



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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**NOTICE OF A MEETING**  
**SMART REGION TASK FORCE**  
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
111 LIBERTY STREET, SUITE 100, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215  
SCIOTO CONFERENCE ROOM

**March 12, 2019, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

**AGENDA**

1. **Welcome** -- *Dana McDaniel, SRTF Chair*
2. **Smart Region Updates** -- *Aaron Schill, MORPC*
3. **Work on Deliverables** -- *Aaron Schill, MORPC*
  - a. **Smart Streets Policy Status Update**
  - b. **Smart Region Playbook**
  - c. **Smart Region Resource Guide**
4. **Other Business** – *Dana McDaniel, SRTF Chair*
5. **Adjourn** -- *Dana McDaniel, SRTF Chair*

Please notify Lynn Kaufman at 614-233-4189 or LKaufman@morpc.org to confirm your attendance for this meeting or if you require special assistance.

**The next Smart Region Task Force meeting is**  
**May 14, 2019, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**  
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43215

**PARKING AND TRANSIT:** When parking in MORPC's parking lot, please be sure to park in a MORPC visitor space or in a space marked with a yellow "M". Handicapped parking is available at the side of MORPC's building. MORPC is accessible by CBUS. The closest bus stop to MORPC is S. Front Street & W. Blenkner St. Buses that accommodate this stop are the Number 61 - Grove City, the Number 5 - West 5th Ave. /Refugee, and the Number 8 - Karl/S. High/Parsons. One electric vehicle charging station is available for MORPC guests.

**William Murdock, AICP**  
*Executive Director*

**Rory McGuinness**  
*Chair*

**Karen J. Angelou**  
*Vice Chair*

**Erik J. Janas**  
*Secretary*



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
111 Liberty Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Smart Region Task Force  
Meeting Minutes

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February 15, 2019  
10:00 am

Members Present

Paul Benedetti, Logan County Chamber of  
Commerce  
Courtney Falato, OSU, Smart Cities  
Matt Greeson, City of Worthington  
Anthony Jones, City of Gahanna  
Chair Dana McDaniel, City of Dublin  
Scott Miller, Ohio University, Russ College  
of Engineering  
Eric Phillips, Union County Chamber of  
Commerce

Letty Schamp, City of Hilliard  
Kelly Scocco, City of Columbus Public  
Service  
Angela Siefer, National Digital Inclusion  
Alliance  
Vice-Chair Joe Stefanov, City of New  
Albany  
Mike Stevens, City of Columbus,  
SmartColumbus

Members Calling In

Terry Emery, City of Marysville

Public Present

Micheal Carroll, COTA  
Patrick Harris, COTA

Shane Warner, COTA

MORPC Staff Present

Joe Garrity  
Lynn Kaufman

Aaron Schill  
Bevan Schneck

Nathaniel Vogt  
Thea Walsh

**Meeting Called to Order at 10:02 am by Chair Dana McDaniel.**

**Welcome -- Dana McDaniel, SRTF Chair**

Task Force members and public introduced themselves.

**Review of the Task Force Charter -- Dana McDaniel, SRTF Chair**

Chair McDaniel reported that to just remind the members of the purpose of the Task Force, the Charter has been redistributed, along with a recap of what has been accomplished at each meeting, and a proposed schedule of production for the deliverables. The deliverables are the Smart Streets Policy, the Smart Region Playbook, and the Smart Region Resource Guide.

Aaron Schill added that the members will spend some time discussing the Playbook today, and that staff has been working on the Smart Region Resource Guide.

**Smart Region Updates -- Aaron Schill, MORPC**  
**Regional Data Advisory Committee**

Aaron reported that the Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC) has established the Regional Data Agenda to guide MORPC's data work for the next few years. The RDAC prioritized four specific projects to focus on in 2019, and there is quite a bit of overlap between what the Smart Region Task Force is working on and the implementation of Regional Data Agenda projects. Those projects are:

