of social connectiveness?
- What population(s) in Central Ohio are affected by lack of social connectiveness?
- Where is there data and information to support the impact of the health issue?
- How might access and use of trails, natural areas, parks and green space affect social connectiveness?
- Where do we have opportunity in the Central Ohio Region and with Central Ohio Greenways to make program recommendations or plans to positively impact Social Connection?
- How might we measure the impact of these changes and make a long-term difference for the region?



Project Phases and Recommended Deliverables



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Work Plan Outline



	Phase 1 Information and Data Collection	Phase 2 Systems Thinking and Logic Model	Phase 3 Health Promotion Program Recommendations	Phase 4 Informational Material Development	Phase 5 Feedback and Next Steps
Activities	List of activities	List of activities	List of activities	List of activities	List of activities
	Brainstorm session	Systems mindmapping	Program development	Material preparation	Feedback
	Data, informational research	Logic model development	Integration opportunities for COG	Material production	Production of actions or next steps
	Input and Feedback		Assessment of bias, inequities	Presentation	Assessment of Grant Opportunities
	April 29 - May 17	May 20 - June 7 (OOO May 27-31)	June 10 - June 28	July 1 - July 12	July 15 - July 26
	Phase 1 Understand the Problem	Phase 2 Identify Relationships	Phase 3 Offer a Solution	Phase 4 Create Material for Consumption	Phase 4 Evaluate and Revise
Outcomes	Identify the population	Identify inputs, outputs, outcomes	Program goals, objectives	Create presentation	Obtain feedback
	Understand the barriers to change	Create relationships and drivers - behavior, policy, environment	Evaluation process	Compile reports	Development next steps
	Identify SDOH			Flyers, Brochures	Establish grant opportunities
	Detail the health benefit				

The Ask



- Based on what I presented, do you have recommendations on helpful source data, trends, feedback forums or the like?
- Are there groups or populations that you are engaged with that could benefit or offer input to this project?
- Are there areas you would recommend I focus more on or dive more deeply into?
- What would you be interested in hearing at the next update and presentation?

THANK YOU!





COG Board Project Updates



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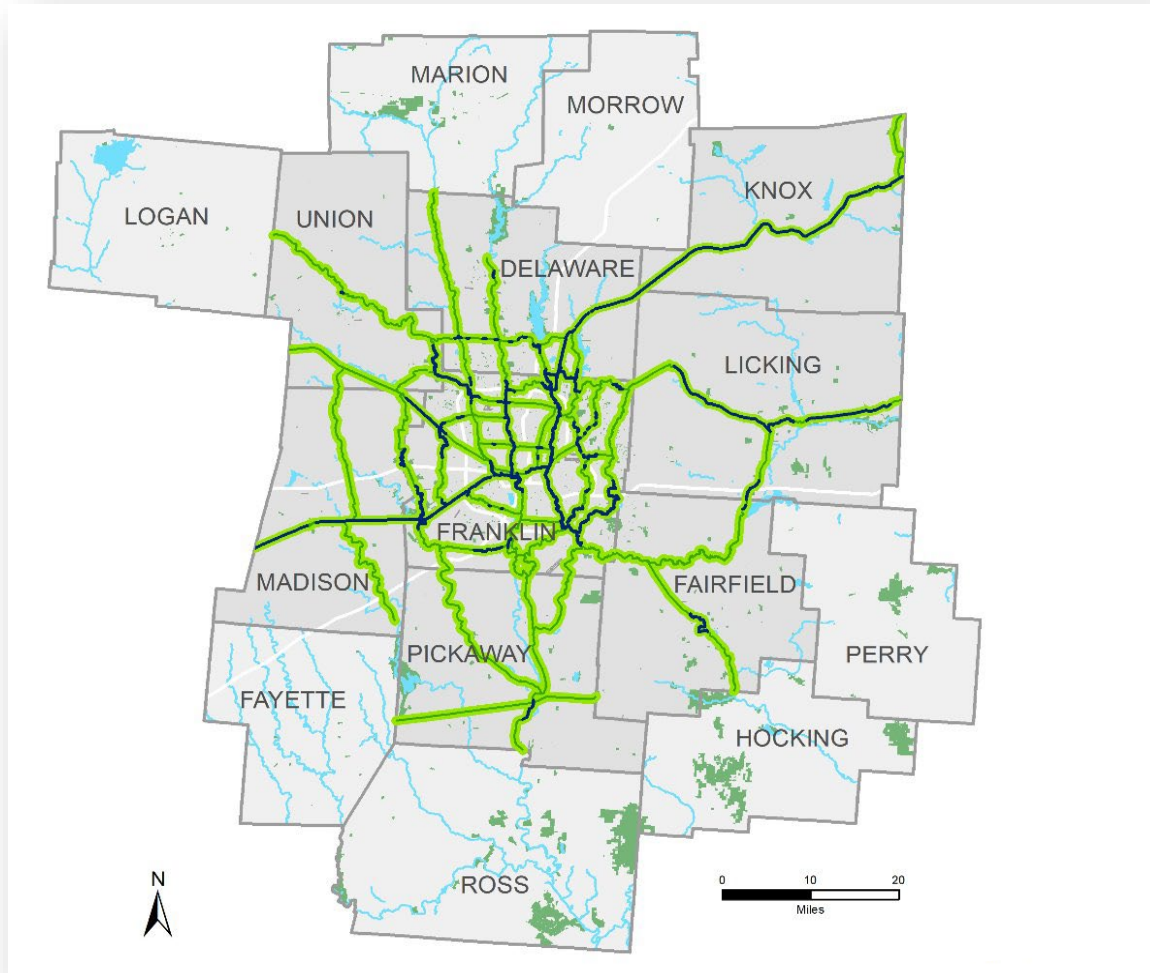
CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS COG WAYFINDING STRATEGY

APRIL 19, 2024



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CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAY— Advancing access, connectivity, health, and more



VISION

*A world-class network of trails
easily accessible to every Central Ohioan*

MISSION

*Increase Greenways trails mileage and
usage
for recreation and transportation needs*



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COG WAYFINDING STRATEGY GUIDE ELEMENTS



WAYFINDING STRATEGY GUIDE ELEMENTS

GOAL: All Central Ohio Greenways users feel **secure**, **exploratory**, and **inspired** on their journeys.

STRATEGIES	<p>1</p> <p>TRAILHEADS</p> <p>will orient trail users to both the trail and the places it runs through, and welcome them with vital amenities.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>MAPS & SIGNS</p> <p>will keep trail users moving effortlessly to, from, and along a trail by providing the information they need, at precisely the point at which they need it.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>TECHNOLOGY</p> <p>will enable trail users to access current information on routes, amenities, and destinations.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>CREATIVE ELEMENTS</p> <p>will help trail users create mental maps that enable them to better navigate the trail over time.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>TRAIL AMBASSADORS</p> <p>will be the social support for trail users within trail-adjacent communities that help them find their way.</p>
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FILTERED THROUGH

WAYFINDING PRINCIPLES	<p>DON'T MAKE ME THINK!</p> <p>Wayfinding elements will be predictable, consistent, and simple to understand.</p>	<p>KEEP ME MOVING!</p> <p>Wayfinding elements will be at the proper scale for cyclists, walkers, and those using mobility devices. There will be clarity at all decision points. Trail users will not need to stop for any reason unless desired.</p>	<p>MEET ME WHERE I AM!</p> <p>Wayfinding elements will feature inclusive design and universal icons that are accessible to all users. They will prioritize the needs of new trail users, and the needs of trail users over providers.</p>	<p>ANTICIPATE MY NEEDS!</p> <p>Wayfinding elements will provide users with the right information, at the right time, in the right format. Trail users will have the assets they need, when they need them.</p>	<p>MAKE IT MEMORABLE!</p> <p>Wayfinding elements will include many types of environmental cues, including public art. Memorable places will support the creation of robust mental maps.</p>	<p>HELP ME CONNECT!</p> <p>Wayfinding elements will allow trail users the opportunity to connect with each other and with communities' people, places, and cultures.</p>
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RESULTING IN

TACTICS	<p>TRAILHEADS</p> <p>Chapter 4</p>	<p>MAPS & SIGNS</p> <p>Chapter 5</p>	<p>TECHNOLOGY</p> <p>Chapter 6</p>	<p>CREATIVE ELEMENTS</p> <p>Chapter 7</p>	<p>TRAIL AMBASSADORS</p> <p>Chapter 8</p>
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COG WAYFINDING STRATEGY GUIDE ELEMENTS



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COG WAYFINDING STRATEGY GUIDE ELEMENTS



WAYFINDING PRINCIPLES

With wayfinding defined, it is necessary to identify the principles that will guide the application of this wayfinding strategy. A quick online search for "wayfinding principles" yields many different examples, with some common themes. The utility of each has been evaluated and synthesized into the following original format. Notably — each principle is expressed as if spoken by a trail user, again centering what they need to have an exceptional trail experience.

DON'T MAKE ME THINK!
Wayfinding elements will be predictable, consistent, and simple to understand.

KEEP ME MOVING!
Wayfinding elements will be at the proper scale for cyclists, walkers, and those using mobility devices.
There will be clarity at all decision points.
Trail users will not need to stop for any reason unless desired.

MAKE IT MEMORABLE!
Memorable places will support the creation of robust mental maps.
"Wayfinding elements" will include many types of environmental cues, including public art.

HELP ME CONNECT!
Wayfinding elements will allow trail users the opportunity to connect with each other and with communities' people, places, and cultures.

