



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
morpc.org

T. 614. 228.2663  
TTY. 1.800.750.0750  
info@morpc.org

## NOTICE OF A MEETING

### COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

**July 31, 2023**  
**5:30 p.m.**

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 243 030 431 20

Passcode: 2mDoDw

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 614-362-3056,,75911882#](#) United States, Columbus

[\(888\) 595-9475,,75911882#](#) United States (Toll-free)

Phone Conference ID: 759 118 82#

## AGENDA

- 5:30 p.m. Welcome & Introductions** – LaGrieta Acheampong, Chair
- 5:32 p.m. Approval of May 31, 2023 Meeting Minutes**
- 5:33 p.m. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report** – Nick Gill, MORPC, Jennifer Noll, MORPC
- Transit Agency Reports
    - Delaware County Transit – Nick Gill, MORPC
    - COTA Update – Kelsey Ellingsen, COTA
    - ODOT Update - Central Ohio Workforce Transit Plan, James Gates, Deputy Director of Planning, ODOT
- 6:00 p.m. Resolutions**
- Resolution T-8-23: Amending the SFY 24 Planning Work Program – Nick Gill, MORPC
  - Resolution T-9-23: Authorizing the Executive Director to Enter Into An Intergovernmental Agreement With The Central Ohio Transit Authority For Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program– Elliott Lewis, MORPC

**William Murdock, AICP**  
Executive Director

**Erik J. Janas**  
Chair

**Chris Amorose Grooms**  
Vice Chair

**Michelle Crandall**  
Secretary

- Resolution T-10-23: Recognizing the Proposed Apportionment Of Sales Tax Revenues Collected By The Central Ohio Transit Authority As It Relates To The LinkUS Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program Funding– Elliott Lewis, MORPC

**6:10 p.m. 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

- 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update – Maria Schaper, MORPC

**6:20 p.m. Informational Items**

- TRAC Project Prioritization and Public Comment Update – Elliott Lewis, MORPC
- Technical Assistance Program SFY 24 Draft Program Guide – Jordan Petrov, MORPC
- Community Based Planning Assistance – Jonathan Miller, MORPC

**6:45 p.m. Other Business**

- Transit Sub-Committee

**7:00 p.m. Adjourn**

PLEASE NOTIFY CHUCK RATLIFF AT 614-233-4115 OR EMAIL [cratliff@morpc.org](mailto:cratliff@morpc.org) TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE FOR THIS MEETING OR IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.

The next CAC meeting is  
**August 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.**

# Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Community Committee Meeting Minutes



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

Date: **May 31, 2023**  
Time: **5:30 p.m.**  
Location: **MORPC**

---

## **Members Present**

Allman, Bill	Girves, Catherine (online)	Rollins, Helen
Beltran, Hugo	Needleman, William	Synk, Erin
Bohnert, Eli	Rist, John	Weiss, Ira
Dorsey, Dana	Roehm, Bob	

## **Guests**

None

## **MORPC Staff**

DiCuccio, Clare	Jurist, Niel	Petrov, Jordan
Gardocki, John	Lewis, Elliott	Schaper, Maria
Hampton, Ralonda	Matson, Kelsey	Strange, Emma

## **I. Welcome & Introductions**

- Vice Chair Rollins called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m. There was a quorum present.
- Vice Chair Rollins mentioned the passing of Chair Acheampong's father on May 20, 2023. Ms. Schaper mentioned that MORPC will be having a tree planted in his honor.

## **II. Approval of May 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

- Vice Chair Rollins asked for a motion to approve the May 23, 2023 minutes. Ms. Synk moved; Mr. Weiss seconded; and the motion passed.

## **III. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Nick Gill, MORPC**

- Ms. Schaper reported on behalf of Mr. Gill, as Mr. Gill was not in attendance.
- Ms. Schaper began the report with a Delaware County Transit (DCT) Update. DCT is launching its Strategic Plan after selecting HDR Engineering as the primary vendor. DCT is pursuing the State's OTP2 and Workforce Mobility funds for pilot programs in 2024.
- Ms. Schaper continued with an update on the Regional Mobility Plan. MORPC has launched its annual Regional Mobility Plan survey and will be collecting responses until August 31, 2023. This survey collects data on the opinions and needs of current and potential transportation users in nine Central OH counties. Contact Emma Strange at [estrange@morpc.org](mailto:estrange@morpc.org) for more information.
- Ms. Schaper reminded the committee that local governments are encouraged to regularly send us current building permit data, which MORPC uses to inform the region's long-range transportation plan and population forecast. The MORPC data team is reviewing its process for collecting this data, with a goal to improve the efficiency of the process and facilitate value-added outputs which can be shared with

our members. Team members will be reaching out to members and partners with more information.

- Ms. Schaper updated the committee on the status of the Charging & Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) grant application, which supports publicly accessible EV Charging stations in the community. MORPC is leading a regional approach to strategize & build out EV charging throughout Central Ohio, working with Smart Columbus, City of Columbus, Electrification Coalition, and HNTB. This is a huge opportunity for central Ohio to fill in the gaps of the network with a focus on public charging at mobility hubs, underserved communities, and rural charging deserts. The team has completed their process of identifying charging sites and match funding and planned to submit the grant application on June 7, 2023 (with a June 12, 2023 deadline). Contact Brian Filiatraut [bfiliatraut@morpc.org](mailto:bfiliatraut@morpc.org) for more information.
- Ms. Schaper invited committee members to participate in this year's Riverfest on June 10, 2023 and June 11, 2023 during the Columbus Arts Festival located along the Scioto Mile in downtown Columbus. With support from Metro Parks, Riverfest is MORPC's signature summer event that celebrates central Ohio's water resources and provides an opportunity for the public to experience our waterways with free kayaking, canoeing, and paddleboarding. As part of the celebration, MORPC also hosts a panel discussion, Accelerating Change for Clean Water, on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at the Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center. The panel follows the opening of the "Water is Life" exhibition.

#### **IV. 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

- 2024 - 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update – Maria Schaper, MORPC
  - Ms. Schaper explained that the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is one of the primary products the MPO produces. Ms. Schaper discussed the focus on the fiscal balance component and the key determinants in what projects can be included in the MTP.
  - Ms. Schaper covered the primary sources of funding and the assumption that funding will continue to be at the levels given in the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill, U.S DOT discretionary funding, and State level funding. The same assumption is applied to local agencies, private, and new funding sources.
  - Ms. Schaper concluded the update, covering where MORPC is in the process. MORPC will send emails the week of May 29, 2023 to local governments, followed by a three-week review period. Like the previous cycle, MORPC plans to have an interactive web map, which opens on June 16, 2023, that provides an opportunity for public comments on candidate projects MORPC has identified. The public comment period is open from mid-June to August 31, 2023. The final MTP will be available for adoption in May of 2024.
  - Mr. Rist questioned if the review, update, and adoption processes of performance measures will be revisited during the next two years, as factors affecting the MTP can change during that time. Ms. Schaper stated that while MORPC has adopted performance measures, the latest available and most up-to-date benchmark data will be utilized throughout.
  - Mr. Rist asked if all available funding sources are being pursued. Ms. Schaper replied that MORPC is working with our regional partners and monitoring notice of funding opportunities (also known as NOFO) and identifying what may be applicable.

## V. Informational Items

- LinkUS Update – Elliott Lewis, MORPC
  - Mr. Lewis provided an update on the LinkUS Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI). The ballot measure has been approved for November 2024. West Broad, East Main, and Northwest Corridors are in some stage of engineering design with West Broad leading the way at approximately 30% designed and a goal of reaching 60% by the end of 2023. East Main is at approximately 25% designed, delayed by ongoing work in the downtown area. Northwest is currently at 5%.
  - Mr. Lewis stated the TSI Program's goal is to build the most connected and safest network of non-motorized access to transit services. As a subset of LinkUS, TSI will have a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) governed by the TSI committee's structure. Last year focused on general engagement and understanding local priorities and goals for the program through workshops. Last summer, the Ohio Revised Code language was changed to allow COTA to fund TSI projects.
  - Mr. Lewis reviewed the Proposed Committees Structure Draft which will be reviewed at the June 9, 2023 TSI workshop. The workshop will serve as an informal precursor to the formal convening of TSI Committees in Summer 2023.
  - Mr. Lewis concluded with presenting the TSI Technical Working Group (TWG) Geographic Quadrants map, which focuses on CIP development and allows for more opportunities for direct input. Work will be integrated into a regional CIP by the TSI Technical Coordinating Committee and approved by the TSI Leadership Committee.
  - Mr. Rist asked for clarification on the ballot measure in November, and if it is intended to generate the local match. Mr. Lewis clarified that for TSI specifically, MORPC is hoping to leverage all local dollars with other resources.
  - Mr. Gardocki added that the current COTA tax is .5% (.25% permanent and .25% 10-year recurring). COTA will be asking voters to add an additional .5% to make it a total 1% as a permanent sales tax. There is \$8 billion of new revenue, but COTA will only be using the new revenues to implement expanded service through LinkUS, including the TSI Program.
- Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) Applications & MPO Prioritization Process – Elliott Lewis, MORPC
  - Mr. Lewis stated that projects eligible to apply to TRAC are those with over \$12 million in project costs that provide benefit to congestion relief and economic development. The project eligibility criteria did not change this cycle. MORPC funnels projects from within the MPO area applying to TRAC through a prioritization process which will be covered in more detail at the next CAC meeting.
  - Mr. Lewis stated that he will also present the public comments to date at that time. The subsequent CAC meeting will include a presentation of the recommended priority list for consideration and approval.
  - Mr. Lewis informed that committee that, ultimately, the priority list will come before the September 8th, 2023 Commission meeting followed by the Central Ohio Regional Public Hearing sometime in September or October 2023.
  - Mr. Lewis concluded stating that the TRAC will likely vote on the draft project list at their December 2023 meeting, with approval just after the new year, depending on councilmembers' availability for scheduling, weather, and projects.

