



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

MORPC IN THE NEWS

January 2023

DATA & MAPPING

COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[How Franklin County became so international](#)

Growth projections from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission predict that the region will nearly double in population over the next 30 years. (1/1/23)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[MORPC Matters: Let's create an environment for prosperity for all in the new year](#)

With a new year upon us, there is no better time to reflect on the changes that have shaped our region over the past year and helped us to prepare for the future.

As 2022 began, we started to see glimpses of an end to the pandemic, and here at home, we began preparing for major development projects like Intel, Hyperion, Honda, Ohio State University's Innovation District and much more. (1/3/23)

HOUSING

COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST

[Here's how many new housing units Licking County will need to meet Intel-related demand](#)

A drive-time map from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission shows workers could arrive to the Intel site within an hour from as far away as Clark, Champaign and Logan counties to the west; Crawford, Richland, Ashland and Holmes counties to the north; Cochocton and Muskingum counties to the west; and Fayette, Pickaway, Hocking and Perry counties to the south. (1/12/23)

COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[OPINION: We foot bill to keep Columbus' poorest families trapped and dodging bullets daily](#)

Local officials are aware of this research. Indeed, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's 2020 Regional Housing Strategy specifically calls out "adjustments to voucher payment standards" as a policy lever to increase access to opportunity, yet local policymakers and the housing authority have not made this change. (1/18/23)

RAPID 5

COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[Environmentalists say massive sewage expansion could threaten Big Darby watershed](#)

The Big Darby is one of five corridors that the new RAPID 5 group is targeting to link Franklin County's five major waterways with trails while creating economic development and attractions to lure people to those areas. (1/23/2023)

STATE OF THE REGION

PEAKOFOHIO.COM

[Mayor Stahler presents 2022 Recap to Council](#)

Mayor Stahler highlighted the numerous awards given to Bellefontaine last year from various agencies. From his press release: "Bellefontaine received a number of accolades during the year. MORPC (Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission) gave out three awards in their 11-county region last year. The City of Bellefontaine and Small Nation was awarded the William Habig Collaborative Achievement Award. Smart Asset (a data collection group) compared criteria of 494 suburbs across the nation and scored Bellefontaine #14 from the top nationally." (1/10/23)

TRANSPORTATION

SPECTRUM NEWS 1

[Rail Enthusiasts remain optimistic on future of Ohio Corridor](#)

Thea Ewing, MORPC Chief Regional Development Officer, said in the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's letter to the Federal Railroad Administration, they focused on a number of potential routes for central Ohio to be connected to other parts of our state and beyond. (1/2/23)

GONGWER

[DeWine signs criminal justice, distracted driving measures into law](#) *

Culminating years of effort by traffic safety groups, "distracted driving" will soon be a primary offense on Ohio's roadways. Gov. Mike DeWine on Tuesday signed a bill into law to allow law enforcement officers to pull motorists over for using their mobile devices while driving. Under current law, using a wireless device while driving is a secondary offense for adults. (1/3/23)

HANNAH NEWS SERVICE

[Distracted driving law 'first step'; DeWine voices uncertainty over election bill signing](#) *

The governor and legislators said the primary goal of distracted driving legislation signed Tuesday is deterrence and conceded another bill may be necessary to significantly expand punishment of smart phone use behind the wheel. (1/3/23)

COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[Police Division expansion among Grove City's 2023 goals](#)

EMH&T also agreed to submit an application for Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Attributable Funds, estimated at about \$37 million. (1/5/23)

COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[MORPC proposes more than \\$148 million for new transportation projects](#)

A Columbus agency is seeking comment on 23 central Ohio road projects expected to receive \$148 million in federal funds. Proposed improvements include major projects on state Route 161, Cassady Avenue, East Broad Street, Livingston Avenue and a Dublin bike path. The Mid-

Ohio Regional Planning Commission published the list Friday, and is seeking public comment on the proposed projects through Feb. 8. (1/6/23)

NEWARK ADVOCATE

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A Columbus agency is seeking comment on 23 central Ohio road projects expected to receive \$148 million in federal funds. Proposed improvements include major projects on state Route 161, Cassady Avenue, East Broad Street, Livingston Avenue and a Dublin bike path. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission published the list Friday, and is seeking public comment on the proposed projects through Feb. 8. (1/6/23)

TOLEDO BLADE

[ODOT opens comment portal for U.S. 23 north of Columbus](#)

A \$1 feasibility study, half-funded by ODOT and one-quarter each by TMAOG and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (1/7/23)

CLEVELAND.COM

[Is Ohio finally on board for Amtrak expansion? State 'strongly considering' seeking federal money for new train service](#)

Federal rules do allow other government organizations to apply for expansion funding, including NOACA and its Columbus equivalent, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. Even so, regional transportation leaders say state support is crucial. (1/9/23)

THE DELAWARE GAZETTE

[City, ODOT set to tackle Point](#)

Other sources of funding commitments in place for the project include approximately \$20.47 million from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and \$11.2 million from the Transportation Review Advisory Council. In total, \$40,327,670 has been secured for the project. (1/12/23)

MOUNT VERNON NEWS

[MORPC supports distracted driving legislation to improve road safety: 'Safety on our streets must come first'](#)

Against the backdrop of increased injury crashes in the region, Ohio has enacted legislation that will crack down on distracted driving, including making electronic device use while driving a primary offense in most cases. (1/14/23)

WCMH-TV NBC4i

[Here are the roadway, transit projects that could come to Columbus](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission wants the public's feedback on projects proposed to receive \$148 million of the Biden administration's dollars.

In its largest funding commitment to date, the planning agency for Columbus' urban area proposed last week a slate of 23 much-needed transportation and infrastructure projects that it aims to tackle sometime between 2024 and 2028 using federal funds set aside by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Video: <https://youtu.be/akMQ9eSRMsk> (1/17/23)

NEWARK ADVOCATE

[Etna Township to receive \\$2.6 million for Pike Street improvements](#)

Etna Township is expected to receive \$2.6 million in federal money for a road improvement project that could potentially revitalize the heart of the area. The improvement project for the township's Pike Street was included on a list released Jan. 6 by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission of 23 proposed central Ohio improvements selected to receive funding

commitment from 2024 to 2029. The agency is seeking public comments on all projects until Feb. 8. (1/18/23)

COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[COTA to spend another \\$10.5 million on engineering for West Broad bus rapid transit line](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is currently seeking public comment through Feb. 8 on 23 proposed projects in central Ohio that it proposes to direct \$148 million in federal funds toward, including \$13.1 million for construction of the West Broad Street BRT (bus rapid transit) corridor. (1/18/2023)

COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[Long-delayed multi-use path along Route 161 on Columbus' Northwest side being reconsidered](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has been reviewing the city of Columbus' request for federal funding to help pay for the project. The city originally requested \$4.5 million for construction and right-of-way acquisition, said Thomas Graham, senior planner for MORPC. But Graham said that the regional planning agency is recommending \$2.26 million for Columbus after the city reduced its request so it could get some funding, with Columbus making up the rest. (1/29/2023)

COLUMBUS DISPATCH

OPINION: William Murdock

[Columbus needs big ideas, but is a second outerbelt one of them?](#)

This is an exciting time for Central Ohio. Together we've built a growing region vibrant with opportunities, one that's attracting new people and businesses and enticing our children and graduates to stay. Investments from Intel, Honda, and others confirm what we already know: this is a great place to call home. Growth brings urgent clarity to invest in both necessary and transformative projects. We need big thinking so as we grow bigger, we can get better. (1/31/2023)

* Subscription based service. For PDF version of article, contact Melissa Rapp at mrapp@morpc.org