



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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**NOTICE OF A MEETING**

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Scioto Conference Room

**Wednesday, October 2, 2019**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

- I. 5:30 p.m. Welcome & Introductions** – Catherine Girves, Chair
- II. 5:32 p.m. Approval of September 4, 2019 Minutes** (enclosed)
- III. 5:35 p.m. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report** (enclosed) - Thea Walsh, MORPC
  - Transit Agency Reports
    - DCTB Update
    - COTA Update – Doug Arseneault, COTA
  - Monthly Report: Data & Mapping – Aaron Schill, MORPC
  - Monthly Report: Planning & Sustainability – Kerstin Carr, MORPC
- IV. 5:55 p.m. 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)**
  - 2020-2050 MTP - Fiscal Constraint – Maria Schaper, MORPC
- V. 6:05 p.m. Informational Items**
  - Population Estimates – Aaron Schill, MORPC
  - Complete Streets Update – Stephen Patchan, MORPC
  - Energy Benchmarking Program – Jon-Paul d'Aversa, MORPC
  - Central Ohio Water Resources Planning – Rachael Beeman, MORPC
  - Air Quality Update – Dr. Brooke White, MORPC
- VI. 6:50 p.m. Other Business**
- VII. 7:00 p.m. Adjourn**

**PLEASE NOTIFY MARTA CRISPIN-RONDON AT 614-233-4150 OR [mcrispinrondon@morpc.org](mailto:mcrispinrondon@morpc.org) TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE FOR THIS MEETING OR IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.**

**The next CAC Meeting is**  
**Monday, November 4, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.**  
*111 Liberty Street, Suite 100*  
*Columbus, Ohio 43215*

**PARKING AND TRANSIT:** When parking in MORPC's parking lot, please be sure to park in a MORPC visitor space or in a space marked with a yellow "M". Handicapped parking is available at the side of MORPC's building. Three electric vehicle charging stations are available for MORPC guests.

MORPC is accessible by CBUS. The closest bus stop to MORPC is S. Front Street & W. Blenkner St. Buses that accommodate this stop are the Number 61 - Grove City, the Number 5 - West 5th Ave. /Refugee, and the Number 8 - Karl/S. High/Parsons.

**MEETING ROOM ACCESS:** When you arrive in MORPC's lobby, a video screen will display the day's meetings. Each meeting will list a phone extension. Use the phone in the lobby to call the extension and someone will come escort you to the meeting.

# Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

Date: **September 4, 2019**  
Time: **5:30 p.m.**  
Location: **MORPC**

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## **Members Present**

William Curlis  
Len Fisher

LaGrieta Holloway  
Catherine Girves

Grant Huling  
David Paul

Larry Robertson  
Ira Weiss

## **Guests Present**

Doug Arsenault  
Mark Conte

Mike Barker  
Breanna Badanes

Cleve Ricksecker  
Roy Wentzel

### **I. Welcome & Introductions**

Chair Catherine Girves called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

### **II. Approval of July 31, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Chair Girves asked for a motion to approve the minutes; Bill Curlis moved; Len Fisher seconded; and the motion carried.

### **III. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Thea Walsh, MORPC**

#### **• Transit Agencies Report**

##### **• Delaware County Transit Board (DCTB)**

- The Delaware County Transit Board recently changed their name from DataBus. They are working on new software for scheduling and dispatching and City of Delaware flex routes starting at points going, North, South, East and West using this new software. They are working on fixing on-demand routes that operate on a 30-minute rotation. They are also working on expanding services into areas such as Polaris, Tanger Mall, and the City of Columbus to meet the growing population.

##### **• COTA Update – Doug Arseneault, COTA**

- Public comment meetings for our January service change will be held on September 12 at noon and Tuesday, September 17 at 6 p.m.
  - Both meetings will be held at the Columbus Metropolitan Library, Northside branch on North High Street, due to our lobby renovations for the new Customer Experience Center.
  - COTA is proposing the discontinuation of the Night Owl service, due to low ridership likely related to expanded service on Line 2 and the CBUS. We are looking to

repurpose those resources to improve the frequency of coverage service in low-income communities.

