



GUIDE TO THE
TRANSPORTATION 
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
STATE FISCAL YEARS 2026 - 2029



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

GUIDE TO THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

This guide explains what the Transportation Improvement Program is, why it is important to our region, and how anyone with an interest in transportation can get involved in the process.

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WHAT IS THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM?

The Transportation Improvement Program, also known as the TIP, represents Central Ohio's transportation investment priorities. The TIP is a federally mandated document that collects all significant transportation projects scheduled in the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) transportation planning area during the next four years. The TIP is multimodal, meaning it includes all types of transportation projects such as maintenance, construction, and operations costs for highways, roadways, public transit, bridges, bikeways, sidewalks, traffic signals, and more.

The TIP at a Glance

- ▶ *Lists all federally-funded and regionally significant projects for State Fiscal Years 2026-2029 (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2029)*
- ▶ *Includes project schedules and costs for all phases of a project, including project development, right-of-way acquisition, and construction*
- ▶ *Must be fiscally-constrained, which means projects must have committed funding to be included*



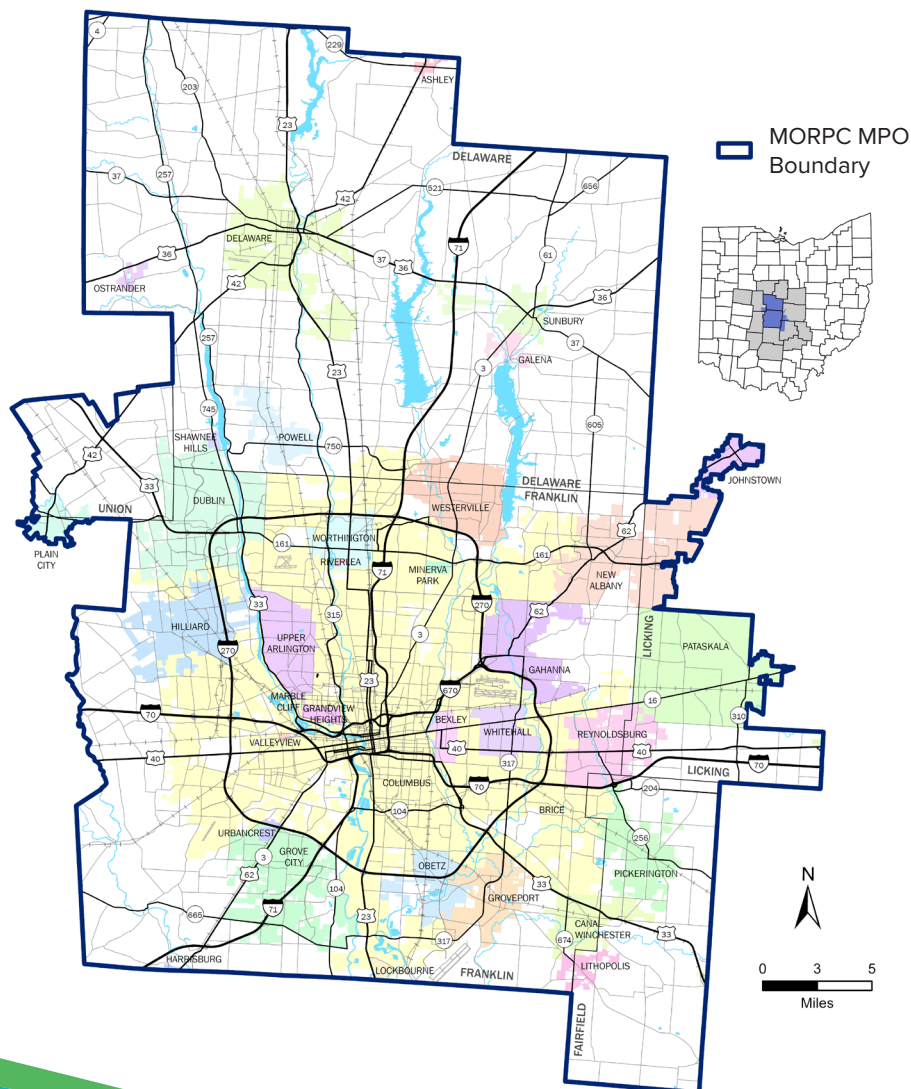
ABOUT THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MORPC)

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Central Ohio, MORPC's core responsibility is to facilitate the region's transportation planning process. An MPO is governed by federal and state law and is created to look at the big picture of transportation planning. Any area with a population over 50,000 must have an MPO to be eligible to receive federal transportation funds. MPOs work with the public, committees, state and local governments, and transit agencies to coordinate regional transportation planning efforts. MPOs are responsible for creating certain federally required transportation planning documents, including the TIP.