- **Columbus Sustainability Observatory**  
MORPC will partner with OSU's Center for Urban and Regional Analysis (CURA), to develop the Columbus Sustainability Observatory, which is a longitudinal dataset to track sustainability data for Central Ohio. Sustainability is defined in the broadest terms to include transportation, safety, smart mobility, social equity, and economic sustainability as well as traditional environmental sustainability. MORPC and CURA will develop a dynamically fed dashboard that tracks MORPC's sustainability metrics. This is the first step in an emerging partnership MORPC is developing with CURA.
- **Regional Data Users Group (RDUG)**  
MORPC hosts the Central Ohio GIS User Group (COGUG), where GIS mapping professionals meet quarterly and discuss issues related to GIS. The RDAC has an interest in creating a similar group focused on data about Central Ohio. Some of the discussion might be about mapping, but there will also be other data-related issues and conversations.
- **Regional Municipal Fiber Strategy**  
There is strong interest in mapping municipal fiber networks in Central Ohio. MORPC attempted this several years ago, and got some good data, but it is outdated and is not being regularly updated. Staff is working on a strategy to create dynamic mapping fed in from municipalities. It will be live data on municipal fiber networks for MORPC's member communities. This is part of a larger strategy to create a fully interconnected network – ideally a backbone network that every municipality in Central Ohio can tap into. The first step is mapping.
- **Data Policy Needs Survey and Toolkit**  
Many local governments have challenges with developing adequate data governance and privacy policies. To address this need, MORPC will survey local governments, asking what issues exist around data governance and policies. After the survey, staff will develop a toolkit and template policy documents. Quite a bit of the work has already been done for the SmartColumbus Operating System in developing policies, and staff will draw upon that and also see what is being done in peer organizations across the country.

**Legislative Update**

Joe Garrity reported that MORPC leadership recently traveled to Washington DC to attend the National Conference of Regions. Leadership also met with Congressman Troy Balderson and Congressman Bob Gibbs who both serve on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

MORPC leadership recently met with the Columbus Region Coalition to discuss the Coalition's infrastructure priorities. The City of Columbus, a member of the Coalition, is also very focused on telecom providers and how 5G will impact municipalities.

The new Ohio House of Representatives Speaker, Larry Householder, may consider moving forward with the Broadband Deployment House Bill 378. MORPC staff will continue to track that legislation and report back to members.

William Murdock, MORPC's Executive Director, recently provided [testimony](#) to Governor DeWine's Advisory Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on behalf of the Ohio Association of Regional Councils. He also submitted [written testimony](#) on behalf of MORPC. William's central theme was that Ohio is poised to be a leader in innovative and connected technologies with DriveOhio, Smart Columbus, and Ohio's 33 Smart Mobility Corridor. However, Ohio cannot get to the future of transportation if the basics for roads and bridges are not funded. Joe encouraged the Task Force members to view William's testimony. MORPC leadership will continue to advocate on behalf of local governments and as part of a coalition called [Fix our Roads Ohio](#).

#### **Consumer Electronics Show Recap -- Dana McDaniel, SRTF Chair**

MORPC leadership and several Smart Region Task Force members attended the Consumer Electronics Show the week of January 7, touring the conference as well as Hyperloop / DevLoop.

#### Hyperloop

Thea Walsh showed a [video](#) produced by Hyperloop, filmed during MORPC's recent visit. There are approximately six companies around the world in this industry, and Hyperloop is the only one with a fully functional prototype up and running. The New York times was visiting at the same time, and they interviewed William to produce an [article](#) as well.

#### Consumer Electronics Show (CES)

Thea reported that many of the major auto manufacturers were there, and Honda had the US 33 Smart Mobility Corridor on display. The display was up on a large monitor, with information about the Safe Swarm system and the multiple applications of connected vehicles being tested. There was also a [video](#) of downtown Marysville showing the Smart Intersection Application.

Many of the auto companies talked about LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) which is one of the ways that autonomous vehicles detect objects.

Shane Warner reported that COTA staff met with Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC Transit). COTA staff visited RTC's operations center, which combines several of Las Vegas' different functions -- the Emergency Center, the State Highway Patrol, and their traffic management system all in one centralized building. Since becoming centralized, RTC has reduced emergency response time by 17 minutes. RTC is now becoming more proactive to seeing incidents come up and using AI software to help detect and respond faster.

COTA also met with Aptiv, which is an autonomous vehicle / AI / data gathering company that is piloting the autonomous Lyft vehicles in Las Vegas. It is not yet completely

autonomous – there are two people in every car at all times. Aptiv is also working with Honda along the 33 Smart Mobility Corridor.

Aaron reported that there was another session about building partnerships around cities and technology, with a representative from the 100 Resilient Cities Program. There was also a startup called Neighborly that specifically works on financing broadband projects in communities – MORPC staff will definitely be in touch with them.

Aaron added that at CES, he was more focused on broadband and other data topics. He noted that local government was noticeably absent from the conference. Aaron attended a breakout session called “5G and Self-Driving Vehicles – a Policy Roadmap”. The panel was made up of Verizon, Waymo, Samsung, and the Consumer Technology Alliance – no government perspective on adopting 5G policies and how smart transportation technologies are going to be integrated into roads. There were many points and discussion topics that arose that needed someone with the government perspective providing input. The conversations that the Smart Region Task Force is having about the development of a local government perspective of what a smart region should look like is very important and is fairly unique; it does not appear to be happening in a lot of other places.

