MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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NOTICE OF A MEETING

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

August 28, 2023
5:30 p.m.

Microsoft Teams meeting
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Phone Conference ID: 759 118 82#

AGENDA

5:30 p.m. **Welcome & Introductions –** LaGrieta Acheampong, Chair

5:32 p.m. **Approval of July 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

5:40 p.m. **Resolutions**

- Resolution T-11-23: Amending the State Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program – Thomas Graham, MORPC
- Resolution T-12-23: Establishing Priorities for Central Ohio Candidate Projects Submitted in 2023 for TRAC Funding – Elliott Lewis, MORPC
- Resolution T-13-23: Adopting the 2024 Technical Assistance Program Guide – Jordan Petrov, MORPC
- Resolution T-14-23: Accepting the Planning Work Program Completion Report for State Fiscal Year 2023 – Nick Gill, MORPC

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Erik J. Janas
Chair

Chris Amorose Groomes
Vice Chair

Michelle Crandall
Secretary

6:00 p.m. **2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

- 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update – Maria Schaper, MORPC
- Resolution T-15-23: Adopting the 2050 Forecast Household and Employment Variables – Maria Schaper, MORPC

6:10 p.m. **Informational Items**

- Community Based Planning Assistance – Jonathan Miller, MORPC
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding Opportunities Update – Preston Frick, MORPC

6:30 p.m. **Other Business**

- Roundtable Discussion

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

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

The next CAC meeting is
October 30, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Members Present

Acheampong, LaGrieta	Ilmi, Naima	Roehm, Bob
Bohnert, Eli	Needleman, William	Rollins, Helen
Curlis, William	Paul, David	Synk, Erin
Girves, Catherine	Rist, John	Weiss, Ira

Guests

Ellingsen, Kelsey	Walton, Sara

MORPC Staff

Gardocki, John	Lewis, Elliott	Rapp, Melissa (online)
Gill, Nick	Miller, Jonathan	Ratliff, Chuck
Graham, Thomas	Noll, Jennifer	Schaper, Maria
Hampton, Ralonda	Oldroyd, Shelly	
Jurist, Niel	Petrov, Jordan	

I. Welcome & Introductions

- Chair Acheampong called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. There was a quorum present.

II. Approval of June 2023 Meeting Minutes

- Chair Acheampong asked for a motion to approve the May 31, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Weiss moved; Mr. Curlis seconded; and the motion passed**.**

III. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report

- Ms. Noll began the report by informing the committee of the following:
  - Registration is now open for the Summit on Sustainability, which will take place at the Hilton Columbus Downtown on Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023. Individual and group registrations, including 10-person tables, are available. We also have a generous sponsorship package available. If your community or organization is interested in sponsoring the Summit, please let us know. Visit MORPC's website for more details on registration and sponsorship opportunities.
  - MORPC continues to work with our regional partners to identify federal funding opportunities for clean energy, electric vehicle (EV) charging, and sustainability. MORPC recently submitted a grant application for the U.S. DOT Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant. MORPC's collaborative grant, the Mid-Ohio Regional Equity for Electric Vehicle

Stations (MORE EVS) included City of Columbus, Smart Columbus, Electrification Coalition, AEP Ohio, and HNTB. The MORE EVS proposal requested $15M with an additional $6.9M 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 with a focus on urban and rural underserved areas and building out mobility hubs. MORPC anticipates learning the status of the MORE EVS application by Fall 2023.

- In June and July, MORPC issued 11 Air Quality Alerts. Eight air quality alerts were issued for PM2.5 and three were issued for ozone. The highest Air Quality Index (AQI) days occurred toward the end of June, as a cold front transported dense smoke from the Canadian wildfires into the region. On June 28, 2023, an AQI value of 179 was observed, marking the first day with Unhealthy (red) AQI levels in the region since August 2003, the first in 20 years.
- The Regional Data Agenda is MORPC's detailed plan guiding its work as a regional leader in data. Members of the Regional Data Advisory Committee supported a recent process to update the agenda. A resolution to adopt the updated Regional Data Agenda will go before the Commission on August 10, 2023. Look for updated information on MORPC's website after the Commission meeting. If you are interested in getting involved in the Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC) working groups, please reach out to Dave Dixon at ddixon@morpc.org.
- MORPC has formed an internal artificial intelligence working group which is aimed at exploring and leveraging artificial intelligence and machine learning, while attempting to mitigate misuse and unintended consequences. This group will primarily serve MORPC's internal departments, RDAC, and MORPC member organizations. You can contact the team with questions or recommendations by emailing aiteam@morpc.org.

- Mr. Gill continued the report, informing the committee of the following:
  - The statewide Ohio Commute Commuter Challenge will be held September 11-24, 2023. Log your sustainable trips for a chance to win prizes. Register at gohiocommute.com.
  - Sign up for the LinkUS newsletter at http://linkuscolumbus.com/contact/.
  - MORPC is hosting the annual Central Ohio Transportation Safety Forum on Thursday, September 21, 2023. More details will be announced in the coming weeks. Reach out to Lauren Cardoni at lcardoni@morpc.org with any questions.
  - Several federal discretionary grant programs that are part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, were mentioned in the written report. MORPC is working on tracking what has been received and what has been applied for. More information is forthcoming. Mr. Paul inquired about the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Program. Ms. Noll answered that this is a relatively new program which combines two similar grants into one, with a focus on reconnecting communities that have been cut off from their municipalities by other infrastructure investments and working with communities to restore access and improve mobility and transportation options. More information will be sent to the committee.

- Transit Agency Reports
  - Mr. Gill provided a Delaware County Transit update, stating that:
    - June was a record ridership month with 11,000+ trips.
    - The first Steering Committee for their Strategic Plan will be held on August 1, 2023, and a pending public meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2023.
    - The new dispatch software will be launched on September 5, 2023.
    - Letters of Intent were submitted for five projects through the Workforce Transportation Partnership Program.
    - DCT submitted applications for eight replacement vehicles for Ohio Transit Partnership Program (OTP2) FY 2024 and are awaiting that award to then submit for the OTP2 SY 2025 ask.
  - Ms. Ellingsen informed the committee of the following:
    - In May, COTA had meetings to discuss proposed service changes. In August, another public meeting will be held to discuss those changes in a formal setting. The first meeting will be held on August 17, 2023 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and then again on August 22, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. More information can be found on COTA's website, Business Community – Public Meetings. Although a virtual option is available, those interested are encouraged to attend in person.
    - There was recently a story in the Columbus Underground regarding COTA adding service due to a successful hiring event. However, they are still experiencing worker shortage.
    - The Zoo Bus has been extended through October 31, 2023.
    - Day passes can now be purchased through the Uber app.
    - At their board meeting, COTA finalized the Short-range Transit Plan. A copy can be found on cotasrtc.com.
    - Also at this meeting, LinkUS resolutions were passed, bringing the concept closer to reality. One involved the West Broad Street BRT Reasonable Financial Plan and Rating Request in addition to the agreements between COTA and MORPC.
    - Mr. Rist asked if there is an intent to provide real-time online scheduling at the bus stations. Ms. Ellingsen replied that they are discussing that for the LinkUS corridors, but they were not sure to what extent that would be true for areas outside of that.
    - Mr. Roehm asked if COTA sends email messages with information about service changes and public meetings. Ms. Ellingsen stated that COTA relies heavily on the media and others to get the word out.
    - Chair Acheampong asked if the partnership with Uber is attempting to engage a population not currently being reached. Ms. Ellingsen replied that the intent is to make it more accessible to ride with COTA and for integrating services.
    - Mr. Needleman asked where the funding for Transit Supportive Infrastructure is coming from. Ms. Ellingsen replied that just under 1/3 of the proceeds from the future levy would go towards funding.

- Central Ohio Workforce Transit Plan
  - Ms. Walton provided background on the workforce transit plan, stating that after the Intel announcement, ODOT convened a group of global stakeholders to talk about all the projects that needed to be built to accommodate Intel. This discussion produced a list of transit and roadway projects but were ideas that were not vetted or discussed with the communities or had any data analysis.
  - This study will identify roadways for dedicated transit lanes, identify near, mid, and long-term transit service needs, and locations for mobility hubs.
  - Due to constraints of transit agencies being set up by county, it becomes cost prohibitive when travel crosses county lines. For example, depending on the starting location, it could cost upwards of approximately $365 daily to ride transit to the Etna/Pataskala area.
  - Mr. Rist asked for clarification. Ms. Walton clarified that when county lines are crossed, it becomes a per-mile cost.
  - Key corridors, trip generators, and attractors were shown. Potential transit hub locations include Johnstown, the COTA New Albany Park-and-Ride, SR-161/Mink Rd, and the Logistics Hub in Etna/Pataskala.
  - The next steps are to refine and evaluate the scenarios, follow discussions with individual Steering Committee members, and to present the scenario evaluation results at the Steering Committee meeting in October 2023.
  - Ms. Girves inquired about first mile/last mile plans for those not driving to a transit station. Ms. Walton replied that presently, the focus has been Licking County wanting micro transit, but not being ready for a local service. Micro transit is not currently being proposed all over the region.
  - Mr. Rist asked about rail travel. Ms. Walton stated that Intel does not want rail because the vibrations would affect the chip manufacturing process. For now, the focus is transit, but the decision to not use rail is not a permanent one.
  - Mr. Rist stated that executives may not want to ride a bus. Ms. Walton replied that it may be an interesting development given that international, east, and west coast workers may not be accustomed to driving and will appreciate the transit. Mr. Gardocki stated that initial analysis of the existing Intel sites on the mode shift in Arizona is in the single digit percentage for using alternative transportation. However, the site in Oregon is almost up to 30%. It all depends on what is available, and we need to commit to change.
  - Ms. Rollins asked if there have been discussions with surrounding towns that are feeding into Newark. Ms. Walton stated there have been some conversations and it is something that will develop over time. The focus has been Hebron and Granville, which are the population centers.