- Mr. Roehm asked for clarification on Map ID 10 (SR-161 and SR-37 Widening), specifically if the widening is for the entire length of the roads. Mr. Lewis confirmed the widening is for the length of the roads. Mr. Gardocki added that ODOT and other project partners are analyzing lanes along 161 that could be utilized by rapid transit as well as new services to the Intel site and the New Albany mobility hub. This work is currently being done through WSP consulting.
- Mr. Lewis continued, reviewing the tentative 2023 TRAC cycle timeline.
- Ms. Synk asked if when TRAC moves through the prioritization process will the committee receive any feedback on how each project measures against the MTP goals. Mr. Lewis confirmed that feedback will be given.
- Vice Chair Rollins asked if the work being done at SR 256/ 70 going north is part of the process. Mr. Lewis stated that is a part of the project, but it is also looking at the Taylor Rd. interchange and main line east also.
- Mr. Bohnert asked if Mr. Lewis could provide any research on the effectiveness of smart lanes as it pertains to the I-71 HSR/Smart Lane project. Ms. Schaper stated that we will research and report back in the future. Mr. Gardocki stated they attended the ODOT public meeting on smart lanes and that public comment is open until the end of June 2023. They are looking to only open that lane during peak travel times.
- Mr. Rist asked what amount of money is available for TRAC projects. Mr. Lewis stated approximately \$815 million covers state-wide projects. He then clarified and said that \$815 million was requested statewide in the last cycle but about \$350-400 million is typically awarded. Our applications are being submitted from our region will compete with applications from across the state.
  
- Gohio Mobility Presentation – Emma Strange, MORPC
  - Ms. Strange presented the new Gohio Mobility website, launched on June 1, 2023, designed for people to easily search for accessible and reliable transportation in Ohio. The website is free to use and includes statewide transportation resources.
  - Ms. Strange continued, covering the transportation types that are available in the system.
  - Ms. Strange concluded by showing an example search within the platform and giving an overview of the Mobility Manager Directory.
  - Mr. Allman asked if the Mobility Managers are county employees or staff from another agency. Ms. Strange replied that mobility management is an ODOT funded program using 5310 and 5311 funds. Although mobility managers are housed at different agencies, they are funded through the same sources.
  - Ms. Rollins suggested simplifying the language or adding icons to the website to allow more accessibility for adults of all reading levels.
  - Mr. Needleman asked how this will be shared with interested parties. Ms. Strange stated that we are working with ODOT on an information campaign to be released soon. This will be a combination of in-person education and online communication.
  
- Technical Assistance Program Updates – Jordan Petrov, MORPC
  - Mr. Petrov gave an overview of past services, Central Ohio Greenways Vision studies, and program impacts.



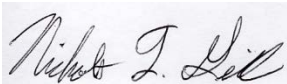
- Mr. Petrov provided Cycle 3 updates on Berlin Township, Brown Township, City of Delaware, City of Grove City, and Violet Township. The program guide will be reviewed in July 2023 and MORPC will ask for feedback on the program. Cycle 3 activities are expected to wrap up August-September 2023 after which MORPC will announce a new program guide, and request that the committee approves the program guide.
- Mr. Petrov concluded stating that the Cycle 4 Kick-off will begin in December 2023 or January 2024.
- Mr. Weiss expressed their desire for bicycle lanes and connectors along 256 and Taylor Road. Ms. Schaper noted MORPC has participated in meetings with ODOT regarding both bridges included in the project, and the replacement of the bridge decks include plans for pedestrian use on at least one side.

## **VI. Other Business**

- Mr. Needleman brought forth a request for ODOT to form a timeline for high-capacity transit corridor planning by July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, citing the need for accountability in a fast-growing city.
- At Mr. Weiss' request, Ms. Schaper updated the committee on House Bill 64 and how it affects active transportation. Ms. Schaper stated that House Bill 64 generally disallows the use of eminent domain for recreational trail projects. Further, we have concluded that this bill as proposed would generally increase costs for our members and the time it takes to build infrastructure projects. It would put a lot more legal liability on our local jurisdictions and set them up for potential litigation. For these reasons, MORPC submitted testimony to the House Civil Justice Committee in opposition to House Bill 64.

## **VII. Adjourn**

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.



Nick Gill, Secretary

**Community Advisory Committee**



# METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION REPORT

June & July 2023

---

## PROGRAMMING

Nick Gill, Interim Chief Regional Development Officer & Sr. Director of Programming –  
[ngill@morpc.org](mailto:ngill@morpc.org)

### Transportation

Nick Gill, Interim Chief Regional Development Officer & Sr. Director of Programming –  
[ngill@morpc.org](mailto:ngill@morpc.org)

#### Metropolitan Transportation Plan:

- Coordination with community stakeholders on draft zonal-level 2050 population and employment forecasts was conducted via a web map. Comments are being incorporated as appropriate to develop the final forecast data.
- An interactive web map was developed to display candidate transportation projects being considered for inclusion in the MTP. The public is invited to comment on the projects and make suggestions for new project ideas to be considered.

#### Transit, Mobility & Human Services:

##### *Mobility Management*

- The new website Gohio Mobility launched June 1, 2023. Gohio Mobility is a free to use site where users can find statewide accessible transportation resources.

##### *FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient*

- The 2022 5310 Columbus Urbanized Area awards were submitted to FTA for grant approval.
- Audited current vehicle orders against cost overruns and new pricing through the ODOT cooperative purchasing agreement.

##### *Gohio Commute*

- MORPC welcomed two new vanpools to the program. One travels from Washington Courthouse, OH to Chillicothe, OH and the second travels from Logan, Ohio to Columbus, Oh.



- Gohio Commute launched its Make Your Miles Matter – July/August Challenge. Commuters can log their sustainable work commutes for a chance to win a digital gift card.
- Presented at the Delaware HR Roundtable to discuss how businesses in the Delaware business park could benefit from a vanpool program to help with recruitment and retention.
- The OARC Rideshare and Air Quality subcommittee continues planning for the first ever *Ohio Statewide Commuter Challenge* to be held on September 11, 2023, through September 24, 2023. The purpose of this challenge is to reengage Ohioans with the Gohio Commute rideshare platform and start thinking about sustainable commuting to work.

## Transportation Planning Activities:

### *LinkUS Mobility Initiative*

- MORPC and COTA convened regional stakeholders in June and July to continue the development of the Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) committee and program guidelines.
- MORPC worked with COTA to draft an inter-agency agreement and memorandum of understanding outlining roles and responsibilities for administering the TSI program.
- MORPC led the LinkUS partners in two workshops to develop evaluation criteria for identifying the next regional corridors to be studied for high-capacity transit.

## Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO):

- A new CORPO staff lead was hired and started work in June.
- The FY24-25 CORPO Dedicated Funding round was opened. An applicant workshop was held on July 12, 2023. Applications will be accepted through Aug 11, 2023 at 5 p.m.
- Work continues with the development of the 2024-2050 CORPO Transportation Plan, specifically on identifying transportation project priorities.

## Active Transportation Planning:

### *Transportation Safety*

- Team members continued working with local, regional, and state partners around key transportation safety initiatives. Team members participated in the following safety committee meetings throughout June and July:
  - Franklin County Safe Communities Coalition meeting on June 7, 2023.
  - Traffic Records Coordinating Committee – Technical Council meeting on June 15, 2023.
  - Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review meeting on July 13, 2023.
- MORPC submitted a grant application for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) federal grant program on July 10, 2023. The application includes a request for funding to update the [Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan](#) and to conduct supplemental

planning and demonstration activities. MORPC also supported three additional SS4A applications in the region from the City of Columbus, the City of Canal Winchester, and the Franklin County Engineer's Office.

- MORPC is hosting the annual Central Ohio Transportation Safety Forum on Thursday, September 21, 2023. More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

### *Technical Assistance Program*

- Work continued with each of the five communities awarded technical assistance services for 2023:
  - MORPC and Violet Township hosted a collaborative workshop with key local stakeholders on July 17, 2023 to discuss opportunities for new shared use path connections throughout the township.
  - MORPC and Berlin Township hosted a public workshop on July 19, 2023 to collect feedback on routes identified as priority corridors for trail connections within the township.
  - MORPC and the City of Delaware hosted a collaborative workshop with key local stakeholders on July 20, 2023 to review the draft Safety Action Plan for the City.
  - MORPC and Brown Township hosted a public workshop on July 20, 2023 to collect feedback from the community on how they would like to be able to access a regional trail through the township and what destinations they would want the trail to connect them to.
  - MORPC participated in the Grove City Bicycle Transportation Task Force Meeting on July 20, 2023 to discuss how the technical assistance program services for Grove City will integrate with all the other local and regional initiatives currently underway.
- Team members began reviewing the Technical Assistance Program Guide to update it for the 2024 application cycle, which will open in the fall. If any communities that have participated in the TA Program in the past have any feedback for the MORPC team, please contact Lauren Cardoni ([lcardoni@morpc.org](mailto:lcardoni@morpc.org)).

## Infrastructure Funding:

### *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*

- The SFY 2024 – 2027 TIP was approved by FHWA and FTA before going into effect on July 1, 2023.

### *MORPC-Attributable Funding*

- New and updated funding commitments have been programmed by ODOT and incorporated into the updated TIP where appropriate.

### *Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)*

- District 3 (Franklin County) applications for SCIP and LTIP assistance were opened in May. These applications are due on September 1, 2023.

### *Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)*

- The MORPC region submitted nine applications to TRAC for funding this cycle, totaling nearly \$350 million in requests. MORPC is reviewing each application and conducting a data-driven analysis to aid in the development of a priority ranking of applications. Concurrently, a public comment period is open until August 11, 2023.
- A regional public hearing for Central Ohio will be scheduled for September or October 2023. Final funding decisions are expected to be made in December 2023 or January 2024.

