

PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA 2019-2020

REGIONAL ADVOCACY FOR CENTRAL OHIO AT THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS



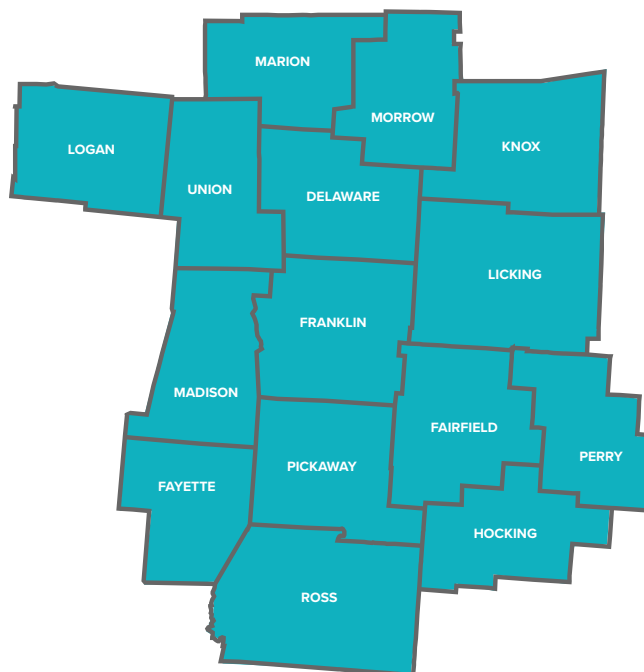
MORPC

MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

WHO WE ARE:

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is a voluntary association of over 60 local governments and regional organizations in the quickly growing Central Ohio region. We serve as a resource for local officials as they make decisions about economic growth, development, transportation, energy, and environmental sustainability – ensuring our region remains thriving and competitive while improving social and economic mobility.

MORPC'S SERVICE AREA



WHAT WE DO:

- Serve as Central Ohio's regional council and leadership forum for shared regional challenges and best practices
- Convene local governments to plan, prioritize, and advance strategic transportation and infrastructure projects and investments
- Assist as a regional information hub with demographics, maps, tools, and data to inform decisions
- Provide technical assistance to communities with sustainability programs, growth planning, residential services, and shared solutions
- Work alongside community leaders, residents, and partner organizations to effectively represent the collective voice of our region on public policy

OUR AGENDA:

MORPC and its local government members seek to inform and impact state and federal legislation and policies to improve Central Ohio's future prosperity. The 2019-2020 Public Policy Agenda reflects the diverse needs and interests of the region's cities, townships, counties, villages, and regional organizations. This collaborative agenda details actions and policies to better the region's quality of life. We encourage leaders in Washington and Columbus to work together and use this agenda and MORPC's government affairs team as resources.

To stay up to date on MORPC's government affair efforts, please visit morpc.org/GovAffairs.

LEAD:

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC POLICY LEADERSHIP FROM MORPC

GOAL 1: REGIONALISM

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.

- Advocate for policies and legislation that enhance local government efficiency and collaboration.
- Promote insight2050 and advocate for policies and legislation that will provide Central Ohio communities with the needed tools to plan for growth.
- Highlight the valuable roles, responsibilities, and rights of local governments to improve the quality of life, environment, and economy.
- Support federal and state tax and budget policies that balance the promotion of economic growth, while also ensuring the ability to provide vital local government services.
- Work with our regional partners to identify significant projects and grant opportunities to benefit the region.
- Promote policies, programs, and funding to ensure our region's transportation, broadband, water, sewer, and material management infrastructure are well maintained, affordable, accessible, vital, and resilient.

GOAL 2: TRANSPORTATION

Achieve an advanced, inclusive, and exceptional transportation system that connects Central Ohio's people and products to the world.

