

MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BYLAWS

SECTION I – COMMISSION

A. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

On matters not addressed by the Articles of Agreement or Bylaws, Robert’s Rules of Order revised (current version) shall govern the meetings of MORPC and meetings of all committees included in these bylaws.

B. REPRESENTATION

Representatives to the COMMISSION must be selected as follows:

1. Representation on the COMMISSION

- a) Representation for municipalities and for the unincorporated portions of townships shall be based upon the entire population of the municipality or the unincorporated portion of the township as reported in the most recent U.S. Census or MORPC estimate.
- b) Representation for counties shall be based upon the entire population of the villages and unincorporated portions of townships within that county plus 10% of the population of the cities within that county as reported in the most recent U.S. census or MORPC estimate. In addition, the county engineer’s office of counties which are entirely within the MORPC Metropolitan Planning Organization boundary shall be represented on the COMMISSION.
- c) Representation on the COMMISSION for full members shall be determined based upon Table 1 Full Member Representation.
- d) Associate members shall have such representation as may be established by the COMMISSION.

Representatives	Full Member Population Range	
	Minimum	Maximum
1	1	10,000
2	10,001	40,000
3	40,001	60,000
4	60,001	80,000
5	80,001	100,000
6	100,001	120,000
7	120,001	140,000
8	140,001	160,000
9	160,001	180,000
10	180,001	200,000
11	200,001	250,000
12	250,001	300,000
13	300,001	400,000
14	400,001	500,000
15	500,001	and up

*Amended April 19, 2001 by adoption of Resolution 8-01
Amended November 15, 2001 by adoption of Resolution 29-01
Amended April 21, 2005 by adoption of Resolution 13-05
Amended November 10, 2011 by adoption of Resolution 46-11
Amended September 19, 2013 by adoption of Resolution 21-13
Amended June 12, 2014 by adoption of Resolution 16-14*

2. Appointing Authority

- a) Full member representatives shall be appointed and submitted to MORPC in writing by the mayor, chief executive officer, council president serving as mayor, or legislative body as determined by the local unit of government.
- b) Associate member representatives shall be appointed by such means as may be established by the COMMISSION.

C. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS AND APPORTIONMENT OF COSTS

Each year the COMMISSION shall adopt a fee schedule by July 31 to be used in assessing members for the upcoming calendar year. In every year evenly divisible by five, the COMMISSION shall establish a five-year fee schedule which it shall not exceed when adopting fees for each upcoming year. Each year the COMMISSION shall provide a non-binding estimate of fees for the next five (5) years for members to use in their financial planning.

Each participating municipality, participating county and member township shall contribute annually according to the fee schedule adopted by the COMMISSION. When per-capita fees are used, each member township shall contribute based on the population used to calculate its representation in Section I.B.

The contribution for the first year of membership shall be paid during the month following the execution of an agreement between the member and the COMMISSION, and shall amount to that part of the appropriate annual participation cost pro-rated on the basis of the balance of the time remaining in that calendar year.

In addition each participating full member shall contribute not more than seven (7) cents per capita of its population equal to its population used to calculate its representation in Section I.B. The funds so contributed shall be set aside in a separate fund to amortize lease payments on the building or buildings housing the COMMISSION'S offices and shall be used for no other purpose. In the event that the COMMISSION decides that further capital improvements are needed after this lease is paid out, the seven cents will continue to be committed to such purpose. If they are not needed, then these contributions shall cease.

Associate members shall contribute at the rate and in the manner as may be established at the time they become a participant, but this rate and manner may be revised by the COMMISSION from time to time.

When per-capita fees are used in assessing annual member fees, all current year population figures for municipalities, townships and counties shall be based on the latest U.S. Census when available, or an estimate thereof made by the COMMISSION.

D. QUORUM

- 1. A quorum shall be defined as those members present and eligible to vote at any COMMISSION meeting and/or committee meeting. An affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum is necessary for any action taken.

E. CODE OF ETHICS

All members of the COMMISSION and all committees included within these Bylaws shall be aware of and governed by the current Code of Ethics adopted by MORPC.

