

STATE OF THE REGION



PLANNING
TODAY.
TRANSFORMING
TOMORROW.

MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION | 2019 STATE OF THE REGION



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION





BEULAH PARK.
Join us in the winner's circle.



Steeped in more than 130 years of rich history, Beulah Park, named for the daughter of Adam Grant who developed this north-western quadrant of Grove City in 1889, is most noted as the first Thoroughbred racetrack in Ohio. It is a sure bet this gorgeous, 212-acre property will draw crowds in another way, as one of the most unique developments in central Ohio. The \$200-million community is forecasted to feature 800-plus living units, office and retail space grounded by a 30-acre central park, within walking distance of Grove City's quaint, historic Town Center. The Beulah community can break away to experience the Town Center's restaurants, coffee shops, brewery, retail shops and an incredible library. They also can turn out for some favorite seasonal events hosted in Town Center, including open-air concerts, top-line arts festivals, farmers' markets and so much more. This unmatched opportunity will be rounding its final turn in 2020, when Beulah Park welcomes its first residents and visitors.



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PLANNING TODAY. TRANSFORMING TOMORROW.

Central Ohio is quickly growing and becoming an increasingly diverse region – with a lot to celebrate.

We are proud that the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has the opportunity, every day, to work toward a shared vision of an innovative, sustainable and inclusive region.

To better prepare our region for the future, we serve as a resource for local officials as they make decisions about economic growth, development, transportation, energy and environmental sustainability.

This is especially important today – as we arrive at the intersection of continued population growth and emerging technologies that will impact our way of life.

MORPC is planning ahead to ensure communities remain thriving and competitive, with improved opportunities for social and economic mobility. And this work would not be complete without the inclusion of people from across the region, who have a wealth of diverse life experiences.

As we continue to modernize the programs and services we offer, we hope you like the new MORPC brand we unveiled earlier this year. Our new brand reflects the culmination of people we bring together from communities and regional organizations across Central Ohio, as well as our work on a broad array of subject matter.

On behalf of the more than 65 counties, cities, townships, villages and other organizations that count themselves as MORPC members, we extend our thanks to all the Central Ohio residents making our region a better place. And we look forward to transforming our “tomorrow” with you.

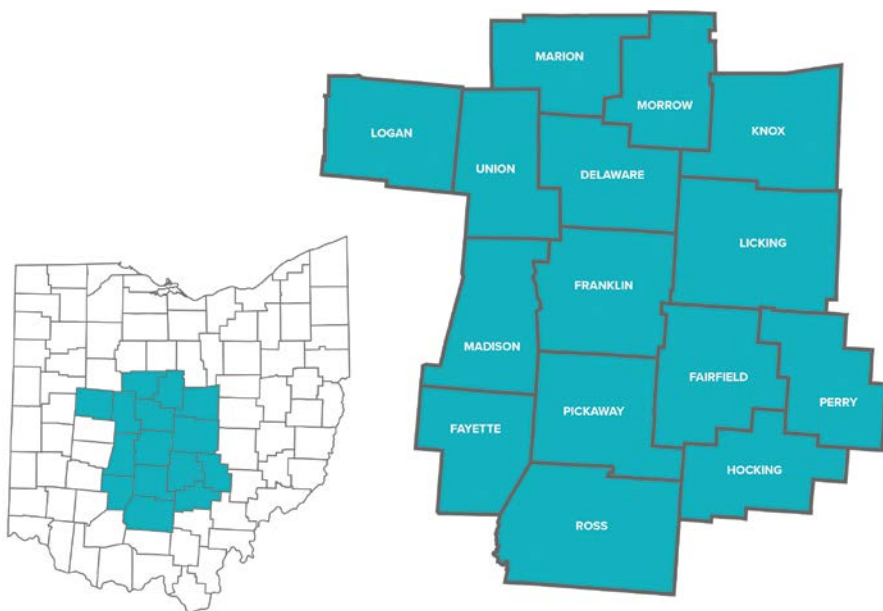
Kind regards,



William Murdock
Executive Director,
MORPC



Rory McGuiness
City of Columbus
MORPC Board Chair



MORPC Area of Interest

SAFETY AT FOREFRONT OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Each year, around 100 people lose their lives in crashes on Central Ohio’s roadways. Another 800 suffer serious, life-changing injuries. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is working to improve safety on our roadways and create a better quality life for Central Ohio residents and visitors.

Data and information, such as MORPC’s annual analyses of regional crash trends, help to better understand local and regional safety issues and make informed decisions about transportation investments.

In collaboration with the Ohio Department of Transportation and other local partners, MORPC is developing the Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan. This comprehensive safety plan identifies the most significant causes of serious injuries and fatalities on the region’s roadway system, and it will soon be used as a template for other regions across the state.

The plan establishes a series of goals and benchmarks for safety improvements, identifies existing trends and critical safety priorities, and sets up a framework for how collaboration can improve safety throughout the region. It uses crash data to identify common crash types and trends to guide programming toward reducing crash frequency and severity.

Regional plans like this are important because 84 percent of the state’s roadways are locally maintained,

leaving the responsibility for safety improvements to the local governments. While most of these communities recognize the importance of roadway safety in their jurisdiction, many lack the resources necessary to comprehensively address safety issues.

Regional organizations like MORPC are better positioned to impact the safety of locally maintained roadways by assisting the local governments and connecting them with available funding.

The Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan has four emphasis areas:

Serious Crash Types – Specific types of crashes that account for the greatest number of fatal and serious injury crashes.

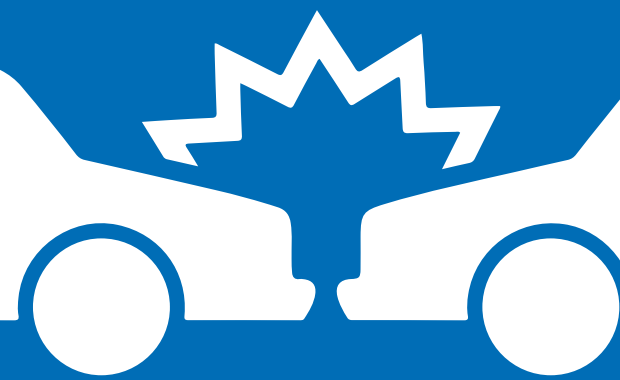
Vulnerable Roadway Users – Non-vehicle roadway users, such as pedestrians and bicyclists, who experience disproportionately high rates of fatal and serious injuries.

Driving Safety Concerns – Common contributing factors or characteristics of fatal and serious injury crashes.

Emerging Technologies – New travel modes that affect future roadway user behavior.

Each emphasis area has a goal to reduce fatal and serious injuries in the category, with strategies and action items to help achieve these goals by 2025. The Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan will be available to view at morpc.org/safety.

VIEW CENTRAL OHIO’S TOP
HIGH-CRASH LOCATIONS AT
MORPC.ORG/SAFETY



UPCOMING CENSUS TO REFLECT CENTRAL OHIO POPULATION GROWTH

Central Ohio is on track to become a region of 3 million people by 2050, according to the latest population estimates from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). In 2018 alone, an average of 118 people came into the region each day, and the growth shows no signs of slowing down.

