



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Monthly Legislative Update

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TOP ADVOCACY ITEMS

Priority	Status								
Highlight the Valuable Roles Duties, and Rights of Local Governments	MORPC Executive Director William Murdock submitted opponent testimony on House Bill 371 to the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee, which proposes a property tax exemption for increased value of unimproved land subdivided for residential development from the time that the land is subdivided to the time that either residential construction begins, or the land is sold.								
	MORPC joined a coalition of local government advocates that are opposed to House Bill 371. As a result of its position, MORPC was invited to an interested parties' meeting to discuss the legislation. The bill is analogous to Senate Bill 235, a bill that proposed to freeze the taxable value of commercial property that MORPC and a coalition of local government advocates were successful in defeating.								
	MORPC Regional Data & Mapping Director Aaron Schill submitted testimony to the House Finance Committee in support of House Bill 3 — legislation that creates a DataOhio board and specifies the posting of public record data. Schill also submitted testimony to the House Finance committee in support of House Bill 378, which creates a grant program for the expansion of broadband into unserved areas. An interested party meeting was held January 10, which MORPC staff attended.								
	At the federal level, MORPC along with other members of the Columbus Region Coalition expressed concerns about the proposed tax reform package's treatment of the deductibility of state and local taxes as well as the elimination of private activity bonds. The final version of the legislation slightly expanded the types of local taxes that are deductible and preserved the status of private activity bonds.								
Promote Energy Efficiency and an Abundant Supply of Safe, Reliable, and Affordable Sources of Energy for our Growing Region	MORPC Energy & Air Quality Director Christina O'Keeffe provided written opposition testimony to the Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on House Bill 114. O'Keeffe expressed MORPC's opposition to the elimination of the state's energy efficiency requirements, how opt outs lead to increased costs, and how energy efficiency benchmarks would be reduced to 17.2 percent from 22.2 percent by 2027 in the bill.								
	MORPC supports inserting language into the bill that would increase the available federal funding available to the Ohio Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP), specifically requesting the annual transfer of LIHEAP funding (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or "HEAP") to be maxed out at 25% (from 20%) allowable under the program requirements and believes the bill can be enhanced by including incentives in the bill such as energy special improvement districts (E-SIDS).								
	MORPC staff will continue to monitor the bill and will continue to seek common ground on this critical issue for our region and state. It is expected to see significant attention by the Ohio Senate in January. Also, MORPC is evaluating Senate Bill 264, introduced by Senator Matt Dolan, that reduces the state's setback requirements for wind turbines.								

TOP ADVOCACY ITEMS

Priority	Status
Establish MORPC as Top Resource on Transportation Issues	House Resolution 236, supporting Hyperloop technology in the state of Ohio, was passed by the Ohio House. A similar resolution in the Senate was passed in September. MORPC Transportation Systems & Funding Director Thea Walsh had testified in support of both resolutions.
	House Bill 95 which would create an enhanced driving penalty for "distracted driving" that only comes into play when a driver is pulled over for another moving violation, was voted out of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee unanimously a few weeks ago. The bill was voted out of the House in June and MORPC Executive Director William Murdock submitted written proponent testimony to both the House and Senate committees. Senate President Larry Obhof said he needs to further discuss the bill with his caucus prior to a vote on the senate floor.
Seek Federal Funding for Regional Projects	Last month, MORPC Executive Director William Murdock wrote a letter in support of Senator Sherrod Brown's recently introduced Bridge Investment Act. The legislation would invest \$75 billion over ten years in bridge repairs that, when leveraged with local funds, will result in \$100-150 billion in projects. Federal grant applications were recently submitted for the following projects
	within the region: Rickenbacker Inland Port Workforce Access Improvements – This \$25 million TIGER application targets several major components to improve workforce access and relieve congestion in the Rickenbacker Inland Port area, including widening Alum Creek Drive and providing transit and pedestrian safety enhancements for area employees. The total project cost is \$37.4 million and the application was submitted by the Columbus Regional Airport Authority with many local partners.
	Rickenbacker Inland Port Access Improvements – This INFRA application requests \$57.2 million toward a \$123 million package of three improvements identified to ensure continued growth and connectivity of the Rickenbacker Inland Port. It includes connection to I-270 with the widening of Alum Creek Drive, connection to US 23 with an interchange at SR762, and completion of the local road network including Rickenbacker Parkway. The application was submitted by the Ohio Department of Transportation with many local partners.
	I-71 & US36/SR37 Interchange – This \$30 million INFRA request is for the improved interchange at I-71 and US36/SR37 and the proposed Sunbury Parkway. The \$161 million project is geared toward reducing congestion, improving eastwest connectivity, and unlocking economic growth. The application was submitted by the Ohio Department of Transportation.