Chair McDaniel noted that this is the first time that the OEMs (original equipment manufacturers) have exhibited at CES. All the major car manufacturers were showcasing CV/AV (Connected Vehicle and Autonomous Vehicle) features. The 33 Smart Mobility Corridor and the region were highly promoted by Honda as well as by [Wind River](#), a company that builds the software behind the CV/AV equipment. Wind River has a presence in Dublin, and the City of Dublin has been working with them.

### **Work on Deliverables**

#### **Smart Streets Policy Status Update -- *Thea Walsh, MORPC***

Thea reported that the Smart Streets Policy has been distributed to the Community Advisory Committee, the Transportation Advisory Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Regional Data Advisory Committee for comment. Final comments are due by February 28. Comments from the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) are particularly important as the Policy ties itself to TAC’s policy making process for Attributable Funds. The goal is to take this for adoption at the March meeting; depending on how deep the comments go. The Smart Streets Policy may come back to the Task Force for more finalization and then go to Commission in June to ensure comments are incorporated, and then to get the feedback from this committee based on those comments.

Aaron added that Mayor Stage had some specific questions at the last Smart Region Task Force meeting, and the updated version of the Policy in the agenda packet and what went out for comment addresses his questions. The Task Force is working to find the right fit between something that is challenging, but is not too onerous to the process.

#### **Smart Region Playbook – *Aaron Schill, MORPC***

Aaron reminded the members that they participated in a brainstorming exercise in September to gather ideas and recommendations for things that MORPC should work on in the future. Staff took the output of that exercise and condensed it into a list of recommendations.

Aaron noted that the Playbook is still in draft form, with some elements more complete than others. The focus for this meeting is on the Recommendations section. Each recommendation has a high level bullet that describes what the recommendation is. Then, it will be assigned to an owner, which will either be a MORPC department or possibly a permanent standing MORPC committee. This will transfer recommendations from the Task Force, which is temporary in nature, to a permanent committee.

After discussing the recommendations briefly, Aaron asked the members to work in small groups to brainstorm for 15-20 minutes, and then give a quick report of the top items to add or change for each category. This process should eventually result in a practical tool that will influence MORPC's work over the next several years.

### **Recommendations:**

#### Collaboration

- Monitor federal and state funding opportunities for connections to Smart Region initiatives and reach out to potential sponsors/applicants. Offer advice and assistance in preparing responses/applications when it is compatible with existing assistance available from MORPC.

Aaron noted that this will essentially connect funding opportunities with initiatives that are going on in Central Ohio.

- Review the smart initiatives of various agencies as they are announced and periodic checks for common themes, potential conflicts, opportunities to collaborate, overlapping responsibilities, etc. Prepare and provide comments/findings to the owner of the initiative.

Aaron noted that this will allow MORPC to make connections and identify overlapping or complementary work going on among communities and see where to help foster collaboration and connections.

- Include partnerships in scoring criteria of competitive funding programs.
- Gather points of contact from regional council staffs, disseminate relevant information, meet annually or as needed to build an alliance around Smart Regions among regional councils within Ohio and nationally.

Aaron noted that this recommendation will essentially create a network of regional councils either in Ohio or across the country who are working similar projects.

#### Education & Outreach

- Create a program to provide assistance from MORPC staff to local government for the planning and implementation of Smart Region goals and objectives.
- Aaron noted that this recommendation is capacity building for local governments and for MORPC. MORPC wants to the technical assistance work already being done and provide information targeted specifically to smart cities and smart region efforts.

Owner: MORPC should be the owner, but with other technical advocates, like those on the Task Force, to present to local governments on a regular basis.

Priority: This item has the highest priority. Many members of the public do not have a foundational understanding of the future of mobility, and a program of technical assistance is important. Educating community advocates so they understand the issues is another important piece.

- Create a forum using a listserv, wiki, or other platform where local governments can post questions, seek advice, share experiences, and interact with subject matter experts.  
Aaron added that another way to do this is to develop a forum for information sharing across the region about smart region efforts.  
Priority: This item can be deleted. The technical assistance outreach and the Smart Region Resource Guide would be adequate, and wikis and other platforms of that type sometimes fall flat.
- MORPC will produce a digital/online Smart Region Resource Guide to help communities with project-specific best practices, policies, funding opportunities, etc. Aaron noted that this is a high priority recommendation, as the Smart Region Resource Guide is expected to be complete by the end of the 2019. The digital document will provide applicable best practices for communities to use in implementing their own smart region initiatives.  
Priority: Parallel with Recommendation 1 under Education and Outreach.

