



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

## MORPC IN THE NEWS

March 2023

### **AMTRAK**

#### **WOSU Public Media**

##### [Plans for bringing passenger rail back to Ohio](#)

Columbus is the second-largest U.S. city without inter-city rail. Now the state is working on a plan to return passenger rail service, via the infrastructure bill, linking Ohio's three C's (Columbus, Cleveland and Cincinnati). We'll discuss what plans are underway to return rail travel between Ohio's major cities with guests Marc Magliari, Amtrak spokesperson, William Murdock, Executive Director of Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and Stu Nicholson, Executive Director of All Aboard Ohio. (3/9/2023)

#### **COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST**

##### [Ohio is 'textbook case' for passenger rail expansion, Amtrak official says](#)

William Murdock, executive director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, said the organization has studied Amtrak expansion and "the business case is there." (3/17/2023)

### **DATA & MAPPING**

#### **COLUMBUS DISPATCH**

##### [Columbus home construction rises to 18-year high, but falls short of need](#)

While rent and home-price growth has tapered some this year, both continue to rise, reflecting the ongoing demand for housing in central Ohio. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission recently increased the population forecast for the 15-county region to 3.15 million by 2050, up 726,000 residents from now. (3/2/2023)

#### **COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST**

##### [Central Ohio housing starts reach highest level since 2005 but still fall short of demand, BIA reports](#)

Another study from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission showed the region's population will grow by 726,000 people over the next 25 years. That's due in part to the job growth and economic development initiatives in Central Ohio, including Intel Corp.'s \$20 billion project in New Albany that will create 3,000 direct jobs. (3/3/2023)

#### **WDTN**

##### [Ohio growth contributing to eco tourism boon in Hocking County](#)

As ecotourism for a growing percentage of Hocking County's larger economy, the region also serves to benefit from continuous population growth in Columbus, according to the Mid-Ohio

Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). The commission recently projected that central Ohio is tracking to hit a population of around 3.15 million by 2050. (3/8/2023)

#### **WCMH NBC4**

[Housing, safety central to Mayor Ginther during State of the City](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission recently projected that the greater central Ohio region is tracking to hit a population of around 3.15 million by 2050. Historically, as the region's population has swelled over time, it has also consistently grown faster than the number of housing units being built. (3/22/2023)

## **HOUSING**

#### **WCMH NBC4**

[What housing policies will city council consider in 2023?](#)

As Columbus' population has swelled over time, it has also consistently grown faster than the number of housing units being built. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) recently projected that the greater central Ohio region is tracking to hit a population of around 3.15 million by 2050. (3/16/2023)

#### **COLUMBUS DISPATCH**

[OPINION: Our View: Columbus' housing market not cutting it. We must all open eyes to the crisis](#)

A projection released in February from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission says the 15-county region is now on track to exceed 3 million people by 2050.

## **STATE OF THE REGION**

#### **LOGAN DAILY NEWS**

[MORPC to host 2023 state of the region event March 31](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) will host the region's top community and business leaders for its annual State of the Region. One of Central Ohio's most significant events of the year, the 2023 State of the Region will highlight community accomplishments and showcase plans for leading Central Ohio into the future. (3/24/2023)

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

#### **UNION COUNTY DAILY DIGITAL**

[MORPC initiates ozone monitoring season](#)

March begins the start of ozone monitoring season – a time when air pollution can reach unhealthy levels for sensitive groups of individuals. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is part of a network of agencies across the country that issues daily air quality forecasts and notifies the public when these levels become a threat to public health. (3/2/2023)

#### **AXIOS**

[Columbus' complicated pollution problem](#)

Columbus was named the "most polluted major U.S. city" of 2022 in [a recent report](#) by Swiss air technology company IQAir. The planning commission that monitors our region's air quality is looking into the study's scope and methodology as it makes national headlines. (3/21/2023)

## **COLUMBUS DISPATCH**

[Is Columbus the most polluted major U.S. city? This report says so.](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) monitors the air quality in central Ohio and will periodically issue alerts when there is potential for high pollution levels. Brandi Whetstone, the organization's sustainability officer, said the report isn't consistent with MORPC's regional monitoring, adding that central Ohio's air quality hasn't exceeded national standards for the last 12 years. (3/22/2023)

## **WOSU PUBLIC MEDIA**

[Does Columbus really have the most polluted air among all major U.S. cities?](#)

The Ohio EPA and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission are pushing back on the IQAir conclusions about Columbus, but, the company is defending its methodology. Dolphin Hammes said regulatory monitors in Columbus haven't been painting an accurate picture of the amount of PM 2.5 in the air because there aren't enough in operation. (3/30/2023)

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **COLUMBUS UNDERGROUND**

[Plan to close Clintonville Gap in Olentangy Trail moving forward](#)

The overall project, which was first proposed in 2018 after plans for the new OhioHealth headquarters were first unveiled, was awarded \$3.7 million in federal transportation funding through the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. The City of Columbus and the Ohio Department of Transportation are also contributing funds to the project. (2/27/2023)

### **LOGAN DAILY NEWS**

[MORPC to host open house to review transportation improvement programs](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) will hold an open house to provide information and obtain public feedback on two different Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP). (3/2/2023)

### **COLUMBUS MESSENGER**

[Two large projects planned near Obetz](#)

The other letter of support is for Obetz as a partner on a Williams Road project with the city of Columbus. Other partners are the Franklin County Engineer and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. (3/7/2023)

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## **GONGWER**

### [Senators Eye Budget For Distracted Driving Tweaks](#)

Earlier testimony to that effect came from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, which called the enacted version "insufficient," as well as Sharon Montgomery of Gahanna who opined: "The new law has so many permissive exceptions that it is unlikely to reach its intended goal of significantly reducing the number of preventable crashes." (3/21/2023)

## **COLUMBUS UNDERGROUND**

### [Mayor: LinkUs transit vote planned for fall 2024](#)

"We are working to expand access to jobs, health care and other vital services by promoting rapid, reliable and affordable transportation throughout the region – particularly within our high-growth corridors," Ginther said in the speech. "LinkUs continues to bring together public- and private-sector partners, like Joanna Pinkerton at COTA and William Murdock at MORPC, to identify the corridors that will comprise our initial focus and lay the groundwork to put this