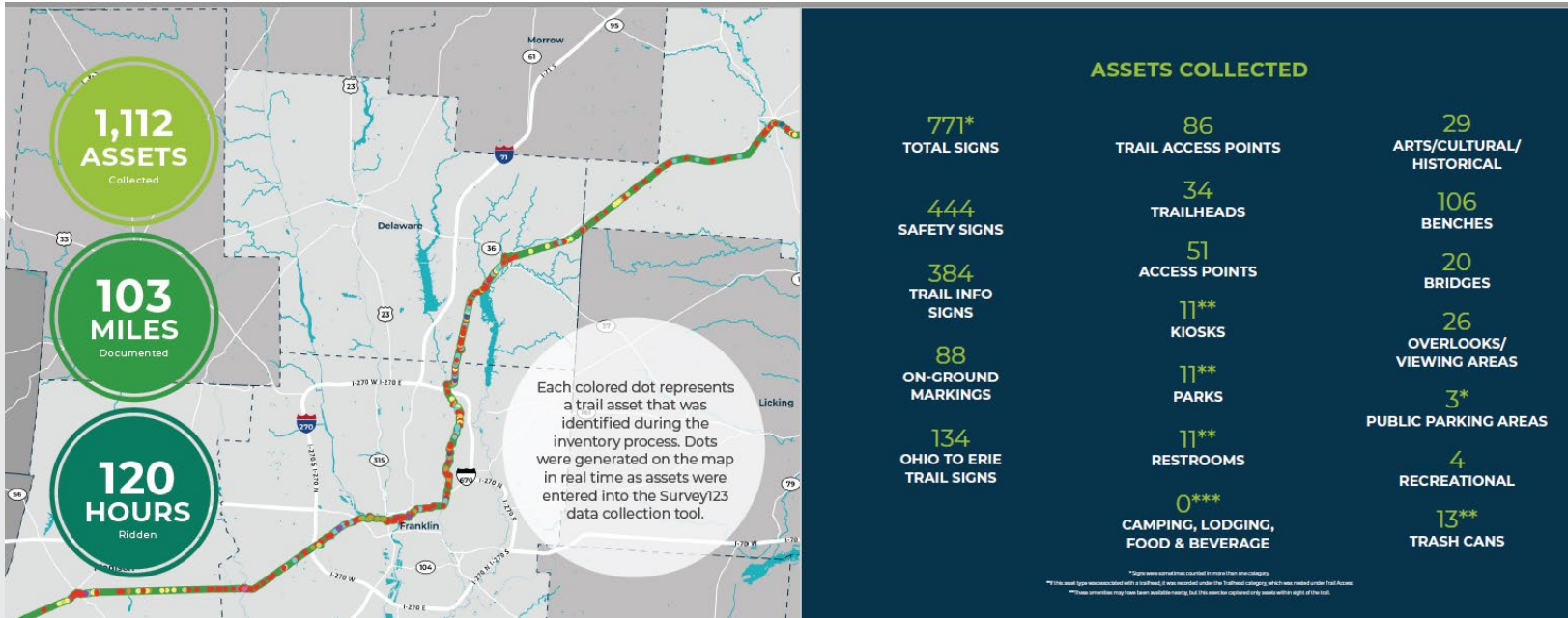
MEET ME WHERE I AM!
Wayfinding elements will feature inclusive design and universal icons that are accessible to all users.
Wayfinding elements will prioritize the needs of new trail users, and the needs of trail users over providers.

ANTICIPATE MY NEEDS!
Wayfinding elements will provide users with the right information, at the right time, in the right format.
Trail users will have the assets they need, when they need them.



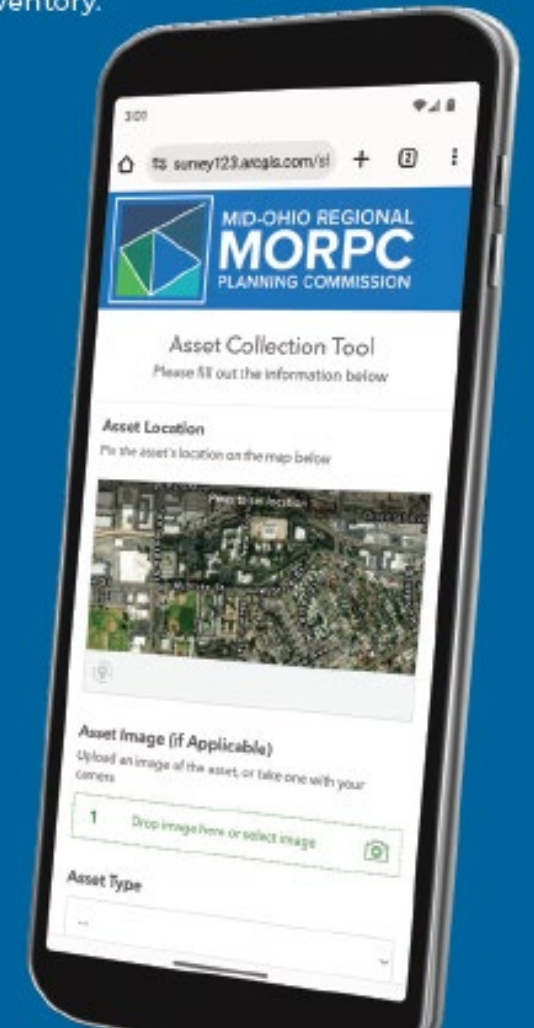
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DATA COLLECTION



An Easy-to-use Asset Collection Tool

Contact MORPC for access to the online form developed to facilitate the Ohio to Erie Trail asset inventory.





TRAILHEAD TYPOLOGIES

FEATURE REQUIREMENTS	ACCESS POINTS	TRAILHEAD LEVELS		
		BASIC	ENHANCED	PREMIER
Access to Streets & Roadways	✓	✓	✓	✓
Information Kiosk/Map		✓	✓	✓
Bike Parking		✓	✓	✓
Seating		✓	✓	✓
Transit Access*			✓	✓
Sidewalk Access			✓	✓
Restrooms			✓	✓
Water Access			✓	✓
Placemaking Elements				✓
Shelter(s)				✓
Facilities Staff				✓
Unique Design				✓



EXISTING TRAILHEAD FEATURES

- Information Kiosk/Map
- Bike Parking
- Seating
- Transit Access < 1m
- Sidewalk Access
- Restrooms
- Water Access
- Transit Access < .25m
- Placemaking Element(s)
- Shelter(s)
- Facilities Staff
- Unique Design

	ROTARY PARK	HANBY PARK	WILSON PARK	PRAIRIE TRAILHEAD	MCNAMARA PARK	KNOX CO VISITORS CENTER	BRIDGE OF DREAMS	KOKOSING GAP	BATTELLE DARBY PARK	COOPER PARK	JAMES O. CASTO PARK	DANVILLE (KOKOSING)	MEMORIAL PARK (MT VERNON)	CENTERBURG (HOOT)	LAYMON RD (KOKOSING)	HAYDEN PARK	ALUM CREEK
Information Kiosk/Map	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Bike Parking	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Seating	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Transit Access < 1m	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Sidewalk Access	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Restrooms	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Water Access	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Transit Access < .25m	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Placemaking Element(s)	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Shelter(s)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Facilities Staff	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Unique Design	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓

	MILLER PARK	MEMORIAL PARK	ROBERTS PASS	BROWN FAMILY CENTER	CASTO PARK SOUTH	PATTON RD (OTET)	HENRY RD (HOOT)	PATHWAYS PARK	GALENA TRAIL LOT	DANVILLE (MOHICAN VALLEY)	SANDEL LEGACY	HUFFMAN RD (HOOT)	E. CENTER ST, LONDON	HOOVER SCENIC TRAIL LOT	KILDUFF RD (KOKOSING)	STULL RD (KOKOSING)	SUNBURY NORTH (HOOT)
Information Kiosk/Map	✓						✓										
Bike Parking	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓										
Seating	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓					
Transit Access < 1m	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
Sidewalk Access	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
Restrooms	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Water Access	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Transit Access < .25m	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
Placemaking Element(s)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Shelter(s)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Facilities Staff	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Unique Design	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							