### *Federal Competitive Programs*

- MORPC applied to, and supported other partner applications for this round of the Safe Streets and Roads for All federal program to support safety and active transportation planning. The deadline was July 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program announced awards for the 2023 Federal Fiscal year. Central Ohio did not obtain an award under this program. However, the City of Columbus's application for the Williams Road Multimodal Corridor Planning Project obtained Project of Merit Status.
- The Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program (MPDG) was announced on June 23, 2023. This program enables funding for three grants: National Infrastructure Project Assistance Program (MEGA), Infrastructure for Rebuilding America Program (INFRA), Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (Rural). MORPC is providing support for an ODOT application for the unfunded phases of the I-70/I-71 Columbus Crossroads and also coordinating with a few CORPO communities for possible application to the Rural program. Deadline is August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program (RCN) was announced on July 5, 2023. This program enables funding for two grants: Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (RCP), Neighborhood Access and Equity Program (NAE). Deadline is September 28<sup>th</sup>.

### *Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP)*

- Regional Competitive Advantage Projects were presented to local leaders in June to showcase the coordination MORPC provides to its members.
- The CAP website has received multiple updates to better represent new and existing projects.
- The CAP interactive web map was updated to account for new regional projects and provide a more unique experience for users to focus on specific projects and locations.

### *Money Mondays*

- The past month the following Money Mondays sessions were held
  - June 26, 2023: Affordable Housing
  - July 10, 2023: Transportation Update
  - July 17, 2023: State and Federal Budgeting Compliance
  - July 24, 2023: Digital Inclusion and ARPA Funding

## Economic Development

### Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS):

- The Economic Development District application has been moved ahead in the reviewing process. Committee and governing board structure was established ahead of the expected approval of the designation.

### Brownfield Assessments:

- A Phase II assessment was initiated for the Cleveland and Myrtle property in Linden, with the goal of further identifying the contaminants on the property before redevelopment.
- The N. Liberty Street property in Powell was approved to be assessed for hazardous materials in preparation for demolition.
- The funds for brownfield assessments have been designated and will not be available for new projects due to the upcoming grant close-out period.

# PLANNING

Kerstin Carr, Chief Regional Strategy Officer & Sr. Director of Planning – [kcarr@morpc.org](mailto:kcarr@morpc.org)

## Community Development

### Central Ohio Greenways:

- The COG Board met July 19, 2023 and adopted the updated COG Strategic Plan Action Items. The Board also heard MORPC updates to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization's call for projects, Central Ohio Blueways, and other topics. Board members also discussed progress on the Trail Towns and Wayfinding projects. The COG Board will meet again on September 20, 2023.
- The COG Trail Development Working Group is offering advice to MORPC's technical assistance program, an updated trail count program, and trail vision refinements. The Working Group met last on June 15, 2023 and will meet again on August 17, 2023.
- The Marketing Working Group is advising on website upgrades, social media calendar development, the Wayfinding Project, and the Trail Town Framework Development. The Working Group met on June 14, 2023 and will meet again on August 15, 2023.
- MORPC has signed a contract extension with Cycle Forward to begin the second phase of the Trail Town Framework as well as a contract with Designing Local to begin a Wayfinding Strategy project. COG partners began installation of five new permanent trail counters along the Ohio to Erie Trail in April.
- MORPC submitted a proposal to The Columbus Foundation to conduct a Natural Asset Inventory in Franklin County. If funded, MORPC will develop a database of watershed-related natural resources in Franklin County to support prioritization of development. The database will help inform strategies to limit impacts to our natural resources and protect water quality.
- COG will be supporting a MORPC application to the federal Safe Streets and Roads for All program. The applications will include a Safety Action Plan Update, a Vulnerable Roadway Users Supplemental Action plan to include a Trail Count Program action item, and COG Trail Access Demonstration Project(s).
- MORPC will host the next triannual COG Forum on August 16, 2023. Agenda items will focus on projects along the Big Walnut Corridor.
- MORPC is releasing a COG Board Member Survey to evaluate Board member interest in Strategic Plan Action Items and to inform an updated working group structure.

### Central Ohio Blueways:

- The Central Ohio Blueways Advisory Panel met in both June and July to continue discussions around appropriate considerations and measures for State Water Trail Designation through ODNR. These meetings focused on the management of woody debris in the waterways, as well as various considerations and input from EMS personnel.
- One-to-one meetings were held with some of the communities along Big Walnut Creek to discuss State Water Trail Designation. Feedback to this point from Big Walnut Creek communities has been very positive, with several future meetings still being scheduled.

- With these conversations at the Advisory Panel and Big Walnut Creek levels, the Community Development Team was able to update drafts of Partnership Agreements, using Big Walnut Creek as the subject waterway. These updated drafts were sent to the Advisory Panel for feedback no later than early August.

## insight2050:

### *LinkUS Mobility Initiative*

- Together with the Programming Department, MORPC is engaged in ongoing Committee and Working Group meetings for the LinkUS initiative.

### *RAPID 5*

- MORPC is engaging with RAPID 5 on its Central Ohio Greenways and Blueways programming. Team members continue to provide transitional support to RAPID 5, which includes assisting with processing speaker requests and presentation needs. MORPC team members are also assisting with developing a resource library of data, resources, insights, and information about pertinent topics, including land use, multi-modal transportation systems, sustainability, economic development, etc. Stay up to date with RAPID 5 news and events at [rapid5.org](http://rapid5.org). MORPC's main contact for the RAPID 5 initiative is Chief Regional Strategy Officer, Kerstin Carr ([KCarr@morpc.org](mailto:KCarr@morpc.org)).

## Regional Housing Strategy (RHS):

### *Outreach*

- Team members were invited to discuss regional housing and growth trends with various audiences in meetings and events hosted by several MORPC member communities and partner organizations.
- Regional Housing Coalition task force recommendations were shared with the Coalition's convening partners this past spring. MORPC and other task force leads expect to receive guidance on next steps soon and will provide updates as they become available.

### *Implementation Assistance*

- For those interested in a housing/growth workshop for their community's elected officials, staff, or community leaders, MORPC is accepting requests for presentations and workshops. Our team will work with you to design the agenda, including recommended speakers and learning objectives. Contact Jennifer Noll for more information ([JNoll@morpc.org](mailto:JNoll@morpc.org)).

## Community-Based Planning Assistance:

- The Community Development Team is continuing to develop an Assistance Program for communities. The Program includes two components: a Consultant Services Program and a Planner Pool Program.

### *Consultant Services Program*

- The Consultant Services Program is in the final stages of development and is projected to be active in August 2023. The Program is planned to run on a quarterly basis, with tentative dates throughout 2024 in the process of finalization.



### *Planner Pool Program*

- The Planner Pool Program is also in the process of finalizing details. New Hire positions have been posted and Planning is currently working out details surrounding which planning and sustainability services might be most useful to make available to member communities.

## **Sustainability**

### **Sustainability Advisory Committee:**

- The Sustainability Advisory Committee met June 21, 2023. The agenda included updates on the CFI Grant and next steps for creating a sub-committee of the SAC to establish regional participation in the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. Committee members also cast their votes for Regional Sustainability Awards, which will be presented at the Summit on Sustainability on October 26, 2023. The Committee will meet again on September 20, 2023.

### **Sustainable2050:**

- The Sustainable2050 quarterly meeting was hosted by Del-Co Water Company on June 22. After presentations from the MORPC Sustainability Team, the group received a behind-the-scenes tour of the water treatment facilities and reservoirs. Glenn Marzluf, General Manager and CEO explained the treatment process to supply clean and reliable water for customers across eight central Ohio counties. Grant Lach, the AmeriCorps Sustainability Fellow, is wrapped up the sustainability toolkit and developed a maintenance guide before his last day on July 21, 2023. He's also coordinated a social media campaign with MORPC's Communication & Engagement staff to feature Sustainable2050 members during "Sustainable September". The next meeting will take place on September 28, 2023.

### **Water Resources Program:**

#### *Sustaining Scioto Board*

- The June Board meeting was rescheduled to August 23, 2023. In the near term, MORPC staff will continue collaborating with partners including the Byrd Polar Climate Research Center and Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District. The intent of this collaboration is to develop an outreach strategy for building awareness, continued support, and outreach for the value of the updated precipitation estimate focused on Franklin County. Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District and Ohio State University's Byrd Polar & Climate Research Center completed phase 1 of the precipitation estimates update. The goal of the project was to improve precipitation estimates and accurately depict changing precipitation risk for Ohio, with a more detailed focus on Franklin County.

#### *Sustaining Scioto - Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team*

- The team met July 20, 2023 and heard a presentation from Broc Sehen, District Technician with Madison County Soil & Water Conservation District. The presentation is one of the steps being taken by the Outreach Team to strengthen relationships with the northern counties within the Upper Scioto watershed. Mr. Sehen highlighted the

education and outreach programming in the district, including landowner/natural resources education and best practices for farmer management of water quality issues.

- Mr. Sehen also highlighted work around continued protections for the Darby Creek by County Commissioners. The Outreach Team discussed organizing a forum addressing potential stressors upon water from a utility standpoint and future programming for mitigation of these stressors. Members agreed to establish a relationship with the City of Columbus regarding the City's engagement with the agricultural community. The Team hopes to identify opportunities for further collaboration between stakeholders on the One Water Plan being proposed by the city. One Water is defined by the Water Research Foundation (WRF) as an integrated planning and implementation approach to managing finite water resources for long-term resilience and reliability. This approach will meet both the community and the ecosystem needs, commonly known as integrated urban water management.
- The Outreach team is working to identify avenues to increase the visibility of the Sustaining Scioto Board's and Team's programs. The Outreach team will meet again on September 21, 2023.

### *Ohio EPA Water Resources Planning Work*

- MORPC continues to verify and update facility planning area boundaries and water quality management plans in the ten-county area. Data collected will inform the creation of an interactive map.