MORPC's planning area for the TIP includes the entire MPO, which comprises Franklin and Delaware counties, New Albany, Pataskala, Johnstown, and Etna Township in Licking County, Bloom and Violet townships in Fairfield County, Jerome Township in Union County, and Plain City in both Union and Madison County.

Visit [MORPC's website](#) to learn more.

MORPC Planning Area



THE ROLE OF THE TIP IN REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Transportation planning is a continuous process, requiring evaluation of regional demographic, transportation, and economic trends and collaboration with stakeholders such as the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), transit providers, and local governments. Every four years, MORPC develops the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which is the region’s long-term transportation plan with projects and strategies identified through 2050. Projects in the TIP, as part of the implementation phase of the MTP, represent near-term investments in the transportation system and must be consistent with the MTP.

Comparing Major Transportation Planning Documents

	Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)	Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Focus	Sets goals and identifies strategies and projects through 2050	Identifies specific transportation investments through 2029
Funding	Identifies financial resources that are expected to be available	Commits funds to specific projects with known available resources
Updates	Updated entirely every 4 years	Updated entirely every 2 years with quarterly amendments throughout implementation
Implementation	Implemented through the TIP, local capital improvement programs, and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)	Implemented through the advancement of projects listed in the TIP
Reporting	Release of annual report card with progress on identified performance measures	Status of projects in previous TIP provided in each updated TIP

HOW IS THE TIP DEVELOPED?

SELECTING PROJECTS

The process for developing the TIP is a collaborative effort involving coordination among MORPC, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), transit providers like the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) and Delaware County Transit (DCT), local governments, and the public. Projects were identified by consensus with these regional partners. Any projects using federal funding and any regionally significant projects are required to be included in the TIP.

MORPC's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) identifies many of the region's transportation needs, but they cannot all be implemented at once because funding is limited. MORPC, ODOT, and other regional stakeholders have their own project selection processes to determine which projects can be achieved in this timeframe with funding that is available. Projects can only be included in the TIP if there is funding available and committed for the project.

MORPC Committees

Several committees advise MORPC staff and approve required planning documents.

- ▶ *The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is comprised of members representing a broad segment of the population.*
- ▶ *The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) includes representatives from government agencies and the transportation industry who provide technical assistance and recommendations to staff and the TPC.*
- ▶ *The Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) includes representatives of MORPC member communities and is the body that approves required actions of the transportation planning process.*

MORPC Project Selection

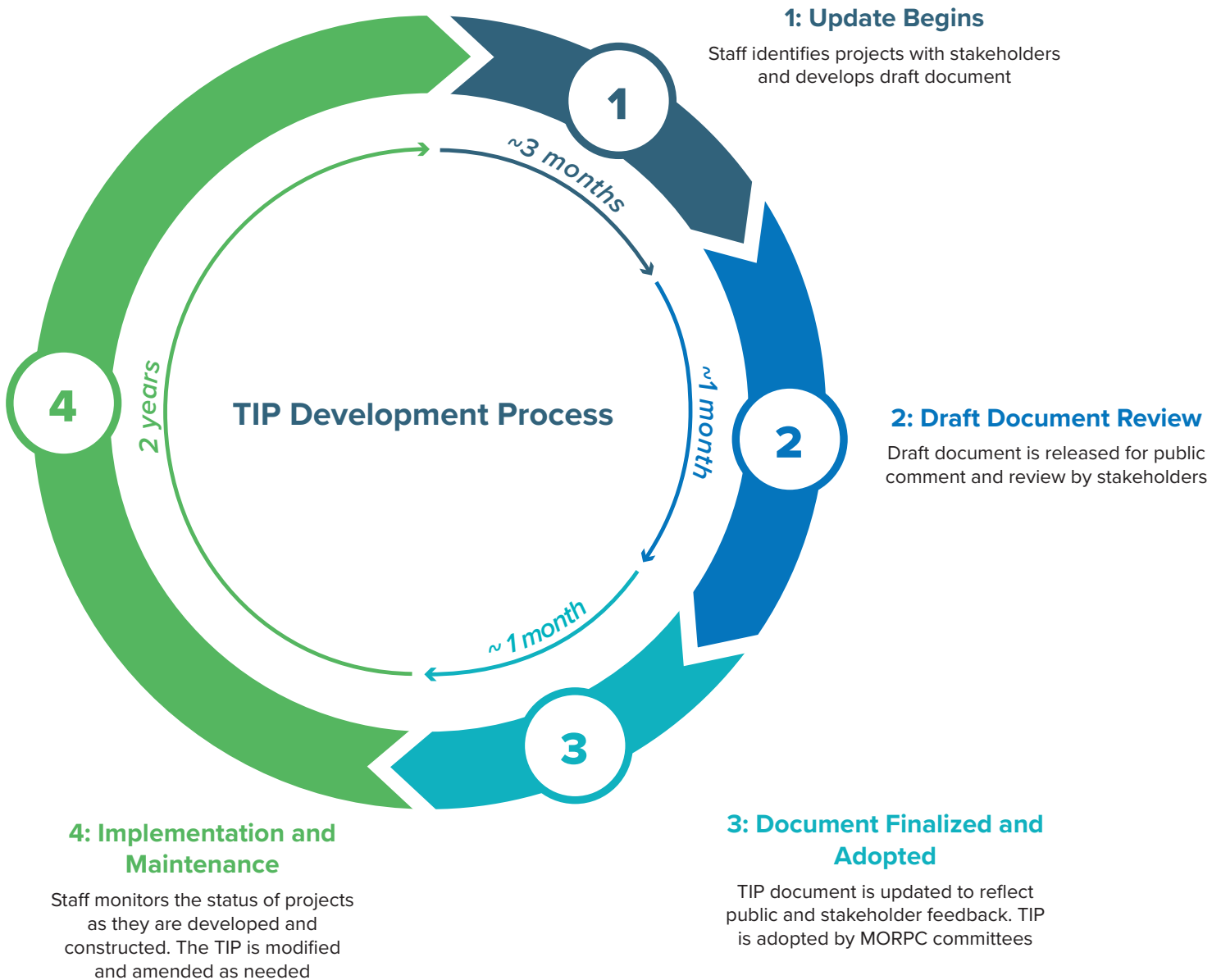
- ▶ *MORPC receives a portion of federal transportation funding and allocates these funds through a process known as MORPC-Attributable Funds*
- ▶ *MORPC manages the program under the oversight of the Attributable Funds Committee (AFC)*
- ▶ *Projects are selected through a competitive evaluation process every two years*
- ▶ *Visit the [MORPC Attributable Funds webpage](#) to learn more*