86 ACCESS POINTS

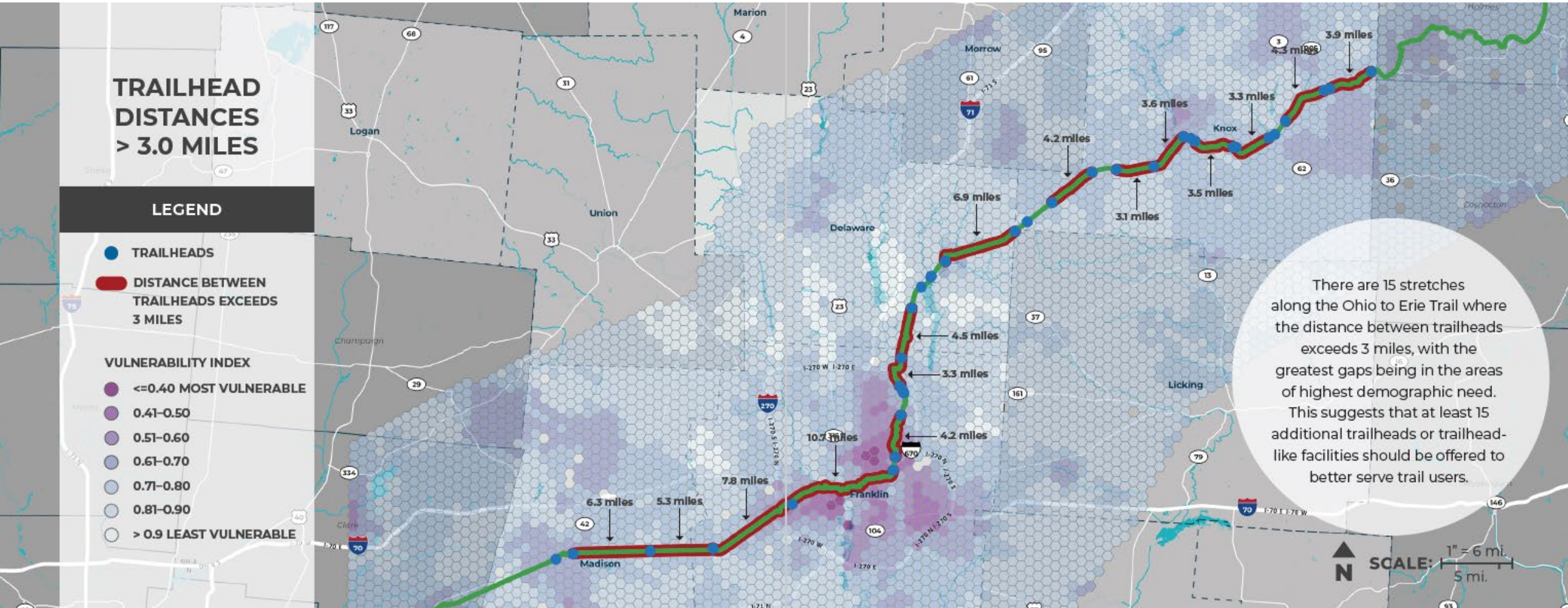
34 TRAILHEADS

7 BASIC

2 ENHANCED

0 PREMIER

TRAILHEADS



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TRAILHEADS

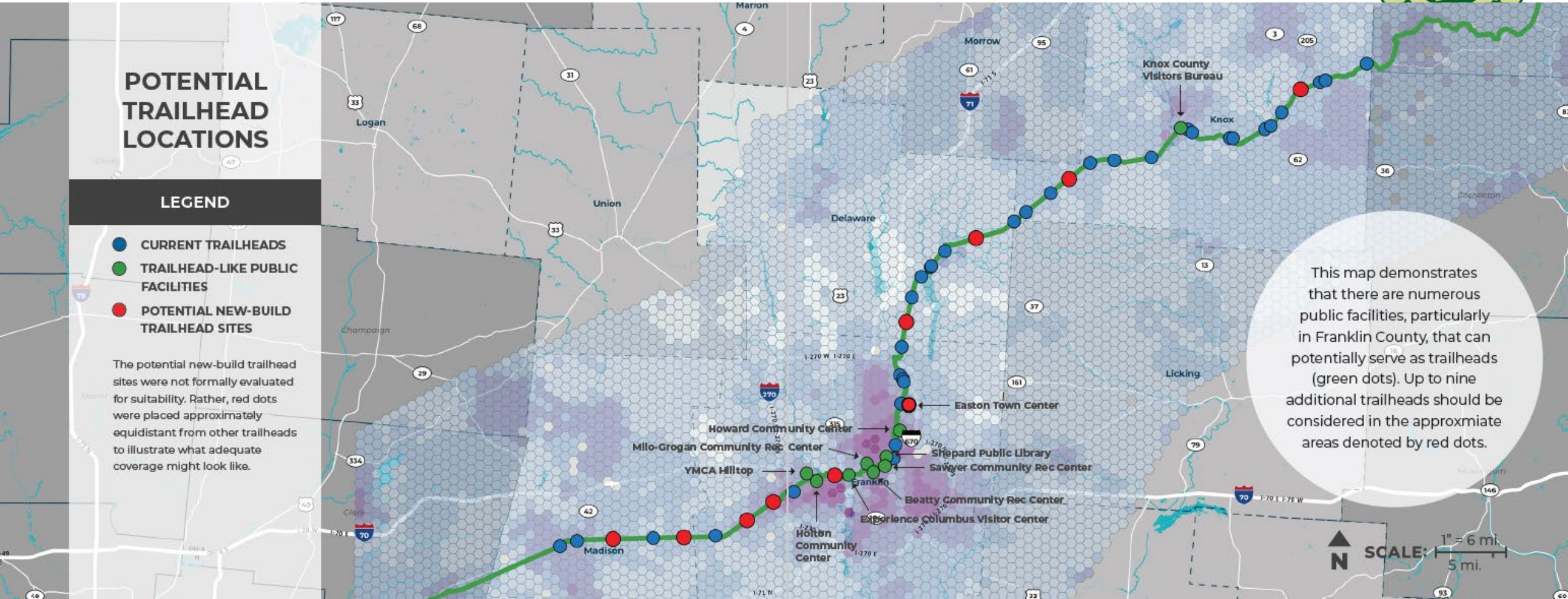


POTENTIAL TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS

LEGEND

- CURRENT TRAILHEADS
- TRAILHEAD-LIKE PUBLIC FACILITIES
- POTENTIAL NEW-BUILD TRAILHEAD SITES

The potential new-build trailhead sites were not formally evaluated for suitability. Rather, red dots were placed approximately equidistant from other trailheads to illustrate what adequate coverage might look like.

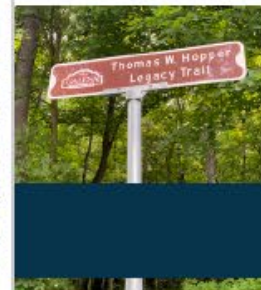
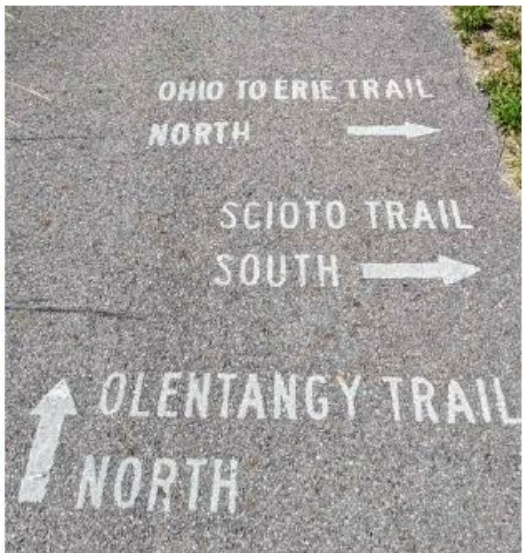


This map demonstrates that there are numerous public facilities, particularly in Franklin County, that can potentially serve as trailheads (green dots). Up to nine additional trailheads should be considered in the approximate areas denoted by red dots.



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COG SIGNAGE



SIGN SYSTEMS ENCOUNTERED



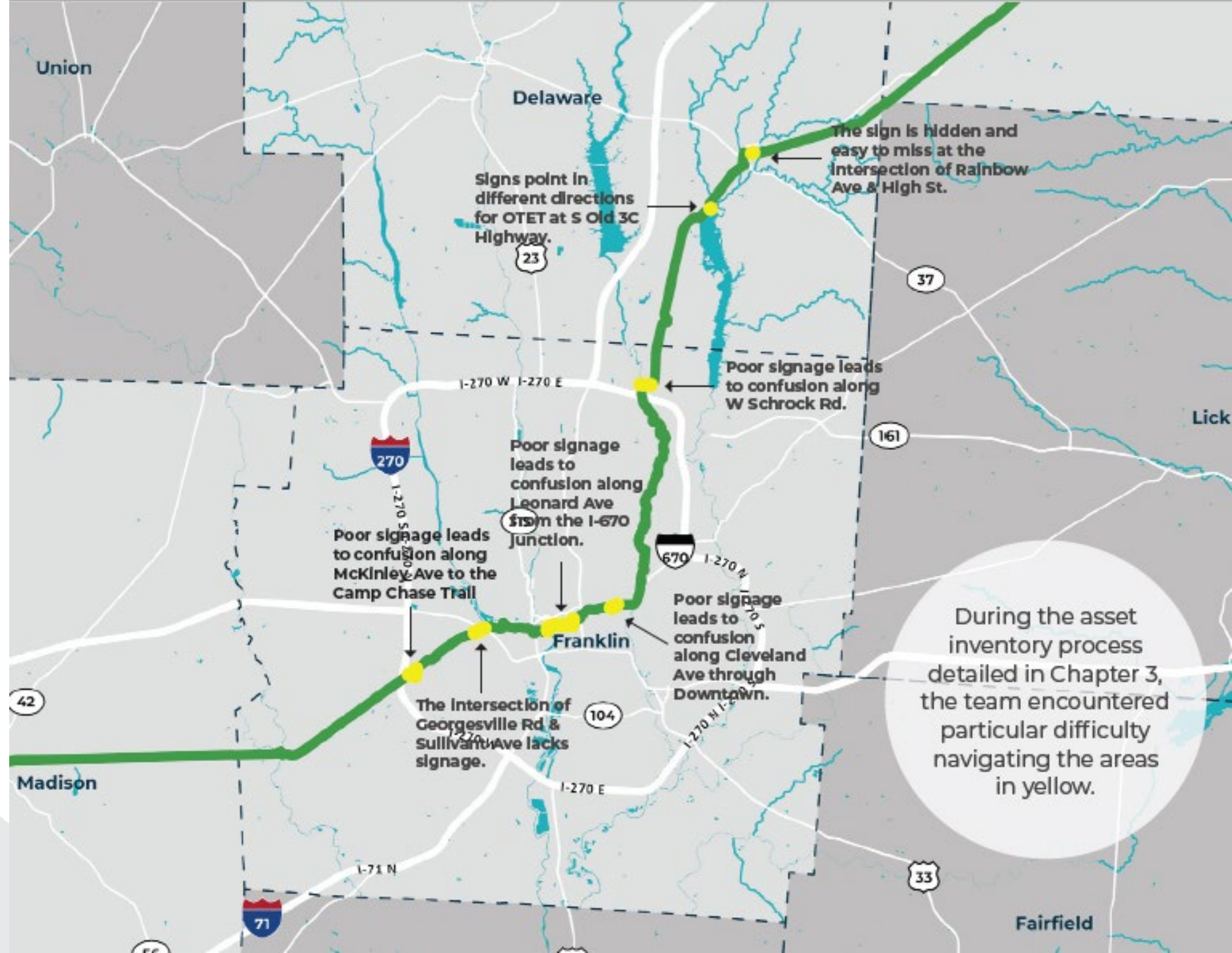
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SIGNAGE



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WAYFINDING CHALLENGES



During the asset inventory process detailed in Chapter 3, the team encountered particular difficulty navigating the areas in yellow.

BRANDING



Color System Updates

The COG brand guidelines assign a color to each trail. With the planned expansion of the COG Regional Trail network, the COG color palette must be expanded. This guide identifies four additional colors for new trails. The primary COG green is intended for all minor trails and connecting trails.

TRAIL SYSTEM BASE COLORS

COG GREEN CMYK 53.33,100.12 HEX 7C8536	
CMYK 70.67,65.74 HEX 221F1F	CMYK 0.0,0.0 HEX FFFFFF

FONTS

Destination

Frutiger Condensed Bold
+50 LETTER SPACING

DISTANCE 0.5 mi

Frutiger Condensed
+50 LETTER SPACING

ORIGINAL COLORS

CMYK 25.50,100.7 HEX B8802B	CMYK 67.95,27.13 HEX 692E6B
CMYK 19.69,100.6 HEX C26629	CMYK 100.77,22.6 HEX 0A4D85
CMYK 26.100,64.17 HEX A11C42	CMYK 88.39,38.7 HEX 00788A
CMYK 39.58,79.25 HEX 855E3D	CMYK 42.46,48.7 HEX 948078

ADDITIONAL COLORS

CMYK 87.37,96.33 HEX 1A5E33	CMYK 84.23,64.5 HEX 038C75	CMYK 36.29,29.0 HEX: ABA8A8
CMYK 70.11,90.0 HEX 57A854	CMYK 36.100,20.2 HEX: A80575	CMYK 22.17,18.0 HEX C7C7C7
MUTCD + OTET	NEW ACCENTS	CMYK 10,7,7,0 HEX E3E3E3
GREY (MAP TINTS)		

TRAIL COLOR ASSIGNMENTS

Other Trails
NEW Major Trail
NEW Major Trail
Rocky Fork Trail
Blacklick Creek Trail
Darby Creek Trail
Olentangy River Trail
NEW Major Trail
Alum Creek Trail
Scioto River Trail
Big Walnut Creek Trail
NEW Major Trail
Emerald Trail
Camp Chase Trail