- COTA's Annual Luncheon will be held Thursday, October 3 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The keynote speaker will be announced soon.
- Two new members of our Leadership Team joined COTA in recent weeks.
  - Angela Mumma started as our new Chief Financial Officer on August 26, previously serving as Finance Director for the City of Dublin.
  - Sophia Mohr joined us as our new Chief Innovation Officer yesterday, September 3. Sophia was Vice President of Owner Experience Design and Strategy for Netjets prior to joining COTA.
- COTA Plus micro transit service in Grove City is going well, providing an average of 20 daily trips. Our goal is 120 daily trips by the end of the one-year demonstration project.
  - COTA recently hosted state legislators from the House Transportation Committee for a tour of COTA Plus, with a lot of positive feedback about launching similar services in other regions locally and around the state.
  - COTA is pursuing a second COTA Plus zone, to launch this winter or in early 2020.
- Mainstream on Demand service continues to grow in popularity, with 1,850 trips provided in July.
  - Ridership is increasing on a trend of more than 300 trips each month, which we expect to peak at about 2,000 monthly this autumn.
  - COTA is in discussions with City of Columbus and a broad coalition of partners, including Yay Bikes about a second Mobility Innovation Test in the coming months.
- 3rd Street Mobility Corridor
  - MORPC recently conducted a pilot test with bicyclist, transit, and vehicle riders. COTA and the City of Columbus worked together on a survey and met with a focus group to discuss the first level of findings. There are still things to discover and another pop-up lane test to do.
- Clean Fuels Ohio
  - The Clean Fuels Ohio Annual Conference is scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> at the Marriot on the Ohio State campus.
  - Thea disclosed that she is their chairperson.
- Miscellaneous
  - Dr. Larry Robertson of All Aboard Ohio shared that they are going to have their autumn All Aboard meeting at MORPC's Scioto Conference Room on September 28, 2019 at 9 a.m.
  - Speakers include Thea Walsh and Dina Lopez from MORPC.

- Monthly Report – Data & Mapping – Cheri Mansperger, MORPC
  - The Paving the Way initiative has completed development on the new website, and training materials. The public launch is scheduled in early October.
  - Population Forecasts & Estimates
    - Small area population & employment forecasts to 2050 are complete
    - Mapping & tables will be available online later this month
    - Additional detailed data is available upon request

[The presentation can be found by clicking here](#)

- Monthly Report – Planning & Sustainability – Stephen Patchan, MORPC
  - Central Ohio was the first non-attainment region in the United States to reach attainment for the most recent national ozone air pollution standards. Less ozone pollution in the air means:
    - Better health for everyone but specially for our children and anyone with asthma or compromised lung health because they feel the effects of air pollution most.
    - Businesses will face fewer air permitting restrictions paving the way for infrastructure investment and economic development that will create jobs.
  - National short-duration trail counts on Bicycle & Pedestrian for 2019 were collected throughout August and will continue through September. Team members coordinated with partners to set up temporary count equipment at key locations throughout the region as part of MORPC's trail monitoring program.
  - The Fall 2019 Volunteer Bicyclist and Pedestrian Counts have been scheduled for Wednesday, September 11 from 7-9am and 11-7pm. Locations and information about how to sign up for those counts has been shared with the Active Transportation Working Group and others to get volunteers.
  - Team members worked with the City of Columbus and Street Light Insight technical staff to analyze pedestrian data for a curb ramp prioritization project. Couple of events are coming, one is the America Walks on September 24, registration is out for that now. Get registered as soon as you can.

#### IV. Proposed Resolutions

- Proposed Resolution T-13-19 – “Amending the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program” (enclosed) – Ronni Nimps, MORPC.
  - This resolution will add or modify seven projects on the SFY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with commitments totaling over \$80 million.
  - COTA requested an addition for the 2020 electric bus purchase with funds from the Low or No Emission Vehicle Program; the addition of \$10 million of 5307 funds for the rehabilitation of the Fields Avenue facility; and the reduction of \$2 million of 5307 funds for the 2020 CNG bus purchase.
  - The City of Delaware requested an addition to the right-of-way phase of “the Point” project at US-36 and SR-37 from west of Foley Street and east of East Street to SR-521.

- Following the removal of MORPC-attributable funds via T-9-19, Dublin's Tuttle Crossing Boulevard was removed from the TIP.
- ODOT District 5 requested the addition of preliminary engineering for an interchange in the vicinity of Pickerington Road on US-33.
- ODOT District 6 requested the addition of the right-of-way phase for I-70/I-71 Innerbelt, Phase 4B.

Chair Catherine Girves asked for a motion to approve; William Curlis moved; Ira Weiss seconded; and the motion carried.