### *Clean Ohio Conservation Fund:*

- The Natural Resource Assistance Council met June 26, 2023 to hear preliminary screener presentations. These presentations allow Council members to offer feedback and eligibility comments to applicants prior to final application submission. Clean Ohio Funds requested by the preliminary screener application and presentation is approximately \$2.4 million. While screener presentations are encouraged, they are not mandatory.
- District 3 has approximately \$3.2 million dollars for FY 2024, with final applications due on September 1, 2023. For more information, please contact Edwina Teye ([eteve@morpc.org](mailto:eteve@morpc.org)) or visit our website at <https://www.morpc.org/program-service/clean-ohio-conservation-fund/>.

## Energy & Air Quality:

### *Energy & Air Quality Working Group*

- Due to all of the activity for the Energy & Air Quality team, the May 2023 Energy & Air Quality Working Group meeting was rescheduled to July 25, 2023. The Working Group will focus on updating the Group and gaining feedback.

### *Energy Planning*

- Looking for federal funding remains a priority. The Team continues to coordinate with regional partners to identify opportunities for clean energy, EV charging, and sustainability.
- MORPC submitted a grant application for the USDOT Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant. The Mid-Ohio Regional Equity for Electric Vehicle Stations (MORE EVS) grant was a collaboration of MORPC, the City of Columbus,

SmartColumbus, Electrification Coalition, AEP Ohio, and HNTB. The MORE EVS proposal requested \$15 million with an additional \$6.9 million in regional investment. The proposal included 62 confirmed charging site locations totaling 406 Level 2 and DCFC EV ports across 13 of MORPC's 15 counties. MORE EVS focuses on urban and rural underserved areas and building mobility hubs. MORPC anticipates learning the status of the MORE EVS application by Fall 2023.

- MORPC was a co-applicant, with the City of Columbus as the lead applicant, for the USEPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Phase I: Planning Grant. This formula-based grant will focus on developing benchmarks and metrics, a benefits analysis for low-income disadvantaged communities, mitigation strategies, and an engagement and community outreach strategy in the ten-county Columbus Metropolitan Statistical Area. This grant would better position the region for the \$4.6 billion CPRG Phase II. Implementation opportunities should begin in early 2024. MORPC is in the process of forming a subcommittee to focus on this program. If you are interested in participating, please contact Brian Filiatraut, Energy & Sustainability Program Manager ([BFiliatraut@morpc.org](mailto:BFiliatraut@morpc.org)).
- The second round of the Columbus Area Residential Solar Co-op is still open and available for homeowners interested in going solar. The Co-op is a collaborative effort among the City of Columbus, Solar United Neighbors, MORPC, and IMPACT Community Action. Residents considering solar and who live in Franklin County and the surrounding areas can join with other residents in the region to secure better pricing.
- Residents for a Sustainable Central Ohio (RSCO) met briefly on July 19, 2023 to discuss the Summit on Sustainability. The date and time of the next meeting for this group is still to be determined but will likely be in-person and in mid-September. For more information, please contact Brian Filiatraut, Energy & Sustainability Program Manager ([BFiliatraut@morpc.org](mailto:BFiliatraut@morpc.org)).

### *Air Quality Alerts*

- It has been an unprecedented year for wildfires in Canada, which brought hazy skies and unhealthy pollution levels across Central Ohio in June. Until this year, unhealthy air quality days were not a typical occurrence, and it has been more than ten years since the last one was recorded.
- During June and July, MORPC issued 11 Air Quality Alerts. Nine of those were for particle pollution due to wildfires. It has been over 13 years since the region recorded a particle pollution day that was unhealthy for all residents during the summer. Throughout the month of June, MORPC received several media requests about the high pollution levels. Coverage has included The Columbus Dispatch, Axios, NBC 4, Channel 10, WOSU, and Spectrum News.

### *Neighborhood Air Monitoring Project/US EPA project*

- The current monitoring project, supported by Thriving Earth Exchange, is winding down after one year of data collection from PurpleAir sensors. The Team is working on the final report which will be completed and released this summer.
- The US EPA project has officially begun, and MORPC is working through the administrative requirements. A QAPP is required for documenting the data management and quality assurance procedures. The Project Team attended the EPA's hybrid training conference focused on air sensor quality assurance from July 27-29. MORPC is working

hard to stay on track and this fall, the Community Advisory Board will be created to identify site locations and begin collocating new sensors at the Ohio EPA monitoring site before placing them in the community.

### *Education and Outreach*

- The second phase of the air quality social media plan is under development with plans for new video content. The goal is to provide education around ozone, PM2.5, and actions for protecting health / reducing pollution levels. MORPC will convene an informational session for public health and healthcare partners regarding air quality, health resources, and coordinated communication on Alert days.

## **Data, Mapping & Modeling**

### **Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC):**

- The Committee met on June 6, 2023 to review the final Regional Data Agenda. The committee voted on and approved the agenda and began devising next steps to align the work of the Committee and its working groups with the new agenda. The updated agenda was presented to the Commission for review in June and will be presented again for approval on August 10, 2023.

### *Working & User Groups*

- Regional Data Agenda Update Working Group:
  - The group completed their work to update the Regional Data Agenda, which was approved by RDAC as noted above.
- Capacity Building & Partnerships Working Group:
  - The Group continues efforts to develop a resource to assist local non-profits with data acquisition, usage, and management. The Working Group is also meeting with the Local Government Resources Working Group to discuss collaboration to combine resources in this matter. The Capacity Building Group has also begun discussions regarding Data Day 2024, including the addition of defined tracks and increasing the in-person capacity of the event.
- Local Government Resources Working Group:
  - The group is considering alternative ways to share resources related to data policies that are more sustainable to manage and more accessible to the target audience. One of the options under consideration is an on-demand system in which experts respond to specific requests. The Team is exploring the potential for collaborating with the Capacity Building & Partnerships Working Group to this end. The Working Group meets the last Tuesday of each month at 3:00 pm.
- Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG):
  - The RIDG Steering Committee met on May 16. Members discussed content for the July 19, 2023 general RIDG meeting and for other future meetings. The Steering Committee will meet again on August 22, 2023.
  - The quarterly general RIDG meeting was held on July 19, 2023. The meeting focused on AI and its uses, problems, and functions in the workplace. RIDG Chair Rob Moore started the conversation segment of the meeting with a presentation on

the history of AI. His discussion highlighted the longer-than-most-realize history of AI and the wide-ranging use and application of AI. This presentation laid the ground for the remaining presentation from Tom Noorkah and the open discussion. Tom Noorkah, City of Columbus's Auditors Office, presented on the use of AI and AI tools in the public sector. The presentation specifically highlighted tools implemented to aid the public in working with the Auditor's Office. Discussion was had among the RIDG members, over 30 in attendance, on the apprehension and adoption of AI in the workplace, including discussing personal and procedural policies used to govern AI tools.

- The next general RIDG meeting will be on September 27, 2023.
- Central Ohio GIS User Group (COGUG):
  - COGUG members met at a hybrid meeting on May 17. An ad hoc selection of group members informally exploring the potential utility of WAZE for local municipalities as well as assessing the costs and benefits of utilizing ESRI cloud storage. The Group is also exploring the potential for a persistent chat tool which would be easily accessible to most members, in the aim of enhancing learning and information sharing between meetings.
  - The third quarter COGUG meeting will be on August 23, 2023. This meeting will be hybrid.

## Data Management:

- Continued to explore ways to standardize data tools and workflows and to improve data and workflow version control and documentation. Team members created a standard project plan and requirements specification template that can be used to document new and previously undocumented projects.
- Continued to evaluate ways to standardize, automate and pipeline core functions, particularly population estimates for various geographies.
- Produced a script to automate mailing list generation and filtering for prospective Residential Services clients, significantly reducing the time required to perform this task.

## Data Analytics, Mapping, and Research:

### *Data & Research Activities*

- Program, Data, and Communications & Engagement team members collaborated to produce an Actionable Insights report focused on transportation needs and experiences. The report, which was released in June, is based upon the findings of the Leaders Listen American Population Panel (APP) public opinion poll. MORPC continues to work with its partners at the Center for Human Resource Research (CHRR) and the Columbus Dispatch to expand the survey series into additional topical domains and sustain these activities into the future.
- Begun preparing inputs for the 2023 sub-county population estimates and will seek feedback on preliminary estimates from member communities in late July.
- Continued to manage the organization's air quality sensors and develop quality assurance processes and documentation to support the recently awarded EPA air quality monitoring grant.

- Continued to develop county-level forecasts of households by type and housing by type for the primary purpose of predicting future housing needs. This would be an extension to our existing county forecasts for households and housing generally. Household types may include people living alone, two or more working-age adults with no kids, families with kids, and adults of retirement age. Housing types may include attached housing, single-family small lot, and single-family large lot.

### *Mapping Activities*

- Worked on various projects and completed the final draft of Household and Employment forecasts out to 2050 for the ten-county area. This data, which is part of the MTP process, was made available to the community for review in the form of an editable web map. The review period ended on July 14, 2023. Several communities submitted feedback, and the team is working to evaluate whether and how the feedback should be incorporated into the forecasts.
- Started working with a consultant to create a process and methodology for a bike and ped network, which will allow analysis of various active transportation scenarios.

### *Modeling Activities*

- The Modeling team is working on various projects, including the Columbus Downtown Multi-Modal project, the land use model, maintaining the traffic count program, updating AQ emission factors for transportation projects, using regional travel demand model for 2023 TRAC candidate projects evaluation, and responding to several traffic growth and modeling requests.
- Began incorporating community reviews into the land use model forecasts.



# COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

Niel M. Jurist, Sr. Director of Communications & Engagement – [njurist@morpc.org](mailto:njurist@morpc.org)

## News Releases:

- [More Than \\$30 Million Available for Public Works Projects in Franklin County](#) (5/19/2023)
- [New Gohio Mobility Website, A One-Stop Resource for All Ohioans To Access Transportation Solutions, Launched Today](#) (6/1/2023)
- [MORPC Seeks Public Input on Projects Under Review by the Transportation Review Advisory Council](#) (7/5/2023)
- [CORPO Accepting Applications for Funding for Transportation Projects](#) (7/7/2023)

## MORPC in the News:

- [Amtrak, Zoning, Housing & Development — An interview with MORPC's William Murdock](#) (5/19/2023)
- [Planning updates: Amtrak, LinkUs, Rapid5, Zone In & More](#) (5/26/2023)
- [As Columbus population grows, John Glenn International Airport plans accordingly](#) (6/14/2023)
- [Economic Development: Private Investments Brings Big Change to Bellefontaine](#) (6/29/2023)
- [Berlin Township discusses multi-use trails](#) (6/1/2023)
- [Gohio a mobility website for all Ohioans transportation solutions](#) (6/2/2023)
- [MORPC launches Gohio Mobility Website](#) (6/2/2023)
- [MORPC launches Gohio Mobility website](#) (6/7/2023)
- [New Gohio Mobility website launches to improve access to transportation](#) (6/10/2023)
- [Free bus passes coming back for Short North workers and residents](#) (6/15/2023)
- [Ohio eminent domain bill meets resistance](#) (6/19/2023)
- [ODOT to begin widening of State Route 161 as it prepares for Intel, other growth](#) (6/19/2023)
- [Central Ohio prepares roads for big investments](#) (6/23/2023)
- [\\$15 Million sought for Sunbury Parkway](#) (7/8/2023)

## Digital Content:

### *Social Media: Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn:*

- Air Quality Alerts, Careers/Jobs, Central Ohio Greenways, Trails Pass, eSource, Gohio Commute, Mid-Ohio Open Data Site, Educational Partnership, RFPs/RFQs, Sustainability, Residential Services, News, Bike Safety Week: 15-19, Social Media Summit, Weatherization Day, Bike-to-Work Day, Solar United Neighbors, Pride Month, Pride Month, Riverfest, 6/14 day, Flag Day, Father's Day, Juneteenth, Pollinator Week, 4th of July,

Summit on Sustainability, Mobility Survey, Regional Investment Survey, Public Comment, Impaired Driving, Sustainable2050, Leaders Listen, Vision Zero, LinkUS, DriveOhio public meeting, National River's Month, Summit on Sustainability Nominations, Water Quality, Memorial Day, 40 under 40, Power 100, Motorcycle Safety, MORPC Messaging Survey, and CORPO workshop.

### *Reach:*

- [Facebook & Instagram](#)

### *Top Posts:*

- [Instagram](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Reels](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)

### Diversity & Inclusion:

- ODOT's Division of Opportunity, Diversity, and Inclusion hosted the inaugural MBE and Diverse Business Opportunity Expo on June 21, 2023. The expo featured nearly 100 booths including state agencies, local governments, and private sector corporations to highlight their procurement opportunities. Through MORPC's participation in the event, the agency was able to meet new potential vendors and engage with attendees to inform them about programs and initiatives.
- Each year, the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) Columbus hosts a scholarship luncheon to award local minority students. MORPC was recognized as a sponsor and a high school senior received a scholarship in MORPC's honor. The student will attend a Historically Black College and University.

### Public Involvement & Engagement:

- MORPC hosted a resource table at the Franklin County Faith Leaders Forum Leadership Fair on May 24, 2023. Organized by Franklin County Board of Commissioners President John O'Grady, the event kicked off conversations surrounding how organizations, such as MORPC can work together with the faith-based community to support residents in Franklin County.
- MORPC was a featured agency at 614 Day, held on June 14, 2023 at the Columbus Commons. This community event highlighted local organizations and businesses and celebrated the Capital City. The event drew over 4,000 attendees and hosted more than 40 local vendors.
- MORPC promoted for the following public input opportunities through its digital media channels:
  - ZoneIn Columbus Community Conversation: [5/22](#)
  - Summit on Sustainability Award Nominations: [5/24](#), [6/2](#)
  - MORPC Messaging Survey: [5/25](#)

- Mobility Survey: [6/5](#), [7/10](#)
- DriveOhio Public Meeting: [6/5](#), [6/7](#), [6/11](#), [6/12](#)
- Regional Investment Survey: [6/16](#), [7/14](#)
- TRAC Public Comment: [7/6](#)
- CORPO Public Meeting: [7/7](#)

### Marketing Campaigns:

- The Gohio Commute program is running a marketing campaign on social media that focuses on vanpooling and carpooling with the goal to increase awareness of the program.

### Upcoming Events:

- August 1, 2023 – [MORPC Social Media Summit](#), MORPC Offices
- September 21, 2023 – [Regional Transportation Safety Forum](#), MORPC Offices
- October 26, 2023 – [Summit on Sustainability](#), Hilton Columbus Downtown
- March 15, 2024 – [State of the Region](#), Hilton Columbus Downtown

# MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Eileen Leuby, Member Services Officer – [eleuby@morpc.org](mailto:eleuby@morpc.org)

## Completed Member Events:

- June 15, 2023: Enriching Lives at Today's Modern Library, Gahanna
- June 21, 2023: Housing Forum, Plain City
- July 18, 2023: Sustainable Community Development, Buckeye Lake
- July 27, 2023: Central Ohio Defense Community Partnership Conference, Rickenbacker

## Upcoming Member Events:

- August 10, 2023: Rail Safety Progress: August 10th Pre-Commission
- Money Mondays
  - August 7, 2023: State Infrastructure Bank (SIB)
  - August 14, 2023: How can NPOs (Nonprofits) and municipalities work together to secure funds for priority projects
  - August 21: Driving Investment Portal Tutorial
  - August 28: Regional Housing Strategy



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
morpc.org

T. 614. 228.2663  
TTY. 1.800.750.0750  
info@morpc.org

**Memorandum**

**TO:** Transportation Policy Committee  
Transportation Advisory Committee  
Community Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Nick Gill, Transportation Study Director and Interim Senior  
Director of Programming

**DATE:** July 26, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Resolution T-8-23: "**AMENDING THE SFY 2024  
PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**"

Resolution T-8-23 amends the SFY 2024 Planning Work Program (PWP) to add a new work element and remove a work element.

Resolution T-8-23 will add a new work element, Mobility Management ODOT Regional Supplemental 2023 (67433-3000), to the PWP to support Region 6 Human Service Transportation Coordination Mobility Management. MORPC holds the Regional Mobility Coordinator role for the nine (9) county Central Ohio region. Work element 67433-3000, with a budget of \$300,000 from ODOT, will continue the regional accessibility goals and strategies from the Regional Mobility Plan.

T-8-23 also removes the Paving the Way work Element (66544-0400) from the SFY 2024 PWP. Over the past year, MORPC staff analyzed the effectiveness of the site, interviewed several users, and observed the website's stats to determine its usefulness as a service. Our conclusion is that the separate Paving the Way service is no longer a useful or necessary tool for Central Ohio. After July 31st, users and visitors will be redirected to the State of Ohio's OHGO site.

Attachment: Resolution T-8-23

RESOLUTION T-8-23

**"AMENDING THE SFY 2024 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM"**

WHEREAS, following review by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA), the Transportation Policy Committee accepted the MORPC Planning Work Program (PWP) for Fiscal Year 202 by Resolution T-6-23; and

WHEREAS, ODOT is providing MORPC \$300,000 in funding for our mobility management activities with no match required; and

WHEREAS, a new work element as shown in the attachment has been developed to be added to the SFY 2024 PWP; and

WHEREAS, the SFY 2024 PWP includes Work Element 66544-0400, Paving the Way with a budget of \$50,000; and

WHEREAS, MORPC staff analyzed the effectiveness of the site, interviewed several users, and observed the website's stats to determine its usefulness as a service and concluded that the separate Paving the Way service is no longer a useful or necessary tool for Central Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its July 31, 2023 meeting, and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its August 2, 2023 meeting recommended approval to the Transportation Policy Committee; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

- Section 1. That it hereby amends the SFY 2024 Planning Work Program (PWP) to add the work element as shown in the attachment.
- Section 2. That it hereby amends the SFY 2024 Planning Work Program (PWP) to remove work element 66544-0400, Paving the Way.
- Section 3. That staff is authorized to make such changes to the work elements as are needed to satisfy clarifying comments from the Ohio Department of Transportation and U.S. Department of Transportation, but which do not change the intent of an activity.
- Section 4. That this resolution be forwarded to ODOT and the Federal Highway Administration as evidence of acceptance of this amendment by the Transportation Policy Committee.
- Section 5. That the Transportation Policy Committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of the committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Erik J. Janas, Chair  
**MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Prepared by: Transportation Staff  
Attachment: State Fiscal Year 2024 Work Element 67423-3000 Budget Adjustment



## Mobility Management ODOT Regional Supplemental 2023

This work element will support mobility management coordinating programs among public, private and human service transportation providers that serve older adults, people with disabilities and individuals with lower incomes. Mobility management will focus on increasing access to service by increasing awareness, coordinating services and addressing barriers to achieve a more efficient transportation system. MORPC maintains the locally developed Coordinated Plan (Regional Mobility Plan) for the MPO and administers the FTA's Section 5310 funding for the Columbus urbanized area. This element specifically refers to the regional work of the Regional Mobility Plan.

MOPRC works with existing mobility managers in the MORPC MPO area, Licking County, the Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO) counties, ODOT's Human Service Transportation Coordination Regions (HSTCR) 5 and 6 and ODOT's Office of Transit for a more regional multi-county approach to the Coordinated Plan now called the Regional Mobility Plan. The Regional Mobility Plan is a nine-county partnership of ODOT's HSTC Region 6 including Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Licking, Logan, Madison, Pickaway, and Union Counties.