MORPC

COG TRAIL TERMS

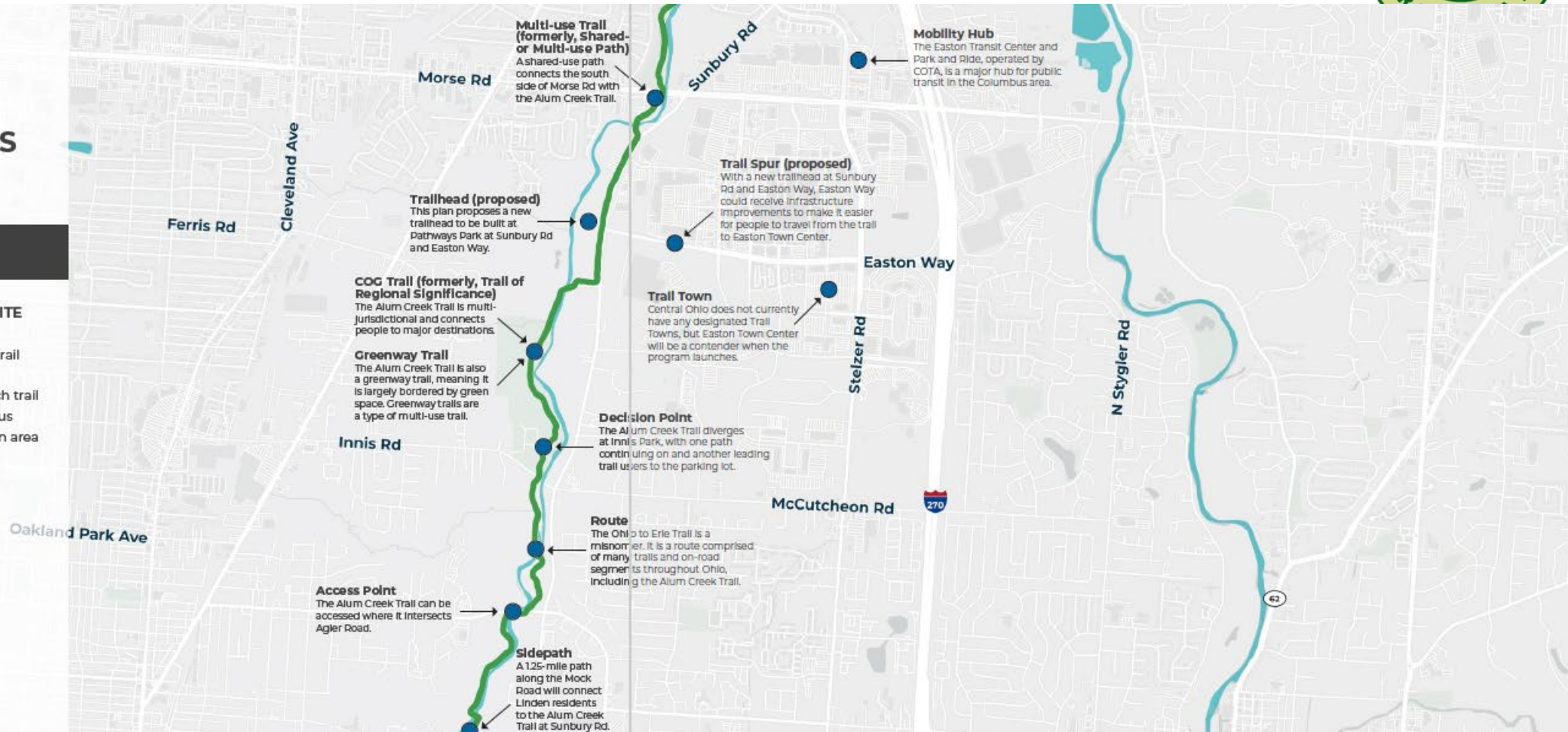


COG TRAIL TERMS

LEGEND

 REPRESENTATIVE SITE

This map shows how COG trail terms should be applied. It highlights exemplars of each trail term defined on the previous page, as found in the Easton area near the Alum Creek Trail.



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SIGNAGE UPDATES



At-Trail Signs & Maps (Continued)

ACCESS POINT IDENTIFIERS

Access Point Identifiers assign a unique identifier to each trail access point so that trail users in need can more accurately report their location to emergency personnel. **Access Point Identifiers, whether stickers or metal signs, should be posted on Wayfinding Signs at all trail access points.**

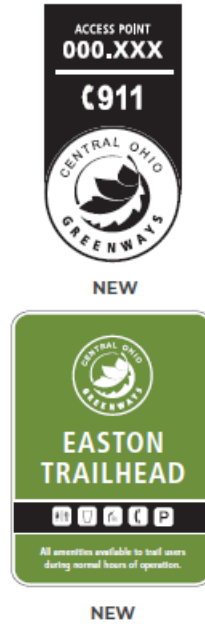
TRAILHEAD FACILITY SIGNS

Trailhead Facility Signs identify an official trailhead and quickly inform people of its amenities, hours of operation, and management. **Trailhead Facility Signs should be posted on all structures serving as trailheads.**

COG WAYFINDING SIGN

COG Wayfinding Signs alert trail users to the trail and routes they are traveling; list up to three off-trail destinations, plus the distances to and amenities available at them; and provide trail sponsor and emergency contact information. **COG Wayfinding Signs should be posted in both directions at all trail access points.**

FINAL | MARCH 2024



NEW

NEW

COG WAYFINDING SIGN



CURRENT

REVISED

REVISIONS

REDUCE CONFUSION

Use the logo hat (instead of the route number) for all signs along the Ohio to Erie Trail.

SIMPLIFY & AMPLIFY

Use fewer colors and bigger fonts to reduce visual clutter and allow for easier comprehension.

STREAMLINE

Identify routes the trail is part of with one-color logos.

ALTERNATE

Put recognition logos on one side of the sign and a map link or emergency contact information on the other.

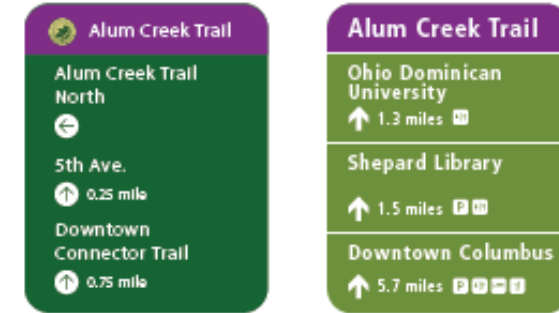


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SIGNAGE RECOMMENATIONS



COG DIRECTIONAL SIGN



CURRENT

REVISED

ROUTE CONTINUATION SIGNS



CURRENT MUTCD

REVISED



NON-MUTCD

COG TRAIL ID SIGN



CURRENT

REVISED

COG ROAD SIGN



NEW



CURRENT

REVISED



CURRENT

REVISED



CURRENT

REVISED

TO-TRAIL SIGNS



MUTCD



COG/OTE BRAND

COG BRAND

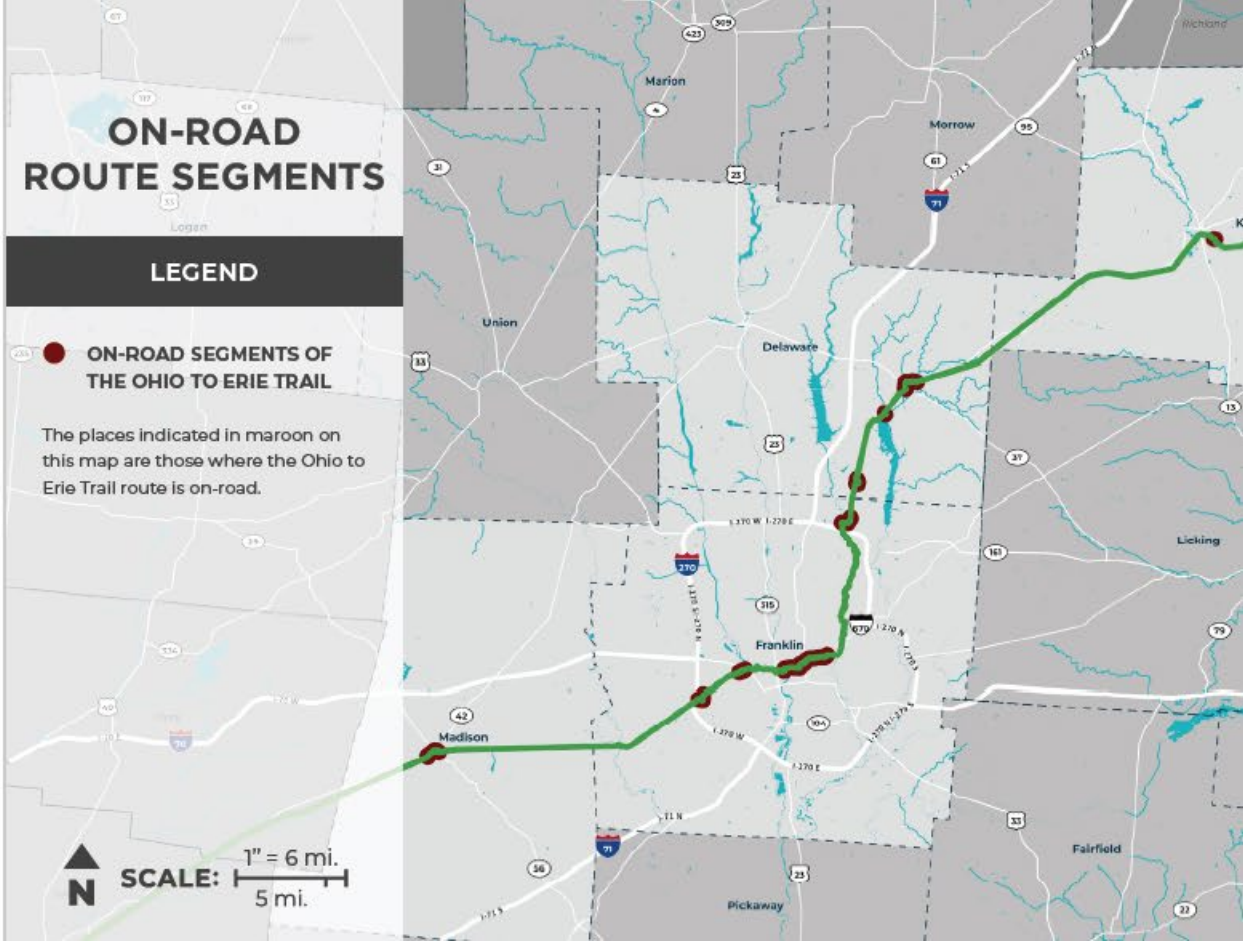
BRANDED DESTINATION SIGNS



CROSSINGS AND ON ROAD SEGMENTS



COG-branded crosswalks such as these could enhance crosswalk safety and keep people on a route that has diverged from a trail. Though creative crosswalks are still being studied in the U.S. and are not widely approved for major roadways, the treatment should be applied when possible (for example, when a trail crosses a private parking lot driveway).