- Seek additional revenue mechanisms for transportation at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Promote state and federal support and recognition of metropolitan and rural planning organizations, and their regional approach to transportation planning and funding.
- Advance the importance of the logistics industry to Central Ohio and support investments and innovation in the North American International Freight Center, including intermodal, rail, air, and other freight facilities.
- Support sensible funding and policies that measurably improve transportation safety.
- Support the use of Transportation Improvement Districts (TIDs) in Central Ohio that promote intergovernmental and public-private cooperation to advance transportation projects and leverage state and federal funding.
- Advocate for an advanced, multi-modal transportation system that improves interregional access to more effective and efficient public and private transportation choices to connect to regional, national, and international markets.
- Pursue policies and funding to improve quality of life through expanded transportation options.
- Pursue policies and funding to advance the Central Ohio Greenways strategy for developing a more interconnected regional trail network.
- Support efforts that leverage Smart Columbus and the Northwest U.S. 33 Smart Mobility Corridor, and advocate for regional policies that prepare Central Ohio communities for additional smart-infrastructure investment.
- Advocate for policies and funding that support the study and deployment of hyperloop technology in Ohio, and encourage the continued collaboration among Midwest Connect partners along the Chicago-Columbus-Pittsburgh corridor.

GOAL 3: SUSTAINABILITY

Pursue sustainability solutions that protect and conserve our natural resources and promote a diverse supply of clean, affordable, and reliable sources of energy for our growing region.

- Promote the integration of energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy for a more balanced, cleaner, and diverse energy portfolio.
- Advocate for innovative strategies and funding to achieve air quality attainment, reduce emissions, and protect health by working with public and private partners.
- Advocate for policies, innovative strategies, and funding to enhance and protect the quality and quantity of our water resources, balancing public- and private-sector interests, and existing and emerging economic activities in our growing region.
- Advance energy policies, funding, and innovative financing that foster economic growth, equity, resiliency, and a higher quality of life.
- Support and advocate for policies and funding for a timely cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields and/or vacant, blighted, or abandoned land and historic buildings in order to revitalize communities.
- Assist in the rapid deployment of electric and alternative-fuel vehicles and the establishment of charging and fueling infrastructure within the region.
- Pursue funding and policies to protect existing and secure new parkland, wetlands, trails, and green space.

GOAL 4: DATA AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Promote effective data policies and the equitable deployment of digital infrastructure that benefit Central Ohio communities.

- Promote a well planned, comprehensive, and interconnected digital infrastructure network that improves access for underserved areas, enables connected and autonomous vehicles, and supports sustainability and resiliency of the region.
- Pursue funding and initiatives that keep Central Ohio at the forefront of data and technology innovation.
- Encourage the adoption of data governance policies at the federal, state, and local levels that promote open data and standardization, while protecting the security of private, personal, and otherwise sensitive information.
- Support the ability of local governments to fund, manage, and maintain digital assets and infrastructure.

COLLABORATE:

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORPC TO FORM COALITIONS WITH LIKE-MINDED ORGANIZATIONS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Promote a robust and inclusive economy for the region and actively collaborate with economic development and business organizations, non-profits, the academic community, and local governments to pursue national and state policies and funding to advance economic development.
- Promote projects and policies that advance local food systems and farmland preservation to achieve food security.
- Improve access to jobs, workforce training, and resources that enhance the financial stability of our region's low- and moderate-income households.
- Advance job-attraction incentives, new tools, and strategies to encourage new jobs and investment that benefit the region.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Promote efficient and effective use and management of waste streams through reuse and recycling programs.
- Advocate for innovative land-use regulations and planning tools as a way to: promote sustainable development; maintain and reuse existing housing and commercial buildings; conserve environmentally sensitive areas; encourage farmland preservation; reduce energy consumption; provide transportation options; and promote effective material management.
- Promote the development of policies that support lifelong and inclusive age-friendly communities.
- Support policies and incentives that leverage existing infrastructure and encourage redevelopment and reinvestment in Central Ohio's neighborhoods and commercial districts.
- Advocate for policies and funding that support a broad spectrum of housing options, including mixed-income communities, to meet the region's growing residential and workforce needs.

FEDERAL FUNDS

- Support federal funding for defense installations, research, and other initiatives that benefit Central Ohio.
- Participate in coalitions and partnerships for MORPC local government members to understand, engage, and better position themselves for federal funding through appropriations, authorizations, bills, grants, and other opportunities.



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