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The public has an essential role in determining what projects to include in the TIP and ensuring that the TIP reflects the region's transportation priorities. After selecting projects in collaboration with regional stakeholders, MORPC publishes a draft of the TIP for a public comment period. The public can review the TIP and provide comments at an open house, in writing, or online. The draft document is also reviewed by local governments, MORPC's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and Community Advisory Committee (CAC). MORPC staff makes any necessary adjustments to the TIP based on this review period.

ADOPTION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE TIP

MORPC’s Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) approves the final version of the TIP, which is then provided to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Because budgets, schedules, funding sources, and priorities change over time, the TIP occasionally needs to be modified. MORPC monitors the implementation of the TIP and modifies the TIP to reflect these changes. MORPC considers major changes, called amendments, once per quarter, and these amendments are published on MORPC’s website. The TIP is fully updated every two years.



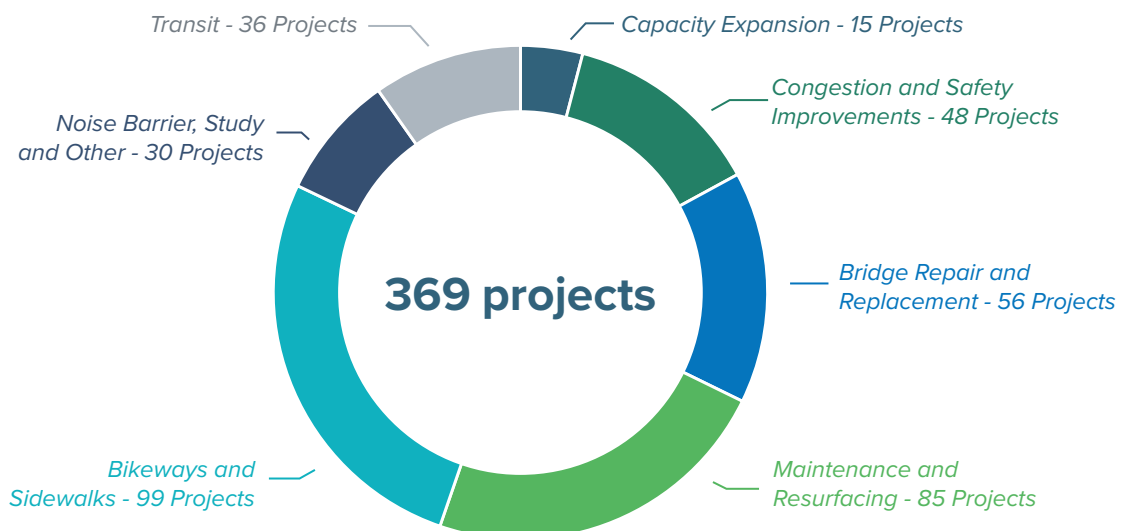
WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TIP?