- **Proposed Resolution T-14-19 – “Accepting the PWP Completion Report for State Fiscal Year 2019”** (enclosed) – Thea Walsh, MORPC
  - Annually, MORPC is required to submit a report to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) describing the work completed with federal planning funds to continue the metropolitan transportation planning process, as defined by the FAST Act.
  - For State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2019, the use of these funds was outlined in the SFY 2019 Planning Work Program (PWP) adopted by Resolution T-7-18 and amended by resolutions T-16-18 and T-1-19. The PWP serves as the scope of work, the schedule, and the budget for the federally funded planning activities.
  - A summary of the PWP activities is included as an attachment to the resolution. A full report is available upon request. Resolution T-14-19 approves the completion report and requires that it is forwarded to ODOT.

Chair Catherine Girves asked for a motion to approve; Larry Robertson moved; Ira Weiss seconded; and the motion carried.

- **Proposed Resolution T-15-19 - “Establishing Priorities for Central Ohio Candidate Projects Submitted in 2019 for TRAC Funding”** (enclosed) - Dina Lopez, MORPC
  - Resolution T-15-19 commits funding for Major New Capacity Program projects. Eligible projects include existing TRAC-funded projects needing funds to advance, projects that cost over \$12 million, and projects that increase capacity and/or reduce congestion. TRAC also considers new projects with significant impact on regional economic and have a non-ODOT funding commitments. MPO provide ODOT a local project prioritization recommendation.
  - There were 8 projects submitted to TRAC for funding that fall within MORPC's MPO area. MORPC staff evaluated the projects using the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) goals and objectives.
  - MORPC recommends the 2019 MPO TRAC priorities as follows:
    - Priority No. 1: Far East Phases 1, 2 & 3
    - Priority No. 2: Union Co. US-33/SR-161/ Post Rd. interchange
    - Priority No. 3: The Delaware Point
    - Priority No. 4: US-33/ Pickerington Road
    - Priority No. 5: I-71/ Stringtown Road

Priority No. 6: US-23/I-270 Interchange

[The presentation can be found by clicking here](#)

CAC Chair Girves asked for a motion to approve; LaGrieta moved; Ira Weiss seconded; and the motion carried.

V. **2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)** - Maria Schaper, MORPC

- Maria provided a brief update to the MTP, specifically the results of the interactive webmap and strategies development. A few items of note include:
  - “Like” “dislike” or “neutral” indicated: 733
  - Comments on projects: 674
  - Most comments received on one project: 44 (*Minor Widening of Roberts Rd. from Alton & Darby Creek Rd. to Hilliard Rome Rd.*)
    - 37 “like”
    - 2 “dislike”
    - 2 “neutral”
    - 3 did not vote
  - Most “dislike” votes (6): Hill Rd.-Lockville Rd. connector in Pickerington
- Strategy development is also underway.
- Next steps include:
  - Evaluating all candidate projects using adopted criteria
  - Developing project cost estimates and regional revenue forecast and completing the fiscal analysis
  - Developing draft list of regional transportation strategies and projects, which will be available for public comment and brought before committees later this Fall
- The MTP adoption is scheduled for May 2020.

[The presentation can be found by clicking here](#)

VI. **Informational Items**

- **I-70/I-71 Columbus Crossroads Project Update** – Breanna Badanes, ODOT
  - Breanna discussed the 1-70/71 Phase 2E Upcoming Impacts. A few items of note include:
    - Alternate Routes to I-70 EAST
      - Dublin Rd. to SR 315 SB to I-70 EB
      - Spring St. to Neil Ave. to I-670 EB to I-71 SB
      - Greenlawn Ave. to I-71 NB to I-70 EB
      - Main St. to Miller Ave. to I-70 EB
      - Main St. to Alum Creek Dr. to I-70 EB
      - Livingston Ave. to Alum Creek Dr. to I-70 EB
    - Tentative Schedule
      - Both directions of I-70 on WB bridge – Sept/Oct. 2019
      - Parsons closed south of Main – Oct. 2019
      - 3<sup>rd</sup> St. ramp closes – Nov. 2019
      - 18<sup>th</sup> St. ramp closes – Nov. 2019
      - Fulton/4<sup>th</sup> intersection closure – Mid-summer 2020

- Mooberry one-way EB – Fall 2020

[The presentation can be found by clicking here](#)

- **Downtown C-pass Update** – Cleve Ricksecker, Capital Crossroads & Discovery SID
  - Mr. Ricksecker presented the results of the 2019 C-pass survey results. Some of the key findings are:
  - Ridership among the survey group doubled, growing from approximately 5% prior to June 1, 2018, to a current percentage falling within a range of 10% to 14% in June 2019
  - 68% report that C-pass is the reason they started using COTA while another 26% said it helped motivate them to use COTA
  - People switching are most motivated by saving money (83% agree strongly), followed by convenience (50% agree strongly)
  - 52% of surveyed companies report knowing that employees had relinquished parking because they now take the bus