SECTION II – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. MEMBERSHIP

1. In 1998, one-half of the members were appointed for a one-year term and one-half of the members for a two-year term by the COMMISSION at an annual meeting. Thereafter, members are appointed for two-year terms by the COMMISSION at the annual meeting. Nominees shall be from recommendations by the Nominating Committee, with input from the officers and Executive Committee. Any member may be reappointed to an additional two terms of two years each (maximum membership of six years).
2. Additional voting members shall consist of the current officers, the most recent past chair willing to serve, selected committee chairs and working group chairs during the tenure of their groups.
3. The Nominating Committee shall attempt to encourage a diversity of membership representation on the Executive Committee by taking into consideration the following constituency groups:
 - a) Representation from Columbus, suburbs, counties, villages and townships
 - b) Members who are elected and nonelected
 - c) Members who are full-time (career) and part-time public officials
4. The vice chair of the COMMISSION shall chair the Executive Committee.

B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DUTIES

1. The Executive Committee shall:
 - a) Review, study and approve operational policy and routine financial and administrative matters as necessary.
 - b) With the COMMISSION, develop and recommend public policy matters for discussion, input and approval.
 - c) Develop, monitor and recommend changes to the COMMISSION in the overall strategic direction of the organization.
 - d) Meet monthly as necessary.
 - e) Be responsible for other duties as may be delegated or assigned to it by the COMMISSION.
2. The Executive Committee shall act on behalf of the full COMMISSION with regard to personnel matters. Such authority shall include but not be limited to the following:
 - a) Establishing annual compensation limits within amounts budgeted and appropriated by the COMMISSION for salaries and benefits.
 - b) Reviewing and adopting personnel policies to be maintained in an employee guidebook.
 - c) Making final and binding decisions on discrimination grievances as required by MORPC's Affirmative Action program.
 - d) Subject to the Articles of Agreement, establishing proper level of personnel decision-making authority for the executive director and directors and monitor staff personnel activities monthly.
3. The Executive Committee shall periodically review and recommend revisions to the COMMISSION's general administrative policies and rules.

SECTION III – FINANCIAL AUTHORIZATIONS

- A. The COMMISSION shall at least annually approve an operating and capital budget and authorize appropriations.
- B. Subject to an approved budget and appropriation, the authority to make obligations or enter into agreements shall be:
 - 1. Department heads and directors for obligations up to \$2,000
 - 2. Executive director for obligations up to \$75,000
 - 3. Executive director plus an Executive Committee resolution for obligations and agreements greater than \$75,000
- C. The following approvals shall be required to authorize the expenditure of funds for goods and services and for the approval of payments:
 - 1. Finance director shall authorize all expenditures and payments.
 - 2. Chief of staff shall authorize all expenditures and payments over \$2,000.
 - 3. Executive director and COMMISSION chair (or alternate officer) shall authorize all expenditures and payments greater than \$25,000.
 - 4. Executive director shall authorize all expenditures and payments to the chief of staff or finance director, regardless of amount.
 - 5. The COMMISSION chair shall approve all expenditures and payments to the executive director or any MORPC COMMISSION member, regardless of amount. If the COMMISSION chair is unavailable, an alternate officer may approve; however, no official may authorize or sign for his/her own expenditure or payment. Furthermore, no official may be the sole approval authority for any individual transaction. Another officer shall authorize all expenditures and payments to the COMMISSION chair.
 - 6. If an emergency exists in the absence of the finance director, the assistant finance director or equivalent staff member serving as the acting finance director may approve payments. If an emergency exists in the absence of the executive director, the chief of staff or alternately designated acting executive director may authorize payments. An emergency exists when circumstances present the need to:
 - a) meet a deadline or commitment
 - b) take advantage of a discount or opportunity
 - c) avoid a penalty

SECTION IV – LAND USE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LUPAC)

- A. PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LUPAC
 - 1. a) LUPAC has been delegated the responsibility to review “small” township rezoning cases in unincorporated areas of Franklin County and make recommendations as required by Section 519.12(E) of the Ohio Revised Code to the township on behalf of the MORPC COMMISSION.
 - b) The purpose of the LUPAC is to review rezoning cases in Franklin County for townships with township zoning.

- c) All “large” township rezoning cases shall be forwarded directly to the MORPC COMMISSION for review and recommendation. (See MORPC COMMISSION Review below.)
 - d) Small rezoning cases will be defined as those with less than 100 lots proposed. Large rezoning cases will be defined as those with greater than 100 lots proposed or cases using a wastewater treatment system other than conventional on-site or central sanitary sewer system.
2. LUPAC is also delegated the responsibility to review township zoning text amendments and recommend action to the MORPC COMMISSION.
 3. LUPAC shall also serve as a resource to the MORPC COMMISSION to review and recommend policies on a wide range of land use issues including, but not limited to, land use related legislative initiatives, local, county and regional land use plans and development code revisions.