IV. Resolutions

- Resolution T-8-23: Amending the SFY 24 Planning Work Program
  - Mr. Gill summarized the resolution stating that this amendment adds a new work element for additional mobility management activities, with $300,00 in funding from ODOT. In addition, this resolution removes the Paving the Way work element. Paving the Way has been replaced with other technologies and platforms. The website was sunset on July 31, 2023. Ms. Jurist mentioned that the site now redirects to the OhGo website.
  - Chair Acheampong asked for a motion to approve. Ms. Girves moved; Mr. Weiss seconded; and the motion passed.

- 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"
  - Mr. Lewis informed the committee of the following:
    - T-9-23 is related to the Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) program, which is a sub-set of the LinkUS initiative.
    - This resolution authorizes MORPC's Executive Director to enter into an agreement with COTA for the TSI program.
    - The TSI program is being allowed because the Ohio Revised Code was amended to allow COTA to fund infrastructure products and for MORPC to administer the program.
  - Chair Acheampong asked for a motion to approve. Ms. Girves moved; Ms. Synk seconded; and the motion passed.

- 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"
  - Mr. Lewis informed the committee of the following:
    - T-10-23 is also related to the LinkUS Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program.
    - This resolution 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.
    - Mr. Rist asked if the 27.5% proportion is locked in. Mr. Lewis replied that this is what the MOU would do. Any changes would need to be approved by MORPC's Commission and COTA's Board of Trustees.
    - Mr. Rist asked if the balance is for construction. Mr. Lewis replied that the balance is for the rest of the LinkUS program, which includes the high-capacity transit corridors and other transit services.
    - Mr. Rist asked what happens in the event of cost overruns. Mr. Lewis replied that those costs would be included in the overall capital improvement budget. Mr. Gill added that it is a long-term project and some corridors, like West Broad, have been developed without funds from this source. Further, they may need to delay

corridors or seek other funding sources if it ends up costing more, but it would not result in an adjustment to percent.
    - Mr. Rist asked if language was considered that expressed “up to 27.5%”. Mr. Lewis replied that it is a fixed amount. Mr. Gardocki added that 27.5% was arrived at from a six-month negotiation with the LinkUS partners.
    - Language in Sections 2 & 3 of this resolution was changed from the version sent in the meeting packet.
- Chair Acheampong asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Weiss moved; Mr. Paul seconded; and the motion passed.

V. 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

- 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update
    - Ms. Schaper informed the committee of the MTP plan update stating:
        - The MTP identifies regional transportation strategies and projects. It is a long-range plan spanning 20+ years and is fiscally constrained. A formal document is submitted to ODOT and U.S. DOT every four years.
        - It is expected that by 2050, we will have a population of approximately 3.5 million.
        - We work in a geographic unit called traffic analysis zones which are a geography about the similarities in size to census tracts. It's the unit of geography that we use in our transportation demand modeling and a lot of our you know technical processes.
        - A base year estimate was developed based on the decennial census population. Other factors include building permit data, quarterly census of employment and workforce, and parcel-level land use review.
        - Draft forecasts were reviewed with local jurisdictions to compare the model outcomes with their local land use plans. Comments from this collaboration were incorporated.
        - These draft forecasts include household growth, job density, job growth, all based on land use plans and attractiveness factors.
        - These drafts forecasts will be brought forward for approval at the September meeting.
        - The next steps are to adopt the TAZ-level forecasts in September, have a draft list of strategies and projects in November, perform community presentations November 2023 through January 2024, and finally, bring the MTP forward for adoption in May of 2024.
        - The web map used for review and comment can be accessed at morc.org/mtp2050.
        - Mr. Rist stated that they read an article regarding the outer belt from interstate 71 to 70 proposal from a New Albany organization. Ms. Schaper clarified that this proposal is from a New Albany organization and not New Albany the jurisdiction and is uncertain of its origin. ODOT is starting a study to look at thoroughfare planning activity. They will be studying the needs from a higher level to look at the north-south connections between 70 and the western,

northwestern, Licking County area. Ms. Schaper expressed that this concept is something that needs a lot more study.

- Mr. Paul asked if one of the data elements being considered is the impact of Cleveland Ave bus rapid transit line and if any reports exist which show how it performed. Ms. Schaper stated that the Cleveland Ave. CMAX corridor is different than the more robust plans for corridors such as West Broad, East Main, or Olentangy River. Ms. Girves expressed concern with referring to Cleveland Ave. CMAX as bus rapid transit.
- Referring to the draft Job Growth map, Mr. Needleman asked if those areas that are not projected to grow are going to be included so that they are able to flourish as the region continues to grow. Ms. Schaper replied that one of our goals is to create sustainable neighborhoods. Based on those goals, we create performance measures and the project valuation criteria, which includes investing in transportation infrastructure, which we want to build where it serves the highest number of people.

VI. Informational Items

- TRAC Project Prioritization and Public Comment Update
  - Mr. Lewis informed the committee of the following:
    - The MTP feeds into how we are evaluating the TRAC applications in this cycle.
    - The Transportation Review Advisory Council oversees the allocation of major new construction program funds from ODOT. They have an annual cycle and now, we are going through the prioritization process of those applications in our area.
    - Statewide, there were 29 applications requesting $743 million. We had 10 applications from our region submitted this year totaling $349 million, six of which requested construction dollars.
    - Two of the highest are the Phase 2D and 3 I-70/I-71 Downtown Ramp Up projects totaling $200 million.
    - The LinkUS W. Broad St. BRT Line is the first transit project submitted within our region, requesting $39.1 million.
    - Those requesting funding for project development are not designed yet; they are still going through the planning process.
    - All projects in the MTP amount to $30.3 billion across different project types, and TRAC funding serves as a key source for implementation.
    - There are eight current applications right now that are freeway related within our MPO area, with 11 additional projects that have had previous TRAC funding, whether it's project development or construction in recent years, and this is spread out all over the region.
    - Currently, the Alum Creek Drive application in the Rickenbacker area was previously funded and was the Point Project up in Delaware, which widened under a railroad underpass to increase access to downtown Delaware along US 36 State Route 37.

- When we are evaluating these applications, we have a prioritization process that includes a performance measures analysis that has performance measures that align with each of the MTP goals.
- There is also a public comment period that helps to show what the local priorities are.
- For each of the MTP goals, we have specific measured and modelled performance measures.
- The public comment period ends at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 11, 2023.
- At the September meeting, a recommended list of prioritizations will be presented and brought forth to the Commission on September 8, 2023.

- Technical Assistance Program SFY 24 Draft Program Guide
  - Mr. Petrov informed the committee of the following:
    - In Berlin Township, we're conducting an active transportation project prioritization study. They recently had a second stakeholder workshop.
    - For Brown Township, we're assessing potential for an East/West trail connection across that community. A well-attended public open house was recently held where a considerable amount of positive feedback was received. The public survey is live. Reach out to Jordan for the link.
    - A safety action plan is being developed for the City of Delaware. The second stakeholder workshop was held where the draft language for the plan was reviewed.
    - For the City of Grove City, we're gathering information on the envisioned extension of the Scioto trail from Great Southern to Scioto Grove. Discussions with the City of Columbus and Columbus Metro Parks on this effort is planned for August 4, 2023.
    - For Violet Township, we are looking at active transportation connections around Pickerington Parks and Blacklick Creek Trail. A second workshop was completed where evaluation criteria for prioritizing opportunities were discussed.
    - Ms. Girves asked how origins and destinations play into the prioritization and evaluation process. Mr. Petrov replied that important origins and destinations are noted by clients and depend more on the scope and what the origin and destination points are.
    - Ms. Girves further commented that oftentimes our user groups tend to be overrepresented in conversations about active transportation that tend to be disproportionately recreational. It’s important that we look at the priorities particularly as it relates to connecting people to transit. Mr. Petrov replied that we do have a service type specifically for Transit Supportive Infrastructure, but no communities have applied yet.
    - Mr. Weiss expressed thanks for the work being done in Violet Township. Referring to 256 & Taylor Road, Mr. Weiss asked how we will get bicyclists and pedestrians from where they live to shopping in the area. Mr. Petrov replied that we have been engaging ODOT through this process to ensure that the studies happening in parallel

and future projects adequately address and include active transportation facilities; the study is ensuring the township is positioned to have those facilities once ODOT projects reach design and implementation stages.

- Mr. Petrov continued, sharing the timeline with reviewing, and updating the program guide in Summer 2023, finalization, approval, and call for applications in early Fall 2023, and finally program application and award announcements in late 2023.
- Mr. Petrov pointed out the minor changes that have been made to the program guide such as focusing more on active transportation network connectivity and putting an emphasis on pedestrian safety.
- Mr. Petrov concluded by reviewing important dates for the 2024 program cycle.

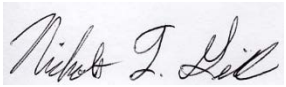
- Community Based Planning Assistance
  - Due to time constraints, this agenda item will be presented at a future meeting.

VII. Other Business

- Transit Sub-Committee
  - Chair Acheampong stated that a few members of the committee brought forth the idea of having a transit sub-committee for direct participation in the LinkUS initiative.
  - Mr. Gill stated that it was agreed prior to this meeting that MORPC would seek to have participation from ODOT in the CAC meetings, such as the LinkUS presentation given by Ms. Walton. Mr. Gill stated that MORPC is happy to bring specific topics of discussion to future meetings at the committee's request.
  - Mr. Needleman said that the ultimate intent is to ensure that all options are explored with mass transit.
  - Chair Acheampong asked the committee if they felt there is a need for a transit sub-committee. The committee felt that more in-depth and targeted discussion going forward is the best course of action.

VIII. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.