[The handout can be found by clicking here](#)

- **Safety Plan Update** – Stephen Patchan, MORPC
  - Population growth and limited transportation options have resulted in increased driving, but an even greater increase in fatalities.
  - During the 2013-2017 time period:
    - Vehicle miles travelled **increased** by 5%
    - Traffic fatalities **increased** by 25%
    - Fatality rate **increased** by 19%
    - Serious injuries **decreased** by 4%
    - Serious injury rate **decreased** by 8%

[The presentation can be found by clicking here](#)

## VII. **Adjourn**

Chair Girves asked for a motion to adjourn at 7:20p.m.; Larry Robertson moved; LaGrieta seconded; and the motion carried.



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Bernice Cage, Secretary  
Community Advisory Committee





## MORPC Monthly Metropolitan Transportation Organization Summary

October 2019

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# Transportation & Infrastructure Development

Thea Walsh, Director - [twalsh@morpc.org](mailto:twalsh@morpc.org)

### **Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

- Staff has been diligently processing, documenting, and incorporating public comments and project suggestions received via the interactive webmap, email, phone calls, and U.S. mail. Project suggestions are being reviewed and added for evaluation and consideration in the MTP.
- Work is underway getting ready to apply the adopted evaluation criteria to the candidate projects by readying data and setting up analyses to be used in the project evaluation process. Simultaneously, Regional transportation strategies are being drafted that will advance the adopted transportation goals. Work is also progressing on forecasting funding resources for the financial plan component.

### **Transit, Mobility & Human Services**

#### **Gohio**

- Gohio staff is working with Smart Columbus and other Central Ohio Mobility partners to initiate a pilot program for getting sustainable mobility education in schools. The idea is to pilot an educational program that encourages and empowers students to use sustainable transportation before they gain a driver's license. The end goal is to have a packaged program that other schools in the region could use to educate students on the benefits of sustainable modes and how to use them safely.
- Gohio staff finished working on the MORPC Focused Effort Report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Innovation Test that was championed by the City of Columbus Department of Public Service and COTA. The Focused Effort served as an opportunity for input, specifically for bicyclists in Central Ohio. The end result is a comprehensive report of why and why not cyclists feel comfortable and confident riding in the existing bike lane and the pop-up shared mobility lane. The report can be used by MORPC, ODOT, planners, and engineers to understand what works best for bicyclists when considering future bike infrastructure improvements and tests.

- Gohio Staff presented at the Walking Summit in September to discuss how Gohio Commute is a robust program supporting active commuting and TDM efforts in Central Ohio. Staff also learned from other partner organizations how to be innovative in community outreach to better service diverse populations in the region in support of active transportation.
- Gohio staff are working on the Transportation Demand Management Strategic Plan that is set to be finalized in December. Staff is working with the Central Ohio Mode Shift Coalition (a group led by Gohio staff) to determine education, outreach, and encouragement strategies for the region that will have a beneficial impact on Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and percent of people using sustainable modes in Central Ohio.
- Four new vanpools have been added to the Gohio program originating from Beavercreek, Plain City, Grove City, and Portsmouth. These vanpools travel to Whitehall and Chillicothe.
- Encova Insurance (formally Motorist Insurance Group) has joined the Gohio program. Encova started a sustainable commute benefit program to encourage alternatives to driving alone to work. Staff participated in AEP's transportation fair. Employees were excited to learn about AEP's new subsidized transit program and MORPC's Emergency Ride Home Program.
- A six-month pilot Commuter Rewards program was launched with current sub-network companies. These are companies in Central Ohio who have contracted with Gohio Commute to market a sustainable commute program within their organization. The purpose of the pilot is to reenergize the company's employees who have tried sustainable commuting to continue their new mode or to encourage more employees to try a new mode.
- The OARC Rideshare and Air Quality Subcommittee has extended the RideAmigos contract to continue subscription and services for an online transportation demand management platform system until June 30, 2021.

## **Transportation Planning Studies**

### **Rapid Speed Transportation Initiative (RSTI)**

- Environmental Impact Study (EIS Study): The consultant has submitted passenger rail components of the environmental work, including the existing conditions report, passenger rail route alternatives report, and draft purpose and need statement for the passenger rail project. MORPC has scheduled public officials debrief meetings in Lima, Marysville, Dublin and Columbus, which will be taking place starting on October 7 in the City of Dublin.
- Hyperloop Feasibility Study: MORPC and the consultant are wrapping up the economic demand analysis, and reviewing all work submitted for other tasks in the scope of work. The feasibility study will be included in the public officials debriefs in October.