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DETOURS



On-Trail Signs & Markings (Continued)

PAVEMENT MARKINGS

Pavement markings can be used to augment the sign system and reinforce critical trail information, such as cautions, detours, rules, abrupt stops, or tricky turns. **Pavement Markings should be used at the discretion of trail managers at sites where additional information would benefit trail users.**



A long-term trail detour during construction at The Ohio State University was communicated with trail stickers and a green dashed line that made following the route a seamless experience.



TECHNOLOGY UPDATES



6.0 STRATEGY 3: TECHNOLOGY

Testing a Routing Hypothesis



When trail data — in particular, trail access point data — is missing from the most popular mapping platforms, the bike routes they recommend send people far out of their way. Hoping to remedy this wayfinding challenge along the Ohio to Erie Trail, the team tested the hypothesis that both Google Maps and OSM would provide more direct, trail-based routes if provided current trail access point data.

Trip origin and destination points near trails in the Hilltop neighborhood of Columbus and the rural village of Howard, Ohio were selected, and a simple routing query was submitted in OSM (Hilltop) and Google Maps (Howard) to see what happened. In both cases, the team found that trail access points were missing, causing bike routes between two points near the trail to be unnecessarily long and indirect.

The team provided trail access points to both mapping platforms and waited until they were accepted. Afterwards, they resubmitted their routing query and discovered that in both contexts, and with both mapping platforms, routes employed the new trail access points and were much more direct as a result (the maps at right show what this process looked like in Google Maps and OSM). The team then updated OSM and Google Maps with all 18 missing trail access points along the Ohio to Erie Trail, as shown on the next page.



A missing trail access point in Howard, Ohio caused Google Maps to route people far out of their way on a trip from East Knox Elementary to the Heilbender Preserve.



The team alerted Google Maps to the missing trail access point at Rotary Park.



Google made the change and thereafter routed people more efficiently using the trail.



OSM failed to use the Camp Chase Trail for routing due to a missing trail access point.



OSM allowed the team to directly add the trail access point.



OSM began factoring the trail into its route almost immediately.

Mapping Trail Amenities

Having experienced success at improving bike routes with trail access points, the team reached out to Google with additional trail data to see if they would use it as well. This included all trailheads, their location (latitude and longitude) and amenities, and a link to COG's website. This was submitted as a Points of Interest .csv file, as per Google's requirements for data sharing.

Though Google rejected the amenities data, they accepted the remainder of what was submitted. This means that all 34 Ohio to Erie Trail trailheads within the project scope now appear on Google Maps with their name and precise location, a photo, and a link to centralohiogreenways.com.



CREATIVE ELEMENTS



WAYFINDING STRATEGY GUIDE FOR THE CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS

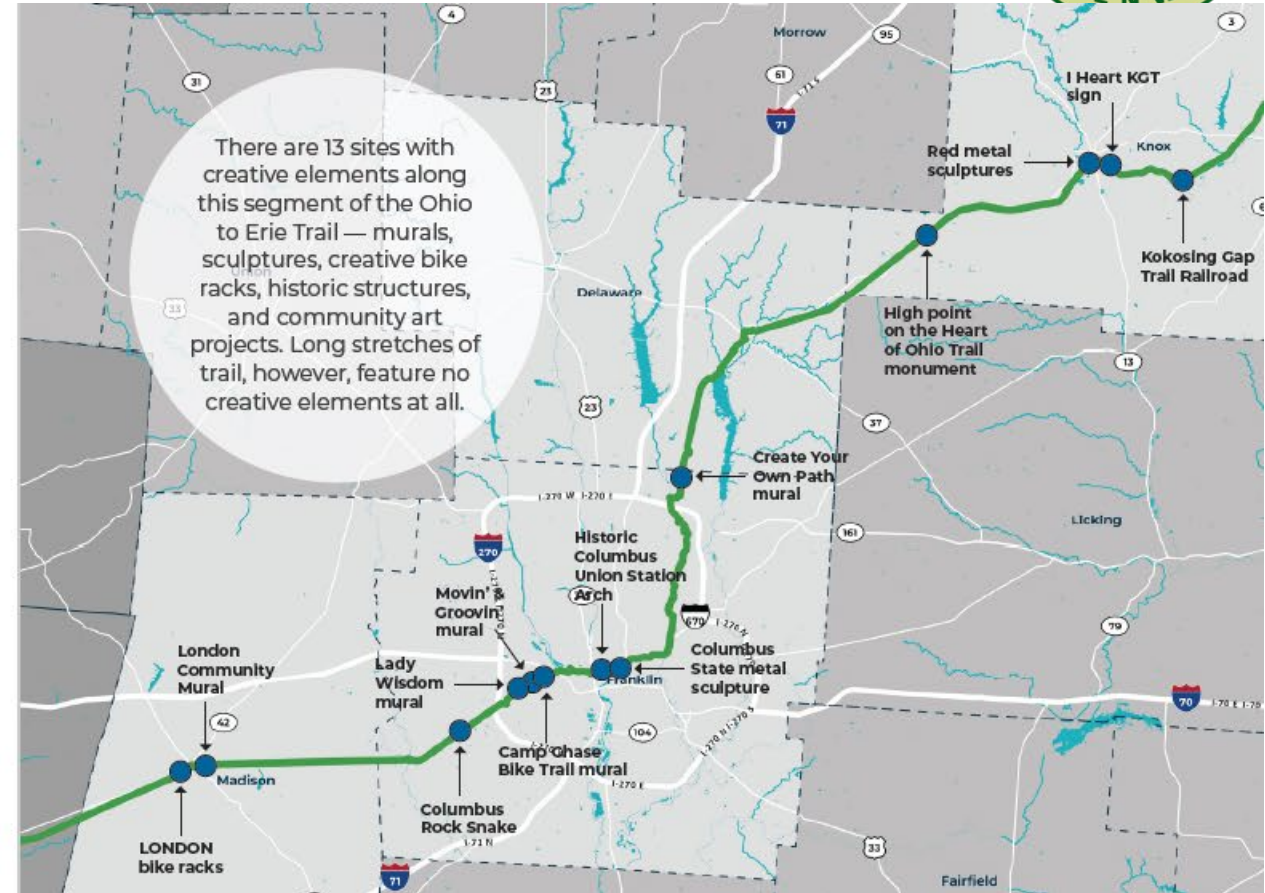
Using Creative Elements as Wayfinding

CURRENT CONDITIONS

There are 13 creative elements visible from this 120-mile trail segment. They are all outstanding, and form the backdrop to many Ohio to Erie Trail selfies, but long stretches of the trail have no artistic elements at all. Some stakeholders have even called the trail "boring." There is a strong demand for more creative elements along the Ohio to Erie Trail through Central Ohio.

“How do we market how great Knox County is? How do we elevate current spaces to make them must-stop destinations?”

JEFF GOTTKE
President
Knox County Area Development Foundation



MORPC

CREATIVE ELEMENTS



Chapter 8 Takeaways

1

IDENTIFY OUTREACH PARTNERS.

Determine who is already doing the work of outreach to Trail Ambassadors, or who is best positioned to take it on, and invite them to participate in a broader, more coordinated effort.

2

CREATE A TRAIL AMBASSADORS NETWORK.

Invest in strategies that develop Trail Ambassadors' capacity to engage trail users, in particular shared opportunities for education, networking, and resource development.

3

HELP ESTABLISH THE CENTRAL OHIO TRAIL TOWNS PROGRAM.

Support MORPC's efforts to develop a Trail Town program and help spread the word about it.



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TRAIL COUNTER PLACEMENTS



WAYFINDING STRATEGY GUIDE FOR THE CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS

Trail Counter Placement Guidelines

Collecting trail count data to evaluate wayfinding interventions is foremost a matter of selecting appropriate locations at which to install the counters. MORPC has funding to install nearly 27 new permanent trail counters throughout the region. These may replace or supplement outdated count technology now deployed in 24 locations throughout the network.

MITIGATING INTERFERENCE

Proper trail counter siting entails, first, ensuring sensors are not subject to interference by flooding or snowfall, power lines, non-trail traffic, congregating trail users, geographic features, or other disruptive/obstructive elements. Trail count data should be monitored to identify sites registering abnormally low or high trail use, so counter issues can be quickly resolved.

ASSESSING WAYFINDING

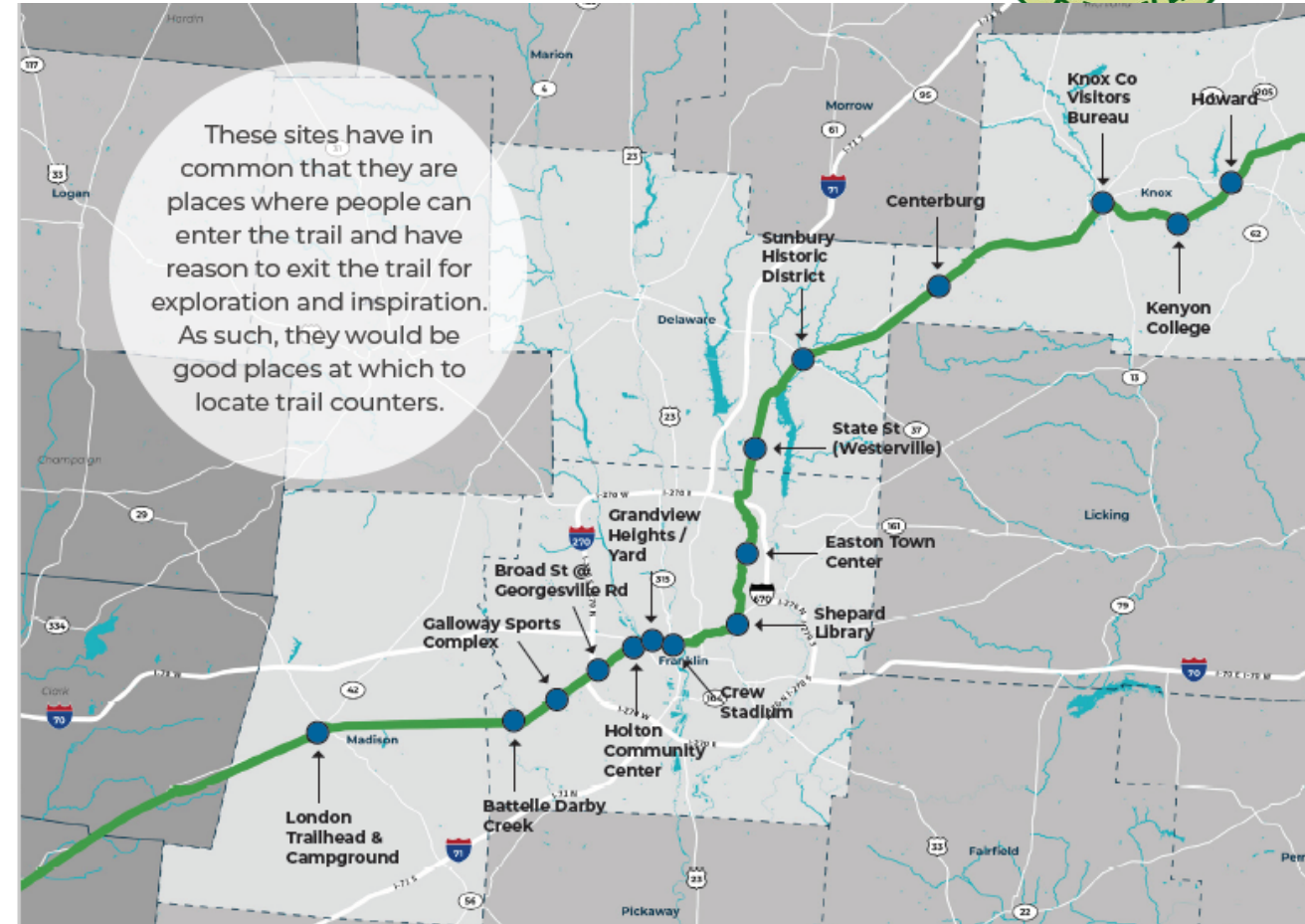
To evaluate wayfinding-related impacts on trail use, trail counters should be placed at trail access points, preferably those with major residential developments and/or activity centers nearby — i.e., places with people who can come and go, and reasons for them

