



CORRIDOR CONCEPTS

Options for Focused Growth and Mobility

Frequently Asked Questions

May 2018

What is insight2050?

Insight2050 is a community-wide effort to involve everyone, from residents and businesses to public officials, in helping to proactively plan for population growth and development. That growth occurring today and over the next 30+ years is projected to be dramatically different from the past.

What is insight2050 Corridor Concepts?

Insight2050 Corridor Concepts is studying current and various future development patterns along selected major thoroughfares. This study will help Central Ohio communities understand the impact(s) of various development patterns, as well as the relationship between these corridors and various types of high-capacity transit technologies. The study will offer specific implementation recommendations to promote the best-case scenario, or concept, for each corridor. Five corridors will be studied. Please see Figure 1 below for a map of the study area.

The study is being led by MORPC, in partnership with: the Columbus Partnership; the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA); Urban Land Institute (ULI Columbus); the Columbus Foundation; and the cities of Bexley, Columbus, Dublin, Grandview Heights, Groveport, Reynoldsburg, Westerville, and Whitehall.

What is high-capacity transit?

High-capacity transit moves more people, faster, in less physical space, attracts new development and focuses growth. Examples may include bus rapid transit, light rail transit, streetcar service, commuter rail, or newly developed technologies.

Which routes are being studied?

The five routes to be studied are:

- E. Main Street: SR 256 to Downtown Columbus
- Northeast: Polaris Pkwy to Downtown Columbus
- Northwest: US 33 at Post Road /Frantz Road to Downtown Columbus
- Southeast: Rickenbacker Int'l Airport to Downtown Columbus
- W. Broad Street: Norton Road to Downtown Columbus

Why were they selected?

The routes were selected based on planning efforts conducted by MORPC, COTA, and the City of Columbus, which identify the routes as representing a high level of development opportunity with a need for infrastructure improvements, incentives, and/or other strategies in order to achieve compact development patterns.

In addition, the study is intended to be replicable so that it may be applied to other similar thoroughfares in the future. Therefore, the corridors selected are most representative of three corridor types in the region:

- Build on Success and Relieve Congestion (Northeast, Northwest)
- Coordinate with Growth and Redevelopment Opportunities (W. Broad Street, E. Main Street)
- Make Better Connections (Southeast)

Thoroughfares currently supporting high levels of infill development were not selected for the study, as these corridors are already achieving compact development patterns.

Why do we need the insight2050 Corridor Concepts study?

In response to future growth projections that indicate Central Ohio is expected to grow by upwards of one million people by the year 2050, MORPC is leading a study of five regional corridors in Central Ohio. This project is powered by the insight2050 initiative in partnership with the City of Columbus, the Columbus Partnership, COTA, ULI Columbus, The Columbus Foundation, and several local jurisdictions.

Through insight2050 we learned that compact development patterns, characterized by infill and redevelopment, are more responsive to the changing demographics and increased market demand for smaller residences in walkable, mixed-use environments driven by the region's growth. Such development can help to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and decrease household costs – factors that contribute to the overall quality of life in Central Ohio.

The corridor study will allow Central Ohio communities to understand what compact development and high-capacity transit might look like at the local level.

Will other corridors be studied?

The current study will be limited to the five corridors identified above. However, the process will be replicable with the intent that new analyses could be conducted on different Central Ohio corridors in the future.

Who is funding this study and how is it being funded?

The project partners include COTA, MORPC, The Columbus Foundation, The Columbus Partnership, ULI Columbus, and the cities of: Bexley, Columbus, Dublin, Grandview Heights, Groveport, Reynoldsburg, Westerville, and Whitehall. The project partners collectively have contributed over \$700,000 to fund the study.

What is the timeline for the study?

The Regional Corridor Analysis began in November 2017 and is expected to take about one year.

What results are expected from this study?

The study is expected to provide specific recommendations for each corridor based on the best-case development scenario/concept. Recommendations will take into account other land use and transportation initiatives, such as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Smart Columbus, and Connect Columbus. In addition, recommendations and strategies will preserve existing communities, integrate smart mobility options, and identify market conditions, tools, strategies, and

timing/phasing considerations necessary to support the implementation of the recommended development scenarios.

Who is doing the analysis?

A team of consultants will conduct the study under the direction of MORPC and the funding partners. Lead firm Calthorpe Analytics, based in Berkeley, CA, provides regional planning and analysis through proprietary tools like UrbanFootprint. The firm is joined by California-based Fehr & Peers, which specializes in transportation planning and modeling, and Strategic Economics, which will perform local economic impact analyses. The Columbus-based firms of Engage Public Affairs and OHM will coordinate communications and outreach efforts. The legal experts of Columbus-based IceMiller round out the team to assist with creating market-sensitive approaches to the implementation of study recommendations.

The funding partners will supply the data necessary to conduct the study. Stakeholder committees made up of residents, businesses, and local governments representing each corridor will be tapped for their knowledge and input to guide recommendations.

Is this different from rapid-speed transportation studies being conducted between Chicago, Columbus, and Pittsburgh?

In addition to the insight2050 Corridor Concepts study, MORPC is undergoing its Rapid Speed Transportation Initiative to explore the feasibility and environmental components of hyperloop and passenger rail along the Chicago-Columbus-Pittsburgh corridor.

Insight2050 Corridor Concepts is a separate study taking place along local corridors within Franklin County. Although it includes a component of high-capacity transit and will consider the connectivity with potential interstate hyperloop or passenger rail terminals, the Corridor Concepts study is not aimed at a specific type of high-capacity transit. Rather, it is to take a broader look at how local, compact development patterns – including growth, housing, and economic development patterns – might be affected by high-capacity transit.

I would like more information. Who may I contact?

More information is available online at www.morpc.org or by contacting Jennifer Noll at jnoll@morpc.org.

Figure 1. insight2050 Corridor Concepts Study Area