### **Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO)**

- CORPO collaborated with ODOT and held five of the seven Rural Consultation Meetings during the CORPO subcommittee meetings in September. This was the initial step in the rural TIP process and a first for CORPO as the facilitator of a TIP. CORPO will hold the final two rural consultation meetings the first week of October.

- CORPO submitted a proposal to ODOT for additional planning funds to develop a rural technical assistance program which will assist with projects related to rural broadband, workforce access and planning policy.
- CORPO also applied for additional planning funds on behalf of the Union County Health Department who has received two bids to complete a feasibility study related to workforce access and mobility in the county. Additionally, CORPO has provided a letter of support and assisted Union County Health Department with their application to the OTP2 grant.

### **Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)**

- Applicants in Franklin County (District 3) submitted 31 applications requesting \$42.8 million in SCIP/LTIP funding for the year beginning July 1, 2019. Approximately \$27 million is available. The team is reviewing and scoring applications. The Public Works Integrating Committee's (PWIC) next meeting on November 15 will be to review and discuss the applications.

### **Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC)**

- Clean Ohio Conservation Fund application materials for communities in Franklin County (District 3) will be available on MORPC's website in September. Approximately \$3.8 million is available for green space acquisition and stream corridor restoration. Preliminary screening applications are due on December 13, 2019, and final applications are due on March 20, 2020. Awards will be announced on April 23, 2020.

### **INFRA**

- ODOT, the City of Columbus, and MORPC continue to communicate with U.S. DOT about options for resubmitting the Columbus Crossroads (I-70/I-71 Innerbelt) application in the INFRA cycle expected to open this winter.

### **Competitive Advantage Projects**

- In order to advance identified CAP priorities, MORPC has launched an Innovative Funding Strategies Development Activity with Ice Miller LLP and The Saunders Group. A call for letters of interest was opened to gather interest from project sponsors. Six projects will be selected to participate in a workshop in early November where project sponsors, MORPC, and funding experts from the consulting team will breakdown the project needs and opportunities and discuss potential funding concepts. The consultant team will then develop funding strategies, vet with experts with experience working on similar projects, and complete revised strategies with public-private partnership considerations and a conceptual source and uses table.

# Data & Mapping

Aaron Schill, Director – [aschill@morpc.org](mailto:aschill@morpc.org)

## **Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC)**

- The RDAC met on September 24 to discuss the 2020 Census, the Population Forecast, the Regional Housing Strategy, the August 21 Central Ohio GIS User Group meeting, the updated MTP Webmap, and reports from the Committee's four new working groups.
- The Data Policy Needs Survey & Toolkit Working Group met on September 16 to review the Smart Columbus Data Privacy and Data Management Policies documents, the Civic Data Privacy Leaders Network, and several State Data Policy documents. The Group also discussed the development of the Data Policy Needs Survey. The Group will meet again on October 1.
- The Regional Data User Group Working Group met on September 19 for an in-depth discussion of the Group's purpose and value, and to prepare for a report to be presented to the RDAC on September 24. The Group will meet again on October 22.
- The Regional Municipal Fiber Strategy Working Group met on September 20 to discuss a future presentation to the Central Ohio Mayors and Managers Association (COMMA). The Group will meet again on October 9.
- The Sustainability Dashboard Working Group met on September 12 to view a demonstration from OSU/CURA staff of the current iteration of the Dashboard. The Group also discussed use cases and data acceptance criteria. The Group will meet again on October 8.

## **Transportation**

- The Data & Mapping Team together with the Communications & Engagement Team have held five Paving the Way Training Sessions in September for local government staff and contractors.
- Data & Mapping Director Aaron Schill continues to work on the U.S. Department of Energy's Transportation Energy Analytics Dashboard (TEAD), in partnership with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the University of Maryland's Center for Advanced Transportation Technology Laboratory. TEAD will be a first-of-its-kind resource that allows for real-time, detailed monitoring and analysis of the energy consumption and emissions of the regional transportation network.

## **Data & Mapping Support to MORPC Members, Programs, and Projects**

- Data & Mapping Director Aaron Schill, Transportation's Nathaniel Kaelin, and Michael Loges of COTA made a presentation to representatives of the Greenville, South Carolina Chamber of Commerce on September 24. The subject of the presentation was Transit Innovation.
- The Data & Mapping Team completed the data gathering and analysis phases of the 2020 Population Estimate project. Draft estimates were distributed to MORPC members and

comments were solicited. The final 2020 Population Estimate will be presented to Commission on October 10.