TOP NEWS

Ballot Issues

Individuals aged 21 and older could legally produce, distribute and consume marijuana if the proposed "Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Amendment" is approved by voters during the 2018 General Election. CannAscend Chairman and CEO Jimmy Gould, who has sharply criticized the Kasich administration's implementation of medical marijuana legalization measure 131-HB523 (Huffman) after failing to receive a cultivator license, insisted his company and other rejected applicants are not being "sore losers" by challenging the state's review process and pushing this amendment. The amendment would also allow local communities to approve how many commercial marijuana businesses are allowed to operate in their jurisdiction.

FY19-20 Capital Budget

After two previous rounds where Gov. John Kasich convened a panel of higher education leaders to pare down capital requests from institutions, the administration has changed things up for the upcoming capital budget. Instead of using a higher education funding commission, Cleveland State President Ron Berkman is working with four-year institutions on a list of their needs, while Stark State President Para Jones is working with the community colleges. According to the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), both presidents are asking their colleagues for input and are narrowing the list of requested projects to those that align closest with the principles given to them by the administration.

Children/Families

One thousand more children are in foster care this year and the state is on pace to see the number of kids in public custody rise from the current 15,500-plus to more than 20,000 by the end of the decade. With the drug crisis accelerating, a trend that started with the financial collapse, the system is being overwhelmed, according to a report released by the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO). "We are sounding the alarm now -- we need help," said PCSAO Executive Director Angela Sausser in a statement. "We need substantially more state resources before we lose the ability to provide essential services to vulnerable children."

Economic Development

The Ohio Development Services Agency (DSA) awarded \$28,370,452 in Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits to rehabilitate 22 historic buildings in 11 communities, the agency announced.

Economy

The capital-area economy will continue to grow faster than the nation in 2018 at a pace of 1.8 percent, resulting in more than 19,000 new jobs and total employment of over 1.1 million in central Ohio, Regionomics economist Bill Lafayette announced. The Columbus region will remain the outlier in the state as a whole, which he said should continue more sluggish performance from 2017.

General Assembly/Statehouse

The Senate Ways and Means Committee amended HB69 (Cupp) it to include several new items including up to \$80 million to make up for some of the funding lost due to the elimination of the Medicaid managed care organization (MCO) sales tax. HB69 passed the full Senate 31-0 and then, later in the day, the House concurred in the Senate amendments, sending it on to Gov. John Kasich for his signature. Specifically, under the bill, counties and transit authorities would receive \$50 million in FY18, and could receive up to \$30 million in FY19. The deal was a result of negotiations among legislative leaders, the Kasich administration and the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO).

TOP NEWS

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) said he's appointing Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) to sit on the House Finance Committee and chair the House Finance Transportation Subcommittee, following former subcommittee chair Robert McColley's appointment to the Senate.