to do so. Siting them at these locations can facilitate assumptions about the success of directional interventions in helping people locate, exit, and/or successfully make their way back to a trail.

AVOIDING DOUBLE-AND NO-COUNTS

There are generally two styles of trail access points. Some trail access points are T-shaped, with a single entry point perpendicular to the trail. These can, in theory, have one counter that tracks people entering and exiting the trail, if it can be placed far enough from the corners to avoid counting them both as they approach and after they turn, and far enough from any crowds that may congregate. If this is not possible, counters will need to be placed on either side of the entry runway to capture people going in either direction. Other trail access points are long stretches that run parallel to a trail (for example, those alongside a parking lot or event plaza). These will always require two counters placed at the far edges of where people can enter the trail, to register people headed in either direction but not random, non-trail activity.

These sites have in common that they are places where people can enter the trail and have reason to exit the trail for exploration and inspiration. As such, they would be good places at which to locate trail counters.



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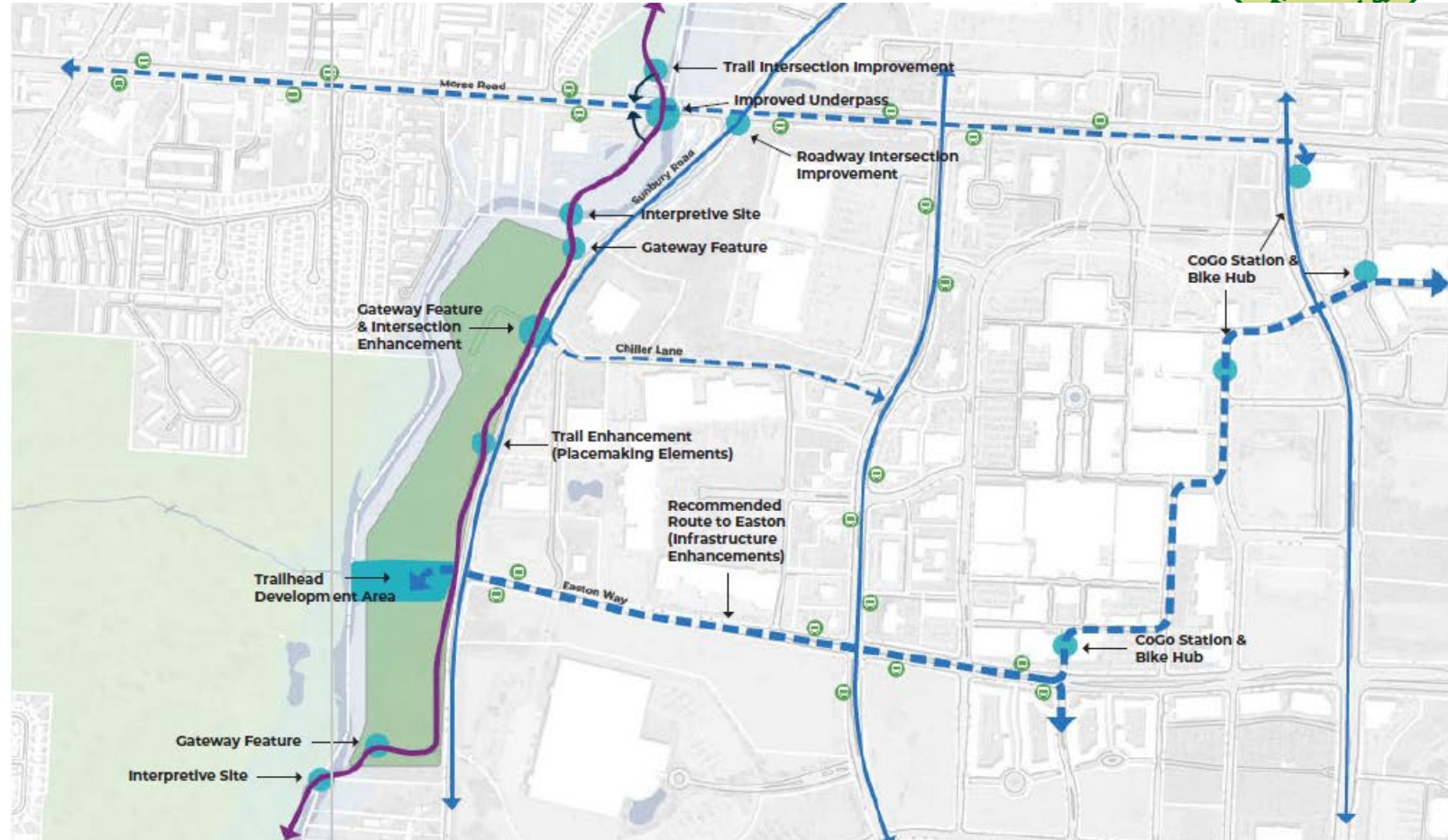
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY – EASTON TOWN CENTER



A WAYFINDING STRATEGY GUIDE FOR THE CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS

The Easton Trailhead Master Plan

Many sites along the Alum Creek Trail and within the Easton Town Center shopping area, as well as a major route between the two, were selected for wayfinding interventions in this plan. The blue dots on this map highlight where these improvements are recommended. The following pages show renderings of what each site could look like, and what the experience of encountering them might be, as a trail user travels from south to north, taking an excursion to Easton along the way.



Case Study Area Signage Recommendations

Most of the sign typologies delineated in Chapter 5 would be used to adequately sign the Alum Creek Trail and Easton Town Center.

TRAIL ID SIGNS

Two Trail ID signs placed just after Morse Rd and Innis Rd would note the distance to Easton Trailhead.

ROAD SIGNS

The Morse Rd and Innis Rd underpasses would have road signs posted on both sides of the bridges.

TRAILHEAD FACILITY SIGNS

The Easton Trailhead's main structure would post the trailhead facility sign on both sides, to be visible from the rear parking lot and from Sunbury Rd.

WAYFINDING SIGNS

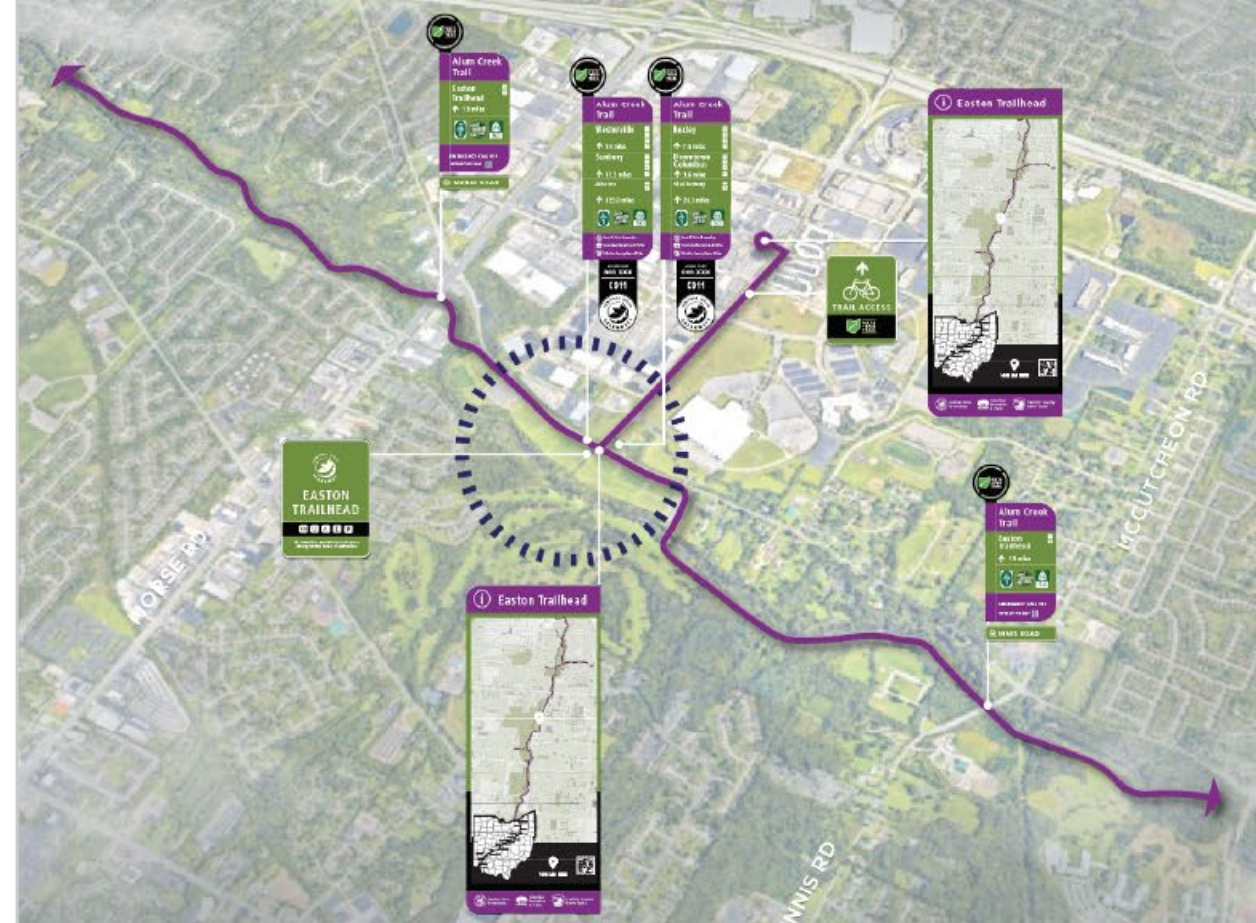
Two Wayfinding signs, one facing north and the other facing south as trail users leave Easton Trailhead, would provide the distance to several destinations each.