The region has the opportunity to collectively plan for this growth in a sustainable way – one that delivers a range of transportation options, offers affordable housing options, ensures all residents have opportunities for economic success and makes efficient use of our resources.

But in order to capitalize on the opportunities and resources available, the 2020 Census must accurately reflect every person living in Central Ohio – and across the state.

The United States Constitution requires that every person living in the country is counted in a census each decade, and the U.S. Census Bureau is responsible for this work.

The results from the Census are used to make decisions on how more than \$880 billion in annual federal spending is distributed to state and local governments. This money is used to carry out important government services and programs.

Making budgeting decisions, forecasting future transportation and housing needs, planning for how land is used and making investments in public transportation services would all be even greater challenges without the use of Census data.

The data is also used to draw legislative boundaries, including the reapportionment of seats in the Ohio General Assembly and Ohio congressional districts. In fact, the Census determines

the number of U.S. House members allotted to Ohio – affecting the state's political representation in Washington.

Projections forecast that Ohio will potentially lose a congressional seat because, although the state is growing, it is not growing as quickly as other parts of the country. A difference of 0.8 percent could cost Ohio a second seat. But in a growing and diverse region like Central Ohio, counting people can be difficult.

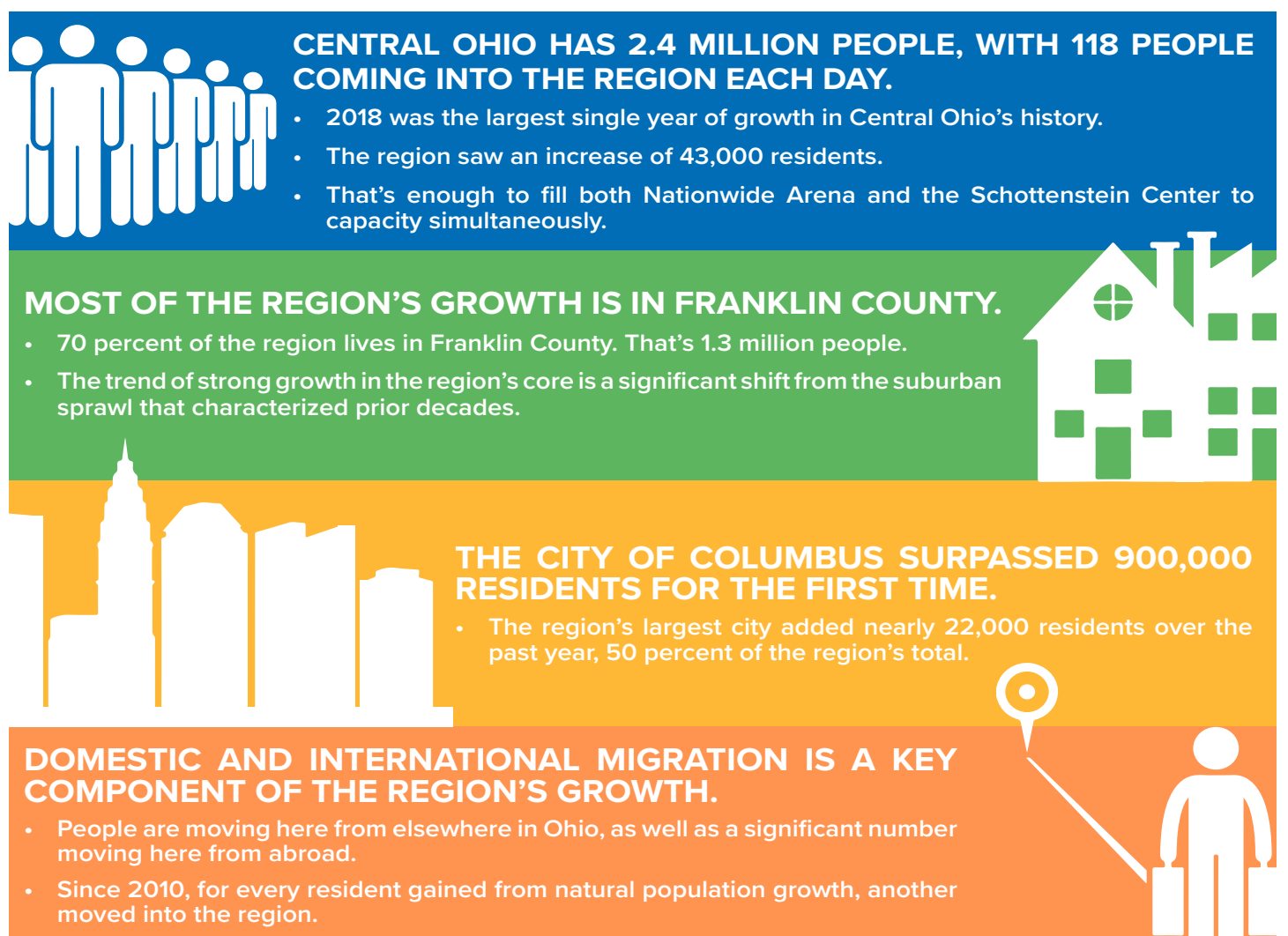
The Census Bureau relies on state and local agencies, as well as other partners, to help carry out its work. That is where MORPC and communities throughout Central Ohio are playing a role.

Efforts are already underway to ensure that each and every Central Ohio resident is counted. Last month, the City of Columbus and Franklin County launched their Complete Count Committee. MORPC is chairing the government subcommittee and providing staff for other subcommittees.

Committees like these form across the state and country to help raise awareness of the Census and encourage local residents to respond. The committees include a broad spectrum of community leaders representing a broad range of demographic groups, industries, and community organizations.

“MORPC has a unique role, because we have the ability to extend the work of the Columbus/Franklin County Complete Count Committee to the rest of Central Ohio,” said MORPC Director Data & Mapping Aaron Schill. “This means we can help them get all of their residents counted, including traditionally hard-to-count populations like ethnic and racial minorities, immigrants, children and renters.”

Residents will need to respond to the Census in April 2020. More information on the City of Columbus and Franklin County Complete Count Committee is available at columbus.gov/columbuscounts.



CENTRAL OHIO HAS 2.4 MILLION PEOPLE, WITH 118 PEOPLE COMING INTO THE REGION EACH DAY.

- 2018 was the largest single year of growth in Central Ohio's history.
- The region saw an increase of 43,000 residents.
- That's enough to fill both Nationwide Arena and the Schottenstein Center to capacity simultaneously.

MOST OF THE REGION'S GROWTH IS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY.

- 70 percent of the region lives in Franklin County. That's 1.3 million people.
- The trend of strong growth in the region's core is a significant shift from the suburban sprawl that characterized prior decades.

THE CITY OF COLUMBUS SURPASSED 900,000 RESIDENTS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

- The region's largest city added nearly 22,000 residents over the past year, 50 percent of the region's total.

DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IS A KEY COMPONENT OF THE REGION'S GROWTH.

- People are moving here from elsewhere in Ohio, as well as a significant number moving here from abroad.
- Since 2010, for every resident gained from natural population growth, another moved into the region.