- MORPC continues to have numerous roles on the Columbus/Franklin County Complete Count Committee. The Local Government Subcommittee of the Complete Count Committee met on August 29 at MORPC, brainstorming about outreach and engagement opportunities, and

identifying talking point needs for local governments. The Subcommittee will meet again on October 2. Subcommittee plans to meet every four to six weeks through the end of 2019, and then more frequently from January 2020 through April 2020.

- MORPC continues its work with the Ohio Census Advocacy Coalition (OCAC) to prepare for and conduct outreach to encourage full participation in the 2020 Census, with a focus on historically undercounted or “hard-to-count” populations.
- Data & Mapping Director Aaron Schill continues to serve on the Smart Columbus Operating System Charter Team. The Team will hold a Workshop at MORPC at 3:30 pm on October 3. The goal of the Workshop is to understand the data needs and the problems faced by local municipalities and how those municipalities use data tools and platforms, to ideate features and use cases for the Smart Columbus regional data platform, and to explore adoption and pilot opportunities.
- The Data & Mapping Team continues to take a lead role in refining the project research questions and data collection for the Regional Housing Study. The Study will assess the state of the housing market in the region and the data gaps that currently exist based on previous research; review and analyze the availability of public and private dollars to support housing development; identify structural impediments to housing developments; and conduct a national scan around investment policies and strategies to address housing affordability.
- The Data & Mapping Team hosted a Big Table event on August 28 regarding digital inclusion and equity. Ten local leaders attended, with a suggestion of more meetings on this topic in the future.
- Data & Mapping Director Aaron Schill has joined the Leadership Columbus Class of 2020. The Leadership Columbus Program is a unique combination of relationship-building, learning, problem-solving, civic engagement and personal growth. Annually, 55-65 individuals are selected from a pool of applicants to build a class representative of the Greater Columbus area.
- Data Mapping GIS Manager Cheri Mansperger and GIS Specialist Jason Kaper were both moderators at the recent Ohio GIS Conference.
- Data & Mapping Director Aaron Schill and Doug Murray, City of Columbus, made a presentation to the League of Women Voters regarding the 2020 Census and the Complete Count Committee.

# Planning & Sustainability

Kerstin Carr, Director - [kcarr@morpc.org](mailto:kcarr@morpc.org)

## **Active Transportation Planning**

- Active Transportation Working Group (ATWG): ATWG members voted on a topic for a potential Active Transportation Academy workshop and selected the Vision Zero workshop and MORPC staff submitted an application to ODOT's Local Technical Assistance Program for the session topic. The goal is to host a workshop before the end of 2019.
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Counts: Fall 2019 Volunteer Bicyclist and Pedestrian Counts were conducted on Wednesday, September 11 from 7-9am and 11am-1pm. We had 26 volunteers participate and conduct counts at 20 different locations throughout the region. These short duration counts will be used in combination with data collected from permanent trail count stations throughout 2019 to inform estimates of trail usage for 2019

## **insight2050**

- Corridor Concepts: Team members shared findings from Corridor Concepts with the City of Westerville Planning Commission and City Council this month, as well as with the Highland West and Northwest Civic Associations.
- Team members shared findings from Corridor Concepts with the City of Westerville Planning Commission and City Council this month, as well as with the Highland West and Northwest Civic Associations.
- Academy: The Fall 2019 insight2050 Academy on "Housing for All," scheduled to begin September 27, was postponed due to a shortage of applicants. The topic remains timely and important, and the next step is to continue conversations with the Knowlton School Alumni Society – co-sponsor of the program – about rescheduling this for the spring 2020 Academy.
- Technical Assistance Program (TA) The insight2050 Technical Assistance Program Competitive Application deadline is Friday, September 27 at 5:00 PM. The TAP provides MORPC staff assistance to local government members within the MPO for the planning of sustainable transportation and community development efforts. Selected projects will be announced in December. For more information about Program services or the application process, please visit [getinsight2050.org](http://getinsight2050.org).

## **Regional Housing Strategy**

- A scan of the current housing landscape in Central Ohio was documented over the last month. This synthesis of existing reports and research will feed into the novel analyses to be completed as part of the project. A community survey to gather qualitative input to complement the quantitative landscape scan is in development and will be deployed in late September or early October.

