



PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

2017–2018

Regional Advocacy for Central Ohio
at the State and Federal Levels



LEAD

Opportunities for legislative and public policy leadership



GOAL 1

Promote regionalism at the local, state, and federal levels of government fostering economic growth, prosperity, efficient use of resources, and a high quality of life for Central Ohio residents.

- ▶ Advocate for policies and legislation that enhance local government efficiency, collaboration, and the sharing of data and services.
- ▶ Promote insight2050 and advocate for policies and legislation that will provide Central Ohio with the needed tools and resources to plan for the projected increase of up to one million people by 2050.
- ▶ Highlight the valuable roles, responsibilities, and rights of local governments to improve the quality of life, environment, and economy.
- ▶ Support federal and state tax and budget policies that balance the promotion of economic growth, while also ensuring the ability to provide vital local government services.
- ▶ Work with our regional partners to identify significant projects and grant opportunities to benefit the region.
- ▶ Position MORPC as a leading resource and innovator in regional planning strategies.
- ▶ Promote policies, programs, and funding to ensure our region's transportation, fiber, water, sewer, and material management infrastructure is well maintained, affordable, vital, and resilient.



GOAL 2

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

- ▶ Promote state and federal support and recognition of metropolitan and rural planning organizations, and their regional approach to transportation planning and funding.
- ▶ Advance the importance of the logistics industry to Central Ohio and support investments and innovation in the region's inland port, including intermodal, rail, air, and other freight facilities.
- ▶ Support sensible legislation and policies that measurably improve transportation safety.
- ▶ Advocate for an advanced, multi-modal transportation system that improves our region's access to more effective and efficient public and private transportation choices to connect to regional, national, and international markets.
- ▶ Pursue policies and funding to expand transportation options to: work, education, health care, and social services.
- ▶ Pursue policies and funding to advance the Central Ohio Greenways strategy for developing a more interconnected regional trail network.
- ▶ Advocate for policies and support efforts that leverage Smart Columbus and the Northwest U.S. 33 Smart Mobility Corridor, and incorporate data and intelligent transportation systems technologies, including connected vehicle technologies and other related efforts.
- ▶ Seek additional revenue and innovative long-term funding mechanisms for transportation at the local, state, and federal levels.



GOAL 3

Conserve and enhance the natural resources, water, air, and land in our growing region.

- ▶ Advocate for innovative strategies and funding to maintain air quality attainment, reduce emissions, and protect health by working with public and private partners.
- ▶ Advocate for policies, innovative strategies, and funding to maintain and protect the quality and quantity of our water resources, balancing public- and private-sector interests, and traditional and new economic activities in our growing region.
- ▶ Support and advocate for policies and funding for a timely cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields and/or vacant, blighted, or abandoned land and historic buildings in order to revitalize communities.
- ▶ Pursue funding and policies to help protect and secure parkland, wetlands, trails, and green space.

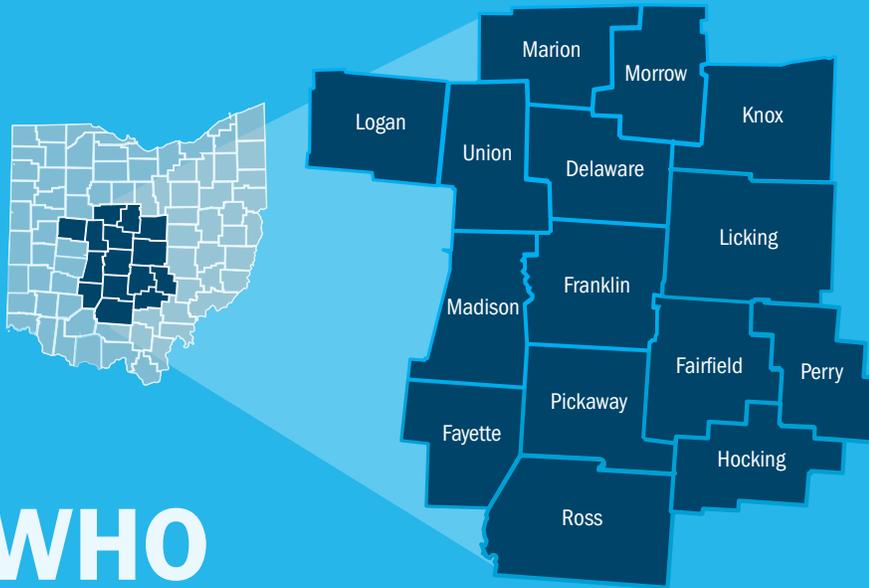


GOAL 4

Promote energy efficiency and an abundant supply of safe, reliable, and affordable sources of energy for our growing region.