PROJECT TYPES

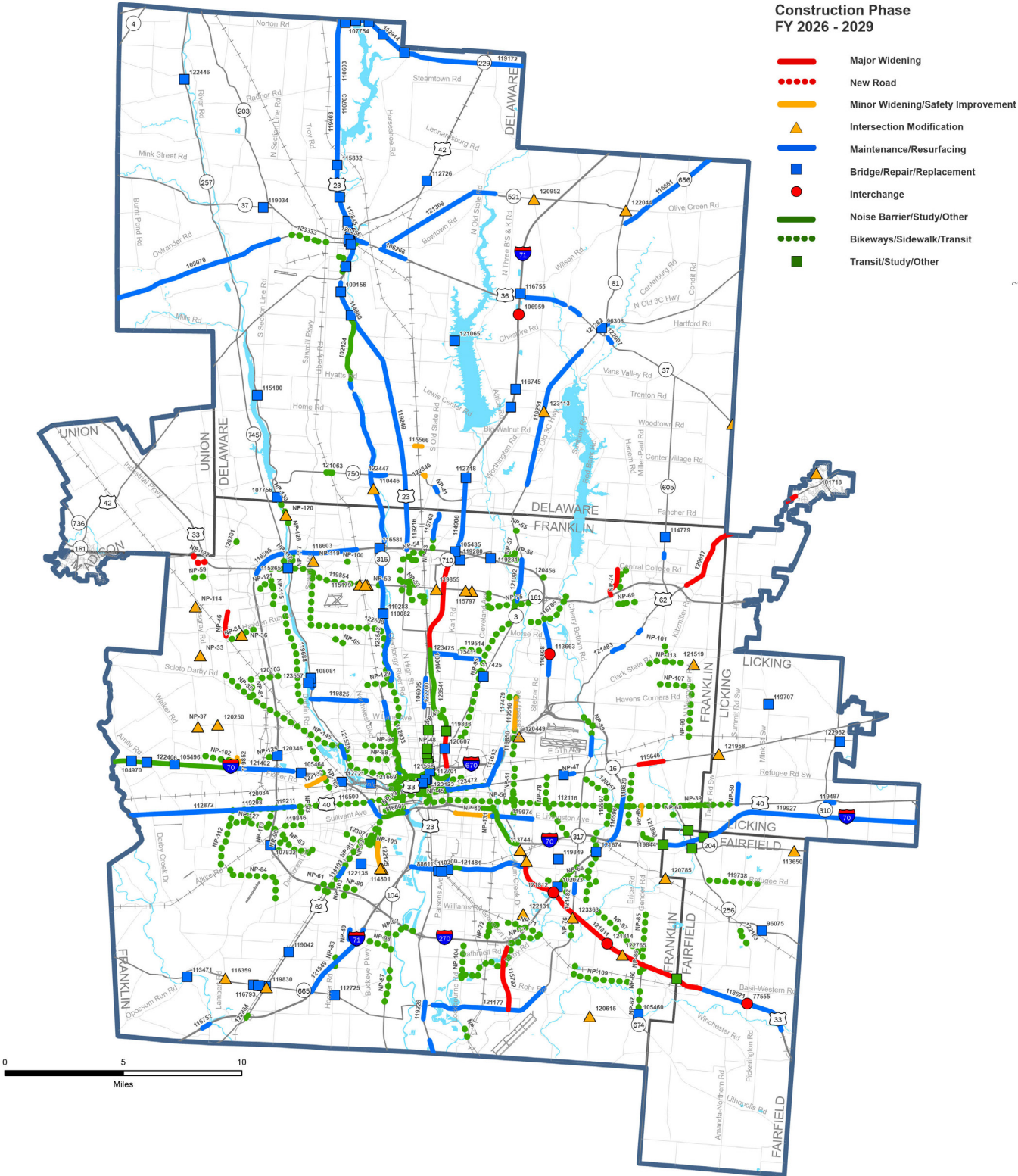
A wide range of projects are included in the TIP that help maintain, operate, and expand our region’s multimodal transportation system. The following is a list of project types that are included in the TIP. Projects have a primary project type, but can also include secondary project types, such as a project that widens a roadway and also constructs a sidewalk.

- ▶ **Capacity Expansion:** Projects which expand vehicular capacity
 - ▶ **Interchange:** New or modified freeway interchange
 - ▶ **New Roadway:** Construction of new roadway
 - ▶ **Major Widening:** Adding new through lanes to increase capacity
- ▶ **Congestion and Safety Improvements:** Modifications to roadways which reduce congestion and/or improve safety
 - ▶ **Minor Widening and Safety Improvement:** Adding turn lanes to an existing roadway or modifying a roadway to improve safety
 - ▶ **Traffic Signal Upgrade:** Modifications, replacements, or addition of traffic signals
 - ▶ **Intersection Modification:** Changes to existing intersections, such as constructing a roundabout or adding turn lanes
- ▶ **Maintenance and Resurfacing:** Basic roadway maintenance, including resurfacing and other minor repairs
- ▶ **Bridge Repair and Replacement:** Repairing or entirely replacing deficient bridges
- ▶ **Noise Barrier, Study, and Other:** Traffic studies, inspections, and other infrastructure
- ▶ **Bikeways and Sidewalks:** Dedicated bike or pedestrian facilities, including shared-use paths, bike lanes, sidewalks, and crossings
- ▶ **Transit:** Public transit operating expenses or capital expenses such as new buses, dedicated bus lanes, stations, or other facilities