Judicial

The Ohio Supreme Court sent back down to the trial court two traffic camera cases involving Toledo and Springfield, including an attorney general appeal accusing the 6th District of separation-of-powers violations in seeking to block the General Assembly's budget set-off of local government funds from jurisdictions that operate traffic cameras. The Supreme Court instructed common pleas judges to apply its Dayton v. State decision from last summer, when the Court struck down as an unconstitutional breach of local control the requirement that peace officers be present at working traffic cameras.

Natural Resources

Ohio horizontal shale wells produced 460 billion cubic feet of natural gas in the third quarter of 2017, up 27.5 percent from 2016's third quarter, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) announced. Ohio wells also produced 4,165,729 barrels of oil, up 3 percent over the same period in 2016, the department said.

State Government

Up to \$700,000 in project funding is now available from Ohio EMS at the Ohio Department of Public Safety for the purpose of purchasing tablet devices and cases for local EMS agencies to provide a more efficient way to submit patient data electronically. The project will assist EMS agencies with the electronic submission of data reporting to the Ohio Emergency Medical Service Incident Reporting System (EMSIRS) and for use with the OHTrac Mass Casualty Incident Mobile Application and Trauma Registry.

Utilities

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) Nominating Council announced that it is seeking applicants for Vice Chairwoman Beth Trombold's commission seat, which expires on April 1, 2018. Trombold is ending a five-year term at PUCO following her appointment by Gov. John Kasich in 2013.

The utility industry pushed back on HB247's (Romanchuk) attempt to radically alter the ratemaking philosophy of 127-SB221 and its reliance on customer billing riders operating outside strict commodity prices. Representatives of American Electric Power (AEP) of Ohio and Duke Energy asked the House Public Utilities Committee to reject provisions that also would allow hefty consumer refunds in the event of Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) rulings later overridden by the Ohio Supreme Court. AEP Ohio External Affairs Vice President Tom Froehle and Duke Energy Deputy General Counsel Amy Spiller offered a vastly different view of HB247 than had proponents of the bill in previous weeks.



Goal 1: Promote regionalism at the local, state, and federal levels of government fostering economic growth, prosperity, efficient use of resources, and a high quality of life for Central Ohio residents.

HB3 DATAOHIO BOARD CREATION (DUFFEY M, HAGAN C) To create the DataOhio Board, to specify requirements for posting public records online, to require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices, to establish an online catalog of public data at data.Ohio.gov, to establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program, and to make appropriations. Current Status: 12/12/2017 - House Finance, (Third Hearing)

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-3

HB49 OPERATING BUDGET (SMITH R) Creates FY 2018-2019 main operating budget.

Current Status: 8/22/2017 - Consideration of Governor's Veto

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-49

HB69 LEVY REVENUE REIMBURSEMENT (CUPP B) To require reimbursement of certain township fire and emergency medical service levy revenue forgone because of the creation of a municipal tax increment financing district.

Current Status: 12/22/2017 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Eff. 90 days

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-69

HB122 ESTABLISH ECONOMIC STUDY COMMITTEE (HAMBLEY S, ROGERS J) To establish a Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee to study the benefits and challenges involved in creating regional economic development alliances.

Current Status: 1/10/2018 - Senate Government Oversight and Reform, (Second Hearing)

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-122

HB281 BROADBAND EXPANSION PROGRAM (CARFAGNA R) To establish the residential broadband expansion program within the Development Services Agency to award matching grants for last mile broadband expansion in municipal corporations and townships and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 1/9/2018 - House Finance, (Fourth Hearing)

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-281

HB371 TAXES ON UNSOLD PROPERTY (MERRIN D) To exempt from property taxation the increased value of land subdivided for residential development until construction commences or the land is sold.

Current Status: 1/9/2018 - House Ways and Means, (Sixth Hearing)

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-371

HB378 OHIO BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT (SMITH R, CERA J) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 12/12/2017 - House Finance, (Second Hearing)

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-378

SB203 MUNICIPAL TAX RULE REINSTATEMENT (DOLAN M) To reinstate the municipal income tax "throw-back

rule" used in apportioning business income among municipalities. Current Status: 11/15/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Finance

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-203

SB239 REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS (DOLAN M) To modify the law concerning regional councils

of governments.

