

Regional Policy Roundtable Minutes



Date: Tuesday, April 17, 2018
Time: 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Location: MORPC Scioto Conference Room

1. Welcome & Overview – Mayor Kim Maggard, Regional Policy Roundtable Chair

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m. by Chair Mayor Kim Maggard. Each member introduced themselves to the Roundtable.

2. Member Update – Doug Arseneault, COTA

Doug Arseneault provided a member update presentation to the Roundtable. He provided an update on COTA's involvement with Smart Columbus, Regional Corridor Analysis, First Mile/ Last Mile Study.

Mr. Arseneault also informed Roundtable members on COTA's recently completed public policy agenda. COTA's federal policy agenda includes:

1. Pursue federal appropriations, programs and policies that support increased federal investment in public transportation.
2. Advance new transportation technologies and initiatives that encourage transit and position Central Ohio as a leader in transportation innovation.
3. Advocate for federal programs, policies and funding that spur economic development and create sustainable growth that will serve the region's projected growth of up to one million people and 300,000 new jobs by 2050.

3. Legislative Update – Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter

▪ FY 2018 Federal Omnibus Budget Bill

Mr. Tugend informed members how President Trump signed a \$1.3 trillion appropriations bill into law, providing additional funds to key programs that will have a positive impact on local governments. In partnership with other regional leaders, MORPC staff advocated for an increase in federal dollars to programs that will advance the region.

▪ HB 114 Ohio Energy Standards

Mr. Tugend mentioned how Christina O'Keeffe provided opponent testimony to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The Sustainability Advisory Committee and the Roundtable are working together on the bill. We are hearing the Administration is in negotiations with the Senate in creating a sub-bill that may be more palatable than the House passed version.

- **HB 529 State Capital Budget**

Governor Kasich signed the \$2.6 billion capital budget last Friday. Since last fall, MORPC staff have worked closely with other regional agencies and partners to ensure the capital budget bill maximized economic and sustainable development for our growing region. We were pleased to see many Central Ohio community projects included in the bill. MORPC Executive Director William Murdock submitted proponent testimony on House Bill 529, the state capital budget bill, to the Ohio House Finance Committee on March 6.

- **Remainder of General Assembly**

Speaker Rosenberger said he will resign from the Ohio House on May 1 while maintaining innocence in a federal inquiry that caused him to retain a defense attorney. Speaker Pro Tempore Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) will take over leadership until the House elects a new speaker.

4. Digital Infrastructure Joint Meeting – Joe Garrity, Senior Government Affairs Coordinator

Joe Garrity informed members about the Regional Policy Roundtable, Regional Data Advisory Committee, and Smart Region Task Force held a joint meeting on several bills related to broadband expansion and 5g deployment. The meeting offered members the opportunity to provide their input on legislation and express how bills affect their community. In addition, it assisted MORPC staff in advocating on behalf of our members when we meet with legislators or provide testimony on behalf of MORPC members.

House Bill 281 Carfagana

- Establishes a residential broadband expansion program within ODSA to award matching grants for last mile broadband expansion in municipalities and townships.
- Makes an appropriation of \$2 million in Fiscal Year 2019 from unencumbered funds.
- Passed the House January 31, 2018 (92-5). Resides in Senate Finance Committee.

House Bill 378 Rep. Smith and Cera

- Creates the Ohio Broadband Development Program.
- Provides a 50 million dollar appropriation.
- Voted out of House Finance Committee March 20, 2018 (21-2). There is a possibility the bill could be voted out of the House as early as next week when members return from Spring Break.
- Was voted out of the House Chamber yesterday. Vote 85-11 and will head over to the Senate.

House Bill 478 (Smith and LaTourette)

- To modify the law regarding wireless service and the placement of small cell wireless facilities in the public way.
- The bill is a result of a collaborative effort between 90 Ohio municipalities and the industry. It protects municipal infrastructure/minimizes disruption
- This legislation operationalizes the way this is achieved (applies to wireless service providers, provides predictability, maintains character, allows for design guidelines, permit processes, tolling)
- The bill was voted out of the Senate yesterday (26-7) And the House passed the amended version (72-17)

5. 2019-2020 Public Policy Agenda Working Group – Ben Collins, Vice Chair of Regional Policy Roundtable and Joe Garrity

Staff is also working with Ben Collins on the formation of the 2019-2020 MORPC Public Policy Agenda Working Group. Staff is working on restructuring certain priorities and accepting internal feedback. The first working group meeting will convene in July. If you have any interest in serving on the working group, please contact Terri or Joe.

6. Other Business – All

The next Roundtable will take place on Tuesday, July 31, 2018 11:30am-1:00pm

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.