B. MEETINGS

1. LUPAC shall meet as necessary to hear small township rezoning cases and township zoning text amendments.
2. Quorum will be met by a simple majority of the members being present.
3. LUPAC recommendations on small township rezoning cases shall be forwarded to the respective township on behalf of the MORPC COMMISSION as required by Section 519.12(E) of the Ohio Revised Code.
4. LUPAC recommended action on township zoning text amendments shall be forwarded to the MORPC COMMISSION for consideration.

C. MORPC COMMISSION REVIEW

1. Large township rezoning cases shall be reviewed by LUPAC. LUPAC will forward recommendations to the MORPC COMMISSION for action.
2. Only MORPC COMMISSION members from within Franklin County shall vote on recommendations on large township rezoning cases or township zoning text amendments. MORPC COMMISSION recommendations shall be forwarded to the respective township as required by Section 519.12(E) of the Ohio Revised Code.
3. The MORPC COMMISSION shall hear large township rezoning cases and make its recommendation at a regularly scheduled COMMISSION meeting. The MORPC chair shall call a special COMMISSION meeting to hear a large township rezoning case if necessary to comply with the township public hearing date as specified in the Ohio Revised Code.

D. LUPAC MEMBERS, APPOINTMENTS AND OFFICERS

1. LUPAC shall be comprised of five (5) MORPC COMMISSION members from within Franklin County as follows:
 - 1 - Franklin County Engineer
 - 1 - Franklin County at-large representative
 - 1 - Franklin County municipality
 - 2 - Franklin County townships
2. The MORPC chair, upon input from the MORPC executive director and LUPAC chair, shall appoint LUPAC members and alternates annually (no later than May).

3. LUPAC members shall elect a chair and vice chair annually (no later than July).
4. Alternates may be used when a majority will not be reached by the LUPAC members or when members will be unable to attend. Alternates should be from Franklin County and will be appointed by the chair of the COMMISSION. Alternates will have the ability to vote.

SECTION V – TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. NAME

The name of this committee shall be the Transportation Policy Committee for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning COMMISSION.

B. ORIGIN

The Transportation Policy Committee is provided for in the federally required Prospectus to the annual Planning Work Program.

C. PURPOSE

The Transportation Policy Committee for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning COMMISSION is designated as the "Metropolitan Planning Organization" (MPO) for the Columbus metropolitan planning area as authorized in federal transportation planning regulations and under agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation. The Transportation Policy Committee is the forum for cooperative decision-making that will be taking the required approval actions as the MPO. The metropolitan area, per 23 United States Code §134 and 49 United States Code §5303, as amended, must have a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive ("3C") transportation planning process that results in plans and programs that consider all transportation modes and supports metropolitan community development and social goals. These plans and programs shall lead to the development and operation of an integrated, intermodal transportation system that facilitates the efficient, economic movement of people and goods. The MPO, in cooperation with the state and with operators of publicly owned transit services, shall be responsible for carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process.

D. QUORUM

A quorum shall be defined as those members present and eligible to vote at any meeting. An affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum is necessary for any action taken.

E. MEMBERSHIP

Representation on the Transportation Policy Committee shall consist of local elected officials or their representatives, officials of public agencies that administer or operate major modes of transportation in the transportation study area, and appropriate State transportation officials; and such other local elected officials, public transportation agencies, or appropriate State officials as determined by the Transportation Policy Committee. The transportation study area is that portion of central Ohio that has been identified and mutually agreed to be included in it by the Transportation Policy Committee and the Governor of Ohio, acting through the Ohio Department of Transportation, subject to the approval of the United States Department of Transportation.

Representation shall be determined as follows:

1. Full members of the COMMISSION that are located wholly or partially within the boundaries of the transportation study area. These members will have the same representatives on the Transportation Policy Committee as they have on the MORPC COMMISSION.

