



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

MORPC IN THE NEWS

May 2021

MORPC PRESS RELEASES

- [MORPC Receives Regional SolSmart Designation](#)
- [MORPC's Dina López Receives Rosa Parks Diversity Award](#)
- [Regional Partners Identify Lasting Impacts of COVID-19](#)
- [MORPC Amends 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program to Reflect COTA Changes](#)
- [Central Ohio to Update Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy](#)
- [MORPC, Local Governments Taking Action to Ensure Columbus Region is a Priority for Amtrak Expansion](#)

AIR QUALITY

10TV (WITH VIDEO)

[New neighbor level air monitoring program underway in Franklin County](#)

It's Air Quality Awareness week and there's a new effort underway to help people living in Franklin County see how well the air quality is on a neighborhood level. It's a project with Franklin County Public Health and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

BROADBAND

COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST

['Cautious optimism' in Columbus about influx of federal money to tackle digital divide](#)

MORPC recently teamed up with the Columbus Metropolitan Library and about 20 other groups to start the Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition to help nearly 100,000 households in Franklin County get high-speed internet.

COVID-19

COLUMBUS RADIO GROUP (SUNNY 95, QFM96, REWIND 103.5/104.3, MIX 107.9)

[Economic Impact of COVID-19](#)

Aaron Schill, director of data and mapping for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, discusses a series of policy briefs the organization has written outlining the impact of the pandemic on income, housing, health care and other areas of concern in central Ohio.

COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[MORPC research on effects of COVID-19 shows it worsened economic, health divides in central Ohio](#)

A new series of research briefs documenting the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on central Ohio illustrates how it exacerbated economic and other disparities that already exist in the community.

QFM 96

[City announces summer anti-violence efforts](#)

Ginther says the pandemic has worsened problems such as economic, food and housing insecurities, a claim borne out by a report from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission this week which showed the economic shutdown and other impact's of the pandemic deepened disparities in income, housing, education and other areas.

DEVELOPMENT

THIS WEEK COMMUNITY NEWS

['Delaware Together': City officials working on comprehensive, thoroughfare plans through 2040](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission predicts significant growth in central Ohio through 2050, he said.

COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[Central Ohio receives \\$400,000 federal grant to update its economic development strategy](#)

Central Ohio has received a \$400,000 federal grant to update the region's economic development strategy. The U.S. Economic Development Administration awarded the money to the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

LEADERSHIP

COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST

[The 2021 Power 100: Here are Columbus' most influential leaders](#)

William Murdock leads an association of about 70 local governments and regional organizations planning for how to meet demands on infrastructure, housing and transportation as the region welcomes an expected 1 million new residents by 2050.

COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST

[The 2021 Power 100: Here are Columbus' most influential leaders](#)

Elsewhere in the community, Bartley serves on the boards of the Central Ohio Transit Authority, the United Way of Central Ohio, the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

NBC 4

[Franklin County Commissioner Marilyn Brown announces retirement](#)

As commissioner, she also served as board chair at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, board chair of the Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board, vice chair for

the Justice and Public Safety Committee at the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, and on the boards of One Columbus, CAPA, and the Future Ready Columbus Early Childhood Advisory Council.

PASSENGER RAIL

COLUMBUS DISPATCH / BUCYRUS TELEGRAPH FORUM / MANSFIELD NEWS JOURNAL / MARION STAR

[Ohio mayors, officials push for funding for new Amtrak routes, including two through Columbus](#)

"Not being in that network puts us at a disadvantage," said William Murdock, executive director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. "Businesses and residents are clamoring for this," Murdock said.

CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER / MASS TRANSIT MAGAZINE

[Amtrak leaders pitch new Cleveland-Columbus-Dayton-Cincinnati route: 'It's our goal to get this done'](#)

Added Murdock: "The younger population arrives in Columbus and the first question they ask is, 'Where's the train stop?'" In fact, Columbus is the largest metro area in the country without Amtrak service.

FOX 28 / ABC 6 / THE CW COLUMBUS

[Passenger rail in Ohio: This time feels different, advocates say of Amtrak push](#)

During the online meeting, William Murdock, with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, said passenger rail service on the corridor would help the economy. "If we can't add passenger rail, then we really can't leverage major employment hubs like Wright Patterson Air Force Base or Ohio State University," he said.

NBC 4

[Amtrak seeks to connect Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton starting in 2025](#)

William Murdock, of MORPC said that the prosperity of the region depends on this infrastructure. "Not being on that network puts us at a disadvantage. We don't have minimum infrastructure compared with places that we compete with."

10TV

[Amtrak releases plans for service throughout Ohio, connecting Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland](#)

Amtrak leaders announced plans to try and bring more passenger rail service in Ohio to connect Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus and Dayton.

WKYC CLEVELAND

[Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson takes part in Amtrak roundtable for more passenger rail service in Ohio](#)

Jackson was joined by Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, Crestline Mayor Linda Horning-Pitt, and Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Executive Director William Murdock for the virtual meeting along with Amtrak CEO Bill Flynn and Amtrak President Stephen Gardner.