Nick Gill, Secretary
Community Advisory Committee

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION REPORT

August 2023

PROGRAMMING

Nick Gill, Transportation Director, Interim Sr. Director of Programming – ngill@morpc.org

Transportation

Nick Gill, Transportation Director, Interim & Sr. Director of Programming – ngill@morpc.org

Metropolitan Transportation Plan:

- The 2024-2050 interactive web map was launched on July 25, 2023. The map is available to gather public input and can be accessed at https://www.morpc.org/2024-2050-metropolitan-transportation-plan/. This tool allows the public to submit or follow comments on projects under consideration. They can also identify locations with safety, congestion, or connectivity issues, and suggest their own ideas and projects by drawing on the map.
- Zonal-level 2050 Household and Employment forecasts were refined and finalized. Work began to develop the 2050 forecast of other variables such as population, workforce, and school enrollment that will inform the MTP and travel demand modeling.
- Project evaluation criteria was further refined and finalized. Efforts began to develop and format the data needed to complete the evaluation of candidate projects.

Transit, Mobility & Human Services:

Mobility Management

- The Mobility team participated in the kickoff of the Delaware County Transit Strategic Plan and their first Dine & Dish public meeting.
- The Regional Mobility Plan survey has collected 756 responses and will be closing August 31, 2023.

FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient

- Funding grant agreements from the FTA for fiscal year 2022 have been executed.
- Applications for fiscal year 2023 5310 funding will open September 27, 2023. An application workshop will be hosted that day.

Gohio Commute

- Gohio Commute added Midwest Kimball to our vanpool program. Their company added two vanpools to the program. They hope to grow this diversity and inclusion program to help many associates get to work.

- Attended the City of Columbus health and wellness fair with around 400 employees in attendance.
- Continuing our Make Your Miles Matter Quarterly Commute Challenge. Over 400 trips have been logged so far. This contest ends August 31, 2023.

Transportation Planning Activities:

LinkUS Mobility Initiative

- Invitations were sent to all COTA service area jurisdictions to appoint representatives to serve on the Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) committees.
- The first formal TSI Working Group meeting was held on August 25, 2023.
- LinkUS partners kicked off the Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Grant study on August 21, 2023. The funding from the Build America Bureau will help the LinkUS partners look at innovative financing, project delivery, and project capacity to implement the $8 billion initiative. Funding was provided through a grant secured by COTA and the partners.
- COTA submitted the West Broad Street BRT Ratings Request with the FTA with support from MORPC.

Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO):

- The application period for the FY 2024/2025 CORPO Dedicated Funds Program closed on August 11, 2023. Three applications were received from three different member jurisdictions. Evaluation of the applications has begun.
- Data was developed, compiled, and shared with CORPO members and stakeholders to begin the process of identifying project needs for consideration to be included in the 2024-2050 CORPO Transportation Plan.

Active Transportation Planning:

- The next MORPC Active Transportation Committee (ATC) meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12, 2023, from 10 a.m. to noon. Anyone interested in attending can email Lauren Cardoni at lcardoni@morpc.org.
- MORPC hosted a virtual group viewing of the August APBP monthly webinar. The next webinar is on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. The topic for the September webinar is “Community-led Temporary Demonstrations & Partnerships.” These webinars are eligible for 1.0 hour of AICP Certification Maintenance credit. Contact Jordan Petrov at jpetrov@morpc.org if interested in attending any of the MORPC group viewings.
- Work continued with Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) on HEAL grant tasks to provide active transportation planning assistance to Franklin Township and help the City of Reynoldsburg develop a Complete Streets Policy.
    - A draft Complete Streets Policy was submitted to the City of Reynoldsburg for review. MORPC team members participated in a meeting with FCPH and City staff on August 15, 2023, to review and discuss the draft policy. The goal is to present the policy to the City Council in September for adoption.
    - MORPC and Franklin Township hosted a final stakeholder meeting on Thursday, August 17, 2023, to review a summary of findings from the stakeholder walk audit in June and recommendations for next steps. MORPC team members will develop a final report to submit to FCPH and Franklin Township before the end of September.

Transportation Safety:

- MORPC is hosting the annual Central Ohio Transportation Safety Forum in the Town Hall on Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 10 a.m. Registration for the event is now live here.
- MORPC represented Central Ohio and the Ohio Association of Regional Councils at the first meeting of the Ohio Traffic Safety Council's Safety Belt Task Force. This task force has been charged with identifying immediate action items that will encourage more use of safety belts in vehicles and reduce the number of fatalities and serious injuries that occur to unbelted motorists throughout Ohio.
- MORPC team members participated in local safety committee meetings, including Franklin County Safe Communities on August 2, 2023 and Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review on August 3, 2023.

Technical Assistance Program:

- The draft 2024 Technical Assistance Program guide was uploaded to the website and shared with MORPC committees for review. The application window for the 2024 program will open on Friday, September 15, 2023, and will remain open through Friday, October 13, 2023. All 2024 Program information can be found here.
- Work with the five communities awarded technical assistance for 2023 will be wrapping up in the coming weeks. The MORPC team is actively working on final deliverables for each community, which will include recommendations for next steps that should lead to implementation of identified items.

Infrastructure Funding:

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- MORPC has been coordinating with local agencies and ODOT to prepare the September TIP Amendment.

MORPC-Attributable Funding

- Revisions to the Policies for Managing MORPC-Attributable funds will be considered by the AFC starting in October. Any AFC members can suggest revisions in advance of this meeting by emailing Tom Graham at tgraham@morpc.org.

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)

- District 3 applications for FY 25 SCIP/LTIP funding are due on September 1, 2023 at 5 p.m. Applicants will have the opportunity to present their projects to the PWIC on October 20, 2023.

Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

- Public comment for the ten TRAC applications submitted in the MORPC region during the 2023 cycle ended August 11, 2023. The prioritized list of applications, once adopted, will be sent to TRAC and ODOT. MORPC will present the list of projects to TRAC at a regional public hearing to be scheduled for September or October.

Federal Competitive Programs

- MORPC has created an internal database that tracks Federal grant applications throughout the region. This was created to help mitigate regional competition for these funds.
- The United States Department of Transportation held a virtual application debrief session for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. MORPC was able to attend four of these sessions with members to better understand how Central Ohio can obtain these funds.
- Assisted and coordinated with members on various federal discretionary funding opportunities coming up including: the Multimodal Discretionary Projects Grant program; the Rural and Tribal Assistance

Pilot Program; the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods program, Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning program, and the Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing program.

Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP)

- One-page project descriptions were completed and in the process of being updated on the MORPC website.

Money Mondays

- The following Money Mondays sessions were held:
  - July 24: Digital Inclusion and ARPA Funding
  - July 31: Community Banking to Finance Member Projects
  - August 7: State Infrastructure Bank
  - August 14: How Non-Profit Organizations and Municipalities Can Work More Strategically Together

Economic Development

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS):

- MORPC submitted a grant application to the Economic Development Administration's FY 2023 Regional Technology and Innovation Hub Program Phase 1. This application is titled "Silicon Heartland-Appalachia Regional Engine for Semiconductors (SHARES) Consortium", and requests designation to become a formally recognized EDA Technology and Innovation Hub.
- Additional materials were submitted to the U.S. EDA at the request of the project officer, final approval of the designation application for the Economic Development District is pending.

Brownfield Assessments:

- Coordinated with US EPA on appropriate components of an assessment for a property in Powell.
- Initiated a task order for an assessment of a property in the Linden neighborhood.
- Began identifying grant-close out activities ahead of the September close out date.

PLANNING

Kerstin Carr, Chief Regional Strategy Officer & Sr. Director of Planning – kcarr@morpc.org

Community Development

Central Ohio Greenways:

- Following the COG Board's adoption of the Strategic Plan Action Item Update on July 19, 2023, the Board has been asked to take a survey to share their level interest, availability, and expertise related to each of the updated Action Items. The results of the survey will provide an update to the COG Board Working Group structure. The COG Board will meet again on September 20, 2023 and a COG Forum on October 13, 2023 will highlight the results of the Trail Town Planning work, progress on the Wayfinding and Placemaking initiatives, and regionally significant trail projects.
- 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. This Working Group will be restructured to support each project with project-based steering committees.
- 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 proposal to the Columbus Foundation to conduct a Natural Asset Inventory in Franklin County was awarded $12,000. With this seed funding, 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. MORPC is working with partners to identify strategies to fully fund the project, which is estimated to cost approximately $50,000.
- COG supported 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).
- COG is supporting a City of Columbus Reconnecting Communities Grant that will focus on Regional Trail connectivity.

Central Ohio Blueways:

- The Central Ohio Blueways Advisory Panel met August 9, 2023 to continue discussions around appropriate considerations and measures for State Water Trail Designation through ODNR. The Advisory Panel heard a presentation from Anthony Sasson on the importance of large woody debris for water ecology and as potential dangers for paddler safety. The Panel also discussed the various elements of access point design and considered the potential for the Panel to compile documentation and guidance of sustainable considerations and best practices for communities. The Advisory Panel also received an updated version of the Partnership Agreement draft for additional comment.

insight2050:

LinkUS Mobility Initiative

- Together with the Programming Department, MORPC staff 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. MORPC's main contact for the RAPID 5 initiative is Chief Regional Strategy Officer, Kerstin Carr at KCarr@morpc.org.

Regional Housing Strategy (RHS):

Outreach

- Team members were invited to discuss regional housing and growth trends with various media outlets and 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 leaders expect to receive guidance on next steps soon and will provide updates as they become available.

Implementation Assistance

- Are you interested in a housing/growth workshop for your 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 at JNoll@morpc.org.

Community-Based Planning Assistance (CBPA)

- The Community-Based Planning Assistance Program was announced at the August 10, 2023 Commission meeting. Comprised of two new programs (Planner Pool and Consultant Services), CBPA provides direct planning assistance and facilitates the RFP process for MORPC member communities. The CBPA restructures and streamlines MORPC's process for receiving assistance requests from communities engaging in long-range planning.
- The CBPA is also designed to support and uplift the work of other Central Ohio agencies by connecting member communities to existing services and resources provided by Regional Planning Commissions and other local agencies, such as Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The Community Development Team continues to meet with Regional Planning Commissions and local agencies in the Central Ohio area to formulate a database of available services.
- Members may learn more about CBPA by visiting https://www.morpc.org/community-based-planning-assistance as well as utilize this link to request assistance.

