



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Comprehensive Economic Development (CEDS) Committee**

Date: **February 20, 2025**
Time: **9:30-11am**
Location: **MORPC**

Members Present

Bailey, Todd	Hennessy, Daryl
Bosco, Stephanie	Huddle, Patty
Brucker, Jamie	Longoria, Jesse
Mallory, Kristin	McCollister, Matt
Easterday, Kristen	McDaniel, Dana
Ebersole, Brad	Phillips, Eric
Fitzsimmons, Alexis	Pride, Ruchelle
Gottke, Jeff	Vollrath, Ben
Gracia, Jeremiah	

Guests

Lexi Heidish (alternate for member Tim Colburn)
Kelsey Miller (alternate for member Bob Lamb)
Andy Hardy, Columbus Chamber for Commerce
Ann Aquillo, The Columbus Partnership

MORPC Staff

William Murdoch	Parag Agrawal
Aubrey Hauter	Joe Garrity
Padmini Roy-Dixon	Dave Dixon
Preston Frick	Jessica Kuenzli
Chuck Ratcliff	

I. Welcome

- Chair Daryl Hennessy called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.
- MORPC Executive Director, William Murdoch, gave opening remarks.

II. Economic Development District Report – Padmini Roy-Dixon, MORPC

- Padmini Roy-Dixon gave an update on the work of the Economic Development District office that included:
 - An update on MORPC's Freight Planning initiatives including relationship building with the Rickenbacker Employer Assistance Network (REAN), organizing a tour of the Rickenbacker area with ODOT, REAN, Columbus Regional Logistics Council (CRLC), and plans to host the next Rickenbacker Area Freight Alliance workshop in April.
 - The *Leaders Listen* Economic Development survey results will be made public at the State of the Region event in March.
 - MORPC will be relaunching the CAP program under a new name in the summer. The program will feature a more diverse list of regional projects and advocacy will be a key feature.
 - MORPC organized a breakout session on infrastructure planning at the ED 411 event that featured economic developers from other cities across the US who shared how they planned for fast paced growth, owing to mega projects, in their communities.
 - EDA was reauthorized by Congress. MORPC is in communication with EDA and is monitoring how the reauthorization will impact the EDD.

III. Anduril Update – Matt McCollister, Executive Vice President, One Columbus

- Matt McCollister showed a video on the Anduril project and shared what made the central Ohio region stand out when competing for the project:
 - A quick RFI turnaround time, regional collaboration, Ohio's experience with large scale manufacturing production (example: Ohio's automotive manufacturing sector), availability of suppliers, and the current construction environment.
- Anduril plans to scale, and mass produce their products at the Ohio site.
- Committee Member Eric Phillips asked about workforce housing. McCollister confirmed that while the development will have an impact

on housing, it is likely that Anduril will hire current residents already located in Central Ohio.

- Lexi Heidish from Pickaway Progress Partnership (PPP) shared details of Anduril's All-Ohio Future Fund (AOFF) award.
 - The project received a \$70 million AOFF award for road construction around Anduril (\$50 million grant, \$20 million loan).
 - Infrastructure development will also lay the foundation for future development on land north of the Anduril site and west of Rickenbacker.

IV. Anduril Planning – Parag Agrawal, Chief Mobility and Development Officer, MORPC

- Agrawal shared a drive time map for Intel and Anduril and spoke about the household counts within both drive time distances. He asked the CEDS Committee to identify any gaps they might notice on the map.

V. Area Development Foundation Comprehensive Planning – Jeff Gottke, President, Knox County Area Development Foundation

- Committee Member Jeff Gottke shared details on the project between the Knox County Area Development Foundation (ADF) and the Knox County Foundation (KCF) to fund comprehensive plans for small villages in Knox County.
- The initiative funded by KCF and technically supported by ADF resulted in strategic plans, updated zoning codes, and the creation of downtown business associations in four villages.
- Committee Member Brad Ebersole asked how Gottke divided key staff responsibilities. The process was very collaborative/fluid for taking on tasks.
- Committee Member Ben Vollrath asked how funding is sustained after foundational funding is gone. Gottke noted they were able to leverage village and private investment. The County and City are major funders.
- Ann Aquillo asked how Gottke navigated through turnover. The existing steering committee was essential in keeping the project moving. A “champion” was identified in each village, which was essential in keeping this project locally driven.
- The committee discussed other planning initiatives and approaches in the region:
 - Heidish mentioned that PPP is using the “Smart Growth Committee” to help funnel funding to rural Pickaway County communities to plan for growth. The Village of Ashville is currently utilizing the program.
 - Franklin County is using a consultant to create a strategic housing plan for unincorporated areas. The plan will identify

8 to 10 components to focus on. They are working with NACo to participate in national peer exchanges to inform the strategic housing plan.

- Chair Hennessy confirmed that the City of Sunbury is updating its comprehensive plan. The plan focuses on the new parkway off of I-71 (Sunbury Parkway and Interchange CAP). Their current comprehensive plan is over 9 years old.

VI. CEDS Committee Discussion - Toolkit

- Chair Hennessy introduced the Toolkit idea and shared his case study from Sunbury on housing.

VII. Other Business

- Aubrey Hauter will share the one-pager on the effects of multi-family housing on school enrollment to the CEDS Committee to review and offer feedback.
- The next CEDS Committee meeting will take place May 22, 2025. Labor force participation, the *Leaders Listen* survey results, and the toolkit are potential topics that will be covered.

VIII. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.



Aubrey Hauter, MORPC STAFF