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For more than 200 years, we at the Franklin County Engineer's Office have prided ourselves in ensuring Franklin County maintained roadways and bridges are safe and efficient year round. We take every aspect of our job seriously. Our rich history and commitment to providing safe transportation encourages innovation while "Maintaining a Tradition of Excellence".

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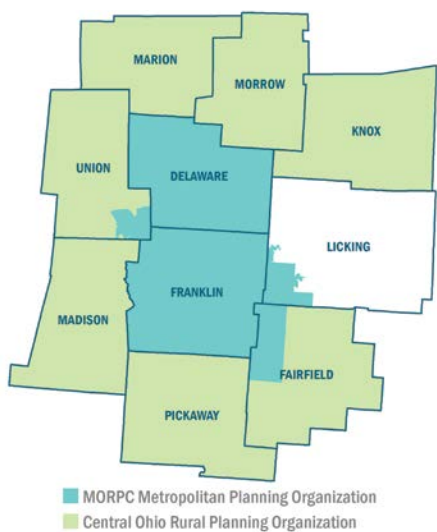
PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR RURAL AND URBAN AREAS ALIKE

Through the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's (MORPC's) continual efforts to strengthen Central Ohio and form connections to the global marketplace, local officials have more of the information they need to thoughtfully develop the region.

In the past year Hocking, Knox, Logan and Morrow counties have joined Delaware, Franklin, Perry, and Union counties as MORPC members. Franklin and Jefferson townships (Franklin County), the Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District and the City of Lancaster have also become MORPC members.

The growth in MORPC's membership demonstrates the benefit communities of all sizes in the region – including its rural, outlying communities – are seeing through collaborating and learning from one another. It also shows their interest in the broad array of plans, projects and initiatives performed by MORPC. Among them are those related to transportation.

MORPC's partnership with seven counties in the non-metropolitan areas of the region to provide transportation planning products and services has been of great benefit. The Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO) – which includes Fairfield, Knox, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway and Union counties – completed the development of a regional, long-range transportation plan that reflects the transportation needs of these counties.



Much like the remainder of the region, these counties have the goal of a transportation system that is connected, safe, well-maintained, accessible to all users, environmentally sustainable and supportive of economic vitality. MORPC will soon assist them with the development of a four-year transportation improvement program and the coordination of transportation planning with other planning areas.



Transportation planning includes the consideration of multi-modal options such as roadways, transit systems, bikeways and pedestrian pathways.

The CORPO plan identifies expected population and employment changes, transportation goals and needs, as well as strategies for an integrated, multi-modal transportation system in the CORPO transportation planning area. It also identifies highway, bikeway, pedestrian, safety, freight and public transportation components. The plan is available at morpc.org/corpo.

The work of CORPO closely aligns to the transportation planning work MORPC has traditionally performed as the federally designated metropolitan planning organization for the Columbus urbanized area, which includes: Delaware and Franklin counties; Bloom and Violet townships in Fairfield County; New Albany, Pataskala and Etna Township in Licking County; and Jerome Township in Union County.

The work in this area will result in the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) that is slated to be completed next spring.

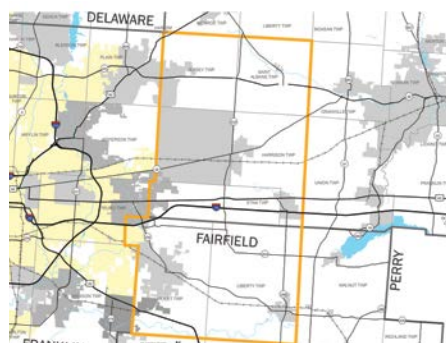
The growth in Central Ohio has only increased the excitement around the MTP. Much like the CORPO plan, this plan will take a long-range approach to transportation needs, identify strategies and projects, and align them with sustainability and other regional goals. By developing the plan, the greater Columbus region is able to utilize federal transportation funding to improve, maintain and operate highways, public transit, bikeways and sidewalks – all of which reduce road congestion, improve air quality and enhance our quality of life.

“In a region growing as fast as Central Ohio, preparing a transportation system to accommodate thousands of additional travelers in the upcoming decades is vital,” said Thea Walsh, MORPC Director of

Transportation Systems & Funding. “The MTP takes a comprehensive look at our transportation system and provides the basis for how transportation funding will be spent to maintain what we have and make needed improvements.”

Residents are invited to review and comment on aspects of the plan, as well as to offer project suggestions as they become available at morpc.org/mtp2050.

MORPC has also begun work on the Western Fairfield & Licking Counties Thoroughfare Plan. A thoroughfare plan is a long-range plan that identifies the type and general location of roadway facilities that are needed to meet projected long-term growth. It is not a list of construction projects, but rather a tool for right-of-way preservation and a resource for decision makers and land owners.



The Western Fairfield & Licking Counties Thoroughfare Plan includes a closer look at the above area in order to better connect major

The need for this study originated from area stakeholders discussing the need for a better connection between US-33 and I-70, and a better connection between I-70 and SR-161. Instead of immediately studying new corridor connections, this plan is a coordinated approach to bring stakeholders together to look at the area

as a whole, understand the function of existing facilities, and identify what the future needs are based on expected development and land use changes.

This particular area is poised for growth in commercial, office and light industrial development such as warehousing, data centers, and corporate and industrial parks.



The area around Rickenbacker International Airport is also seeing growth and development. The airport is a great point of pride for our region, and one of the best examples of enabling goods to move efficiently and effectively using rail, roads, and air. With cargo activity forecasted to grow by more than 900 percent by 2036, long-term development plans are needed to serve that growth.

MORPC recently completed a community-driven, comprehensive study to develop a strategy for the area surrounding the airport over the next 10 to 20 years. The study findings and recommendations are documented in five general themes: business attraction and retention; workforce mobility and safety; freight routing and access; resiliency and technology innovation; and quality of life. The results can be viewed online at morpc.org/rickenbackerstudy.

Through all of these planning efforts, Central Ohio communities will be in a better position to meet the needs of their residents for years to come – offering them choice, safety and convenience as they go about their daily activities.

COMMUNITY OFFICIALS LEARNING MORE ABOUT DEVELOPMENT AND MOBILITY OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH INSIGHT2050

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is continually looking forward and working with local communities to identify demographic and lifestyle changes, and how best to adapt to them in terms of development patterns, services and infrastructure.

If Central Ohio can get ahead of growth, new styles of development can help to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and decrease household costs – factors that contribute to the overall quality of life and make our environment better.



MORPC has long touted its insight2050 initiative, a collaborative effort with the Urban Land Institute Columbus, Columbus 2020 and local partners to better plan for growth by providing guidance, planning resources and community engagement tools to evaluate development and mobility opportunities.

“Through insight2050, we learned that compact development patterns, like infill and redevelopment, are more responsive to the changing demographics and increased market demand for smaller residences in walkable, mixed-



Officials in the Fall 2018 insight2050 Academy attended a walking tour in Newark to have a closer look at downtown renovations and green infrastructure.

use environments,” MORPC Director of Planning & Sustainability Kerstin Carr said. “As we are wrapping up the Corridor Concepts study, we will also have some data on how redevelopment on specific corridors can impact transportation, environmental and fiscal metrics, as well as how it can support high-capacity transit.”