Number of Projects by Primary Project Type



Map of Projects in the TIP

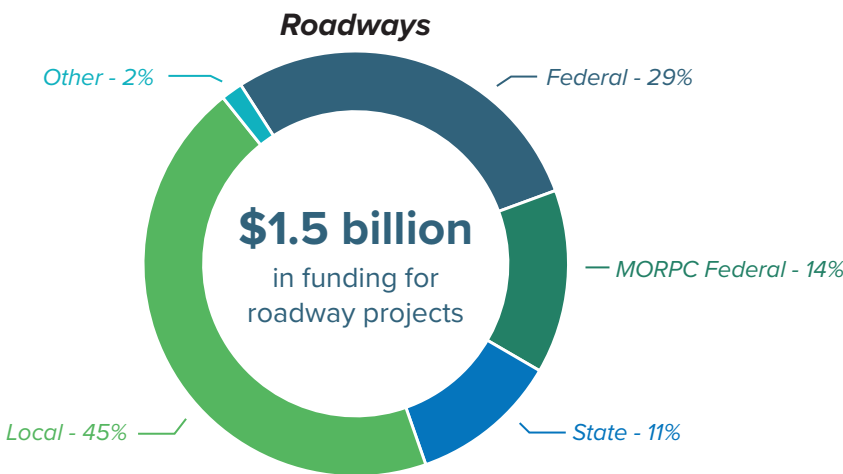


Note: Projects displayed on the above map are scheduled for construction in 2026-2029. View an interactive map of projects on the MORPC TIP webpage.

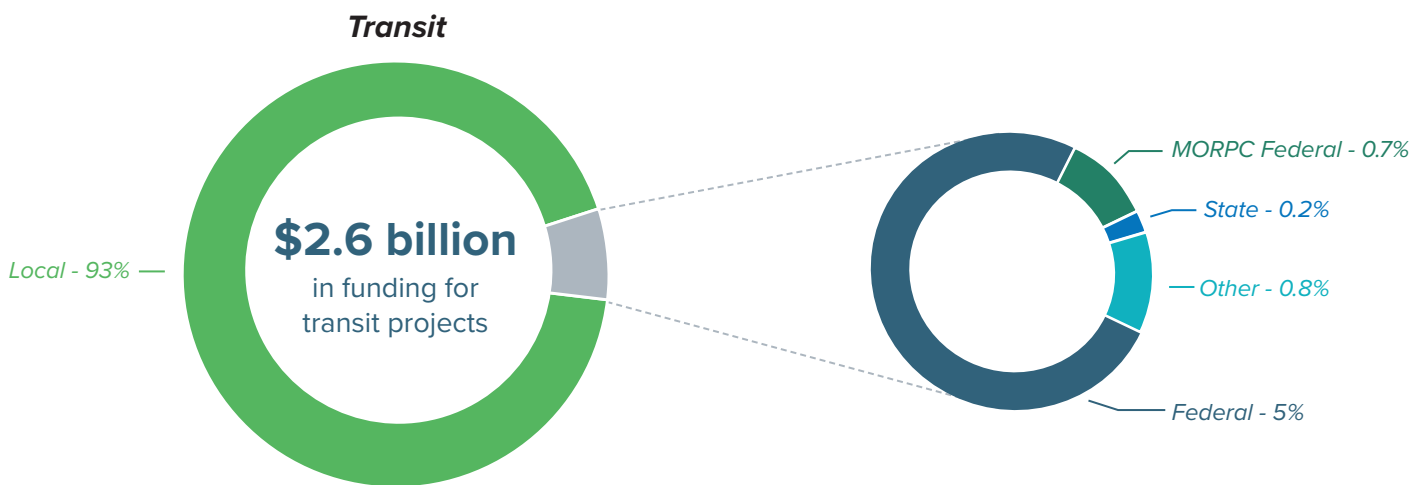
FUNDING SOURCES

The financial resources for TIP projects come from a variety of federal, state, and local funding sources. Federal funds are provided by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) receives a portion of federal transportation funds, which they distribute through a variety of programs. MORPC also receives a portion of federal transportation funding which is allocated through a process known as MORPC-Attributable Funds. Other federal funds are allocated directly by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration through grants and other discretionary programs. Funds are shown in the charts below by roadway and transit funding.

