



MORPC Leadership Strategy Group Transportation Funding and Policy Recommendations for Ohio

As a convener of Central Ohio local governments, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) engaged in a dialogue over the summer with its member communities regarding funding for unmet transportation needs. MORPC is committed to collaborating with the next Governor’s administration and the General Assembly in maintaining and improving mobility options for residents. The following policy recommendations are designed to take care of our current transportation system, plan for future multi-modal mobility needs in our growing region, and provide local governments with the needed tools to address local infrastructure improvements.

Transportation Need	State Policy Recommendations
<p>Addressing Ohio’s urgent needs and maintaining what we have</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase the state gas tax and index to inflation. ▪ Restore Local Government Funding to pre-2011 levels. ▪ Expand permissive license plate fee cap authority to municipalities and townships. ▪ Increase funds to the Ohio Public Works Commission program. ▪ Better leverage of state bonding capacity to invest in local infrastructure ▪ Increase funding for maintaining state routes through municipalities. ▪ Preserve and enhance the state’s investment in general aviation and commercial airports.
<p>Planning for Ohio’s future mobility needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase funding to regions to integrate transportation, economic development, and land use planning. ▪ Incentivize regional transportation infrastructure prioritization and cooperation. ▪ Replace the state gas tax with a more modern sustainable user fee. ▪ Increase funds to Transportation Improvement Districts (TIDs). ▪ Increase Clean Ohio Funds for trail systems. ▪ Provide dedicated capital dollars to Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs). ▪ Streamline state project development and delivery processes. ▪ Create dedicated state funding source(s) for transit. ▪ Support continuation of DriveOhio and smart mobility initiatives ▪ Create a special transportation innovation fund for transformative projects. ▪ Preserve and expand funding for infrastructure that spurs economic development