Insight2050 Corridor Concepts has brought together local governments, businesses, real estate development and others to further explore more walkable/compact environments and high-capacity transit along five representative thoroughfares.

“By looking closely at these thoroughfares through the Corridor Concepts study, we are gaining a deeper understanding of how various development patterns relate to transit options – what that development could look like and how to implement it,” MORPC Principal Planner Jennifer Noll said. “For example, there is a growing market demand for smaller residences in neighborhoods where you can walk, ride a bike or take transit to your destination. The study is telling us more about how we can support that demand.”

The findings and recommendations from the Corridor Concepts study will be released at a ULI Columbus event on April 30. Registration is available at columbus.uli.org.

Local leaders have been learning more about insight2050 since it began offering the insight2050 Academy in the fall of 2016. Since then, more than 100 elected and appointed officials, economic development professionals, planners, architects, engineers and other transportation professionals have gone through the program to learn how the findings can be applied to their communities.

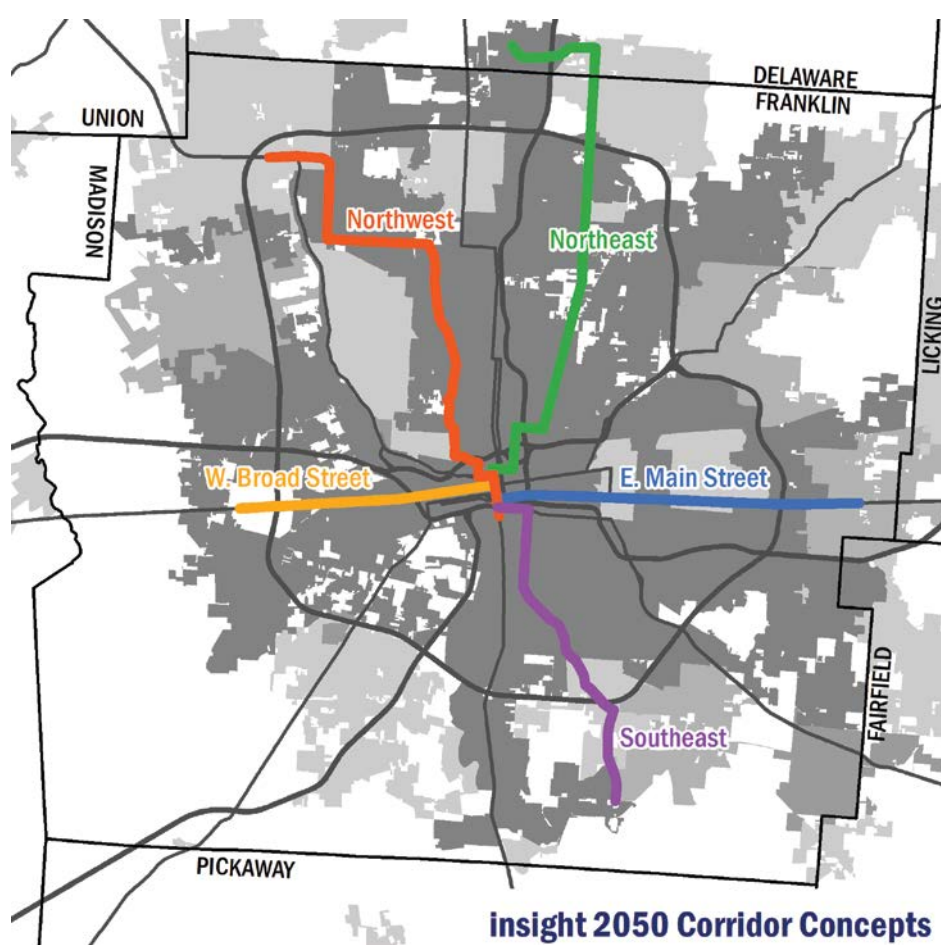
The current academy class is the first to have a transportation focus. The academy is forging a link with another one of MORPC’s insight2050 projects – the Technical Assistance Program (TAP).

“Last year we piloted the Technical Assistance Program with four communities,” MORPC Assistant Director of Planning & Sustainability Stephen Patchan said. “Based on their feedback and input from our Active Transportation Working Group, MORPC is now creating a permanent TAP to offer additional technical assistance to our members. This competitive program will roll out later this year.”

The Technical Assistance Program pilot launched in September 2017, when four Central Ohio communities – the cities of Delaware, Westerville, and Worthington, as well as Violet Township – were awarded technical services.

Although the insight2050 Technical Assistance Program is available only to communities within MORPC’s metropolitan planning organization area – Franklin and Delaware counties, and portions of Licking, Fairfield and Union counties – the insight2050 Academy is open to people from communities throughout the 15 counties in MORPC’s reach.

More information on insight2050 and the Corridor Concepts study can be found at getinsight2050.org or morpc.org/insight2050.



RESIDENTS CAN BENEFIT FROM MORPC'S HOME SERVICES

As Central Ohio plans for the future, an element that should not be overlooked is the importance of maintaining affordable, safe and energy-efficient housing for residents. Eliminating the wasted energy for families can translate into income they can put toward other needs such as food, health care or transportation.

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has long offered weatherization and home repair services to income-eligible Franklin County residents at no cost, transforming the home for those who might otherwise be unable to make such upgrades.

More than 20,000 households have been serviced by MORPC during the past 30 years. Residents have experienced reductions in utility bills and are safer and more comfortable in their homes.

"MORPC is proud of the important work we do each and every day to assist families throughout Franklin County," said Robert Williams, MORPC Director of Residential Services. "These services not only make people cooler in their homes during the summer and warmer in their



MORPC offers home energy efficiency and safety services at no cost to income-eligible residents to help keep them warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. The work might include adding home insulation, as seen above.

homes during the winter, but they touch the residents' lives by protecting their health and safety."

MORPC's experienced energy efficiency professionals perform energy inspections and safety checks on homes throughout the year. They start by thoroughly evaluating and identifying potential energy efficiency improvements, as well as related health and safety hazards.

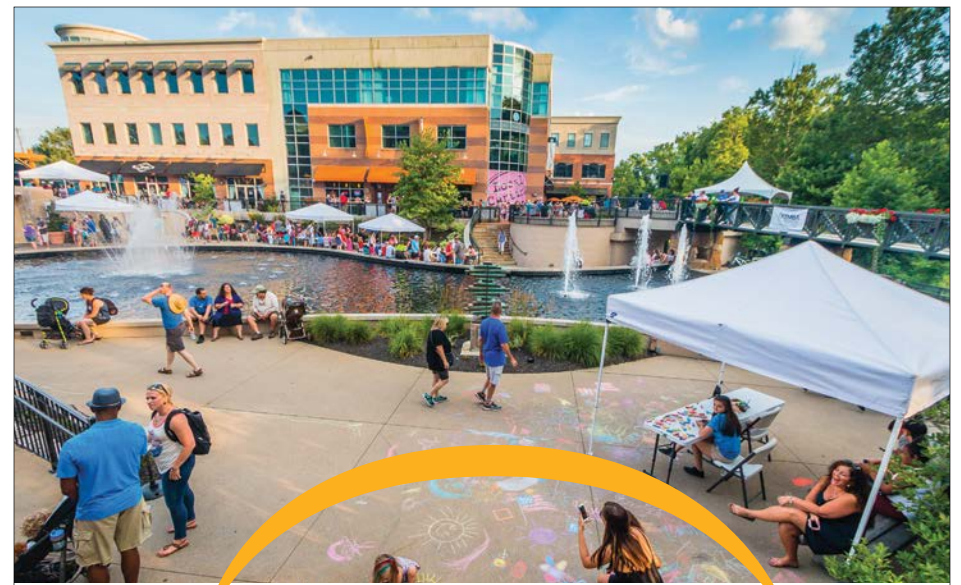
Agency's Home Weatherization Assistance Program and Electric Partnership Program, and AEP Ohio's Community Assistance Program.