Funding Sources for Projects in the TIP



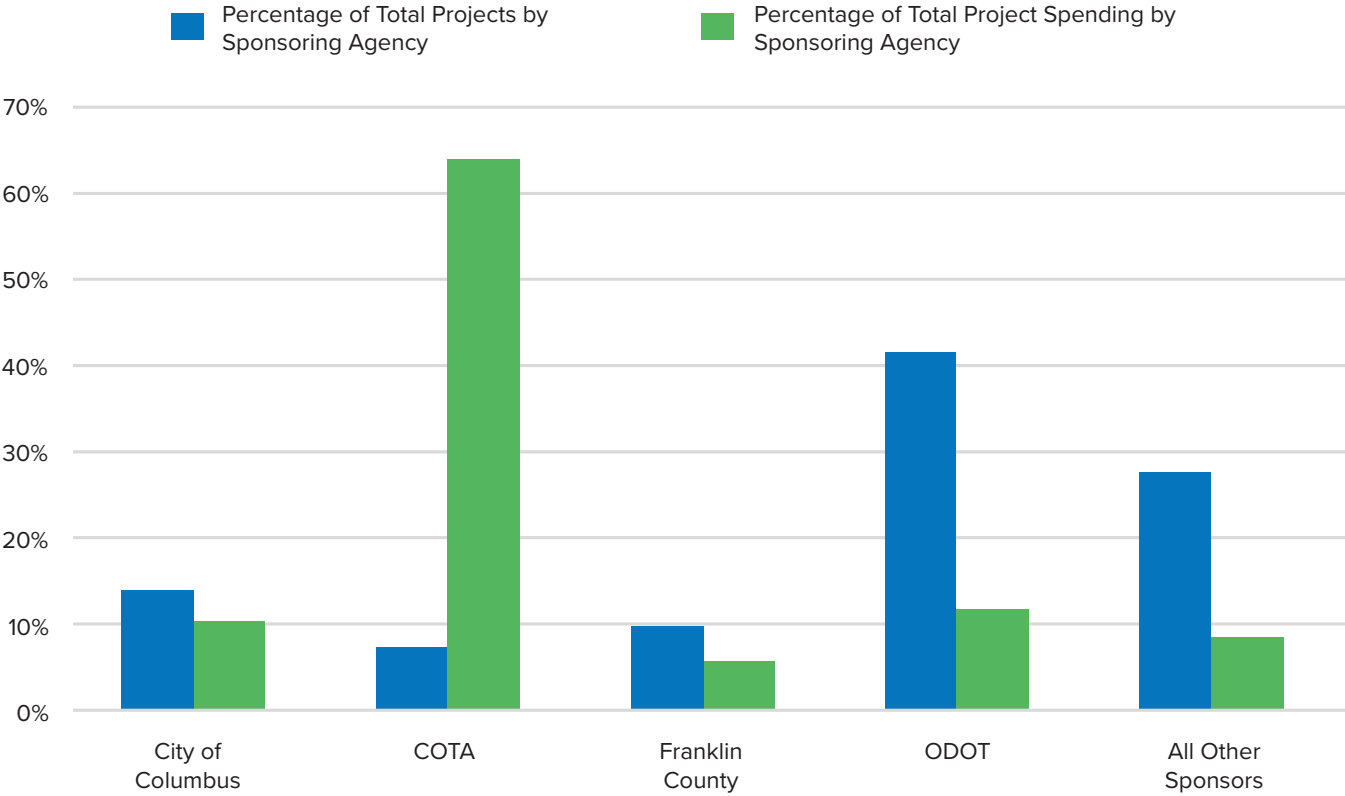
\$4.1 billion
in funding for all projects in the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program



PROJECT SPONSORS

Once a project is on the TIP, there is still a considerable amount of work to be done before it is completed. Project sponsors are responsible for ensuring that projects continue to move forward. Project sponsors work with stakeholders, the public, and contractors to move projects through the development and construction process. There are many project sponsors involved in the TIP, but most projects are sponsored by one of the following agencies: the Central Office and District Offices of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), Franklin County, the City of Columbus, or the Central Ohio Transit Agency (COTA).

Projects by Sponsoring Agencies



WHAT DO TIP PROJECTS ACHIEVE?

Projects identified for inclusion in the TIP advance the goals on the MORPC Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and national performance goals. Projects in the TIP are analyzed for how they build and maintain a safe and reliable transportation system that minimizes negative impacts on our communities and environment.