Current Status: 12/5/2017 - Introduced

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-239

Goal 2: Achieve an advanced and exceptional transportation system that connects Central Ohio's people and products to the world.

HB95 DISTRACTED DRIVING PENALTY (HUGHES J, SEITZ B) To establish an enhanced penalty for committing a moving violation while distracted if the distraction is the apparent cause of the violation and to reenact provisions of law that specified that certain electronic wireless communications device violations were allied offenses of similar import.

Current Status: 10/24/2017 - REPORTED OUT, Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs. (Fourth Hearing)

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-95

- HB190 RAILROAD CROSSING REQUIREMENTS (LEPORE-HAGAN M, SCHURING K) To require vehicle operators to watch, listen, and stop for on-track equipment that may be approaching a railroad crossing. Current Status: 12/13/2017 House Transportation and Public Safety, (Fourth Hearing) State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-190
- State Bill Page: https://www.tegistature.onio.gov/tegistation/tegistation-summary?id=6A132-HB-190
- **HB219** SPEED LIMIT SIGN DISTANCES (BOCCIERI J) To specify that a speed limit becomes effective at a reasonable distance from the appropriate sign giving notice of the speed limit.

Current Status: 11/8/2017 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (Third Hearing)

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-219

HB250 ELECTRIC BIKE REQUIREMENTS (BRINKMAN T) To establish requirements for the use of electric bicycles. Current Status: 12/13/2017 - House Transportation and Public Safety, (Fourth Hearing)

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-250

HB415 LOCAL GOV ROAD IMPROVEMENT (GREENSPAN D, RYAN S) To allocate one-half of any surplus revenue to a new Local Government Road Improvement Fund, from which money will be distributed directly to local governments to fund road improvements.

Current Status: 12/12/2017 - House State and Local Government, (Second Hearing)

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-415

HR236 SUPPORT HYPERLOOP TRANSPORTATION (HUGHES J) To express support for the Hyperloop Transportation

Current Status: 12/5/2017 - ADOPTED BY HOUSE; Vote 90-3

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HR-236

- OHIO BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (HOAGLAND F) To extend the Ohio Bridge Partnership Program through the end of fiscal year 2019 and to require the Director of Transportation to submit a report to the Governor, Senate, and House of Representatives recommending ways to continue to fund the program. Current Status: 12/13/2017 House Transportation and Public Safety, (First Hearing) State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-6
- PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (SKINDELL M) To make appropriations related to public transportation. Current Status: 12/13/2017 Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce, (First Hearing) State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-61
- **SB113** VEHICLE REGISTRATION TAX (COLEY W) To levy an additional registration tax on passenger cars, noncommercial motor vehicles, and commercial cars and trucks beginning on January 1, 2020; to authorize a per-gallon motor fuel retail price reduction for consumers that is equal to the state pergallon motor fuel tax of \$.28; and to exempt each gallon of motor fuel that is sold at the reduced retail price from the state motor fuel tax.

Current Status: 9/20/2017 - Senate Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-113

SR175 SUPPORTING HYPERLOOP TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE (BACON K, KUNZE S) To express support for the Hyperloop Transportation Initiative.

Current Status: 9/20/2017 - ADOPTED BY SENATE; Vote 32-0

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SR-175

Goal 3: Conserve and enhance the natural resources, water, air and land in our growing region.

- WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (PATTERSON J, SHEEHY M) To require the Director of Agriculture to adopt rules establishing the Ohio Water Quality Improvement Program, to exempt land enrolled in the Program from taxation, and to reimburse local taxing units for revenue lost due to that exemption. Current Status: 5/10/2017 House Agriculture and Rural Development, (First Hearing) State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-62
- HB121 PIPE MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS (EDWARDS J) To require a public authority to consider all piping materials that meet the engineering specifications for a state-funded water or waste water project. Current Status: 11/1/2017 BILL AMENDED, House State and Local Government, (Fifth Hearing) State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-121

HR85

FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL OVERHAUL (YOUNG R) To respectfully urge Congress and President Donald Trump to amend the Federal Clean Air Act to eliminate the requirement to implement the E-Check Program and direct the Administrator of USEP A to begin new rulemaking procedures under the Administrative Procedures Act to repeal and replace the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards; to respectfully urge Congress and President Donald Trump to pass legislation to achieve improvements in air quality more efficiently while allowing companies to innovate and help the economy grow; to urge the Administrator of USEPA to alleviate burdensome requirements of the E-Check Program and the Clean Air Act if Congress and the President fail to act; and to encourage OEPA to explore alternatives to ECheck in Ohio.

Current Status: 5/24/2017 - ADOPTED BY HOUSE; Vote 72-25

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HR-85

STATE PROJECTS-PIPING MATERIALS (TERHAR L) To require a public authority to consider all piping materials that meet the engineering specifications for a state-funded water or waste water project. Current Status: 10/25/2017 - Senate Energy and Natural Resources, (Second Hearing)

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-95

SB112 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (SCHIAVONI J) To establish the green infrastructure fund and to make an appropriation.

Current Status: 9/6/2017 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-112

SR175 SUPPORTING HYPERLOOP TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE (BACON K, KUNZE S) To express support for the Hyperloop Transportation Initiative.

Current Status: 9/20/2017 - ADOPTED BY SENATE; Vote 32-0

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SR-175

SCR15 YEAR DESIGNATION-TRAILS (O'BRIEN S, WILSON S) To designate 2018 as "Ohio's Year of the Trails."

Current Status: 12/4/2017 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SCR-155

Goal 4: Promote energy efficiency and an abundant supply of safe, reliable, and affordable sources of energy for our growing region.

HB114 RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARDS (BLESSING III L) To revise the provisions governing renewable energy, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction and to alter funding allocations under the Home Energy Assistance Program.

Current Status: 1/10/2018 - Senate Energy and Natural Resources, (Fourth Hearing)

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-114

HB247 ELECTRIC UTILITY CONSUMER PROTECTION (ROMANCHUK M) To require refunds to utility customers who have been improperly charged, to eliminate electric security plans and require all electric standard service offers to be delivered through market-rate offers, and to strengthen corporate separation requirements.

Current Status: 12/12/2017 - House Public Utilities, (Fourth Hearing)

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-247

SB155 ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION COST RECOVERY (TERHAR L, PETERSON B) To allow electric distribution utilities to recover costs for a national security generation resource.

Current Status: 1/10/2018 - Senate Public Utilities, (Seventh Hearing)

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-155

SB184 WIND FARM SETBACK REQUIREMENTS (SKINDELL M) To alter the minimum setback requirement for wind farms of five or more megawatts.

Current Status: 9/27/2017 - Senate Energy and Natural Resources, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-184

SB188 WIND TURBINE SETBACK REVISIONS (HITE C) To revise wind turbine setback provisions for economically significant wind farms.

Current Status: 10/11/2017 - Senate Energy and Natural Resources, (Second Hearing)

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-188

SB217 OIL, GAS REVISED ENFORCEMENT (SCHIAVONI J) To revise enforcement of the Oil and Gas Law, including increasing criminal penalties and requiring revocation of permits for violations of that Law relating to improper disposal of brine.

Current Status: 11/15/2017 - Referred to Committee Senate Energy and Natural Resources

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-217

SB238 WIND TURBINE SETBACKS (DOLAN M) Regarding wind turbine setbacks for wind farms of at least five megawatts.

Current Status: 1/10/2018 - Senate Energy and Natural Resources, (First Hearing)

State Bill Page: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SB-238

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