Product: Method	Agency/ies:	Schedule:
Engagement: Work with human service agencies, municipalities, transit agencies, private providers, and the public to address gaps in understanding and awareness of mobility options for older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income populations.	FTA, MORPC, LCATS, COTA, DCT, CORPO in ODOT HSTC Region 6	<i>Progress through June 30, 2024</i>
Increase capacity: Address the gaps and needs identified in the Regional Mobility Plan that impact transportation capacity. Work with current transportation providers and stakeholders to improve coordination and increase capacity	FTA, MORPC, LCATS, COTA, DCT, CORPO in ODOT HSTC Region 6	Progress through June 30, 2024
Information coordination: Facilitate regional collaboration among transit agencies and private transportation providers to develop operational planning for technology that coordinates the transportation system, mode eligibility, and trip arrangement for users.	MORPC, COTA, LCATS, LCT, DCT, PICCA, UCATS, KCT, LFCT	Progress through June 30, 2024
State and local coordination: Convene the Regional Mobility Plan Steering Committee to exchange best practices, provide feedback on urban and rural program progress, to assist in tracking the Regional Mobility Plan Action Plan (Goals and Strategies) providing input.	FTA, MORPC, LCATS, COTA, DCT, CORPO in ODOT HSTC Region 6	Progress through June 30, 2024

<p>Awareness and accessibility: Develop a regional inventory (Gohio Mobility) of accessible transportation options, travel training, scheduling/routing software etc. Track barriers to transportation caused by cost, benefit coverage, geography, language, age, ability, infrastructure and accessibility challenges. Incorporate inclusive transportation in to MORPC's Transportation Demand Management and Active Transportation Plans.</p>	<p>FTA, MORPC, LCATS, COTA, DCT, CORPO in ODOT HSTC Region 6</p>	<p>Progress through June 30, 2024</p>
<p>Training and Professional Development: Develop a skilled team of mobility professionals to tackle the regional goals of the Regional Mobility Plan. Training will include American Public Transit Association (APTA), Ohio Public Transit Association (OPTA), and Easter Seals opportunities among others.</p>	<p>MOPRC</p>	<p>Progress through June 30, 2024</p>

**Related Activities:**

- 5310 Designated Recipient-2023 (see 67413-3000)
- Transit and Human Services Planning (see 60154-3000)
- Transportation Services (Ridesharing) (see 66714-3000)
- Mobility Management (see 67423-3000)

**Budget**

Total Work Element Budget: \$300,000      \$0 FTA \$300,000 ODOT \$0 MORPC  
Spent Previous Year(s): \$0  
Remaining Work Element Budget: \$300,000



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
morpc.org

T. 614. 228.2663  
TTY. 1.800.750.0750  
info@morpc.org

## Memorandum

**TO:** Transportation Policy Committee  
Transportation Advisory Committee  
Community Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Nick Gill, Transportation Study Director, Interim Senior Director of Programming

**DATE:** July 25, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Resolutions  
T-9-23: **“AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CENTRAL OHIO TRANSIT AUTHORITY FOR TRANSIT SUPPORTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM”**  
  
T-10-23: **“RECOGNIZING THE PROPOSED APPORTIONMENT OF SALES TAX REVENUES COLLECTED BY THE CENTRAL OHIO TRANSIT AUTHORITY AS IT RELATES TO THE LINKUS TRANSIT SUPPORTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM FUNDING”**

Launched in 2020, the LinkUS initiative is a collaboration between COTA, the City of Columbus, Franklin County, and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), (together, the LinkUS Partners) to implement high capacity, rapid transit and to expand integrated mobility solutions across Central Ohio. The LinkUS initiative is advancing several strategies included in the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The MTP strategies LinkUS will contribute to include:

- TRAN 3: Implement high capacity transit service along additional corridors
- TRAN 6: Make neighborhoods transit supportive through infrastructure projects
- BP 7: Ensure neighborhoods and employment locations have high comfort connections for pedestrians and bicyclists to the regional pedestrian, bicycle and transit networks

Much work has been completed over the last three years including a LinkUS Framework (2020), LinkUS State of Mobility report (2021), LinkUS Community Action Plan (2022), and significant project development work on the initial three high-capacity transit corridors. Overall, LinkUS is an \$8 billion mobility and development initiative for Central Ohio’s growing future. More information is available at [www.linkuscolumbus.com](http://www.linkuscolumbus.com).

A component of the LinkUS initiative is to increase access to transit through transit supportive infrastructure (TSI). TSI can be described as facilities that improve access to transit such as

**William Murdock, AICP**  
*Executive Director*

**Erik J. Janas**  
*Chair*

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
*Vice Chair*

**Michelle Crandall**  
*Secretary*

pedestrian, bicyclist, and other safety and accessibility enhancements. Legislative amendments in 2022 to the Ohio Revised Code Section (ORC) 306.354 provide for MORPC to oversee and administer a TSI Program including the Policies, the development of a Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and Capital Improvement Budget (CIB).

MORPC in partnership with COTA has been leading meetings and workshops over the past year with jurisdictions throughout the COTA service area to develop the structure and process for the TSI program. The work has progressed to the point that MORPC and COTA are ready to formally set up the TSI program per the ORC and have developed an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) detailing the roles and responsibilities of each organization in the TSI program administration. Resolution T-9-23 will allow MORPC to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with COTA to administer the TSI Program. COTA approved entering into the IGA at their July board meeting.

The LinkUS Partners have also worked to develop a financial plan for the LinkUS initiative. This plan includes COTA going to the voters in November 2024 to increase its sales tax from the current 0.5% to 1%. The financial plan also established apportionment shares of any future revenues from the proposed sales tax increase for each aspect of the LinkUS initiative. The proportion of the sales tax increase to go towards the TSI program is 27.5%. T-10-23 authorizes the Executive Director to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with COTA recognizing the 27.5% proportion the LinkUS Partners have established for the TSI program.

Attachment: Resolutions T-9-23 and T-10-23

RESOLUTION T-9-23

**“AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CENTRAL OHIO TRANSIT AUTHORITY FOR TRANSIT SUPPORTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM”**

WHEREAS, the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) establishes a set of regional transportation goals and objectives, and recommends strategies, including projects, that will maintain, manage, and develop Central Ohio’s transportation system through 2050; and

WHEREAS, specific strategies in the MTP include: Implement high capacity transit service along additional corridors; make neighborhoods transit supportive through infrastructure projects; ensure neighborhoods and employment locations have high comfort connections for pedestrians and bicyclists to the regional pedestrian, bicycle and transit networks; and

WHEREAS, the LinkUS initiative is a collaboration between the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA), the City of Columbus, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), and Franklin County (together, the LinkUS Partners) to implement high capacity, rapid transit and expand integrated mobility solutions across Central Ohio; and

WHEREAS, a subset of the LinkUS initiative is to improve transit service and to increase access to transit through transit supportive infrastructure (TSI), which COTA is enabled to fund pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 306.354; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 306.354 enables MORPC to administer the Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program for COTA within the COTA service boundary; and

WHEREAS, COTA and MORPC have agreed as part of the LinkUS Program to implement a TSI program as outlined in the attached Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for purposes of connecting the Central Ohio community to the existing and future expanded transit system; and

WHEREAS, as outlined in the IGA, MORPC administration of the program will include the TSI Policy including TSI committees, guidelines and evaluation of projects, development of TSI Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and TSI Capital Improvement Budget (CIB); and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its July 31, 2023 meeting, and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its August 2, 2023 meeting recommended approval to the Transportation Policy Committee; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

- Section 1. That it supports the continued collaboration between the LinkUS Partners to develop and implement the LinkUS initiative to improve multimodal transportation and economic opportunity throughout Central Ohio.
- Section 2. That it authorizes the Executive Director to enter into the Intergovernmental Agreement attached between the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and the Central Ohio Transit Authority for the administration of the LinkUS Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program.
- Section 3. That the executive director is authorized to take such other action and execute and deliver such other documents as, acting with the advice of legal counsel, he

shall deem necessary and appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Section 4. That this Commission finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this Commission concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this Commission.

---

Erik J. Janas, Chair

**MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Effective date: August 10, 2023  
Submitted by: Nick Gill, Transportation Study Director, Interim Senior Director of  
Programing  
Prepared by: John Gardocki, Transit & Mobility Manager, Programing  
Authority: Ohio Revised Code Section 713.21  
For action date: August 10, 2023  
Attachment: TSI Intergovernmental Agreement

**MASTER TRANSIT SUPPORTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CENTRAL OHIO  
TRANSIT AUTHORITY AND MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

The Central Ohio Transit Authority (**COTA**) and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (**MORPC**) agree to this Master Transit Supportive Infrastructure Agreement (the **Agreement**) as of August 10, 2023.

**BACKGROUND**

A. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission will develop a transit supportive infrastructure program (the **Program**) under the LinkUS Initiative Action Plan in partnership with COTA.

B. Under the Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program, COTA will provide funds from the new sales tax initiative to fund the program.

C. MORPC serves as the program administrator for the Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program as defined by Ohio Revised Code Section 306.354.

D. In consideration of the mutual obligations and duties described in this Agreement, COTA and MORPC agree to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

**AGREEMENT**

**Section 1. Definitions.**

In addition to the terms defined elsewhere in the body of this Agreement, capitalized terms used in this Agreement where the rules of grammar would not otherwise require capitalization are defined in the attached **Exhibit A**.

**Section 2. Term.**

The Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program's first term shall commence August 10, 2023 (the **Commencement Date**) and shall end, when terminated by both parties (the **Termination Date**).

This Agreement shall be effective from its date through and including the Termination Date.

**Section 3. Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program Funding.**

(a) *COTA Sales Tax*. The Central Ohio Transit Authority Board of Trustees will be



asking voters to approve a new funding solution to pay for transit resources within their service area boundary at a date to be determined. Current 0.25% permanent and 0.25% ten-year renewal sales tax receipts fund COTA operations. A new request to COTA service area voters would make a full 1.0% sales tax collection permanent. COTA will provide funding for the Transit Supportive Infrastructure program based on revenue received from the new increased levy, if passed.