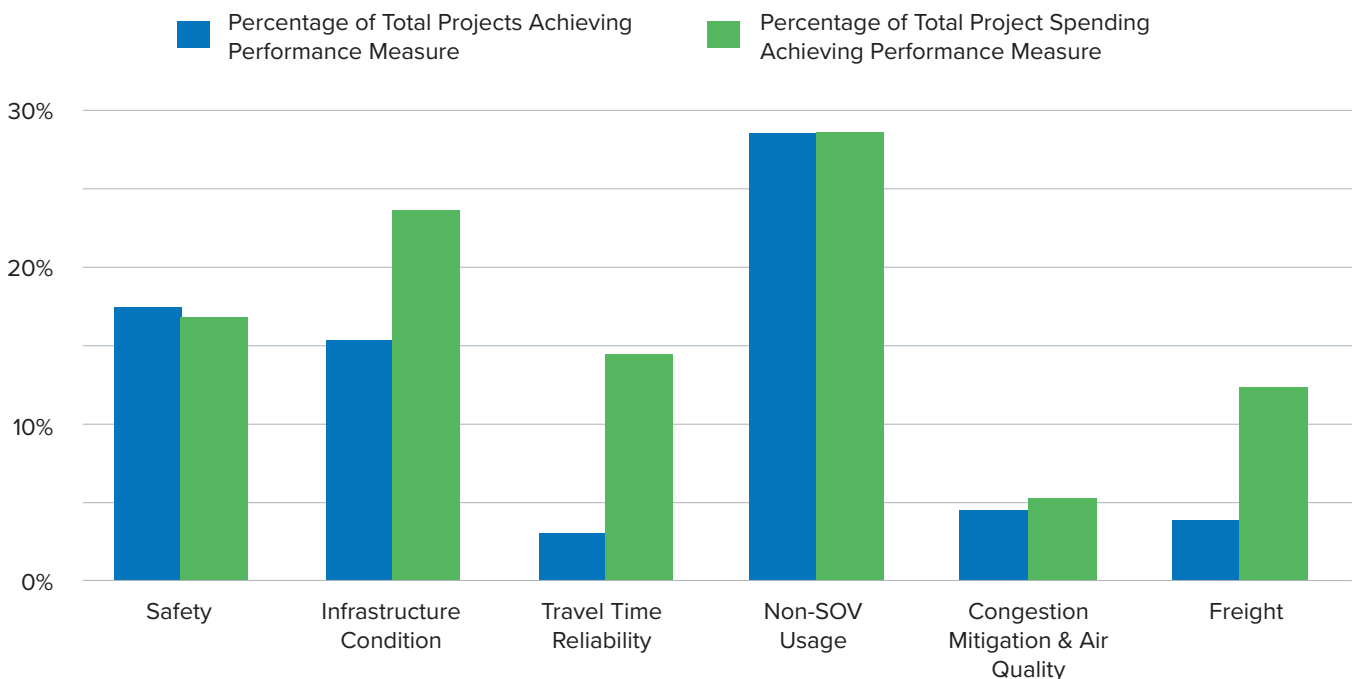
PERFORMANCE MEASURES

National performance goals for roadway projects have been established for several key areas. Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), like MORPC, are required to establish performance targets in support of these national goals. MORPC established performance targets for these goals and additional metrics in the MTP. As a method of implementing the MTP, the TIP measures how many projects and how much funding is used on roadway projects that advance these performance goals. Projects can advance more than one performance measure.

Roadway Project Performance Measures

- ▶ **Safety:** Projects which aim to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists
- ▶ **Infrastructure condition:** Projects which improve pavement and bridge conditions such as repaving and bridge repair
- ▶ **Travel time reliability:** Projects which improve the reliability of traffic conditions and reduce excessive traffic delays
- ▶ **Non-single occupancy vehicle (SOV) use:** Projects which reduce the reliance on SOVs such as bicycle and pedestrian projects. This does not include transit projects
- ▶ **Congestion mitigation and air quality:** Projects which reduce congestion and vehicle emissions and improve air quality. This includes projects that improve traffic flow and projects that encourage car- and van-pooling
- ▶ **Freight:** Projects which improve freight movement in the region

Performance Measures for Roadway Projects



AIR QUALITY

In addition to performance measures relating to air quality, the Clean Air Act requires that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) like MORPC demonstrate the potential impact of projects on air quality in the region. MORPC conducts an emissions analysis on projects in the TIP to show how they improve or maintain air quality standards established for our region, referred to as a conformity determination. This analysis measures how transportation projects included in the TIP may increase or decrease emissions that contribute to poor air quality. An air quality determination must demonstrate that projects and programs in the TIP do not cause new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay attainment of federal air quality standards. The air quality conformity determination conducted for the TIP shows that emissions are below the thresholds established for our region.

COMMUNITY IMPACT ANALYSIS

The Community Impact Analysis evaluates potential impacts of projects in the TIP on human health and the environment. The analysis is intended to determine if projects in the TIP will have disproportionate impacts on minority or low-income communities. The analysis found that projects in the TIP do not disproportionately impact minority or low-income communities and that benefits of the projects will be realized across the region.

MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION

MORPC's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) includes goals and objectives to increase transportation options, expand transit, and reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles. In addition to roadway projects that reduce single-occupancy vehicle usage covered under the Performance Measures section, the TIP includes significant investments in public transit expansion. Of the \$2.6 billion planned for transit projects over the next 4 years, 36% will be used to expand transit, including building new bus rapid transit lines.



Carpooling and vanpooling initiatives like Gohio Commute help improve air quality and reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles. Photo credit: Gohio Commute

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The TIP includes transformational transportation projects. Below are highlights of some large projects included in the TIP that will be in development or constructed over the next four years.

ALUM CREEK DRIVE

This roadway widening project will add a third through lane in each direction on Alum Creek Drive in the Rickenbacker area. A sidewalk will be added on one side of the road and a shared-use path will be added on the other. Bridges over Big Walnut Creek will also be replaced. This project is vital to supporting freight movement in the Rickenbacker area as well as supporting multimodal movement to this major job center. The project received MORPC Attributable Funds and funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Major New Capacity program.

LIVINGSTON AVENUE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

This project will make safety improvements on Livingston Avenue from 18th Street to Nelson Road. This portion of Livingston Avenue has been identified by the City of Columbus as a high priority for safety improvements. Livingston Avenue is in a neighborhood that was adversely impacted by the construction of I-70, which runs parallel to Livingston Avenue and separates the neighborhood from downtown Columbus. The project will reconfigure the roadway from four lanes to three lanes to enhance pedestrian, bicyclist, and motorist safety by constructing raised bike lanes, installing center-planted medians, street lighting, street trees, and intersection improvements. The City received a \$12 million Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant for the improvements.

ORANGE ROAD RAILROAD GRADE SEPARATION

This project will reconstruct a portion of East Orange Road at the CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads in Delaware County. About 30 trains cross Orange Road each day, causing traffic delays, congestion, and delaying emergency services. The project will construct a roadway underpass, widen the roadway to four lanes, and will include a new shared-use path, improving safety and reducing delays. The project received MORPC Attributable Funds and a \$21 million Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant.



Orange Road today and a rendering of the railroad grade separation. Photo credit: Delaware County Engineer

I-71 SMARTLANE

This project will implement a SmartLane in each direction on I-71 between 5th Avenue and State Route 161. A SmartLane, also known as hard shoulder running or HSR, uses the existing shoulder as an additional lane of travel during periods of heavy congestion. When it's not needed, the SmartLane closes and can only be used by law enforcement, emergency responders, and maintenance crews. The project will also resurface all lanes of I-71 and improve numerous bridges along the corridor.

LINKUS IMPLEMENTATION

The TIP includes many projects that begin implementation for COTA's comprehensive transit improvement plan, known as LinkUS. The first three corridors of high-capacity rapid transit, or Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), will begin development and construction in the next four years. The initiative will also begin to build sidewalks, bikeways, and trails that will help people access transit. The transit plan received local funding after the passage of a sales tax levy for COTA in November 2024. The first two BRT corridors also received MORPC Attributable Funds.



A rendering of the West Broad Bus Rapid Transit, one of the many projects included in the TIP to begin implementation of LinkUS implementation. Photo credit: COTA

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO STAY INVOLVED

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TIP

To find more information on the MORPC TIP, including the full TIP document and an interactive web map of all projects visit the [MORPC TIP webpage](#).

ODOT STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP)

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) creates a Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) every two years. Visit the [ODOT website](#) to find more information about the STIP.

CENTRAL OHIO RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CORPO)

The [Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization \(CORPO\)](#) is the Rural Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) for non-metropolitan areas of our region, including Fairfield, Knox, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway, and Union counties. CORPO creates a long-range plan called the [CORPO Transportation Plan \(CTP\)](#) and a [CORPO TIP](#).

MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE COMMENTS

MORPC has public involvement for more than just the TIP. Visit the [MORPC Public Participation webpage](#) to find general information on public involvement on MORPC initiatives and look for public comment periods on these major transportation planning and funding initiatives:

- ▶ [MORPC Metropolitan Transportation Plan \(MTP\)](#)
- ▶ [MORPC Attributable Funding](#)
- ▶ [Regional Mobility Plan](#)
- ▶ [Transportation Review Advisory Council \(TRAC\)](#)
- ▶ [Enhanced Mobility \(FTA Section 5310 Funding\)](#)

MORE PROJECT INFORMATION

To find more information about specific projects, contact the local sponsoring agency for the project. This could be your local jurisdiction, a transit agency, or the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). ODOT has a [website with detailed project information](#) and opportunities to provide public comments on these projects.

TRANSIT PLANNING INFORMATION

To learn more about plans for transit services in the region, view the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) [Short Range Transit Plan](#) and the Delaware County Transit (DCT) [Strategic Plan](#).