Sustainability

Sustainability Advisory Committee:

- The Committee's next meeting will be September 20, 2023 at 2:30 pm. The agenda will include regional updates regarding policy and funding, the Summit on Sustainability, and progress on the

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). MORPC will encourage early engagement and input on the CPRG and discuss next steps.

Sustainable2050:

- Following the July 18, 2023 Buckeye Lake Rural Member Event, the Village of Granville and City of Mount Vernon reached out for more information about the Sustainable2050 program. The City of Columbus is also working through the recertification process under the current Regional Sustainability Agenda framework. In coordination with MORPC's Communication & Engagement Team, Sustainable2050 members will be highlighted through a Sustainable September social media campaign. The next Sustainable2050 meeting will be on September 28, 2023 at 9:30 am.

Water Resources Program:

Sustaining Scioto Board

- The Sustaining Scioto Board will meet on August 23, 2023.
- The Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team will meet on September 21, 2023.

Ohio EPA Water Resources Planning Work

- Continued to review facility planning area maps received from the ten-county area where draft water quality management plans have been developed. The reviewed data will be used in creating interactive GIS data layers highlighting treatment prescriptions of sewer service areas.

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund:

- District 3 has approximately $3.2 million dollars for FY 2024, with final applications due on September 1, 2023. Site visits are set for September 14, 2023 and September 18, 2023. For more information, please contact Edwina Teye at eteye@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

- The Energy & Air Quality Working Group met on July 25, 2023, largely being updated by MORPC staff on new programming developments, most notably, how the Canadian wildfires are affecting the region's air quality and the two energy-climate-related grants – the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant and the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) which MORPC submitted earlier this summer.
- The Group heard a presentation from Rachael Beeman with the Human Service Chamber (HSC) regarding their efforts to reduce energy use. Those efforts will be through solar and energy efficiency projects for Central Ohio nonprofits, potentially through the HSC USDOE Renew America's Nonprofits grant application.
- The Working Group was reminded of the pending change in leadership with both Chair Matt Stephens-Rich and Vice-Chair Dale Arnold stepping down from their roles at the end of 2023. To recommend a leadership candidate, please contact Brian Filiatraut, MORPC's Energy & Sustainability Program Manager at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.
- The Energy and Air Quality Working Group will hold its next meeting virtually on Wednesday, September 27, 2023.

Energy Planning

- 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 and disadvantaged communities, mitigation strategies, and an engagement and community outreach strategy in the ten-county Columbus Metropolitan Statistical Area. This grant will better position the region for the $4.6 billion CPRG Phase II Implementation opportunities that should begin in early 2024. Other project partners in this effort include Ohio State University, Power a Clean Future Ohio, and IMPACT Community Action.

- The team is surveying residents of Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Hocking, Licking, Madison, Morrow, Perry, Pickaway, and Union counties to find the best process to conduct meaningful and representative engagements. The short survey can be found on MORPC's Sustainable2050 webpage to be completed by September 15, 2023.
- The second round of the Columbus Area Residential Solar Co-op closed at the end of August. More details on the success of the solar co-op, a collaborative effort among the City of Columbus, Solar United Neighbors, MORPC, and IMPACT Community Action will be provided in the next Commission monthly report.
- Residents for a Sustainable Central Ohio (RSCO) will meet in Worthington at some point in September to hear updates from the Worthington Green Team. For more information, please contact Brian Filiatraut, Energy & Sustainability Program Manager at BFiliatraut@morpc.org.

Air Quality Planning

- Air Quality Alerts:
  - It's been an unprecedented year for wildfires in Canada, which brought hazy skies and unhealthy pollution levels across Central Ohio in June and July. The team continues to respond to questions and data requests from members of the media and the public. During the months of June and July, there were eight days with Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or higher AQI levels. The highest observed level occurred on June 28, 2023 in which the AQI for PM2.5 was 179, or Unhealthy.
- Neighborhood Air Monitoring Project/US EPA project:
  - The current monitoring project is winding down after one year of data collection from PurpleAir sensors. The team is working on the final report which we expect to complete in early September. The US EPA project has begun. With support from our Data and Mapping team, we are making progress on the required Quality Assurance Project Plan and will be coordinating with partners from OSU to share data management best practices. Next, we will be reviewing quotes for air sensor equipment, forming a Community Advisory Board, and drafting an RFP for consultant services.
- Education and Outreach:
  - MORPC is working on a series of air quality videos for social media.
  - Hosted an Air Quality and Health stakeholder meeting attended by Columbus Public Health, Franklin County Public Health, Ohio Health Department, Ohio Health, OSU Wexner Medical Center, Ohio Hospital Association, Human Service Chamber, and the OSU Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center. The group is interested in identifying consistent health-focused messaging and actions to take when experiencing Unhealthy or Red Air Quality Alert days, especially from wildfire smoke. The group would also like further guidance on simple messaging that is specific to the needs of certain vulnerable groups. The group agreed to meet again within the next two months. In the meantime, the group will be coordinating to collect hospital admissions data on certain respiratory/cardiovascular diagnoses and overlapping this data with dates of AQI levels at USG and higher. More to come on this exciting new partnership.

Data, Mapping & Modeling

Dave Dixon, Director of Data Analytics & Strategy Planning – ddixon@morpc.org

Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC):

- The 2023-2025 Regional Data Agenda was presented to the Commission and formally adopted on August 10, 2023. RDAC leadership is evaluating newly proposed projects and initiatives to be further evaluated and prioritized during the full committee meeting on September 12, 2023.

Working Groups & User Groups

- Regional Data Agenda Update Working Group:
  - The group has officially completed their work to update the Regional Data Agenda, which was approved by the Commission as noted above. The next agenda will be developed for the 2026-2028 timeframe.
- The Capacity Building & Partnerships Working Group:
  - The group met with the Local Government Resources Working Group to discuss the potential of combining their data resource into the resource currently being developed to assist low-capacity non-profits – tentatively being referred to as “Regional Data Coaches.” MORPC is currently developing a working version to send to the Group and RDAC for review before moving forward with a pilot.
  - The group has begun planning for Data Day 2024. It is anticipated that the event will remain at the Ohio University Dublin facility, but with a larger in-person capacity. The event is tentatively scheduled for early February 2024.
  - The working group will meet again on August 23, 2023.
- 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 will meet on August 22, 2023 in preparation for the September 27, 2023 third quarter RIDG meeting.
- Central Ohio GIS User Group (COGUG):
  - 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. This month the team refactored the sub-county population estimates script into a pipeline consisting of several sub-processes to allow for easier re-use of intermediate data products and to facilitate better version control. The team is also exploring dimensional representation of population data to allow for more convenient filtering, summarization, etc.

Data Analytics, Mapping, and Research:

- Team members remain focused on preparing inputs for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Community review comments have been incorporated based on specific land use changes provided. Household and Job Forecast should be released in late August. The Team is preparing inputs required for the Travel Demand Model.

Data & Research Activities

- Sustainability, Data, and Communications & Engagement team members collaborated to produce a draft version of the upcoming Leaders Listen: Sustainability survey. Five proposals from organizations with expertise in conducting surveys were received and evaluated. MORPC will work with the selected vendor to conduct the survey in preparation for the October 26, 2023 Summit on Sustainability. An Actionable Insights report similar in form and format to the recent Transportation report will be produced to share the results with Central Ohio stakeholders.
- MORPC has created an “AI Team” internal working group with the aim of exploring and leveraging AI, while also working to mitigate bias and unintended consequences. The Team is chaired by MORPC’s Director of Data Analytics & Strategy Dave Dixon, and consists of representatives from Programming, Planning, Communications & Engagement, Government Affairs, and Information Technology departments. The target audiences for the group’s engagement are internal MORPC departments, MORPC member organizations, and RDAC. The Team will meet in September to evaluate and prioritize proposed projects and initiatives.
- The Data Team has completed a preliminary draft of 2023 sub-county population estimates, which is now undergoing quality review. The preliminary estimates were sent to member communities to solicit feedback. The team intends to present the final draft of the estimates to the Commission for review in September. In addition, team members continue 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 to better predict future housing needs. This would be an extension to existing county forecasts for households and housing in general. Household types may include people living alone, two or more working-age adults with children, families with children, and adults of retirement age. Housing types may include attached housing, single-family small lot, and single-family large lot.

Mapping Activities

- Created and released the MTP Project Commentor web map for gathering public input on transportation related projects for the next cycle. The web map can be found at https://www.morpc.org/2024-2050-metropolitan-transportation-plan/.
- Analysis was performed for Gohio Rideshare for a potential customer. Maps were also created for the Regional Tech Hubs, GoOhio, Columbus Library, and OARC. Updates were made to many data layers, including bikeways, sidewalks, development dots, and Level of Traffic Stress for bicyclists.

Modeling Activities

- The Modeling Team is working on various projects, including LinkUS, the land use model final outputs, preparing the travel demand model for MTP projects, maintaining the traffic count program, updating AQ emission factors for transportation projects, and responding to traffic growth rate and modeling requests.
- MORPC is recruiting for the position of Associate Engineer/Planner/Modeler. This recruitment will replace a modeler who moved to ODOT in June 2023.