Lester Reynolds is a Columbus resident who took advantage of MORPC's services.

"Columbia Gas got in touch with me explaining to me that my home was using more energy than normal for a house this size. They came out and found that my furnace heat exchanger was cracked, and rendered my furnace unsafe," Reynolds said. "It needed to be replaced. That's how [MORPC] got involved and saved me from the bad emissions that the furnace was sending out to my house."

Following the work on his home, the site was featured at MORPC's 2018 Home Weatherization Showcase, which highlights the value of these important services to community leaders, program funders and the public.

Those who would like to see if they qualify for MORPC's home repair or home energy efficiency programs can visit morpc.org/EnergyServices or call 614.621.1171.



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ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

CENTRAL OHIO REMAINS A STARTING POINT FOR NEW TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGIES



Representatives from Central Ohio and other partners along the Chicago-Columbus-Pittsburgh corridor have visited Virgin Hyperloop One's DevLoop testing facility in Nevada to see hyperloop technology up close.

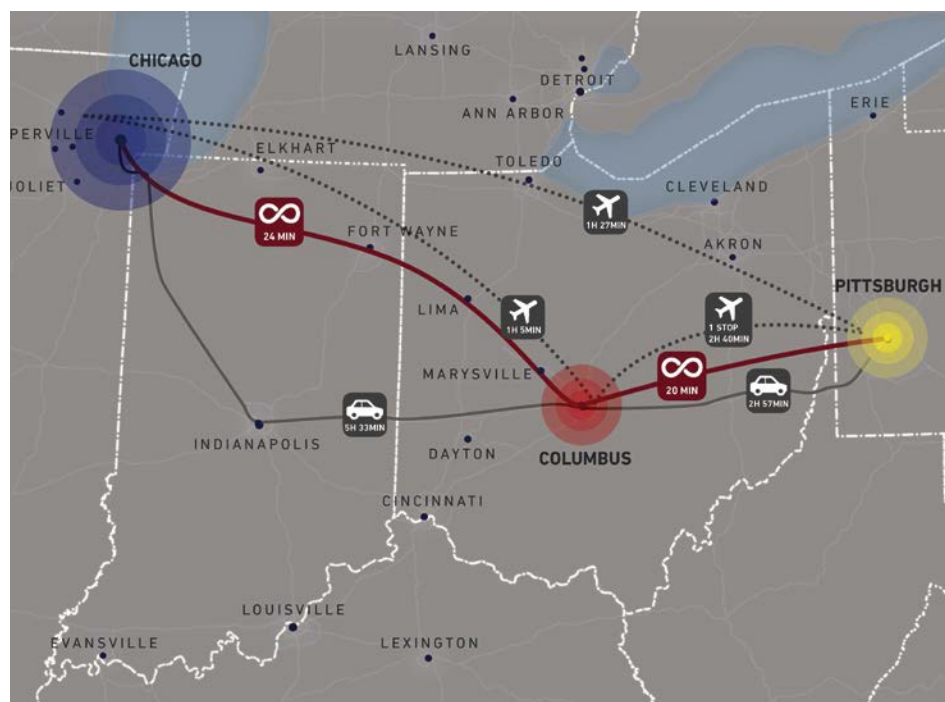
Central Ohio is known as a place to test new ideas, new products and new services. As technology changes at an ever-increasing rate, it becomes more relevant to the quality of life enjoyed by residents and the success of the region's businesses.

Supporting the innovative, effective use and creation of new technologies is of the utmost importance to the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), as it drives informed decisions that enhance the work of the public sector – especially as it relates to transportation.



A Closer Look at Rapid-Speed Transportation

Many Central Ohio residents were elated when Virgin Hyperloop One named MORPC's Midwest Connect hyperloop proposal as one of ten winners in the Hyperloop One Global Challenge in September 2017. The challenge attracted Hyperloop corridor proposals from 2,600 registrants in more than 100 countries across the globe. Since then, MORPC and its partners have been working with Virgin Hyperloop One to study the feasibility of bringing hyperloop technology to Central Ohio and the Midwest along the Chicago-Columbus-Pittsburgh corridor.



Hyperloop technology would allow for quick travel between cities where no direct highway or passenger rail connections currently exist.

Even recently, U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao announced a landmark Non-Traditional and Emerging Transportation Technology Council, which aims to explore the regulation and permitting of new transportation technologies including hyperloop, which will facilitate this technology to bring the new form of mass transportation to the United States.

Hyperloop technology has been on the move, with Virgin Hyperloop One making great strides at its DevLoop testing facility

in Nevada. DevLoop is the world's first full-scale hyperloop segment, and MORPC has taken more than 50 representatives from not only Central Ohio, but along the corridor, to visit the facility and see the technology up close.

The visits follow MORPC's announcement last year of a Rapid Speed Transportation Initiative (RSTI). Because the Chicago-Columbus-Pittsburgh corridor creates a unique opportunity to connect major regions for improved freight and passenger transportation – and

no direct highway or passenger rail connections currently exist between the regions – MORPC and its partners are further exploring the feasibility and environmental components of hyperloop and passenger rail along the same corridor through RSTI.

“Creating more options for rapid speed transportation – by both traditional rail

and Hyperloop – would not only enhance passenger and freight transportation in the Midwest, but also drive economic growth, generate prospects for development and create radically new opportunities for people and businesses in the Midwest megaregion,” MORPC Transportation & Infrastructure Development Director Thea Walsh said. “MORPC has experienced great support for these projects from local governments, state departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, corporations and individuals.”

RSTI will also provide estimates of transportation demand and economic benefits, as well as develop a business case, implementation strategy, and stakeholder and public engagement strategy.

The proposed hyperloop and passenger rail connections will offer quick access to global businesses, international flights, and more specialized services supported in the largest of markets. As Central Ohio grows, the technology disruption could reach beyond transportation services to transform how business is conducted, how goods are shipped, and where people choose to live and work.

MORPC's work in this area is one of many examples of new, innovative technologies bringing more recognition to the region.



Spreading Smart Technology Across the Region

Central Ohio communities are furthering their efforts to become a “smart region” by joining together in preparation for smart infrastructure investments.

The idea of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's (MORPC's) Smart Region Task Force formed as numerous smart mobility efforts unfolded throughout Central Ohio and it became increasingly clear that technological advancements will dramatically disrupt the status quo of current planning and funding efforts for local governments.