(b) *Additional Funding Sources.* Eligible entities for program funding will/may utilize other local, state, private, or federal resources to fund their projects above and beyond Transit Supportive Infrastructure funding.

#### **Section 4. Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program Administration Costs.**

The annual administrative costs of the Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program are hereby determined to be:

2023 - \$0

2024 - \$100,000

2025 - \$200,000

2026 and subsequent years administrative costs will be subjected to a 3.0% annual increase in rate.

The discounted rate for 2023 and 2024 reflects the limited amount of work due to the sales tax increase not going before COTA service area voters.

COTA will be expending a portion of the Transit Supportive Infrastructure funding for transit authority TSI administration and auditing purposes.

If COTA's service area changes during the term of this agreement, the parties agree to negotiate in good faith the Transit Supportive Infrastructure program administrative costs.

#### **Section 5. Payment of Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program Administrative Costs.**

MORPC shall bill installments of the cost of the Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program administrative costs to COTA January 1 of each year beginning in 2024 (each a Bill Date). COTA shall remit payment by February 1.

COTA shall utilize local match for administrative costs in 2024. Subsequent bills from MORPC to COTA will only be sent if the COTA Sales Tax Levy passes in the November 2024 General Election. This agreement will automatically terminate if the COTA sales tax ballot initiative or any part of the ballot initiative related to Transit Supportive Infrastructure fails or is subsequently removed and/or terminated unless COTA and MORPC mutually agree in

writing to continue the agreement.

#### **Section 6. COTA Service Plan.**

COTA will provide a service plan to be utilized by the Transit Supportive Infrastructure Committees to plan the five-year capital improvement plan. The COTA Short Range Transit Plan (**SRTP**) will be provided to the Committees every two years as COTA updates it to be used in the merit criteria for project selection. Exhibit C of the agreement shall include a map of the COTA service area, fixed route system, and the most current SRTP.

#### **Section 7. Transit Supportive Infrastructure Committees.**

The Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program will be made up of governing bodies including a Leadership Committee (**LC**), Technical Working Groups (**TWG**), and a Technical Coordinating Committee (**TCC**) to carry out various duties as assigned.

The COTA Board will approve the committee structure guidelines as set forth in Exhibit B. If municipalities outside of COTA's current service area join the COTA service area and subsequent sales tax zone, COTA shall determine how to incorporate them into the Transit Supportive Infrastructure committee structure if at all.

#### **Section 8. Transit Supportive Infrastructure Definition and Guidelines.**

The definition and project eligibility guidelines for the program will be decided on by the LinkUS partners and Transit Supportive Infrastructure entities through a collaborative approach. The document shall be included as Exhibit D and updated at least every four years alongside the development of the CIB and CIP.

Should there be a discrepancy about project appropriateness to meet the definition, the ultimate approval shall be up to the COTA.

#### **Section 9. Capital Improvement Plan and Capital Improvement Budget.**

A Capital Improvement Plan (**CIP**) and Capital Improvement Budget (**CIB**) shall be maintained by MORPC administrative staff dedicated to the Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program.

#### **Section 10. COTA Staff Responsibilities.**

COTA shall provide a main point of contact to coordinate administrative efforts

between MORPC and the COTA Board of Trustees.

COTA roles include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Federal compliance with the FTA and FHWA
- Financial structure to coordinate grants/reimbursements
- Compiling grant agreements with each subrecipient
- Providing COTA service area maps and the Short-Range Transit Plan for development to the MORPC liaison
- Subrecipient compliance
- COTA Board coordination
- Participation in all Transit Supportive Infrastructure committees and administrative functions
- Submit annual sales tax revenue collections for development of the CIB

### **Section 11. MORPC Staff Responsibilities.**

MORPC is responsible for overseeing the administration of the program.

MORPC roles include but are not limited to the following:

- Coordination with COTA Transit Supportive Infrastructure liaison
- Administering and overseeing the Transit Supportive Infrastructure program
- Convening all Transit Supportive Infrastructure committees
- Guiding the committees to recommend Transit Supportive Infrastructure policies/guidelines
- Developing and maintaining the CIB and CIP
- Developing the data and evaluation criteria for project selection

MORPC commits to one (1) full-time staff member to administer the program as well as additional staff support from the Programming, Data & Mapping, and Communications & Engagement teams.

### **Section 12. COTA Board of Trustees Responsibilities.**

The COTA Board is responsible for approving the policies and guidelines, the CIP, and the CIB. COTA staff will negotiate individual contracts granting municipalities the funds to implement Transit Supportive Infrastructure projects. The COTA Board will have the power to approve or decline the individual contracts granting municipalities the funds to implement Transit Supportive Infrastructure projects.

### **Section 13. MORPC Transportation Policy Committee Responsibilities.**

The Transportation Policy Committee will review and incorporate the Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program into the metropolitan transportation planning process and associated documents, specifically, the Transportation Improvement Program, as appropriate.

[Signature Page Immediately Follows]

THE CENTRAL OHIO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Joanna M. Pinkerton

Title: President/ CEO

THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: William Murdock

Title: Executive Director

[Signature Page to Master Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program Agreement]

**EXHIBIT A**

## Definitions

- A. **COTA** means, Central Ohio Transit Authority
- B. **MORPC** means, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
- C. **Agreement** means memorandum of understanding between COTA and MORPC for the Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program
- D. **Program** means the agreed upon policies, structure, and guidelines for transit supportive infrastructure
- E. **Commencement Date** means the official start date of the agreement between COTA and MORPC
- F. **Termination Date** means the date COTA and MORPC agree to terminate the agreement together.
- G. **Fund** Those funds provided by COTA, and any other entity for Transit Supportive Infrastructure to MORPC for the purposes listed in this Agreement.
- H. **Bill Date** means the annual date MORPC will bill COTA for administrative costs
- I. **S RTP** means the COTA Short Range Transit Plan
- J. **LC** means the Leadership Committee
- K. **TWG** means the Technical Working Group
- L. **TCC** means the Technical Coordinating Committee
- M. **CIP** means the Capital Improvement Plan
- N. **CIB** means the Capital Improvement Budget
- O. **Notice Address** means:

As to COTA:	Central Ohio Transit Authority 33 North High Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 Attn: Joanna M. Pinkerton
-------------	---

As to MORPC:	Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
--------------	---------------------------------------

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Attn: William Murdock

**EXHIBIT B****COTA Transit Service Area Map****EXHIBIT C****COTA Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP)****EXHIBIT D****Ohio Revised Code**

HB 338 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

(C) A regional transit authority to which this section applies may do any of the following:

(2) Use the proceeds of a tax levied under section 5739.023 of the Revised Code for the general construction or maintenance of roads, bridges, greenways, pathways, bikeways, or pedestrian underpasses or overpasses related to the provision of service by the regional transit authority that do not otherwise constitute a transit facility;

(D) Prior to funding projects described in division (C)(2) of this section, a regional transit authority shall enter into agreements with the applicable counties, municipal corporations, and townships located within the regional transit authority's territorial boundaries to fund such projects.

(1) The regional transit authority shall submit each agreement for approval to the governing board of the applicable designated metropolitan planning organization.

(2) The metropolitan planning organization shall, on at least an annual basis, review and approve or deny any agreement submitted to it by an affirmative vote of its governing board and shall notify the regional transit authority of the approval or denial.

(3) The regional transit authority shall expend funds only as authorized in an approved agreement



RESOLUTION T-10-23

**“RECOGNIZING THE PROPOSED APPORTIONMENT OF SALES TAX REVENUES COLLECTED BY THE CENTRAL OHIO TRANSIT AUTHORITY AS IT RELATES TO THE LINKUS TRANSIT SUPPORTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM FUNDING”**

WHEREAS, the LinkUS initiative is a collaboration between the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA), the City of Columbus, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), and Franklin County (together, the LinkUS Partners) to implement high capacity, rapid transit and expand integrated mobility solutions across Central Ohio; and

WHEREAS, a subset of the LinkUS initiative is to improve transit service and to increase access to transit through transit supportive infrastructure (TSI); and

WHEREAS, Section 306.30 to 306.50 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) vests the COTA Board of Trustees with the power to oversee COTA, including service planning, financial management and to levy and collect sales tax revenue within its service boundary, which is currently levied at a combined 0.5% rate; and

WHEREAS, the LinkUS initiative is expected to be funded, in part, by a sales tax increase at a rate to be finalized and approved by electors within the COTA service area; and

WHEREAS, any tax increase proposed by the COTA Board of Trustees must be approved by electors within the transit service boundary pursuant to Section 306.70 of the ORC; and

WHEREAS, ORC Section 306.354 allows for sales tax revenue to be use for transit supportive infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, T-9-23 authorizes MORPC to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with COTA to administer the TSI program which helps move forward specific transit, bike, and pedestrian related strategies included in the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the LinkUS Partners, in creating the financial plan for the LinkUS initiative, established apportionment shares of any future revenues from the proposed sales tax increase for each aspect of the LinkUS initiative, including 27.5% of the increased sales tax for the TSI Program; and

WHEREAS, MORPC and COTA have created a Memorandum of Understanding (attached) documenting the 27.5% proportion of an increased sales tax to the LinkUS TSI program; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its July 31, 2023 meeting, and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its August 2, 2023 meeting recommended approval to the Transportation Policy Committee; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION PLOICY COMMITTEE OF THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

- Section 1. That it supports the continued collaboration between the LinkUS Partners to develop and implement the LinkUS initiative to improve multimodal transportation and economic opportunity throughout Central Ohio
- Section 2. That it authorizes the Executive Director to sign a Memorandum of Understanding establishing 27.5% of the collections from the proposed sales tax increase to be dedicated to the LinkUS TSI Program.
- Section 3. That this set proportion remains in effect for the duration of the program unless

modified in scope, amount, or time as agreed upon by the LinkUS Partners and approved by the COTA Board of Trustees.

Section 4. That the Transportation Policy Committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this Commission concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this Commission.