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

Níel M. Jurist, Sr. Director of Communications & Engagement – njurist@morpc.org

News Releases:

- Air Quality Alert Extended for July 17 in Central Ohio – MORPC.org (7/16/2023)
- Public Invited to Review Candidate Projects on Interactive Map for 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan – MORPC.org (7/25/2023)
- Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Unveils New Messaging Strategy (8/16/2023)
- MORPC Receives Ohio Auditor's Award with Distinction for Outstanding Financial Reporting for Ninth Consecutive Year (8/18/2023)

MORPC in the News:

- Air Quality Alert extended into Monday (7/15/2023)
- Air Quality Alert issued for Sensitive Groups in Columbus, Delaware, Newark and Lancaster (7/15/2023)
- Air Quality Alert issued for Sensitive Groups in Columbus on Monday (7/16/2023)
- Air Quality Alert extended to Monday for several Central Ohio counties (7/16/2023)
- The return of wildfire smoke extends air quality alert to Monday (7/17/2023)
- COTA Board Votes to Advance LinkUs Transit Plans (7/19/2023)
- Mount Vernon participates in workshop on sustainable development (7/22/2023)
- SR 13 Relocation: What's next for the project? What is its completion contingent upon? (7/26/2023)
- COTA shares new details on $8 billion plan for region's mobility future (7/27/2023)
- America's First Urban Via Ferrata Proves Even A Cowtown Can Transform Into An Adventure Hotspot (8/1/2023)
- MORPC Interns thankful for the opportunity to see Lancaster firsthand (8/3/2023)
- Powell to emphasize complete streets (8/5/2023)
- LinkUS is progressing in bringing rapid transit to Columbus, Franklin County (8/8/2023)
- Planning the first Pedestrian bridge over 1-270 (8/10/2023)
- Unique stand-alone pedestrian bridge over I-270 to link Hilliard to other communities (8/10/2023)
- John Glenn International Airport could have a new terminal by the end of the decade (8/14/2023)

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, Social Media Summit, Solar United Neighbors, Summit on Sustainability, Mobility Survey, Regional Investment Survey, Public Comment, LinkUS, Voter Education, National Intern Day, Black Women's Equal Pay Day, Supplier Diversity Procurement Fair, International Friendship Day, Paddle Safety, Water Quality Month, Social Media Summit, Franklin County Hazard Mitigation Plan, Paving the Way Update, International Day of the World's Indigenous People, Rail Safety Forum, TRAC Comments, MTP Comments, AA Male Wellness Walk, National Relaxation Day, e-Source.

Reach

- Facebook & Instagram

Top Posts

- Instagram
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Reels
- LinkedIn

Diversity & Inclusion:

- Recognized National Black Business Month during the month of August through social media.
- MORPC hosted a Supplier Diversity Procurement Fair to connect minority-owned businesses with professionals in the Central Ohio region. The fair featured 18 vendors, including state agencies, local governments, community organizations and private sector companies seeking to gain new procurement opportunities.

Public Involvement & Engagement:

- MORPC served as a vendor in the Senior Community Resource Fair held at Barnett Recreation Center. The fair was exclusively for senior citizens to assist them with age-friendly incentives, valuable resources, and connections designed to enhance the well-being of seniors in our community. Staff promoted various MORPC direct service programs and public comment opportunities, including Gohio Mobility, home repair and weatherization services, and the Regional Mobility Plan survey.
- MORPC participated in the 20th Annual National African American Male Wellness Walk. Attended by over 35,000 people, MORPC staff shared the agency's programs and services, as well as public comment opportunities with a diverse audience.
- Attended the City of Columbus Office of Diversity and Inclusion's Supplier Diversity Networking event. This was a great opportunity to meet individuals in the same field while promoting MORPC's upcoming events.
- MORPC promoted the following requests for public input through social media and on our website:
  - Franklin County Mitigation Plan: 8/3
  - MTP Public Comments: 7/25, 8/16
  - TRAC Public Comment: 8/11
  - CORPO Dedicated Funds Program: 7/18

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.

Events:

- The annual Social Media Summit was held on August 1, 2023 at MORPC's offices. With 100 registered attendees, the summit featured three breakout sessions options and a panel discussion. Topics included artificial intelligence and best practices in social media.
- Upcoming Events:
  - 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

Events:

- Rail Safety Event at the Pre-Commission Member Luncheon, August 10, 2023.
- Member External Events:
  - Fairfield County State of the County, August 22, 2023.
  - Logan-Union County Economic Update, August 24, 2023.

Upcoming Events:

- Regional Planning Southwest Area Breakfast at City of London September 26, 2023.

Local Government Summer Intern Program:

- The Easton Future Vision Fellows Competition was completed on August 8, 2023. Mara Villeseca was selected for distinguished honors at the MORPC 2024 State of the Region.
- The Summer Intern Celebrations were held on August 8th, 9th & 10th 2023. Interns provided summaries of their experiences, shared future goals and received certificates. A total of 51 interns participated in the 2023 Summer Program, making this the largest class to date.

Educational Partnerships:

- Twice per month, the Leadership Academy at Ohio University-features a 12 full-day workshops at the Dublin campus. Learn more here.
- MORPC members can save on associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees and certificate programs, and get free textbooks. Classes begin August 14th, September 25th, and November 16th 2023. Learn more here.

MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Community Advisory Committee
Transportation Advisory Committee

FROM: Nick Gill, Transportation Director

DATE: August 23, 2023

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution T-11-23: **"Amending the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program"**

Proposed Resolution T-11-22 will add or modify 7 projects to the SFY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with commitments totaling over $121 million. Additionally, four projects will be removed. These changes are necessary to enable the projects to advance and to maintain fiscal constraint. Furthermore, this resolution amends Appendix A of the SFY 2024-2027 TIP to incorporate information from COTA's recently adopted 2023-2027 Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP). In October, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) will ask the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to amend the Statewide TIP to include these changes.

Continued maintenance of the TIP is a key element of implementing the strategies in the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation (MTP). The projects included in this amendment specifically relate to implementation of these MTP strategies:

- PRES 2: Repave or reconstruct roads in poor physical condition
- BP 3: Expand high comfort bicycle and pedestrian networks through the implementation of complete streets
- BP 6: Make neighborhoods walkable and bikeable through infrastructure projects that fill gaps in the high comfort pedestrian and bicycle networks
- SAF 3: Implement countermeasures that address priority safety locations
- RDWY 1: Add capacity, where appropriate, to alleviate existing or anticipated congestion along existing freeways and at interchanges
- RDWY 5: Add capacity, where appropriate, at locations such as intersections to alleviate existing or anticipated congestion

The COTA SRTP is available from the TIP page of the MORPC website. Attachment 1 to the resolution provides a description of the funding and scope of the projects, including a description of the bicycle and pedestrian components. Two projects include MORPC-attributable funding.

An explanation of the proposed changes to the TIP follows.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Erik J. Janas
Chair

Chris Amorose Groomes
Vice Chair

Michelle Crandall
Secretary

Franklin County: – The following modification to the TIP is being made for a Franklin County project:

- PID 119514 – Ferris Road from Karl Rd to Westerville Rd, Minor Widening and Addition of Bike Lane: Adding the PE Environmental Study and Detailed Design phases to the TIP. This project has a commitment of MORPC-Attributable Funds, but no changes to this commitment are being made via this amendment.

Hilliard: – The following modification to the TIP is being made for a City of Hilliard project:

- PID 120103 – Cemetery Rd over I-270, SUP: Adding the PE Environmental Study and Detailed Design phases to the TIP. This project has a commitment of MORPC-Attributable Funds, but no changes to this commitment are being made via this amendment.

Licking County TID – The following modification to the TIP is being made for a Licking County TID project:

- PID 119487 - Pike St from SR 310 to Etna United Methodist Church: modify project limits and local funding in the TIP to reflect reduced project scope because of receiving a partial MORPC-Attributable Funding award. No changes to the MORPC-Attributable Funding commitment are being made via this amendment.

MORPC – The following deletions from the TIP are being made for MORPC projects:

- PID 110230 – Paving the Way, SFY 2024
- PID 110231 – Paving the Way, SFY 2025
- PID 119520 – Paving the Way, SFY 2026
- PID 119521 – Paving the Way, SFY 2027

ODOT: – The following additions or modifications to the TIP are being made for ODOT projects:

- PID 119464 – Sawmill Parkway Extension: Add project to the TIP.
- PID 77555 – US-33 from Allen Rd to Pickerington Rd, New Interchange: Add Right-of-Way and Construction phases to the TIP.
- PID 105435 – I-71 & I-270 (North Outerbelt): Reduce Detailed Design funding in the TIP.
- PID 119804 – US 23 at SR 229, New Interchange: Add project to the TIP via the PE Environmental Study phase.

NTG:TG

Attachment: Resolution T-11-23

RESOLUTION T-11-23

“Amending the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program”

WHEREAS, the Transportation Policy Committee of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) adopted the SFY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by Resolution T-5-23; and

WHEREAS, an amendment to Appendix A of the 2024-2027 TIP has been identified as needed to reflect COTA’s 2023-2027 Short Range Transit Plane (SRTP) adopted at the July COTA board meeting and included as Attachment 2; and

WHEREAS, one project modification to the 2024-2027 TIP has been identified as needed for a Licking County TID project as shown in Attachment 1; and

WHEREAS, one project modification to the 2024-2027 TIP has been identified as needed for a Hilliard project as shown in Attachment 1; and

WHEREAS, two project additions and two project modifications to the 2024-2027 TIP have been identified as needed for Ohio Department of Transportation projects as shown in Attachment 1; and

WHEREAS, one project modification to the 2024-2027 TIP has been identified as needed for a Franklin County project as shown in Attachment 1; and

WHEREAS, four project deletions from the 2024-2027 TIP have been identified as needed for MORPC projects as listed in the resolved section; and

WHEREAS, the projects are consistent with the transportation policies, plans, and programs, including the most recent Metropolitan Transportation Plan adopted by the Transportation Policy Committee; and

WHEREAS, the amendment includes non-exempt air quality projects which have been included in the most recent Metropolitan Transportation Plan conformity determination; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its meeting August 28, 2023, and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its meeting on August 30, 2023 recommended approval of this resolution 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 the MORPC SFY 2024-2027 TIP be amended to include the project information as shown in Attachment 1.

Section 2. That Appendix A to the MORPC SFY 2024-2027 TIP be modified to reflect COTA’s 2023-2027 Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) adopted in July.

Section 3. That the MORPC Paving the Way PIDs 110230, 110231, 119520, and 119521, be removed from the MORPC SFY 2024-2027 TIP.

Section 4. That it affirms that the fiscal balance of the SFY 2024-2027 TIP is maintained.

Section 5. That the determination of conformity between the TIP and the State Implementation Plan (SIP) is hereby reaffirmed, as nine projects are exempt from conformity requirements and one non-exempt project was already appropriately included in the most recent air quality conformity approval.