MAP & INFORMATION KIOSKS

Map kiosks would be positioned at the trailhead and also at each Bike Hub location throughout Easton. A digital information kiosk identical to those featured throughout Easton Town Center could be placed at the trailhead to provide information on routes to and from the shopping center, where to park bikes during an excursion there, what amenities are available, safety tips, programming alerts, the COG network more broadly, transit stops and schedules, and more.

TRAIL ACCESS SIGNS

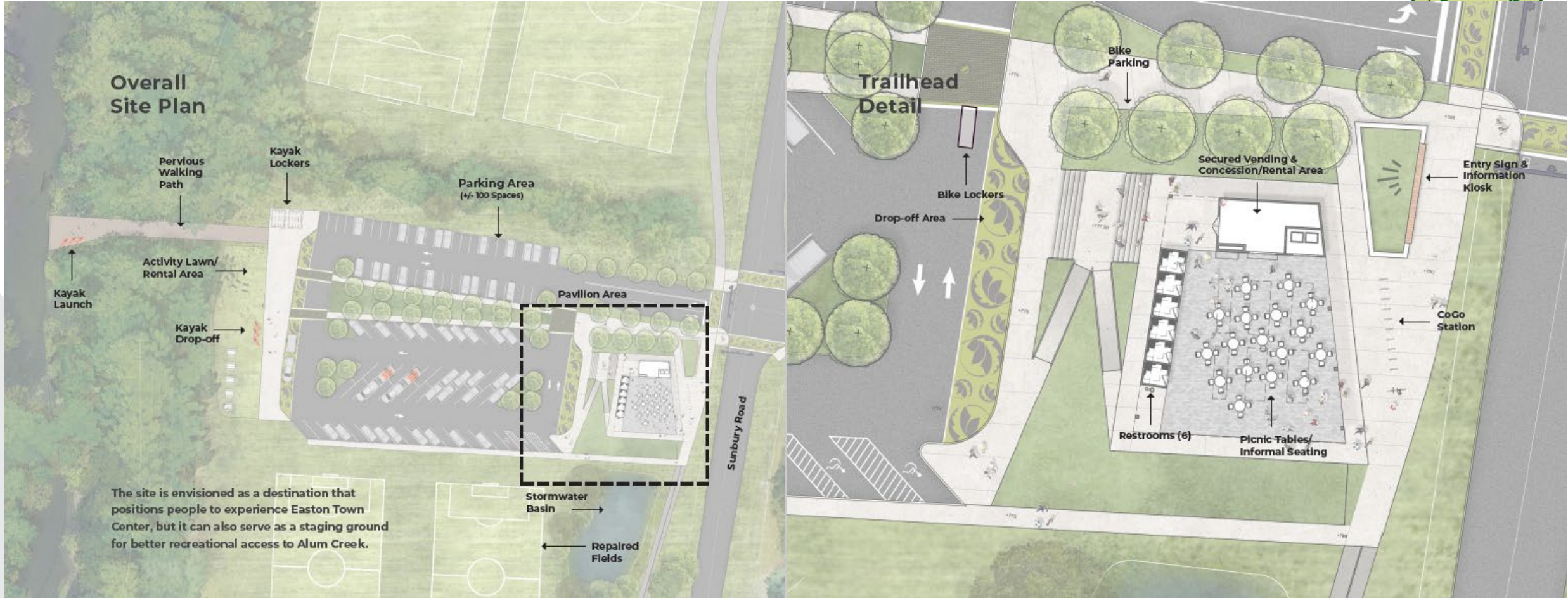
Signs along Easton Way, particularly at the intersections of Morse Crossing, Easton Loop W, Easton Square Pl, Chagrin Dr, and Brighton Rose Way, would alert Easton guests of the nearby Alum Creek Trail access.



Easton Town Center: A Premier Trailhead Experience

The Easton Trailhead would be unlike anything Central Ohio has ever seen — the first trailhead to bring outdoor recreation, retail, entertainment, public art, mobility options, community programming, and social interaction together in one destination, on a truly grand scale.





Trailhead Placemaking Recommendations

Placemaking is the task of making a place where people want to be. It is designing a space in which people have things to do, meaningful experiences, and opportunities to see and be seen. Easton Town Center has a reputation for excellence in placemaking, which would no doubt extend to a new trailhead and its grounds. Key placemaking elements in this plan include the artfully designed, multi-functional trailhead shelter; the public art and other creative amenities; the various seating options; the mix of activities to enjoy nearby (soccer, bicycling, roller blading, walking, and kayaking); the creative pavement markings and unique finishings; and the interpretive elements to augment trail users' experience of nature as they cross both gateway bridges. People linger in places like this. They find excuses to visit places like this. They remember places like this — so they can find their way back more readily next time. The Easton Trailhead, as depicted here, is precisely the type of memorable place a premier trailhead is intended to be.



Easton Trailhead Southern Approach

The bridge offers a peaceful transition between the trail and the trailhead. Subtle interpretive signage informs trail users about the natural landscape. A new kayak launch nearby provides another recreational option to draw people to the area.







Placemaking Along the Trail at Sunbury Road



People driving by on Sunbury Road note the transformed space and are curious to learn more.



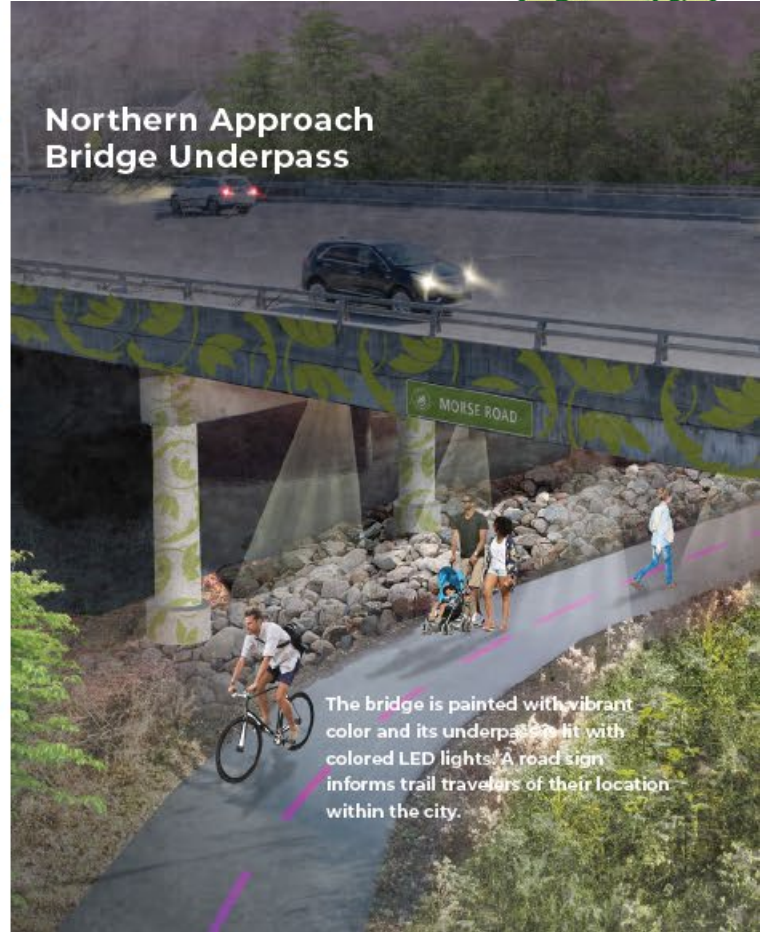
Safer Intersections

Creative crosswalks add visual interest, slow traffic, and prioritize pedestrians.



Easton Trailhead Northern Approach

Approaching the Easton area from the north is less confusing with trail signage and pavement markings to keep trail users on the Alum Creek Trail.



Northern Approach Bridge Underpass

The bridge is painted with vibrant color and its underpass is lit with colored LED lights. A road sign informs trail travelers of their location within the city.



An Excursion to Easton Town Center

The site has been transformed into a destination in its own right, but more fun is to be found just a short distance away, at Easton Town Center.



High-Comfort Route Along Easton Way (Condition 1)

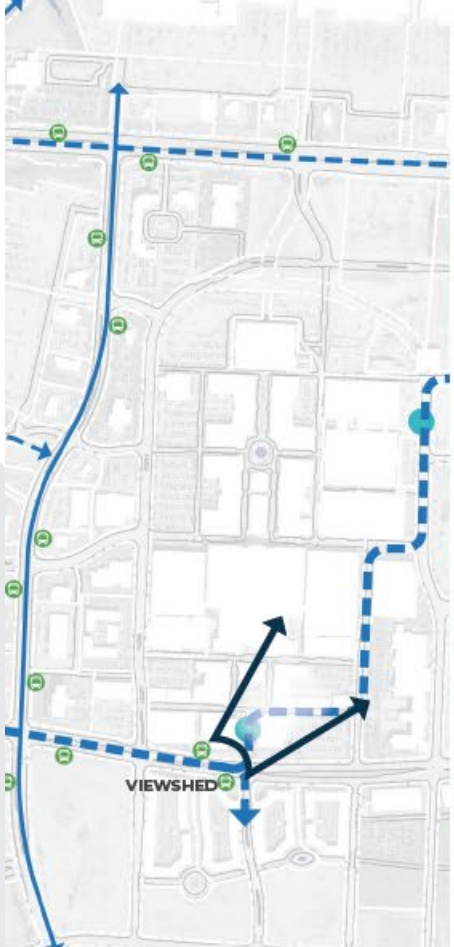
Trail users bypass the narrow, high-traffic segment of Easton Way at Sunbury Road with a sidepath that takes them past the new policing station, on land owned by the City of Columbus. A separated path makes the ascent into Easton Town Center far less stressful and strenuous.

Sidepath at
Police Substation →

High-Comfort Route Along Easton Way (Condition 2)

At the driveway to adjacent property, Easton Way widens into an arterial road that would easily overwhelm most cyclists, if not for the new bidirectional cycle track that separates them from motor vehicle traffic.