- ▶ Promote energy efficiency and conservation, as well as renewable and cleaner energy.
- ▶ Advocate for federal, state, and local energy policies and utility programs that foster economic growth, resiliency, and adoption of diverse forms of energy.
- ▶ Promote the importance of the benefits associated with energy efficiency policies, funding, and programs.
- ▶ Support innovative funding tools for public agencies, businesses, and nonprofit organizations to finance energy infrastructure improvements.
- ▶ Assist in the rapid deployment of electric and alternative fuel vehicles and the establishment of charging and fueling infrastructure within the region.

MORPC'S SERVICE AREA



WHO WE ARE

MORPC is a voluntary association of Central Ohio governments and regional organizations.

WHAT WE DO

- ▶ Create solutions and serve as a forum for shared regional challenges.
- ▶ Explore opportunities for shared services among local governments.
- ▶ Serve as a regional information hub by providing demographics, maps, and tools to inform decisions.
- ▶ Convene local governments to plan, prioritize, and fund regional transportation and infrastructure projects.
- ▶ Provide valuable community services in energy, air quality, water quality, and sustainability.
- ▶ Work closely with community leaders, volunteer citizens, and partner organizations on policy advocacy to effectively represent the voice of our region.

OUR AGENDA

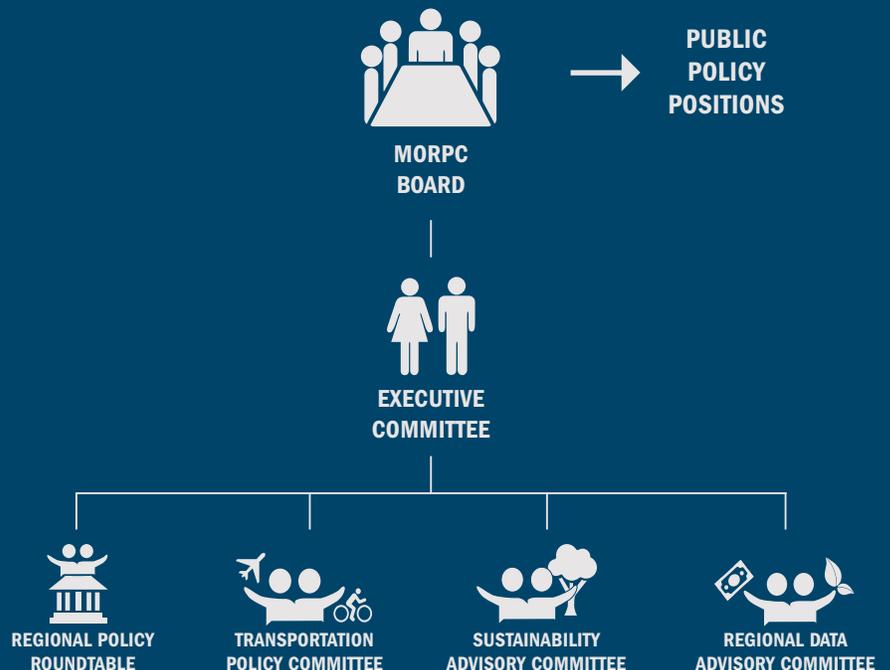
The 2017-2018 Public Policy Agenda of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) reflects the needs and interests of cities, townships, counties, villages, and governmental entities that encompass MORPC's Board.

Perhaps never before has public policy played such an important role in the growth and development of a region. As our nation and state tackle challenges and seek new opportunities, MORPC is acutely aware of how legislation can impact the prosperity and future of our local governments.

The agenda exemplifies the collaborative spirit of Central Ohioans and is vital to improving the lives of the people we serve and represent in our 15-county region. We encourage leaders in government and business to view MORPC's agenda as an opportunity to work together and as a resource to evaluate our region's progress.

To stay up to date on MORPC's legislative efforts, please visit morpc.org.

MORPC COMMITTEE STRUCTURE



COLLABORATE

Opportunities to form coalitions with like-minded organizations



- ▶ Promote a robust economy for the region and active collaboration with JobsOhio, Columbus2020, MODE, business organizations, and local governments to pursue national and state policies and funding to advance economic development.
- ▶ Promote projects and policies that advance local food systems and farmland preservation to achieve food security.
- ▶ Improve access to workforce training and to resources that enhance the financial stability of our region's low- and moderate-income households.
- ▶ Promote widespread deployment of connected fiber optic infrastructure and enhanced innovative funding to support collaboration around data usage.
- ▶ Advance job attraction incentives, new tools, and strategies to encourage new jobs and investment to the region.



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



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



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