Section 6. That it affirms that the amendment was developed in compliance with the transportation performance measures as described in Section 6 of the SFY 2024-2027 TIP as modified.

Section 7. That this resolution will be transmitted to ODOT and all sponsoring agencies in Attachment 1 for appropriate action.

Section 8. That the Transportation Policy Committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

_____

Chris Amorose Groomes, Interim Chair
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

_____

Date

Prepared by: Transportation Staff

Attachment 1: Amended Project Information for the SFY 2024-2027 TIP

Resolution T-11-23

Attachment 1 - Amended Project Information

Agency: Franklin County **PID:** 119514 **TIP ID:** 342 **MTP ID:** 1426

Co-Route-Sec: FRA-CR172-0.28 **Length (mi.):** 1.7

Project Type(s): Minor Widening **Air Quality:**

Description: *Ferris Road from Karl Rd to Westerville Rd, Minor Widening from 2 lanes to 2 lanes*

Bike Components: Bicycle lanes. 5' wide 1.7 mi. added to bike network.

Ped Components: Sidewalk on 2 sides. 1.4 mi. added to ped network.

State Fiscal Year	Phase	Source	Amount
2024	Environmental Study	High Priority-F	$454,400
2024	Environmental Study	Local	$113,600
2024	Detailed Design	High Priority-F	$80,000
2024	Detailed Design	Local	$20,000
2026	Right-of-Way	MPO STBG	$146,823
2026	Right-of-Way	Local	$186,866
LR	Construction	Local	$3,101,073
LR	Construction	MPO STBG	$2,436,557
		Total:	**$6,539,318**

Agency: Hilliard **PID:** 120103 **TIP ID:** 355 **MTP ID:** 186

Co-Route-Sec: FRA-Cemetery Rd-SUP **Length (mi.):** 0.76

Project Type(s): Multi-Use Path **Air Quality:** Exempt

Description: *Cemetery Rd from Britton Pkwy to Trueman Blvd, Multi-Use Path*

Bike Components: Multi-use path. 0.76 mi. added to bike network.

Ped Components: Multi-use path. 0.76 mi. added to ped network.

State Fiscal Year	Phase	Source	Amount
2024	Preliminary Engineering	Safety-F	$1,012,500
2024	Preliminary Engineering	Local	$112,500
2025	Detailed Design	Local	$37,500
2025	Detailed Design	Safety-F	$337,500
2025	Right-of-Way	MPO TA	$180,000
2025	Right-of-Way	Local	$70,000
2027	Construction	Local	$2,690,223
2027	Construction	MPO TA	$6,917,717
		Total:	**$11,357,940**

Funds in FYs prior to 2024 are not included in this report nor in the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.
LR = Long Range (after SFY 2027, the last year of the TIP). LR funds are shown for information only and are not included in the TIP.

Resolution T-11-23

Attachment 1 - Amended Project Information

Agency: Licking County TID **PID:** 119487 **TIP ID:** 349 **MTP ID:** 205

Co-Route-Sec: LIC-Pike St-SR 310 **Length (mi.):** 0.38

Project Type(s): Reconstruction **Air Quality:** Exempt

Description: *Pike St from SR 310 to Etna United Methodist Church, Reconstruction*

Bike Components: Multi-use path. 10 ft pathway north side, 7 ft pathway south side 0.85 mi. added to bike network.

Ped Components: Sidewalk on 1 side, multi-use path on 1 side. 10 ft pathway north side, 7 ft pathway south side 0.85 mi. added to ped network.

State Fiscal Year	Phase	Source	Amount
2026	Construction	Local	$671,219
2026	Construction	MPO STBG	$2,684,877
2026	Construction	Labor-L	$335,610
		Total:	**$3,691,706**

Agency: ODOT **PID:** 119464 **TIP ID:** 439 **MTP ID:** 96

Co-Route-Sec: DEL-Sawmil Parkway-Extension **Length (mi.):** 0.64

Project Type(s): New Roadway **Air Quality:** Exempt

Description: *Sawmill Parkway from current terminus to South Section Line Road, New Roadway, 2 lanes*

Bike Components: Maybe - To be determined.

Ped Components: Maybe - To be determined.

State Fiscal Year	Phase	Source	Amount
2024	Construction	Jobs/Commerce	$250,000
2024	Construction	Local	$2,361,735
2024	Construction	Local	$1,875,000
		Total:	**$4,486,735**

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Resolution T-11-23

Attachment 1 - Amended Project Information

Agency: ODOT D5 **PID:** 77555 **TIP ID:** 3 **MTP ID:**

Co-Route-Sec: FAI-US033-02.64 **Length (mi.):** 0.3

Project Type(s): New Interchange **Air Quality:** Non-Exempt (Analyzed)

Description: *US-33 from Allen Rd to Pickerington Rd, New Interchange*

Bike Components: Maybe - To be determined.

Ped Components: Maybe - To be determined.

State Fiscal Year	Phase	Source	Amount
2024	Environmental Study	Major/New-S	$100,000
2024	Environmental Study	Major/New-F	$400,000
2024	Detailed Design	Major/New-S	$100,000
2024	Detailed Design	Major/New-F	$400,000
2024	Right-of-Way	Major/New-F	$9,200,000
2024	Right-of-Way	Major/New-S	$2,300,000
2025	Construction	Preservation-S	$11,549
2025	Construction	Labor-F	$3,200,000
2025	Construction	Major/New-S	$9,400,000
2025	Construction	Labor-S	$800,000
2025	Construction	Major/New-F	$37,600,000
		Total:	**$63,511,549**

Funds in FYs prior to 2024 are not included in this report nor in the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.
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Resolution T-11-23

Attachment 1 - Amended Project Information

Agency: ODOT D6 **PID:** 105435 **TIP ID:** 68 **MTP ID:** 1582

Co-Route-Sec: FRA-IR071/270-28.27/25.99A **Length (mi.):**

Project Type(s): Interchange Modification/Bridge Deck Repla **Air Quality:** Exempt

Description: *I-71 & I-270 (North Outerbelt), Interchange Modification & Bridge Deck Replace*

Bike Components: Not applicable.

Ped Components: Not applicable.

State Fiscal Year	Phase	Source	Amount
2024	Detailed Design	Major/New-S	$54,936
2024	Detailed Design	Major/New-F	$219,744
2025	Construction	Labor-S	$25,200
2025	Construction	Labor-S	$56,000
2025	Construction	Labor-F	$226,800
2025	Construction	Labor-F	$504,000
2025	Construction	Safety-S	$927,889
2025	Construction	Preservation-S	$2,061,976
2025	Construction	Safety-F	$8,351,001
2025	Construction	Preservation-F	$18,557,780
		Total:	**$30,985,326**

Agency: ODOT D6 **PID:** 119804 **TIP ID:** 438 **MTP ID:** 264

Co-Route-Sec: DEL-023-21.43 **Length (mi.):**

Project Type(s): New Interchange **Air Quality:** Exempt

Description: *US 23 at SR 229, New Interchange*

Bike Components: Maybe - To be determined.

Ped Components: Maybe - To be determined.

State Fiscal Year	Phase	Source	Amount
2024	Environmental Study	Major/New-F	$800,000
2024	Environmental Study	Major/New-S	$200,000
		Total:	**$1,000,000**

Funds in FYs prior to 2024 are not included in this report nor in the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.
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Resolution T-11-23

Attachment 1 - Amended Project Information

Summary of Funding Sources

Source	Description	Total Amount
High Priority-F	Federal Earmark	$534,400
Jobs/Commerce	State Jobs & Commerce Funds	$250,000
Labor-F	Labor - Federal	$3,930,800
Labor-L	Labor - Local	$335,610
Labor-S	Labor - State	$881,200
Local	Local Public Agency	$11,239,716
Major/New-F	Major/New Program - Federal	$48,619,744
Major/New-S	Major/New Program - State	$12,154,936
MPO STBG	Surface Transportation Block Grant, Attributable to MORPC	$5,268,257
MPO TA	Transportation Alternatives, Attributable to MORPC	$7,097,717
Preservation-F	District Preservation (Pv & Br) - Federal	$18,557,780
Preservation-S	District Preservation (Pv & Br) - State	$2,073,524
Safety-F	Highway Safety Improvement Program	$9,701,001
Safety-S	State Safety	$927,889
	Grand Total	$121,572,574

Funds in FYs prior to 2024 are not included in this report nor in the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.
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Memorandum

TO: Transportation Policy Committee
Transportation Advisory Committee
Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Nick Gill, Transportation Director

DATE: August 21, 2023

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution T-12-23: "**Establishing Priorities for Central Ohio Candidate Projects Submitted in 2023 for TRAC Funding**"

As reported to you previously, ten (10) projects were submitted to the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) for the 2023 funding cycle. TRAC is responsible for committing development and construction funding toward projects that meet the criteria of the Major New Capacity Program (generally projects that cost over $12 million and increase roadway capacity and/or reduce congestion). Information sheets (attached) were prepared and posted to our website over the summer with details on the projects.

Resolution T-12-23 establishes MORPC's priorities for the 2023 TRAC funding requests that fall within MORPC's Metropolitan Organization Planning (MPO) area. Facilitating the development and implementation of these projects is an element of implementing the strategies in the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation (MTP). The projects wanting to advance with TRAC funding specifically relate to implementation of these MTP strategies:

- SAF 3: Implement countermeasures that address priority safety locations
- OP 3: Implement managed lanes along additional freeway corridors
- OP 4: Apply access management along arterial and collector corridors
- TRAN 3: Implement high capacity transit service along additional corridors
- RDWY 1: Add capacity, where appropriate, to alleviate existing or anticipated congestion along existing freeways and at interchanges
- RDWY 3: Construct new interchanges, where appropriate, to alleviate congestion or support regional development goals
- RDWY 4: Add capacity, where appropriate, to alleviate existing or anticipated congestion along existing arterial and collector corridors

William Murdock, AICP *Executive Director*
Erik J. Janas *Chair*
Chris Amorose Groomes *Vice Chair*
Michelle Crandall *Secretary*

MORPC accepted comments on the projects from the public, and staff completed a technical evaluation of the projects. This memo provides a summary of how the projects were evaluated and concludes with a recommendation on project prioritization. The priorities will be presented to TRAC at a regional public hearing this fall, and upon adoption of Resolution T-12-23, submitted in writing by September 15.