## **Transportation Safety**

- Meeting Coordination: Team members attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC) Technical Council meeting. The Council approved two project proposals for funding: (1) a new driver exam testing platform for the BMV to improve the driver examination process, and (2) statewide collection of intersection data for ODOT to improve their infrastructure improvement prioritization process.
- Team members attended the Walk.Bike.Ohio Steering Committee where meeting participants developed Plan vision and goals.
- Team members attended the September Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review Meeting.
- Team members attended a pedestrian safety peer exchange to share and learn about best practices around the Midwest for improving pedestrian safety.
- Team members coordinated, attended and facilitated the America Walks Summit on September 24 at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. The Summit attracted 140 attendees from local, regional, state and national experts, practitioners, advocates and elected officials to discuss issues and opportunities in for pedestrians in Central Ohio.
- Regional Safety Plan: The Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan was released to the public, and September was recognized as Safe Driving Awareness Month. Team members have begun work on implementation of the Safety Plan's Action Plan by identifying priority action items from the action plan. In addition, Team Members drafted templates for Driver Awareness Month resolution, Distracted Driving Ordinance and Complete Streets Policies for MORPC members' use.
- Data Analysis/Reporting: MORPC staff completed an analysis of safety data for the City of Gahanna related to the release of the Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan. While Columbus accounts for the majority of crashes that occurred in the MPO area from 2013-2017, the City of Gahanna had the second highest number of crashes during that time period of any other jurisdiction in the MPO area.

## **Greenways & Water Resources Program**

- Central Ohio Greenways Board: The Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Board will meet on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>. The agenda will focus on updates and discussions from the four COG working groups. The Trail Development working group is focused on securing funding and finalizing a scope for a trail prioritization effort that will identify trail and trail connector projects that will have the greatest regional impact. The group also plans to update the "Trail Design Guide" to include best practices for urban greenways. The Partnership working group secured funds the Columbus Foundation's Green Funds program to support an "Impact of Trails Study." The group is working to secure additional funds to fully fund the project by applying to grants and reaching out to local partners. The study will estimate the benefits of trails on health, economy, environment, and equity.
- The Operations & Access working group is continuing to look at best practices for wayfinding on trails. The group is evaluating wayfinding strategies that provide guidance on navigating

from the road network to the trails and from trails to destinations such as retail centers and parks.

- The Marketing & Communications working group continues to support COG advocates through a social media marketing effort. The group is also considering events that could activate trail heads and encourage more people to experience the trails.
- Central Ohio Water Resources Working Group: The Water Resources Working Group met September 26<sup>th</sup> to hear updates on the Sustaining Scioto Short Term Adaptation Plan, set to be released this fall. The Sustainability Advisory Committee approved the formation of a Sustaining Scioto Board at the September meeting, which will focus on building capacity and financial resources for the implementation plan. Staff will work with existing Water Resources Working Group participants to transition to the new working group and board structure set to begin January 2020. The group also heard policy updates, including H2Ohio and Waters of the United States updates. Finally, the group was informed of the Resource Conservation Partnership Program funding opportunity.

## **Sustainable2050**

- Member Engagement: Congratulations to the City of Worthington, the newest Sustainable2050 member to complete its Tier Status certification process. Worthington will be formally recognized for its efforts at the October Commission meeting. MORPC staff also participated in Grove City's Environmental Sustainability Committee, which was the kick off meeting with the OSU Sustainability Studio's class project to develop a sustainability plan for Grove City.
- The Sustainable2050 membership held its Q3 meeting on September 25, with our thanks to the City of Bexley for hosting. Jeremy Druhot with Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority was the featured speaker and led a roundtable discussion on the topic of energy.

## **Energy & Air Quality**

- Ozone attainment: The Central Ohio Region is the first in the nation to be announced as re-designated to attainment with the 2015 ozone NAAQS.
- Air Quality Marketing & Outreach: Air Quality staff participated in a panel on Urban Air Quality with OSU's Center for Urban and Regional Analysis. New subscribers during 2018-2019 has increased the overall Air Quality Alert subscribership from 2005-2019 by over 50%.
- Idle Free Schools: Air Quality staff is preparing to present Indianola Informal middle school students an air quality awareness challenge.
- Energy & Air Quality Working Group: The Energy and Air Quality Working Group met on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Matt Stephens-Rich, Vice Chair, announced the formation of new project-based subcommittees of the Working Group. Members voted to proceed with a project to develop MORPC programming using a network of low-cost particulate matter sensors and a project to develop a solar implementation toolkit for local governments, businesses, and other organizations.



