

LEAD—Opportunities for legislative and public policy leadership

Promote regionalism at the local, state and federal levels of government.

- Advocate regional agreements that improve the quality of life, enhance infrastructure, protect natural resources, and strengthen the region as a whole. For example, work with local governments to implement the Central Ohio Green Pact and to conduct regional planning of watershed accords.
- Promote state designation and recognition of regional transportation planning organizations. Also work at a federal level on developing new regional approaches to transportation planning and funding.
- Advocate legislation and policy that provide incentives for local governments to work together and coordinate efforts. For example, work to expand the new Ohio Collaborative Grant Fund for future years and additional funding. Also, participate in the Commission on Local Government Reform & Collaboration.
- Present a collaborative vision for central Ohio's future to our federal and state legislators and local governments.
- Use successful collaborative case studies of regional efforts to share with state legislators, Governor Strickland's administration, strategic partners and other key stakeholders.
- Combine efforts with regional groups and organizations to strengthen initiatives and promote collaboration to maximize resources.

Promote transportation mobility through multiple modes; and actively pursue funding to advance the safety, security, sustainability, and economic vitality of central Ohio by maintaining, improving, and expanding transportation infrastructure.

- Seek additional revenue and alternative funding mechanisms for transportation at local, state and federal levels. MORPC will lead the region in discussions of the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill and work collaboratively with the state and national partners on this initiative.
- Advocate a regional approach to transportation emergency preparedness.
- Advocate a regional vision for transportation that encompasses a broad spectrum of options including transit, light rail, rideshare, biking, walking and cars.
- Identify legislative and policy changes needed to achieve the vision for central Ohio's future transportation system.
- Support the activities and recommendations of Ohio's 21st Century Transportation Priorities Task Force.

Take practical steps and find innovative means to protect our air and water, to preserve natural resources, to increase green space, reduce our consumption of raw materials and increase recycling in order to enhance and protect the quality of life and economic prosperity of the region.

- Advance legislative and policy initiatives to implement the goals of the Central Ohio Green Pact.
- Achieve air quality attainment in central Ohio and find innovative means to reduce emissions by working with local, state and federal partners.
- Address clean diesel initiatives for air quality benefits. Secure funding and work with multiple levels of government to implement diesel retrofit projects; support Ohio's new Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Grant Program; and collaborate with the Ohio Diesel Coalition.
- Work on common-sense solutions and strategies to respond to the removal of the Clean Air Interstate Rules (CAIR).
- Promote energy efficiency and conservation, as well as renewable and alternative energy.
- Investigate cap and trade policies and other energy saving options and opportunities.
- Support the National Climate Registry, and continue to work with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) on this initiative.
- Work with MORPC members and stakeholders on sustainable use and management of natural resources to improve water and air quality, and address climate change through energy conservation.

COLLABORATE—Opportunities to form coalitions with like-minded organizations

Promote changes in state law to modernize land-use regulations and planning tools as a way to promote sustainable growth; preserve sensitive natural areas, protect productive farmland and reduce energy consumption.

- Avoid destruction of sensitive natural areas, and promote the use of best management practices.
- Promote smarter growth policies.
- Encourage land-use policies and planning that considers and supports multiple modes of transportation, including walking, biking, transit and light rail.
- Encourage policies that aid farmers in making their farms more energy efficient and capable of adapting production to alternative crops, such as local food production, as energy cost and market demand increases.
- Promote transfer development rights (TDR).

Support increased funding to local communities from state budgets, initiatives and programs (such as the Local Government Fund) and through school finance reform efforts.

Work with partners to address the mortgage and foreclosure crisis at the state and regional level.

Collaborate to revitalize vacant and abandoned housing and property throughout the region.

Advocate for an Ohio Primary Seat Belt Law to reduce traffic crash fatalities, prevent injuries and reduce the economic costs associated with crashes.

Support MetroParks' May 2009 levy effort.

Promote a regional fiber consortium/broadband network.

Work with Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) on efforts to update Tier I transportation projects; protect existing Tier I transportation projects; and allow additional projects that are ready to move forward.

Redefine "economic development" criteria in ODOT's Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) project evaluation.

Support continued development of "inland port" including intermodal facilities.

Support the increasing interest in availability of local foods to raise awareness of the need to encourage farmland protection programs and work with other organizations to show the cost benefit of using local food. Encourage and support efforts to revive the greenhouse industry.

Coordinate and create new policies to ensure job growth in new, emerging fields of energy and environment.

FOLLOW—Opportunities to express support for a broader set of issues

Work with local, regional and state leadership to address the impacts the Commercial Activity Tax (CAT) tax will have on governmental units and agencies that were formerly funded through state inventory taxes.

Improve financial stability of our region's low and moderate income households.

Support initiatives for statewide implementation of 2-1-1.

Ensure that we have a workforce ready for the future and one that is able to meet employers' needs today and into the future.

Work with the state, local governments and others on legislative and policy changes to Ohio's economic development incentive tools and programs.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES—

Initiatives that will serve as valuable tools to developing future public policy

Convene regional planning commissions in the 12-county region on a regular basis.

Establish “Regional Prosperity Indicators” that enable annual measurement and analysis of regional performance versus our peer regions and ourselves on an ongoing basis.

Analyze the impacts that economic development programs that abate or redirect property taxes have on secondary levy agencies that are primarily funded through property tax dollars.

Create a model to perform a comparative analysis of the costs of providing public services at the local level. This analysis will provide the analytical data necessary to begin investigating the economic feasibility and benefits of alternative local service delivery models.