Project Evaluation Summary

MORPC staff evaluated the six TRAC projects requesting funding based on the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) goals and objectives. Key elements of the MTP evaluation criteria were used for the evaluation. For the projects being ranked, the analysis results by goal are:

Adopted Goal: Position Central Ohio to attract and retain economic opportunity to prosper as a region and compete globally.
The criteria for this goal focus on congestion relief and the total number of jobs as well as non-retail jobs within one mile of the facility at present and projected in 2050. Both the I-70/I-71 Downtown Ramp Up Phase 2D and Phase 3 ranked highest for this goal, primarily due to the high number of existing and projected jobs in the area. The LinkUS W Broad St BRT line also exhibit strong access to existing and projected jobs. The I-71 Hard Shoulder Running and the I-70 and Taylor Rd/SR 256 Interchanges showed the strongest impact on future congestion relief

Adopted Goal: Protect natural resources and mitigate infrastructure vulnerabilities to maintain a healthy ecosystem and community.
The criteria for this goal considered reductions in emissions (VOC and NOx). The I-70 and Taylor Rd/SR 256 Interchanges performed the strongest for this goal. All other projects showed a relatively negligible difference in regional emissions reduction.

Adopted Goal: Reduce per capita energy consumption and promote alternative fuel resources to increase affordability and resilience of regional energy supplies.
The criteria for this goal considered reduction in regional vehicle-miles traveled. The I-70 and Taylor Rd/SR 256 Interchanges showed the greatest reduction of vehicle-miles traveled under 2050 anticipated conditions. All other projects exhibited a small increase in vehicle-miles traveled.

Adopted Goal: Increase regional collaboration and employ innovative transportation solutions to maximize the return on public expenditures.
The criteria for this goal included the number of communities being served by the project, consideration for collaboration with regards to project development and funding the project, new development in the area and whether any phase of the project was already constructed or under construction. The LinkUS W Broad St BRT scored higher than the rest due to anticipated new development and the coalition of LinkUS planning partners. The I-70/I-71 Phase 2D and 3 projects scored high due to anticipated development and existing constructed phases of the overall Innerbelt improvements.

Adopted Goal: Use public investments to benefit the health, safety, and welfare of people.
The criteria for this goal considered the safety/crash ranking analysis, pavement and bridge condition, and Environmental Justice (EJ) populations served. The LinkUS W Broad St BRT also scored highest for this goal, owing its location connecting downtown Columbus with communities west of the city and expected safety improvements for all road users. It was followed by the I-270/I-71 Interchange (North), I-71 Hard Shoulder Running, and the Alum Creek Drive projects.

Adopted Goal: Create sustainable neighborhoods to improve residents' quality of life.
The criteria for this goal considered which projects serve users going to or coming from higher density areas and multimodal elements of the project, such as facilities for transit, bicyclists, and pedestrians. The I-70/I-71 Phase 2D and 3 projects performed the best for this goal, followed closely by the LinkUS W Broad St BRT, all of which serve areas with high existing and future trip density and improvements to pedestrian, bicycle, and transit connectivity in the region.

Comments Received from the Public

On July 5, MORPC issued a press release requesting comments from the public on this year's TRAC applications. Comments were due by August 11. The table below summarizes the number of comments received. In all, MORPC received 12 submissions, with some containing multiple comments for specific projects as well as general observations and input.

Application	In Support	Opposed	Total Comments
I-70/I-71 Downtown Ramp Up Phase 2D	0	0	0
I-70/I-71 Downtown Ramp Up Phase 3	0	0	0
LinkUS W Broad St BRT	3	0	3
I-71 Hard Shoulder Running (HSR)/SmartLane	0	2	2
I-70 and Taylor Rd/SR 256 Interchanges	6	1	7
Alum Creek Drive (SR 317 to Groveport Rd)	2	0	2
I-270 & I-71 Interchange (North)	0	2	2
I-71/Sunbury Parkway and Interchange	0	1	1
I-70 Widening (Licking County)	1	2	3
SR 161/SR 37 Widening	0	2	2
Total	12	10	22

A mix of opinions on the proposals was submitted during the public comment period. The LinkUS W Broad St BRT, I-70 and Taylor Rd/SR 256 Interchanges, and Alum Creek Drive received the most support. The LinkUS W Broad BRT project was deemed beneficial for shifting travel modes away from single-occupancy vehicles to transit, while the I-70 and Taylor Rd/SR 256 Interchanges and Alum Creek Drive were seen as helpful for congestion relief, expanding bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, and economic development.

Many of the comments in opposition to specific projects conveyed a similar message of prioritizing investment in multimodal improvements over widening freeways and expanding interchanges. Several additional comments not addressed to particular projects carried the same sentiment, with additional suggestions of promoting transit-only travel lanes on freeways and arterials, incorporating active transportation facilities where possible, and reducing carbon emissions.

MORPC Staff Ranking Recommendation

Based on the goal-by-goal evaluation summarized above, the public comments and the phase for which money is being requested, MORPC staff recommends the following priority ranking for the ten TRAC applications requesting funding:

Priority 1: I-70/I-71 Downtown Ramp Up Phase 2D & I-70/I-71 Downtown Ramp Up Phase 3
Priority 2: LinkUS W Broad St BRT
Priority 3: I-71 Hard Shoulder Running (HSR)/SmartLane
Priority 4: I-70 and Taylor Rd/SR 256 Interchanges
Priority 5: Alum Creek Drive (SR 317 to Groveport Rd)
Priority 6: I-270 & I-71 Interchange (North)
Priority 7: I-71/Sunbury Parkway and Interchange
Priority 8: SR 161/SR 37 Widening & I-70 Widening (Licking County)

Note that staff considered both Downtown Ramp Up projects the highest priority and would defer to ODOT to decide which phase to fund should funding not be available for both projects. In the same manner, the project development requests for the SR 161 widening and I-70 widening are similar in nature and were combined into one priority.

Resolution T-12-23 recommends these rankings.

NG:EL

Attachment: Resolution T-12-23

RESOLUTION T-12-23

"ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR CENTRAL OHIO CANDIDATE PROJECTS SUBMITTED IN 2023 FOR TRAC FUNDING"

WHEREAS, the Transportation Policy Committee of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is designated as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Columbus metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) selects major new projects to receive funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT's) major new capacity program; and

WHEREAS, the TRAC has requested that each MPO submit its priorities for projects in that MPO's planning area; and

WHEREAS, ten projects requesting funding have been submitted to MORPC for acknowledgement prior to their submittal to the TRAC (see Attachment A); and

WHEREAS, MORPC members and the public were asked to submit comments on the projects; and

WHEREAS, staff evaluated the projects with regard to the six goals of the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and along with public comments developed the attached priorities; and

WHEREAS, staff provided the Community Advisory, Transportation Advisory and Transportation Policy committees information regarding the applications, including public comments received for staff recommendation; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its meeting on August 28, 2023 and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its meeting on August 30, 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 the attached listing of projects (Attachment A) be established as the order of priorities for the candidate projects submitted to TRAC from the MORPC transportation planning area for major new capacity program funding.

Section 2. That the TRAC is strongly discouraged from funding lower priority projects on this list at the expense of higher priority projects.

Section 3. That it directs MORPC staff to forward these priorities to the TRAC and to present the priorities to the TRAC.

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

Chris Amorose Groomes, Interim Chair
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Date

Prepared by: Elliott Lewis

Attachments:
A. Establishing Priorities for Central Ohio Candidate Projects Submitted in 2023 for TRAC Funding

Attachment A
Resolution T-12-23

Priorities for the 2023 TRAC Major New Capacity Program Candidate Projects

Rank	Project	Tier Request	2023 TRAC Funding Request	Total Project Cost
1	I-70/I-71 Downtown Ramp Up Phases 2D and 3	Tier I	$125 million & $75 million	$138.9 million & $92 million
2	LinkUS W Broad St BRT	Tier I	$39.05 million	$313.95 million
3	I-71 Hard Shoulder Running (HSR)/SmartLane	Tier I	$50 million	$99 million
4	I-70 and Taylor Rd/SR 256 Interchanges	Tier II	$7 million	$127 million
5	Alum Creek Drive (SR 317 to Groveport Rd)	Tier II	$3.59 million	$51.13 million
6	I-270 & I-71 Interchange (North)	Tier I	$22.5 million	$38.01 million
7	I-71/Sunbury Parkway and Interchange	Tier I	$15 million	$101.5 million
8	SR 161/SR 37 Widening & I-70 Widening (Licking County)	Tier II	$7 million & $5 million	$150 million & $100 million

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Memorandum

TO: Transportation Policy Committee
Transportation Advisory Committee
Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Nick Gill, Transportation Director

DATE: August 21, 2023

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution T-13-23: **"Adopting the 2024 Technical Assistance Program Guide"**

Proposed Resolution T-13-23 will adopt an update to the MORPC Technical Assistance Program Guide for the next round of services. The Technical Assistance Program (TA Program) provides MORPC staff assistance to local government and MORPC members within the boundary of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to advance the goals in the MTP through implementation of specific MTP strategies focused on improving active transportation and transit Infrastructure.

The Program Guide is reviewed on a regular basis, in alignment with each new round of technical assistance services. This provides the opportunity to make necessary changes to address the most current needs of the region and our local communities. Minor tweaks were made to the Program Guide for 2024, with the most significant change incorporating a new service type focused on Trail Town Visioning for communities along the Central Ohio Greenways regional trail system.

The 2024 Program Guide will apply to the 2024 round of technical assistance services. An application window will be opened on Friday, September 15th for eligible MORPC members to apply for the services established in the 2024 Program Guide.