2. The Commissioners of any county which is not a member of the COMMISSION, but which has territory within the transportation planning area and which has entered into a commitment to participate in the 3C process for that territory shall be entitled to one representative on the Transportation Policy Committee.
3. Cities, villages and townships that are located wholly or partially within the boundaries of the transportation study area that are dues-paying members of the transportation program but are not full members of MORPC are entitled to one representative each on the Transportation Policy Committee, selected by the city, village or township.
4. Transportation Agencies:

In addition to the community representatives detailed above, the Transportation Policy Committee will offer representation (1 representative per entity) to the following transportation-related entities:

- a) Major authorities or agencies operating per the Ohio Revised Code, whose primary function is to provide transportation services or operate transportation facilities within the transportation study area such as, but not limited to:
 - i. Central Ohio Transit Authority
 - ii. Columbus Regional Airport Authority
 - iii. Delaware Area Transit Agency
 - iv. Licking County Transit Board
 - v. Lancaster Public Transit System
- b) The Ohio Department of Transportation
- c) The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- d) Others, or modifications to the above, as may be required or recommended by the U.S. Department of Transportation or the Ohio Department of Transportation
- e) Each transportation agency may designate a primary representative and an alternate representative who may be seated at such times as the primary representative is unable to participate in the Transportation Policy Committee.
- f) Other local elected officials or their representatives, public transportation agencies, or appropriate state officials as determined by the Transportation Policy Committee including officers of the COMMISSION in the event that the officer is not already a member of the Transportation Policy Committee and the current chairperson of the MORPC Community Advisory Committee.

F. OFFICERS

The officers of the Transportation Policy Committee shall be the same as those of the COMMISSION and shall serve in the same roles and for the same terms. The chair may appoint such special committees or task forces as may be necessary from time to time in order to perform the purpose of the Transportation Policy Committee, or as the Transportation Policy Committee may otherwise direct. The chair shall preside at all meetings of the Transportation Policy Committee. The vice chair shall serve as chair during any absence of the Chair and shall assist the Chair in performance of duties. It shall be the duty of the secretary to ensure that a full record of the proceedings of the Transportation Policy Committee is prepared and kept, and he or she shall perform such other duties as the Transportation Policy Committee may from time to time direct.

G. SUBCOMMITTEES

The Transportation Policy Committee is advised by three standing subcommittees:

1. The Community Advisory Committee is provided for in the Public Involvement Process (as is required under federal transportation planning regulations), which sets out participation requirements for Metropolitan Transportation Planning and Programming.
2. The Transportation Advisory Committee is to provide technical advice to the Transportation Policy Committee as defined in the biennial Agreement between the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning COMMISSION and the State of Ohio, Department of Transportation, for Urban Transportation Planning and Transportation Programs.
3. The Attributable Funds Committee is to provide advice to the Transportation Policy Committee, the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), and the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) on the development and execution of the processes used to allocate MORPC-attributable federal funds to projects and project sponsors.

The Transportation Policy Committee shall adopt guidelines to govern the subcommittees, the selection process for subcommittee members, and establish terms to encourage diverse involvement in subcommittee membership and leadership.

H. MEETINGS

The Transportation Policy Committee will meet monthly as necessary.

SECTION VI – REGIONAL POLICY ROUNDTABLE

A. NAME

The name of this committee shall be the Regional Policy Roundtable for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning COMMISSION.

B. ORIGIN

The Regional Policy Roundtable is a standing committee to evaluate and advise the COMMISSION on legislative issues and public policy matters of regional importance at the local, state, and federal level.

C. PURPOSE

The Regional Policy Roundtable seeks to develop a public policy agenda that aims to reflect the objectives and ideals of both MORPC's members and the greater community. The public policy agenda will be reviewed and adopted by the COMMISSION. The COMMISSION and MORPC staff will utilize the public policy agenda to proactively advocate for policies and opportunities to enhance the quality of life in central Ohio and advance the region.

The Regional Policy Roundtable will identify new public policy areas, legislation, and issues of interest. The Roundtable will research and provide recommendations to the COMMISSION on positions on legislative and executive issues.

D. QUORUM

A quorum shall be defined as those members present and eligible to vote at any meeting. An affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum is necessary for any action taken.

E. MEMBERSHIP

Representation on the Regional Policy Roundtable shall consist of members from the COMMISSION, MORPC subcommittees and working groups, business community, non-profit organizations, education sector, and residents in the REGION.

The Regional Policy Roundtable shall adopt guidelines for membership, the selection process, and establish terms to encourage diverse involvement in subcommittee membership and leadership.