- Local Government Energy Partnership: Union County and Madison Township have signed MOUs for the Benchmarking Program. The City of Columbus has confirmed that they will be sharing their benchmarking data with the MORPC Program once their program is in place.
- MORPC held the first Benchmarking Program Participant Workshop, where staff provided information and updates regarding the state of benchmarking around the country and within Ohio, Energy Optimizers presented on performance contracting for energy efficiency, and the group identified benefits of the program and any issues participants are facing.
- Special Projects: Staff submitted a proposal to the Federal Highway Administration for a deployment plan for an I-70 alternative fuel corridor. The proposal sought \$60,000. A response is expected this fall.

### **Sustainability Advisory Committee**

- The Sustainability Advisory Committee met on September 18 at MORPC. The meeting included a presentation by SAC member Aslyne Rodriguez from EmpowerBus. MORPC staff presented on the proposed tier status certification for City of Worthington which was approved by the SAC and will be recognized at the October Commission meeting. MORPC staff also presented about the Sustaining Scioto project and a proposal to form a Sustaining Scioto Board, based on the successful model of the COG Board, to focus on building capacity and financial resources for the implementation plan. The SAC members engaged in productive discussion and supported the board proposal, which will be brought forward to the Commission. The next meeting will take place on December 18 at MORPC
- Regional Sustainability Dashboard: The Sustainability Dashboard Working Group's second meeting was held on September 12. The role of this Working Group is to bring together expertise from the SAC and Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC) to provide guidance for development of a dynamically-fed dashboard to track progress toward the goals of the Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA). The working group provided input to help clarify the intention of the dashboard and will be providing feedback on certain RSA metrics that have been difficult to measure. CURA staff presented a demo of the dashboard, and MORPC staff presented on data and metric considerations. The Summit on Sustainability on Oct. 11 will also include a session about measuring the impacts of sustainability work, and the dashboard will be featured as one example. The next meeting is on October 8 at MORPC.
- Special projects: MORPC's Sustainability Officer led the internal Sustainability Team through an exercise to collect ideas and input on sustainability focused considerations for space planning and building renovation. The project manager from SHYFT Collective joined the meeting to provide additional information. The input is being compiled and prioritized for further guidance to the project manager so that these considerations can be incorporated. The input was categorized into broader categories representing energy and air quality, materials use and recycling, water, comfort and health, and transportation and mobility. The Sustainability Team will also be engaged with MORPC's tier status certification process as part of our Sustainable2050 commitment.

# Communications & Engagement

Niel Jurist, Director – [njurist@morpc.org](mailto:njurist@morpc.org)

## **Presentations & Outreach**

- Presentations on the RSTI studies have been scheduled for:
  - Dublin City Council – October 7 @ 7:00 pm
  - Lima City Council Public Meeting - October 9 @ 5:00 pm
  - Marysville City Council – October 14 @ 7:00 pm
  - Union County Commissioners & Chamber of Commerce – October 17 @ 8:00 am
  - Lima-Allen Regional Planning Commission – October 24 @ 3:00 pm
  - Smart Columbus – November 1 @ 12:45 pm
- Presentations on the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan are being scheduled starting in November through February 2020.
- Incentives and messaging were provided to the Gohio Commute incentive campaign. The campaign is tailored toward businesses.
- A training manual was created for the new Paving the Way system. Training sessions were held with local government staff and construction contractors.

## **News Releases and Social Media**

Press releases distributed to the media:

- MORPC and ODOT Release Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan
- Notice of September meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Franklin County Transportation Improvement District, Franklin County, Ohio
- Social media and eSource included: Virgin Hyperloop One Roadshow, the Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan, Safe Driving Awareness Month, insight2050 Academy, Bike & Pedestrian Counts, Delaware County Transit/COTA OSU Info, Metropolitan Transportation Plan project suggestions, 5307/Transportation Improvement Program Comments, and Air Quality federal standards attainment.

## **MORPC in the News**

MORPC was mentioned in the news approximately 56 times. The Franklin County Bridge project article generated 71 percent of the mentions in the media which generated a reach of more than 75 million. The Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan was also mentioned which generated a reach of over 1.5 million.

- NBC4i interviewed Stephen Patchan on red light crashes.
- GovTech interviewed Thea Walsh on RSTI studies, hyperloop and passenger rail.
- Street Blog quoted Kerstin Carr on insight2050 next steps.

- Ohio Contractors Association interviewed Thea Walsh on status of hyperloop.
- Columbus Dispatch and WOSU interviewed Stephen Patchan on Transportation Safety Plan
- Automotive News interviewed William Murdock and Dina Lopez on hyperloop.
- Business First interviewed Mary Ann Frantz on SHARE micro transit.