Protected Cycle Track &
Road Diet Beginning at
Driveway →



Destination Amenities & Social Support at Easton Town Center



Cyclists at Easton Town Center have several dedicated bike parking sites to choose from, each featuring a digital information kiosk, custom-designed bike racks, and CoGo stations for short trips within the shopping center grounds. Trained employees go out of their way to offer trail users resources and information to ease their journeys.

THANK YOU!



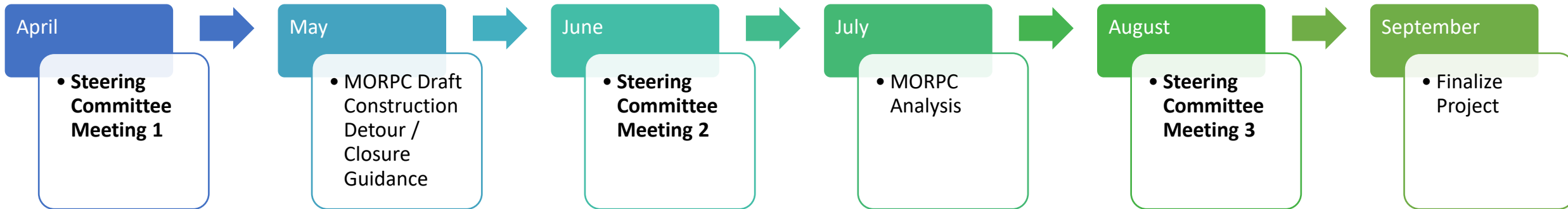
DETOURS & CLOSURES STEERING COMMITTEE



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Steering Committee Role: Develop guidelines to support Central Ohio communities' **planning and communication** of detours and closures occurring roadways because of construction, events, or weather related conditions.

Goal: The guidelines will support safe travel of pedestrians and cyclists without limiting development and maintenance of the region's transportation system.



Goals:

- 1) Affirm Steering Committee Purpose and Goals
- 2) Provide input on Construction Detour and Closure Designs

Goals:

- 1) Review Detour and Closure Design Guidance
- 2) Provide input on Detour and Closure Communications Guidelines

Goals:

- 1) Provide final feedback

MAPPING FRANKLIN COUNTY'S NATURAL ASSETS (MNA)



PURPOSE:

Summarize and collect watershed data to support informed development decisions that encourage access to Franklin County's natural resources for active transportation & recreation while also protecting the biodiversity of our region's river corridors.





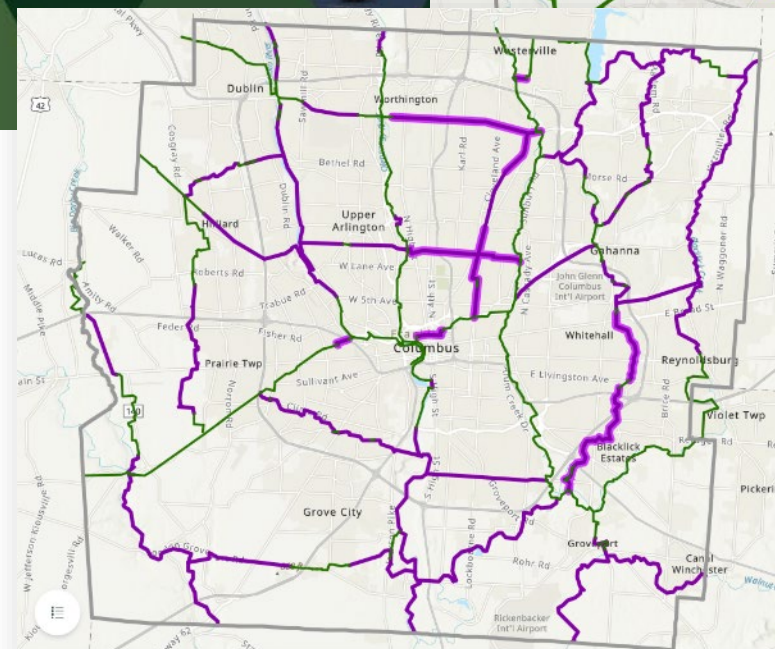
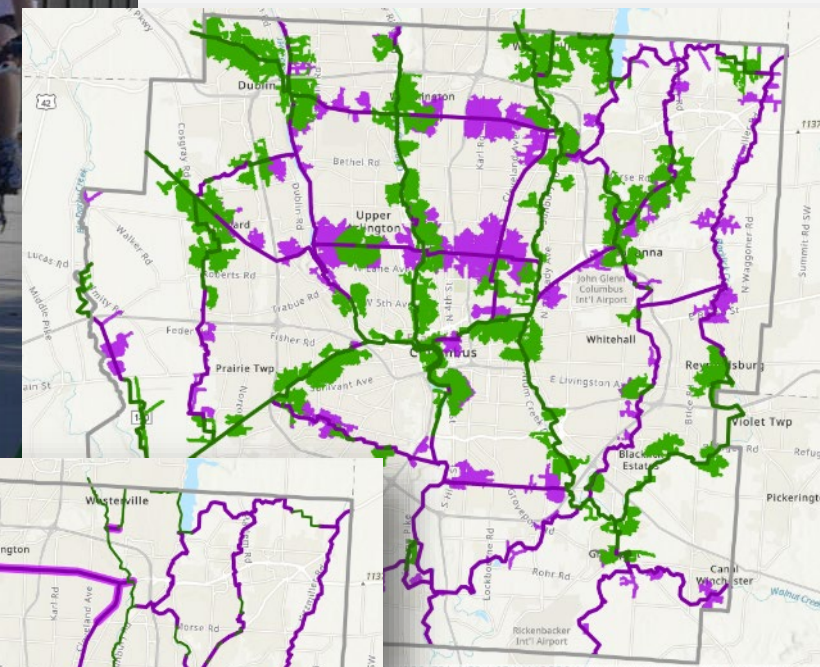
MORPC

Central Ohio Greenways

Regional Trail Vision Prioritization

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

January 20, 2021



Connectivity

- Low Stress Roads
- Existing Trails
- Existing Access Points
- Proposed Access Points
- Bus Stops
- Barriers



Health / Environment

- Acres of Parks
- Miles of Riparian Corridor
- Number of Crashes



Social Equity

- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Race
- Disability
- Population
- Zero Car Household



Economy

- Jobs
- Education Facilities
- Cultural Amenities



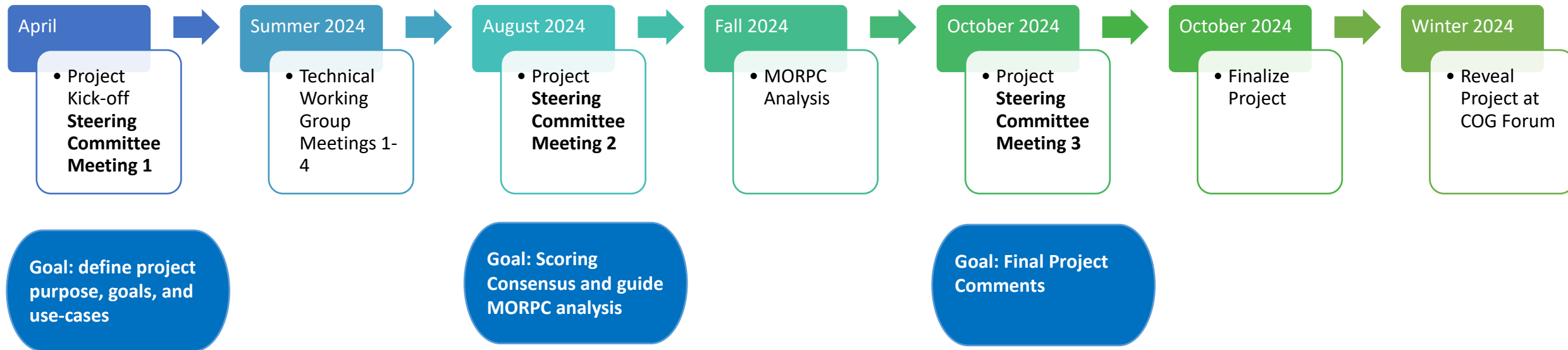
MNA STEERING COMMITTEE ROLE



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Steering Committee Role: Guide Project Goals | Identify Use Cases | Score Consensus

Technical Working Group Role: Workshop data analysis, data selection, and scoring



Trail Development Working Group



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP 2024



GOALS

- 1) Maintain the Regional Trail Vision
 - Trails in the “Intel Region”
 - Regional Trails and Active Transportation Collaboration Meetings
 - Expand Vision to MORPC’s 15 County Region
- 2) Support the Trails Detours and Closures Steering Committee
- 3) Advance the “COG Wayfinding Strategy”
- 4) Support Funding and Project Development

MEETING DATES

- Feb 15: 9:30 – 10:30
- April 18: 9:30 - 10:30
- June 20: 9:30 - 10:30
- August 15: 9:30 – 10:30
- October 17: 9:30 – 10:30
- December 19: 9:30 – 10:30

PROPOSAL: Subdivide the working group into a urban focused group and a rural focused group.



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Trail Towns Working Group



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

TRAIL TOWNS WORKING GROUP



GOALS

- 1) Implement the “COG Trail Town Framework”
- 2) Advance the “COG Wayfinding Strategy”
- 3) Support the Outdoor Trails Pass Program
- 4) Support a COG Forum

NEXT MEETING: Review the Wayfinding Strategy, the Trail Town Framework, and the Website Best Practices

MEETING DATES

- January 8: 10:00 – 11:00
- March 11: 10:00 – 11:00
- May 13: 10:00 – 11:00
- July 15: 10:00 – 11:00
- September 9: 10:00 – 11:00
- November 18: 10:00 – 11:00



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EARTH DAY C O L U M B U S



COG Celebrate Trails Day
Genoa Park
April 27, 2024 | 11:00 – 5:00

Celebrate **Trails** Day

powered by rails to trails conservancy

Save the Date!
April 27, 2024

OUTDOOR TRAILS PASS

Over 1000 sign-ups in April!



Get Moving. Check In. Get Rewards.

Experience Columbus has teamed up with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission for a great outdoor trail pass program to enjoy with friends or family. These trails are perfect for hiking, biking, jogging, and even paddling! Try them all now—what are you waiting for?

Check out these links for more information and directions!

[Central Ohio Greenways Map](#)
[Central Ohio Biking Map](#)
[Rapid 5](#)

COLUMBUS OUTDOOR TRAILS PASS



Hike, Bike and Paddle Trail

- Mobile exclusive
- Instantly delivered via text and email
- No apps to download
- Experience the nature of Central Ohio

[Explore Now](#)



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PLANNING COMMISSION

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Mike Andrako, P.E.

COG Board Chair
Mobility Engineer
Franklin County Engineers Office