“Technology in transportation and community infrastructure is changing so rapidly that we wanted to get people together and ask what Central Ohio

needs to do to prepare for our future in communities of all sizes and as a smart and forward-looking region,” MORPC Executive Director William Murdock said. “We’re leading on this issue, and we want our rural, outlying communities to be connected, too.”

The Task Force, which consists of local officials and other innovation thought leaders, is focused on discussing the potential benefits and unintended consequences of smart infrastructure. They began meeting in early 2018 and will complete their work by the end of this year.

“Dublin and other communities need to be equipped with the resources, knowledge, and skills to take advantage of smart city concepts as we plan for and invest in these technologies,” said Dublin City Manager Dana McDaniel, who is chairing the task force. “The Smart

Region Task Force is a great way to get everyone on the same page and ensure that no community in Central Ohio is left behind.”

The group is currently working on three forward-thinking deliverables over the course of its work.

The **Smart Streets Policy** will guide MORPC funded projects to consider the installation of digital infrastructure when constructing transportation projects in the region. The policy also includes recommendations for communities to adopt their own Smart Street Policy. This policy is modeled after MORPC’s Complete Streets Policy, which helps to ensure that roadways are designed to safely and comfortably accommodate everyone who uses them.

“A Smart Streets Policy will ensure our investments in transportation infrastructure will facilitate the implementation of new technologies in a manner that is consistent with the goals of communities across the region,” MORPC Transportation & Infrastructure Development Director Thea Walsh said.

A **Smart Region Playbook** will guide the internal work of MORPC staff and committees.

“The playbook is where we define our regional interpretation of ‘smart’ and our corresponding regional goals,” MORPC Data & Mapping Director Aaron Schill said. “It’s a guideline for MORPC that allows the work of the Smart Region Task Force to permeate into all that we do.”

A **Smart Region Resource Guide** will provide best practices and resources for local governments.

This will be a digital, online resource on the MORPC website when the task force completes its work.



Smart Technology Being Implemented Locally

Smart technology is quickly unfolding within the transportation system, with aims to provide innovative services and products related to different modes and traffic management. In short, it will enable the travelling public to make use of a safer, more coordinated, and more connected transportation network – enhancing their livability, workability and sustainability.

LOCAL EXAMPLES OF SMART TECHNOLOGY INCLUDE:

SMART MOBILITY ADVANCED RESEARCH AND TEST (SMART) CENTER

Located at the Transportation Research Center (TRC) in East Liberty, this is a 540-acre hub to develop autonomous and connected vehicles before the vehicles are deployed on public roads and highways. TRC is the largest independent vehicle test facility and proving grounds in the United States.

U.S. ROUTE 33 SMART MOBILITY CORRIDOR

A 35-mile highway corridor that crosses Franklin, Union, and Logan counties, it connects the cities of Marysville and Dublin to Honda’s North America Campus and points beyond. It includes fiber-optic cable and sensors on roadways and in vehicles for autonomous and connected vehicle testing.

SMART COLUMBUS

The City of Columbus competed against 77 cities nationwide to win the USDOT Smart City Challenge in 2016. As the smart city initiative for the Columbus Region, numerous efforts are underway to implement new technology and reinvent mobility. The Smart Circuit – Ohio’s first self-driving shuttle – allows residents and visitors the opportunity to explore the Scioto Mile and experience autonomous vehicle technology firsthand.

ODOT I-670 SMARTLANE

Located on I-670 east of Downtown Columbus, the state’s first “SmartLane” will use technology to relieve eastbound afternoon rush-hour commutes by using digital signs to temporarily open or close a shoulder with variable speed limits. ODOT will rely on data transmitted by radar detectors positioned along the route and video footage from closed-circuit cameras when deciding to open the SmartLane.



CONNECTED MARYSVILLE

All 27 of the City of Marysville’s traffic lights will be upgraded with connected technology, as well as 1,200 vehicles. The goal is to create a real-world environment where companies, governmental agencies and academia can develop and test smart technology throughout the entire city.

CONNECTED DUBLIN

From smart mobility pilot projects to augmented reality exploration, the City of Dublin is pushing boundaries to improve cyber security, transportation safety and quality of life for its residents and businesses. The city is testing roadside units at its intersections, onboard units in its fleet, and will be beta testing the first blockchain-based digital identity in the state of Ohio.

RAPID-SPEED TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE

This initiative is exploring the feasibility and environmental components of hyperloop and passenger rail along the Chicago-Columbus-Pittsburgh corridor, where no direct highway or passenger rail facilities are currently in place.

SUSTAINABILITY KEY TO SUPPORTING REGIONAL VITALITY

Residents and local government officials in Central Ohio are continuing to strengthen sustainability efforts as key to supporting regional growth and vitality.

For this reason, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has been collaborating on environmentally and economically sustainable practices, opportunities and tools. Chief among them is an initiative called Sustainable2050, which is comprised of more than 30 local communities and organizations committed to working toward more sustainable practices.

“Through Sustainable2050, we are not only recognizing MORPC-member communities’ commitment to sustainability, but ultimately assisting them, through technical assistance and access to resources, to do even more,” MORPC Sustainability Officer Brandi Whetstone said.



Thanks to many of them participating in a year-long pilot period, a substantial amount of insight and feedback was received to improve the program. Among the recommendations was to determine a program tier status level for every Sustainable2050 member by acknowledging the number of sustainability-related achievements they have made in categories established through MORPC’s Regional Sustainability Agenda available at morpc.org/sustainability.

Blendon and Genoa townships; the cities of Columbus, Dublin, Gahanna, Grove City, Upper Arlington, Westerville, and Whitehall; the Village of Lockbourne; and Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks are now celebrating the fact that they are among the first communities to reach a designated tier status within the program.

The region offers many ways for local

governments and organizations to take up sustainable practices. For instance, although many people still travel to work in single-occupant vehicles, a growing number are rethinking how they get around the region – opting instead for more cost-effective, active and sustainable modes of transportation.



Gohio Commute, a program of MORPC, provides commuters and companies with resources to help explore multimodal commuting options. Features of the platform include public or private ride-matching, emergency ride home service and incentive campaigns that encourage sustainable commuting.

The goal is not only to get people to work, but to help companies attract and retain a quality work force. For this reason, MORPC offers complimentary consultations to help employers customize a commuter benefits package for their employees.

Central Ohioans want and need more transportation options. In some parts of the region, commuters face barriers to transportation related to affordability, parking availability and traffic congestion. As a major employment center, these issues intersect in Downtown Columbus.



To make transit easy, convenient and free for people from all over the region who work downtown, Downtown C-pass was introduced last year. This innovative program provides eligible downtown

CONTINUED

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Franklin County Infrastructure Bank

RECENTLY CLOSED LOANS

CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG
Main Street Improvement Project
Loan Amount: \$ 750,000
Total Project Costs: \$1,958,250
Interest Rate: 1.90%
Term: 7 Years
Closed: April 2019

CITY OF HILLIARD
Municipal Fiber Project
Loan Amount: \$1,250,000
Total Project Costs: \$3,182,500
Interest Rate: 1.85%
Term: 10 Years
Closed: April 2019



Franklin County Infrastructure Bank (FCIB) Administrator
Josh Roth
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SUSTAINABILITY KEY TO SUPPORTING REGIONAL VITALITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

workers unlimited access to the entire Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) bus system through a partnership among MORPC, COTA, the Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District and Smart Columbus.

