



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

MORPC IN THE NEWS

April 2021

MORPC PRESS RELEASES

- [MORPC Seeks Public Input on TRAC Projects](#)
- [MORPC Receives Regional SolSmart Designation](#)
- [MORPC's Dina López Receives Rosa Parks Diversity Award](#)

AIR QUALITY

10TV

[Specialists checking air quality after explosion in northeast Columbus](#)

Brooke White, a MORPC Senior Air Quality Specialist, has been studying different levels of pollutants since the event happened. "We are not seeing a really large region-wide spike so that's good. But if you live close to the area, you may notice some irritants through the day," White said.

COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[For the first time, the Columbus metro area passed its annual air quality test](#)

Weather and pollution blowing in from other cities are factors. but overall the Columbus area is making gains, said Brooke White, senior air quality specialist at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING

COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST

[New residential zoning could lower housing costs, economists say](#)

And a study a few years ago by Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission recommended speeding up development approvals and relaxing zoning.

COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST

[Reynoldsburg seeing gains after taking charge of development](#)

Bowsher said the city has taken cues from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's Insight 2050 study that anticipates continued growth of Central Ohio with another 1 million people living here by 2050.

DIGITAL ACCESS

ABC 6

[Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther delivers annual State of the City address](#)

The mayor said since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the city has invested in its residents. He highlighted efforts to help Columbus City Schools students and a partnership with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission to provide internet hot spots to students.

LEADERSHIP

OHIO STATE NEWS

[Reflections of a First-Year Buckeye: COVID-19 vaccination and testing updates, graduate program rankings](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has recognized Ms. Trudy Bartley, associate vice president of local government and community relations, with the Regional Leadership Award. The award recognizes individuals who make extraordinary efforts to ensure the future viability of the region's communities.

PASSENGER RAIL

COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[Amtrak expansion would include passenger rail service in Columbus again](#)

"Just getting that three-C line to come through here is a big deal. But because of our size, the connections we have with Chicago and Pittsburgh, and then growth along that corridor, I feel like it's important that we establish ourselves as a hub and create the opportunity for more than one line to come to Columbus," said Thea Ewing, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission director of transportation and infrastructure development.

COLUMBUS UNDERGROUND

[Planners See "Window of Opportunity" for Amtrak in Ohio](#)

We checked in with Thea Ewing, Director of Transportation and Infrastructure Development for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), to help us sort through the latest developments.

OHIO CAPITAL JOURNAL

[With 'Amtrak Joe' in the White House, states hope for a passenger rail renaissance](#)

"The Columbus region is one of the largest regions in the nation that is not serviced by passenger rail today," says Thea Ewing, the director of transportation and infrastructure development at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

THE LIMA NEWS

[Debate on the rails over Amtrak's proposed \\$80 billion windfall](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission sent a letter to Amtrak in March asking it to include the proposed Chicago-Fort Wayne-Lima-Columbus-Pittsburgh corridor in its plans. The route, first proposed in 2012, could bring up to 10 trains a day operating at speeds up to 110 mph.

POPULATION

HOSPICE NEWS

[Hospice of Northwest Ohio Taps Richard Russell as CEO](#)

Demographic tailwinds are strong in Ohio. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission has projected that central Ohio's 65-or-over population would double by 2050.

RAPID5

COLUMBUS UNDERGROUND

[Rapid 5 Waterways Project Moving Forward Quickly in 2021](#)

Myers said that some of that preliminary work quietly began back in December, and the partners at ULI Columbus and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) resumed fundraising efforts with various public and private partners throughout the region.

ABC 6

['Rapid 5 Project' turning to residents for input on outdoor spaces \(video\)](#)

"Which is essentially trying to create a really large interconnected green space system in Central Ohio by connecting and expanding our existing river corridors with each other," said Dr. Kerstin Carr, the Director of Planning and Sustainability with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

SAFETY

COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[City creating plan to slow speeders on Mount Vernon Avenue as development brings residents](#)

According to the most recent Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission traffic counts, 6,455 vehicles passed along Mount Vernon Avenue near North Champion daily in 2015, and 4,233 vehicles traveled Mount Vernon near North 20th Street in 2019.

SALARY SURVEY

MARYSVILLE JOURNAL-TRIBUNE

[City council considers raises for members](#)

... the 2021 wage and workforce study, the 2019 Ohio Municipal League Study and the 2020 Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission annual study.

SUSTAINABILITY

THIS WEEK COMMUNITY NEWS

[City of Gahanna, SWACO: Feet on the Street aims to educate on recycling do's and don'ts](#)

"Our residents have consistently embraced sustainability initiatives, as evidenced by our achievement in reaching 'Silver' status as part of MORPC's (Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission) Sustainable2050 program, our designation as a 'Tree City USA,' the upcoming

addition of electric-vehicle charging stations throughout the city and the upcoming opening of a new Level 1 Arboretum at Creekside Park,” she said.

THIS WEEK COMMUNITY NEWS

[Upper Arlington's wind-energy deal latest in series of environmental sustainability initiatives](#)

Upper Arlington’s sustainability efforts have earned it a platinum-level designation from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission’s Sustainable2050 program.

TRANSPORTATION

MARYSVILLE JOURNAL-TRIBUNE

[City could see self-driving shuttles](#)

The Ohio State University has applied for a grant that would create an on-demand public transportation service, using electric, autonomous vehicles, to connect certain middle- and lower-income neighborhoods in Marysville to the city’s commercial areas.

DELAWARE GAZETTE

[MORPC seeks input for TRAC/ODOT projects](#)

The Big Walnut Interchange is among the projects the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is seeking comments on from the public.

COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST

[Here's what's next for the Smart Columbus initiative as city, Columbus Partnership plot its future](#)

Others members of about 20 in the Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition include Columbus Metropolitan Library, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Columbus Foundation, Columbus State Community College, Jewish Family Services, the National Digital Inclusion Alliance, PACT/OSU Wexner Medical Center and YWCA.

THIS WEEK COMMUNITY NEWS

[Plans announced to close Olentangy Trail gap; construction expected to start in 2023](#)

The project received \$3.7 million in federal transportation funds through the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[Columbus chooses route for Olentangy Trail connector that includes crossing near OhioHealth](#)

The entire project had been expected to cost \$5 million, with \$3.75 million in federal money coming through the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and the remaining \$1.25 million from the city.