F. OFFICERS

The chair of the Regional Policy Roundtable shall be a full member representative of the COMMISSION and is selected and documented by the COMMISSION chair and executive director. He/she will serve a two-year term at the pleasure of the COMMISSION chair and executive director.

The vice chair of the Regional Policy Roundtable shall be a full member representative of the COMMISSION and is selected by the COMMISSION chair and executive director. He/she will serve a two-year term at the pleasure of the COMMISSION chair and executive director.

G. MEETINGS

The Regional Policy Roundtable will meet every other month or as necessary.

SECTION VII – SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A. NAME

The name of this committee shall be Sustainability Advisory Committee for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

B. ORIGIN

The Sustainability Advisory Committee is a standing committee to evaluate and advise the COMMISSION on matters of regional importance pertaining to environmental sustainability, conservation, and development. It may address topics such as air quality, conservation, energy, environmental infrastructure, farmland preservation, greenways, innovative land use regulations and tools, local food, materials management, water quality, sustainable growth and planning, related transportation research innovations, and regional systems.

C. PURPOSE

The Sustainability Advisory Committee seeks to develop annual goals that aim to reflect the objectives and ideals of both MORPC's members and the greater community. The goals shall be consistent with other MORPC adopted strategic plans, policy agendas, and sustainability agreements such as the Green Pact. The COMMISSION and MORPC staff will utilize the goals to support existing related agency programs, with a focus on those in the Energy & Air Quality and Environment & Planning Departments, and to seek out opportunities to assist local governments, enhance the quality of life in Central Ohio, and advance the region. The Sustainability Advisory Committee will research and provide recommendations to the Commission as guided by the annual goals and as determined by the committee.

D. QUORUM

A quorum shall be defined as those members present and eligible to vote at any meeting. An affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum is necessary for any action taken.

E. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be nominated by the Executive Director, MORPC Department Directors, or committee members and appointed by the Committee Chair and Executive Director.

To stagger the expiration of terms, one-half of the initial members shall serve for one-year terms and one-half of the members shall serve for two-year terms. Thereafter, as terms expire, all members shall serve two year terms with the option to renew upon being nominated and approved by the Committee Chair and Executive Director. A member may serve a maximum of three consecutive terms.

Representation on the Sustainability Advisory Committee shall include at least 12 members. All members shall be located within the MORPC Region. Due consideration shall be given to the make-up of the Committee to ensure no one entity is over-represented on the Committee. The Sustainability Advisory Committee composition shall consist of the following:

1. A Chair and Vice Chair from COMMISSION.
2. One appointed representative from each subcommittee established in section H (subcommittees).
3. At least three representatives from the Green Pact (one small community/Township representative, one large community representative, and one associate/organizational member representative).
4. A minimum of three other seats including representatives from various stakeholder groups in the region, including but not limited to the business community, non-profit organizations, government, education sector, and community members.

Under the guidance of the Executive Director and Committee Chair the Sustainability Advisory Committee shall adopt guidelines to establish the size limit of the Committee, and provisions to encourage diverse involvement in subcommittee membership and leadership.

F. OFFICERS

The chair of the Sustainability Advisory Committee must be a full member representative of the COMMISSION and is selected and documented by the COMMISSION Chair and Executive Director. He/she will serve a two-year term at the pleasure of the COMMISSION Chair and Executive Director.

The Vice Chair of the Sustainability Advisory Committee must be a full member representative of the COMMISSION and is selected by the COMMISSION Chair and Executive Director. He/she will serve a two-year term at the pleasure of the COMMISSION Chair and Executive Director.

G. SUBCOMMITTEES

The Sustainability Advisory Committee is advised by standing subcommittees or working groups as established by the Committee Chair and Executive Director to address key regional issue areas such as energy, air quality, food, materials management, greenways, water quality, or other working groups as needed.

The Sustainability Advisory Committee may adopt bylaws to govern the subcommittees, the selection process of subcommittee members, and establish provisions to encourage broad involvement in subcommittee membership and leadership.

H. MEETINGS

The Sustainability Advisory Committee will meet as necessary. Quarterly meetings are recommended.

SECTION VIII – TIME OF TAKING EFFECT

These Bylaws shall supersede any prior action of the COMMISSION inconsistent with such Bylaws.
These Bylaws shall be effective upon the approval of the COMMISSION.