DAYTON DAILY NEWS / BUTLER COUNTY JOURNAL NEWS / HAMILTON JOURNAL

[Amtrak leaders, Ohio mayors call for 3-C+D passenger rail service](#)

The freight lines likely would need some improvements and upgrades, which could lead to faster and improved freight service as well, said William Murdock, executive director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

NEWS 5 CLEVELAND / YAHOO NEWS

[Amtrak's planned Ohio expansion seen by local leaders as big win while the state waits for details](#)

"We think is not just a lot of sense, it's common sense," said William Murdock, Executive Director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

COLUMBUS UNDERGROUND

[Mayors, Amtrak Make Pitch for Ohio Expansion](#)

Also participating in the event was William Murdock of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), which has been collecting letters of support for improved passenger rail from local leaders throughout the region.

BUTLER COUNTY JOURNAL-NEWS

[Amtrak leaders, Ohio mayors call for 3-C+D passenger rail service](#)

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RICHLAND SOURCE

[Crestline mayor shares stage with Cleveland, Dayton leaders to promote Amtrak service](#)

"People here are so excited about Amtrak coming back to Crestline," Pitt said during her turn on the online media roundtable session, which also included Amtrak CEO Bill Flynn, Amtrak President Stephen Gardner and William Murdock, executive director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission in Columbus.

PROGRESSIVE RAILROADING

[Amtrak, central Ohio leaders discuss proposed rail expansion](#)

Among speakers at yesterday's roundtable was William Murdock, executive director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), which has been working for the past several years to advance passenger-rail service on the Chicago-Columbus-Pittsburgh corridor.

SANDUSKY REGISTER

[Mayors tout Amtrak proposal](#)

Ohio has the 7th-largest population in the U.S. and is underserved in train service compared to other states, said William Murdock, executive director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

GALION INQUIRER

[Amtrak, allies stump for passenger rail expansion](#)

William Murdock, executive director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), said his agency has secured letters of support for both the 3C+D and Chicago-Columbus-Pittsburgh corridors from 30 stakeholders, including municipalities located along the proposed routes and economic development agencies from across the region.

DAYTON DAILY NEWS

[Train could connect the Gem City to the Windy and Steel cities](#)

"Adding Pittsburgh would open up Pittsburgh to Dayton and the East Coast," said William Murdock, executive director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[Opinion: Amtrak plan important for central Ohio](#)

MORPC's Murdock announced 30 letters of support from the "the fastest growing region in Ohio," a region that will see major population growth in the next decade.

PLANNING

THIS WEEK COMMUNITY NEWS

[Delaware City Council expands DORA to seven days a week](#)

Growth is a motivating factor behind the latest plan, city planning director Dave Efland told council earlier. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission predicts significant growth in central Ohio through 2050, he said.

RAPID5 / RECREATION

THIS WEEK COMMUNITY NEWS

[City Notes: Whitehall residents asked to share visions for future of greenspaces](#)

I'm excited to share that this both possible and happening right now with the RAPID 5 Project, a comprehensive planning effort led by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Columbus.

WHITEHALL WORKS PODCAST

[Whitehall Works: Parks and Recreation](#)

In the Whitehall Works podcasts' "More with MORPC" segment, we discuss the Central Ohio Greenways system, the RAPID5 initiative, and Central Ohio Blueways.

SALARY SURVEY

MARYSVILLE JOURNAL-TRIBUNE

[Council raises continue to drive debate](#)

City Council is looking at ways to have someone else give its members a raise. Monday, council heard the first reading of legislation that would increase ... Study and the 2020 Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission annual study.

SUSTAINABILITY

DELAWARE GAZETTE

[MORPC nets regional SolSmart designation](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission has been designated as a regional SolSmart community, having received the Silver designation.

THIS WEEK COMMUNITY NEWS

[Erin Wolfe starts as Delaware's new watershed, sustainability coordinator](#)

She said Delaware participates in the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's Sustainable2050, which MORPC calls "a program that supports our member communities' sustainability efforts through direct technical assistance, collaboration and recognition."

TRANSPORTATION

1808 DELAWARE

[MORPC Amends Transportation Improvement Program To Reflect COTA Changes](#)

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is amending the State Fiscal Year 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include changes to Federal Transit Administration's Section 5307 Program of Projects.

THIS WEEK COMMUNITY NEWS

[MORPC Matters: Time to switch gears? Central Ohio prime territory for bike-friendly upgrades](#)

Expanding our bicycle infrastructure could not only make for a better quality of life, but it also could be an effective tool at combating our region's challenges as we grow in population while balancing household budgets.

MARYSVILLE JOURNAL-TRIBUNE

[Council lauds effort to save Partridge home](#)

Beadnell, Union County mobility coordinator, and Petrella, mobility coordinator for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, presented information about the need for public transportation in the community.

UNION COUNTY DIGITAL

[Marysville City Council Members, City Law Director Closer To Seeing Salary Increases](#)

Prior to the reading of the ordinances, Council heard a presentation from Chelcie Beadnell, Mobility Manager for the Union County Health Department, and Lexi Petrella, Mobility Coordinator for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), which outlined the problems that many Marysville residents have accessing reliable transportation.

COLUMBUS DISPATCH

[COTA board adds three new members, approves two contracts for workers](#)

The rapid transit corridor plan is part of the LinkUS initiative that includes COTA, the city of Columbus and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission to develop high-capacity mass transit with improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists along various corridors in the city and Franklin County.

THE WATERWAYS JOURNAL

[Ohio Conference On Freight Discussion Highlights Pandemic Recovery, Infrastructure](#)

The Ohio Conference on Freight looked at "Freight on the Frontline" while moving into a virtual format May 20–21. The conference was hosted by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) and included aspects of maritime, rail and trucking industries as well as logistics and supply chain issues that unite them.