---

Erik Janas, Chair  
**MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Effective date: August 10, 2023  
Submitted by: Nick Gill, Transportation Study Director, Interim Senior Director of Programming  
Prepared by: John Gardocki, Transit & Mobility Manager, Programming  
Authority: Ohio Revised Code Section 713.21  
For action date: August 10, 2023  
Attachment: Memorandum of Understanding

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CENTRAL OHIO TRANSIT AUTHORITY (COTA) AND MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MORPC)**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) and the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) represents a mutual understanding and continuing partnership to financially support the Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) program as part of the overall LinkUS initiative (LinkUS).

### **1.0 PARTIES**

This understanding is between MORPC and COTA, which individually may be referred to as a “Party” or collectively as “Parties” to this MOU.

### **2.0 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

- 2.1** LinkUS is a collaboration between MORPC, COTA, the City of Columbus, and Franklin County (together, the LinkUS Partners) to implement high capacity, rapid transit and expand integrated mobility solutions across Central Ohio. A subset of the LinkUS initiative is to improve transit service and to increase access to transit through transit supportive infrastructure (TSI), which COTA is enabled to fund pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 306.354.
- 2.2** MORPC serves as the program administrator for the TSI Program as defined by ORC Section 306.354. The terms and conditions governing the administration of the program are executed in a separate master service agreement between MORPC and COTA.
- 2.3** LinkUS is expected to be funded, in part, by a sales tax increase at a rate to be finalized and approved by electors within the COTA service area. ORC Section 306.35(H) enables COTA to levy and collect sales tax revenue within its service boundary, which is currently levied at a combined 0.5% rate. Any tax increase proposed by the COTA Board of Trustees must be approved by electors within the transit service boundary pursuant to Section 306.70 of the ORC.
- 2.4** The LinkUS Partners, in creating the financial plan for LinkUS, established apportionment shares of any future revenues from the proposed sales tax increase for each program in the LinkUS initiative. The TSI Program was planned to be funded through allocating 27.5% of the sales tax increase above the current rate from the 2024 approval of the 0.5% levy increase.

### **3.0 SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES**

- 3.1** COTA will be paying MORPC administration costs as spelled out in the IGA. COTA will be expending funds in the administration of the TSI program. Both sets of costs will come out of the 27.5% of the additional 0.5% sales tax revenue collections, if approved by voters in the 2024 election.
- 3.2** COTA will allocate the remaining portion of the 27.5% of the additional 0.5% sales tax revenue collections, if approved by voters in the 2024 election, to the TSI Program. This does not apply to the prior 0.25% permanent sales tax or the prior 0.25% temporary sales tax that is being made permanent.
- 3.3** Through this MOU, MORPC acknowledges and supports the establishment of the TSI Program and that this portion of the 27.5% of the additional sales tax revenue will be allocated to the TSI Program.

### **4.0 TERMS OF MEMORANDUM**

- 4.1** This MOU shall commence upon execution by all parties, but funds shall not be allocated unless and until the 2024 approval of the 0.5% levy increase.
- 4.2** This MOU shall automatically terminate if part or all of the COTA levy measure is changed, amended, or overturned by the Board of Elections, the Ohio Secretary of State, any Court, or any other governmental entity with the ability to do so, including, but not limited to the state legislature.

- 4.3 This MOU shall automatically terminate if state law changes in any way that may directly impact COTA’s ability to fund or operate the TSI program.
- 4.4 This MOU shall be construed and interpreted and the rights of the parties determined in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio.
- 4.5 This MOU constitutes the entire agreement among the parties, and no changes or modifications to this MOU shall be made unless agreed to by all parties to this MOU in writing. Specifically, any changes to the 27.5% allocation referenced in Section 2.4 must also be approved by the COTA Board of Trustees and MORPC Commission.
- 4.6 This MOU may be amended by a separate writing signed by all of the parties. Each amendment shall be incorporated as if fully rewritten into this agreement.

**5.0 AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES AND DATES**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
 William Murdock  
 Executive Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Central Ohio Transit Authority  
 Joanna M. Pinkerton  
 President/CEO

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## 2024-2050 COLUMBUS AREA METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

### Plan Development Status Update - August 2023

Development of the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Columbus Urbanized Area is underway. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is the long-range planning document that identifies transportation priorities, strategies, and projects over the next two decades. It is updated on a four-year cycle. We coordinate the development of the MTP with communities throughout Central Ohio and with other local, state, and federal agencies.

The MTP makes the greater Columbus region eligible to receive a large amount of federal transportation funding to improve, maintain, and operate public transit, highways, bikeways, sidewalks, and related facilities. Transportation projects must be included in the MTP to be eligible to receive federal funding.

The following is a summary of the components that make up the MTP, and a status update for each item. Additional information can be found at [www.morpc.org/mtp](http://www.morpc.org/mtp)

#### Goals & Objectives

The MTP is developed based on a set of regional goals. The goals guide the development of the MTP and give direction to investments in the regional transportation system and were updated for the 2024-2050 version of the plan. For each of these goals, measurable objectives are developed, that are intended to track regional progress toward advancing the MTP goals, and for developing criteria for evaluating strategies and projects to be included in the MTP. The regional goals were adopted by the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and Transportation Policy Committee during their November 2022 meetings, and corresponding objectives were adopted by these committees in February 2023 following a public comment period.

#### Population & Employment Forecasts

In February 2023 MORPC published county-level population and employment projections for 2050 for 15 central Ohio counties. This was the result of months of research and analyses that included data modeling, studying historical trends, and consulting with industry experts. Based on this research and analysis, the region is expected to have a population of 3.15 million people, 1.2 million households, and 1.6 million jobs by 2050. County by county information can be viewed on the population resource hub on the MORPC website.

For the ten counties that are located within the MORPC, LCATS, or CORPO transportation planning areas, MORPC has a process in place to distribute the forecasted population and employment in each county to smaller geographies called Traffic Analysis Zones or (TAZs).



## 2024-2050 COLUMBUS AREA METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

This process starts by establishing base year (2021) estimates of population and employment based on parcel level land use review, decennial Census data, building permit data, and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data. Additionally, local future land use policies and plans are reviewed to identify where local communities are focusing growth and development. The county-level control totals for households and jobs are then distributed to TAZ's according to the local policies and plans as well as other factors that attract or deter development such as environmental constraints and known transportation and development projects of regional impact. The draft TAZ-level forecasts are then made available for review by local planners.

The local review process ended on June 30, 2023. The MORPC team incorporated the comments and have developed a draft TAZ-level household and employment forecast. The TAZ-level forecasts will be presented to CAC, TAC, and Transportation Policy committee for adoption in September.

The TAZ-level household, population, and employment information, both existing and forecast, will be used to further identify transportation needs and evaluate transportation projects for inclusion in the MTP.

### Strategy Development and Candidate Projects

The primary component of the MTP is the set of strategies and priority projects. Strategies are the action items that will move the region forward in advancing the established goals and guide transportation investments. The strategies identified in the MTP are intended to be fulfilled by MORPC and other regional and local planning partners. Strategies will be developed that will help the advance the region toward the targets set for each of the performance measures. These typically include strategies for managing the existing transportation system, strategies for developing or expanding the transportation system, and strategies that may not address the transportation system directly, but related infrastructure or facilities that impact the transportation system.

A subset of the transportation system management and development strategies are the priority transportation projects that will manage or expand the transportation system. These projects are identified through a review of state, regional, and local plans and activities. Projects that have already been identified through a planning process are considered as candidates for inclusion the MTP. Additionally, the public is invited to submit project suggestions, or identify locations where there are safety, connectivity, or access concerns and a project should be considered for inclusion in the MTP.



## 2024-2050 COLUMBUS AREA METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

A candidate project webmap is now available for public review and comment at <https://www.morpc.org/2024-2050-metropolitan-transportation-plan/>. The map allows users to publicly comment on candidate projects and make project suggestions. The map will be available through September 8, 2023 at 5:00 PM. Information collected via the webmap will be incorporated into the project evaluation process.

### Project Evaluation

Not all the candidate projects can be included in the MTP due to the fiscal constraint requirement. To prioritize the projects that will best help the region advance the established goals, quantitative and qualitative evaluation criteria are developed and utilized. The project evaluation criteria are directly related to the goals, objectives and performance measures and are applied to each candidate project being considered for inclusion in the MTP. By applying these criteria, each project can be evaluated based on its ability to help the region meet its adopted goals, objectives and targets. It will also be a tool in prioritizing projects in the fiscally constrained MTP.

The evaluation score resulting from this process is just one piece of information used to determine the projects to be included in the MTP. The projects to be included in the MTP will be shaped by member and public input. This fall, the initial list of projects proposed to be included will be shared with members and the public for comments.

### Fiscal Constraint

The MTP is required by USDOT to be fiscally constrained. This means that the projects included in the MTP must be financially feasible based on project cost estimates and a regional revenue forecast. To ensure fiscal balance of the plan, cost estimates are developed for each candidate project, and adjustments are made for inflation. A revenue forecast is also developed to estimate how much funding will be available to the region for transportation projects through 2050. Public investments are assumed at the federal, state, and local levels, and private sector investments are also considered. These revenue sources are assumed to be no less than current levels of investment and grow incrementally through 2050.

The financial forecast for the 2024-2050 MTP is currently underway and is one tool that is used to determine which candidate projects get included in the MTP.





## 2024-2050 COLUMBUS AREA METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

### Community Engagement and MTP Adoption

Beginning in the late fall 2023, upon publishing the draft list of strategies and priority projects, MORPC team members plan to visit each MPO community to share the proposed projects and provide an opportunity to discuss the local projects included in each community.

Concurrently, a complete MTP document will be drafted, including technical appendices, and be made available for public review and comment in early Spring.

Feedback received from local communities and the public will be incorporated as appropriate and the final 2024-2050 MTP will be presented to CAC, TAC, and Transportation Policy Committee for adoption in May 2024.