Eligible workers and some residents can use the C-pass any day, any time and on any COTA route. The workers receive a transit pass at no cost to them, which frees up a parking space, benefits air quality, reduces congestion and allows the employee to enjoy a stress-free ride to work with access to Wi-Fi on board.

More than 14,000 workers from more than 400 companies are registered for the program to date, generating more than 22,000 rides on COTA each week. COTA reports a 17.7-percent increase in rush-hour routes that offer express service from suburban Park & Ride locations to Downtown Columbus. A survey conducted three months into the program by CJI Research found that more workers are choosing transit, motivated by the C-pass and saving money.

The availability and adoption of sustainable transportation modes also contributes to better air quality and public health. The ozone season in Central Ohio lasts from March through October, and during that time, higher levels of ozone pollution can form when emissions are combined in the presence of sun and high temperatures. This is especially troublesome for those with sensitive breathing issues or respiratory disease. Residents can find out ahead of time when pollution levels are expected to be unhealthy for sensitive groups by signing up for MORPC's Air Quality Alerts at morpc.org/airquality.

MORPC is also combining its work in sustainability and transportation to work toward a 700+ mile network of regional trails.

MORPC, through its Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Board, helped launch the Central Ohio Greenways trail vision last year, which would add 500 new trail miles to the region. The board's mission is to create a world-class network of trails by building a unified and connected trail system to connect communities for transportation and recreation. Based



on the results of a recent planning study, MORPC and the COG Board are prioritizing proposed trail segments for funding and implementation.

MORPC and its partners are also hard at work to improve and protect water quality and conserve resources through education, policies, and regional planning and collaboration. Riverfest has provided thousands of people the opportunity to kayak and canoe on area rivers. Don't miss the event this year, in coordination with the Columbus Arts Festival, on June 8-9 at Bicentennial Park.



Other work at MORPC that will help create a more sustainable region includes the Local Government Energy Partnership (LGEDP), a collaborative program kicked off this year for MORPC members to advance energy-saving opportunities. The services are intended to reduce the costs, attract businesses and encourage their growth, and promote responsible stewardship of our resources.

The first of the programs within the LGEP is the Energy Benchmarking

Program. MORPC has partnered with JadeTrack to provide members with an online dashboard to benchmark building performance. This tool allows participants to collect, analyze and visualize utility data to identify opportunities to save on energy across all publicly owned buildings and fleets.

MORPC staff members are meeting with participants to review data and discuss potential energy-saving opportunities. The participants' aggregated information will be displayed on a regional dashboard available through morpc.org. The regional dashboard will highlight the region's sustainability efforts in energy consumption, alternative fuels and renewable energy.

Additional LGEP offerings include the Technical Support Program, Energy Academy, Energy Consortium, and Recognition Program. More information on these and other sustainability efforts in the region is available at morpc.org.



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INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS TO ENHANCE THE REGION'S ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE



The region's Competitive Advantage Projects initiative includes projects related to transportation, water and sewer, fiber optics and smart technology, energy systems and strategic planning.

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) and Columbus 2020 are continuing their work to ensure that both urban and rural counties throughout Central Ohio have the needed infrastructure to compete with other locations across the country for jobs and investment – and to improve the quality of life in our region.

“We want to be strategic in advancing infrastructure projects that provide a great economic benefit for our growing and quickly developing region,” MORPC Executive Director William Murdock said. “It’s important to have a list of prioritized, shovel-ready infrastructure projects so that we can move them toward construction when funding becomes available.”

That prioritized list is formed through an initiative called the Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP). When opportunities arise to further advance the region – especially at a time when very limited funding is available – CAP provides the ability to act fast so the region, its businesses and residents can benefit.

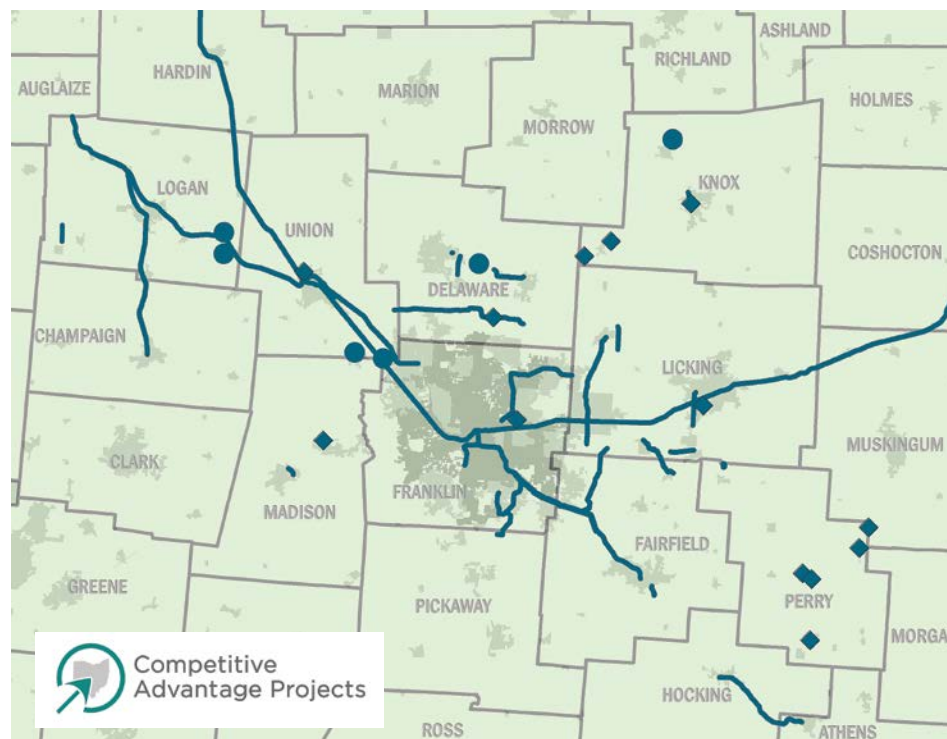
Whether it is a transportation project, water or sewer project, fiber optics and smart technology, energy systems or strategic planning, CAP allows the region to easily compete for resources. The

goal is to not only know what projects are needed, but to have a continuing, coordinated list of priority projects that are ready to move forward.

“Having the list helps us identify strategies to fund particular projects, exploring resources such as grants, appropriations or other funding opportunities,” MORPC Economic Development & Infrastructure Officer Nathaniel Kaelin said. “It also serves as a one-stop, easy-to-use resource for those who work on behalf of the region – including our legislative leaders at the state and federal levels.”

In 2016, MORPC began working with counties across Central Ohio on the initiative. Each county compiled a comprehensive list of planned and desired infrastructure investments, and prioritized the top projects for their county, intended to impact development and job growth.