#### Policy Development & Advocacy

- Proceed with the implementation of the Smart Streets Policy through funding policies and advocacy.  
Aaron added that this is a high priority since the Task Force and staff have nearly completed the Smart Streets Policy.  
Partners: Add private entities or utility companies, as they probably need to be involved in those conversations.  
General: Have Smart Targets for members, similar to the Sustainability Targets. This would allow communities to take incremental steps toward being a smart city.
- Promote the development of the US 33 Smart Mobility Corridor and similar concepts in Central Ohio.  
Aaron noted that the US 33 Smart Mobility Corridor is called out specifically, but it is not the only intended project. It is simply a good example of a collaborative project.
- Advocate on behalf of local governments in Central Ohio to promote smart mobility projects and initiatives to federal and state transportation officials.
- Explore opportunities to improve coordination among the various agencies in Central Ohio involved in using technology for traffic management and operations.
- Track and develop guidance on emerging data policy issues (RDA 3.3)  
Aaron noted that this recommendation came out of the RDAC. Items such as incorporating block chain into local government practices, or the balance between Freedom of Information Act requirements and potentially monetizing local government data to recover some of the costs of developing this infrastructure. MORPC may need to advocate on behalf of local governments about these types of emerging issues.

#### Inventory & Mapping

- Develop an inventory of Smart Region projects and initiatives throughout Central Ohio  
Owner: MORPC  
General: The inventory could include capabilities, as it is difficult to understand who has the capacity and capability to contribute to a particular objective. Something to help people understand and navigate all the available assets. It may be easier to accomplish if the focus is on public entities.



- Support the creation of a regional open data portal (Goal 1.2 of RDA.)  
Aaron noted that currently that portal is the SmartColumbus Operating System. MORPC wants to support the development of that, and to look at additional ways to provide data like OSU's Sustainable Observatory.
- Improve mapping of broadband coverage (including speed, cost, competition, and adoption) across the Central Ohio region. (RDA 5.1.2)  
General: There is a need for a regional broadband strategy and that might have three elements: Policy, Projects, and Playbook. This would be a business model for a community to use to implement their own strategy.

### Planning & Initiatives

- Develop a regional broadband plan.  
Aaron noted that a regional broadband plan should begin to take shape in 2020, and that now is the time to lay some of the groundwork.  
General: develop *and* implement the broadband plan.
- Coordinate the preparation of an application to the Intelligent Communities Forum for recognition as an intelligent region.  
Owner: Should probably be owned by Dublin or MORPC.  
Partner: Add jurisdiction, as they have to be a willing partner to implement this work.
- Create a program modeled on MORPC's Sustainable2050 program that supports our member communities' smart region efforts through direct technical assistance, collaboration, and recognition.
- Include smart/intelligent transportation projects and priorities in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Competitive Advantage Projects. Make them easy to reference to help identify opportunities for funding and implementation.
- Develop a regional alternative fuel station plan/strategy, including electric vehicle charging and CNG refueling corridors throughout MORPC region and coordinate those in Ohio.  
Owner: Should be Clean Fuels Ohio or MORPC.  
Partner: Add jurisdiction, as they have to be a willing partner to implement this work.  
Priority: This is a high priority with what is going with EVs.
- Modify MORPC's project charter template to ensure consideration of Smart Region elements in the scoping of all future MORPC planning projects.  
Aaron noted that MORPC's project charter template document is a tool used internally when scoping projects. This recommendation would ensure sure that every project scoped has smart region, technology, and broadband questions incorporated from the beginning.

Aaron thanked the members for their input. Staff will review the feedback and present an updated draft of the Smart Region Playbook at a later meeting.

### **Other Business**

Courtney Falato announced that OSU is hosting a panel discussion on February 28, [Smart Campus: Digital Transformation for Higher Education Institutions](#). Speaking will be OSU CIO Mike Hofherr, the CIO of Arizona State University, the Provost/CIO of Oral Roberts University and the CIO from Florida State.

Aaron announced the following upcoming meetings:

- February 22: DriveOhio Alliance meeting.
- March 5: PUCO PowerForward Data and Modern Grid Workgroup meeting. The PUCO has started a series of meetings around the PowerForward initiative.
- April 1 - 3: NDIA's Net Inclusion Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina
- April 18: MORPC State of the Region – keynote will be Anthony Foxx, Chief Policy Officer for Lyft & former Secretary of USDOT

Chair McDaniel added that the Intelligent Cities Forum have named two Ohio cities among the Top Seven Intelligent Cities out of 200 in the world: Hudson, Ohio, and Westerville, Ohio. The ICF Global Summit will be in New York City on June 11 – 13, 2019, and Dublin has been selected to host the Global Summit in 2020. Approximately 200-250 people from around the world will attend.

**Adjourn -- Dana McDaniel, Smart Region Task Force Chair 11:29 am**