The second round of a prioritized project list was recently completed in advance of the current legislative session in order to maximize the region’s advocacy efforts. It includes 43 priority projects, located throughout 10 counties and totaling more than \$5.2 billion.



Local elected officials, economic development professionals, business leaders, and others stakeholders from each county are instrumental to the process because they provide input on which projects are most important to their communities.

With funding, Central Ohioans will

gradually see the CAP projects under development across the region, better connecting the region’s residents and businesses with one another – and to the global marketplace – for years to come.

The full listing of projects and information associated with them can be viewed at morpc.org/cap.

Are you ready for DELCO READY

For more information about DelCo Ready, contact Bob Lamb, Economic Development Director, 614-306-1020 or blamb@co.delaware.oh.us

This innovative program helped these businesses grow in Delaware County last year:

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- T Marzetti R&D Facility
- Hoshizaki North America
- Orange Grand Communities
- H&D Senior Care Facility
- Evans Farm

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MORPC ADVOCATES FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES AT OHIO STATEHOUSE, U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING

With legislation moving quickly at both the state and federal levels of government, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has been very active advocating on the agency's public policy priorities.

Since the new legislative session began in January, MORPC has continued to build relationships with members of Ohio's congressional delegation, the Ohio Senate and the Ohio House of Representatives through regular visits to their offices and testimony to legislative committees. Topics have ranged from increasing the state's motor fuel user fee and the state operating budget to home weatherization and hyperloop.

Communities in Central Ohio know the importance of having an organization like MORPC to stand up for them and advocate on their behalf. Laws and regulations have a significant impact on the ability of local governments to serve their residents.

"MORPC is advocating on infrastructure funding, energy efficiency, economic development incentives, environmental issues and transportation safety — all while balancing the interests of our growing region," MORPC Government Affairs Director Joe Garrity said.

Legislative visits offer the opportunity for MORPC to discuss the priorities approved as part of its 2019-2020 Public Policy Agenda. The agenda focuses on topic areas on which MORPC is leading. These include regionalism, transportation, sustainability, data and digital infrastructure.



MORPC board officers and staff members were recently in Washington, D.C. advocating on the region's public policy priorities.

"The policy agenda reflects the diverse needs of Central Ohio's cities, villages, townships, counties and regional organizations," Whitehall Mayor Kim Maggard, who chairs MORPC's committee focused on public policy. "It is our compass as we assertively advocate on issues and policies that will affect the future of the region."

The agenda also notes policy areas on which MORPC can collaborate with like-minded organizations, including economic development, sustainable development and federal funding.

More information and resources related to MORPC's government affairs work, including the 2019-2020 Public Policy

Agenda, can be viewed at morpc.org/GovAffairs.

2019-2020 MORPC PUBLIC POLICY GOALS

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.



GOAL 2: TRANSPORTATION

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



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.



GOAL 4: DATA AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

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



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MORPC's 2019 State of the Region brought together the region's top political, business and civic leaders to highlight community accomplishments and showcase upcoming plans for leading the region into the future.

CENTRAL OHIO LEADERS COME TOGETHER AT ANNUAL STATE OF THE REGION EVENT

Central Ohio's top political, business and civic leaders gathered at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's (MORPC's) 2019 State of the Region luncheon to plan for the future and highlight community accomplishments.

More than 1,000 people attended the event on April 18 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, where MORPC highlighted the theme: "Planning Today. Transforming Tomorrow."

Keynote speaker Anthony Foxx, chief policy officer and senior advisor at Lyft, provided an inspiring talk that demonstrated his passion for transportation policy, technology and public-private partnership, with a focus on expanding affordable mobility options and improving people's lives with the world's best transportation.



Anthony Foxx

Foxx served as the 17th United States Secretary of Transportation from 2013 to 2017, leading an agency with more than 55,000 employees and a \$70 billion budget, whose primary goal was to ensure that America maintains the safest, most efficient transportation system in the world. Among many accomplishments during his tenure, the U.S. Department of Transportation established a first-ever policy framework for the safe integration of self-driving vehicles, and leveraged \$350 million in public and private funding to demonstrate how smart technology can change cities and local communities.

Prior to Foxx's keynote address, MORPC presented its annual awards to those who have made significant contributions to the region.

- **The Regional Leadership Award**, which honors extraordinary efforts to ensure the future viability of the region's communities, was presented to Jean Carter Ryan, president of the Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority.

Ryan is a leader in energy efficiency reinvestment and fosters continuous improvement in the field of economic and community development. At the finance authority, she completed more than 97 projects with combined issuance of over \$1.8 billion of public and private financing -- improving the economic impact for communities.

During her time as deputy director of the Ohio Department of Development Economic Development Division, she introduced extraordinary investment in development projects that earned her the respect and admiration of the economic development community. Her board service includes the Central Ohio Transit Authority, Mid-Ohio Development Exchange, OSU Knowlton School Architecture Alumni, and the Ohio Economic Development Association.

- **The William H. Anderson Excellence in Public Service Award** recognizes a MORPC board member who exemplifies outstanding leadership. This year's award was presented to Union County Commissioner Steve Stolte.

Stolte's public service began as the Marysville city engineer for two years, followed by 24 years as the Union County engineer and 19 years as the Union County environmental engineer. He became a county commissioner in 2011. As the county's MORPC representative, Stolte engaged himself with leaders from around the region, serving as the chair of MORPC's Sustainability Advisory Committee, which subsequently led to 31 governments working to fostering actions and plans to be more sustainable.

Stolte was also key leader in assisting

MORPC with fostering the successful launch of the Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO). CORPO allows counties outside the MORPC transportation planning area, but within the Central Ohio, to become engaged with MORPC in planning for future transportation projects.

- **The William C. Habig Collaborative Achievement Award** honors individuals or organizations that have achieved an effective effort or innovative collaborative project in Central Ohio. This year's award was presented to the MECC Regional Council of Governments.

Originally the Metropolitan Emergency Communications Consortium, MECC arose from a genuine desire to improve fire and EMS dispatching services and, in effect, to save lives. What started as a collaboration of the fire departments in Mifflin, Jefferson, and Plain townships nearly 20 years ago has grown to include services for many government entities in Franklin, Fairfield and Licking counties. The collaboration has allowed the jurisdictions to share costs, saving taxpayers millions of dollars while providing the opportunity to benefit from the latest in technology, medical direction, and other services.

- **The Massive Collaboration Award** was presented to #SavetheCrew. This award honors individuals and organizations for their efforts and accomplishments related to a unique set of circumstances of regional significance.

#SavetheCrew was the grassroots effort, and public/private partnership to keep the Columbus Crew Soccer Club in Columbus, rather than the team moving out of state. Thanks to efforts from Crew fans, the Columbus Partnership, the Edwards and Haslam families, the City of Columbus, Franklin County and the State of Ohio, #SavetheCrew culminated in a deal for a new stadium under new ownership.



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Dublin
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Grandview Heights
Grove City
Groveport
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Lancaster
Marysville
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Pataskala
Pickerington
Powell
Reynoldsburg
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Galena
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Lithopolis
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ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority
Columbus Metropolitan Library
Educational Service Center of Central Ohio
Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District
Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District
Meta Solutions
Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks
Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio

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