Since the inception of the TA Program, Several Central Ohio communities have received MORPC staff assistance to complete various planning and policy development efforts. More information about these past services, as well as the current program, can be found on the MORPC website at: www.morpc.org/program-service/technical-assistance-program.

Attachment: Resolution T-13-23

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Erik J. Janas
Chair

Chris Amorose Groomes
Vice Chair

Michelle Crandall
Secretary

RESOLUTION T-13-23

“Adopting the 2024 Technical Assistance Program Guide”

WHEREAS, the Transportation Policy Committee of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Columbus metropolitan planning area; and

WHEREAS, the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) includes strategies for implementing active transportation and transit supportive infrastructure throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the MORPC Technical Assistance Program has provided technical assistance to eligible local government members since 2017 to advance planning that supports active transportation modes; and

WHEREAS, the primary tenet of the Technical Assistance Program is to assist communities in implementing MTP System Management and System Development strategies focused on improving active transportation and transit, including strategies as listed in the Program Guide; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Technical Assistance Program Guide continues previously offered technical assistance services and establishes new services; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its August 28, 2023 meeting and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its August 30, 2023 meeting recommended approval of this resolution; now therefore

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

Section 1. That it adopts the attached MORPC 2024 Technical Assistance Program Guide.

Section 2. That it directs staff to conduct a process to select activities for technical assistance in accordance with the 2024 Technical Assistance Program Guide.

Section 3. That the Technical Assistance Program Guide will be reviewed and evaluated ahead of each application round and be modified as warranted.

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

_____

Chris Amorose Groomes, Interim Chair
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

_____
Date

Prepared by: Programming Staff

Attachment: MORPC 2024 Technical Assistance Program Guide

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GUIDE 2024

MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Technical Assistance (TA) Program provides assistance from MORPC staff to local government agencies and members within the boundary of the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the planning of transportation and quality of life improvements related to the goals and strategies of MORPC's Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Through the TA Program, MORPC staff will assist with specific planning services related to active transportation, trail planning, transportation safety, and transit-supportive land use planning that support consideration of transportation in land use planning and/or demonstrate the benefits of various modes of transportation.

MORPC does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, familial status, religion or disability in programs, services or in employment. Information on non-discrimination and related MORPC policies and procedures is available at www.morpc.org.

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The seven-county Central Ohio region is growing rapidly, with its population expected to increase to approximately 3.15 million people by 2050. Demographic shifts anticipated with this growth will have a significant impact on the region's transportation system. To keep up with these shifts and evolving market demands, the region must recognize and address the need for a more multimodal and sustainable transportation system, as well as strategies for development that supports it.

A safe, reliable, efficient, and accessible transportation system is essential to the economy and quality of life for those who live and work in Central Ohio. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) establishes a set of regional goals and objectives, and recommends strategies – including specific projects – that will maintain, manage, and develop Central Ohio's transportation system through 2050. Additionally, the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) and Complete Streets Policy work in combination with the MTP to further promote safe and comfortable conditions for walking and bicycling throughout the region. Finally, the Central Ohio Greenways vision of providing a world-class network of trails accessible to everyone in Central Ohio has resulted in a plan to add more than 500 new miles of trails throughout the broader region. Together these plans lay out a vision for a robust, multimodal, and sustainable transportation system in Central Ohio that provides the mobility options needed to support the region's growing population.

The 2020-2050 MTP established the following goals:

- Position Central Ohio to attract and retain economic opportunity to prosper as a region and compete globally.
- Create sustainable neighborhoods to improve residents' quality of life.
- Reduce per capita energy consumption and promote alternative fuel resources to increase affordability and resilience of regional energy supplies.
- Protect natural resources and mitigate infrastructure vulnerabilities to maintain a healthy ecosystem and community.
- Increase regional collaboration and employ innovative transportation solutions to maximize the return on public expenditures.
- Use public investments to benefit the health, safety, and welfare of people.

The Technical Assistance Program provides MORPC staff assistance to local government agencies and members within the boundary of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to advance the goals in the MTP through implementation of specific MTP strategies focused on improving active transportation and transit infrastructure.

The specific MTP strategies include:

System Management

- OP 10 – Modify lane configurations of roadways, where appropriate, to safely match vehicle, transit, bike, and pedestrian demand.
- SAF 1: Collect, develop, maintain, and analyze crash data and identify regional safety emphasis areas and priority safety locations.
- SAF 3: Implement countermeasures that address priority safety locations.
- DM 3 – Collaborate to reduce the need for vehicle travel through development regulations.
- DM 6 – Make neighborhoods safely walkable, bikeable, and accessible by transit through non-infrastructure projects and programs.

System Development

- BP 1 – Collaborate to build high comfort bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure through development regulations.
- BP 2 – Increase the quantity and quality of data on bicycle, pedestrian, and similar modes travel behavior.
- BP 3 – Expand high comfort bicycle and pedestrian networks through the implementation of complete streets.
- BP 4 – Implement the Central Ohio Greenways trail vision.
- BP 5 – Implement the Active Transportation Plan to create high comfort regional pedestrian and bicycle transportation networks.
- BP 6 – Make neighborhoods walkable and bikeable through infrastructure projects that fill gaps in the high comfort pedestrian and bicycle networks.
- BP 7 – Ensure neighborhoods and employment locations have high comfort connections for pedestrians and bicyclists to the regional pedestrian, bicycle and transit networks.
- BP 8 – Facilitate multi-jurisdictional dialogue to improve opportunities through collaboration.
- TRAN 1 – Collaborate to build transit infrastructure through development regulations.
- TRAN 6 – Make neighborhoods transit supportive through infrastructure projects.

Transportation System Related

- SYS 1 – Collaborate to ensure localized and regional transportation systems needs are addressed in development decisions.
- SYS 2 – Develop transportation system to serve all demographic population groups.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

IMPORTANT DATES

September 15, 2023
Call for Applications

September 18, 2023
Informational Webinar

October 13, 2023
Deadline to Submit
Competitive Application

November 3, 2023
Awardees Notified

The MORPC TA Program awards technical assistance services through a competitive application process. Successful applicants will receive MORPC staff expertise for community-based planning services that help to advance regional goals and specific strategies identified in the MTP. Technical assistance will be provided for specific planning services to help implement the identified strategies.

MORPC has established pre-determined scopes of services for potential activity types for the 2024 TA Program cycle. Before applying for technical assistance, interested parties are encouraged to participate in an optional, **informational webinar** with MORPC staff **on Monday, September 18, 2023** to ask any questions about the program. For more information, contact Jordan Petrov at jpetrov@morpc.org.

Applicants who are awarded technical assistance through the TA Program must be prepared to have these services completed within six to nine months. Services should align with existing or proposed community projects that establish a strong connection to the MTP, ATP, Complete Streets Policy, and COG Vision. As part of the application process, applicants are required to provide a commitment letter signed by a local leader or department director acknowledging the request for technical assistance and committing local staff time to the project.

Within the program application, applicants will be asked to describe how local government officials and staff will participate in the process. The TA Program planning process is expected to be iterative; MORPC staff and program partners will conduct the planning process *together* with staff from the communities that are selected.

Applicants who receive an award of technical assistance **must** be able to:

- Submit a letter of commitment signed by a local leader or department director as part of the application,
- Designate a community staff member as Project Manager, and
- Enter into an agreement with MORPC prior to initiation of services.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITY TYPES

For the 2024 TA Program cycle, MORPC has identified activity types that are intended to help guide Central Ohio communities through the projected changes in regional transportation needs. These activity types were developed based on the vision and goals established by the MTP, ATP, Complete Streets Policy, and COG Vision. Each activity is designed to address specific strategies established in the MTP.

Applicants are encouraged to apply for one of the pre-determined activity types outlined below. The anticipated scopes of work are intended to be a guide for the services and deliverables the TA Program will provide for communities. Communities can modify a pre-determined scope to suit their individual community needs as part of the application process.

Applicants must indicate their chosen activity type and provide the scope of work in their application. Awardees must be able to show that whichever project they choose can be completed within six to nine months.

Activity Types:

The following activity types have been established for the 2024 TA Program cycle:

1. **Active Transportation Planning**
    a. Complete Streets Policy Development
    b. Transit Supportive Infrastructure Planning
    c. Active Transportation Project Prioritization

2. **Central Ohio Greenways Visioning**
    a. Central Ohio Greenways Vision Refinement
    b. Trail Access & Connectivity Planning
    c. Trail Town Visioning & Community Placemaking

3. **Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety**
    a. Safety Action Plan Development
    b. Complete Streets Safety Audit
    c. Systemic Pedestrian Safety Analysis

4. **Land Use Planning**
    a. Conceptual Development Framework
    b. Transit Oriented Development Planning

5. **Other**

Following are the potential scopes of work for each activity type. These may be modified by the applicant as part of the application process.

1. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

a. Complete Streets Policy Development

Background: *Complete Streets provide safe, comfortable, and convenient access for all roadway users regardless of mode, age, or ability. Complete Streets may include sidewalks, protected bike lanes, shared-use paths, bus lanes, roundabouts, or other design elements. Adopting a Complete Streets Policy formalizes a community's intent to plan, design, develop, redevelop, and maintain roads that work for all residents.*

Description**:** *This activity will provide communities with the best practices, design guidance, and planning tools necessary to write and implement a Complete Streets Policy. Completion of this activity should result in the development of a Complete Streets Policy that the community then ushers through the adoption process.*

Examples of past services:

- *City of Delaware Complete Streets Policy*
- *City of Worthington Complete Streets Policy*

Anticipated Services:

- Review of existing legislation, standards, and guidance, as applicable
  - Local agency will compile all local plans and relevant materials
  - MORPC will review materials and outline where improvements can be made regarding design & implementation of Complete Streets
- Research and presentation of best practices for Complete Streets
  - MORPC staff will provide presentation materials describing the benefits and general best practices related to Complete Streets
- Lead up to two (2) workshops for staff, stakeholders, or public
  - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
  - MORPC staff will lead workshops to discuss opportunities for improving design and implementation of Complete Streets in the community
- Attend up to two (2) public workshops hosted/led by local agency staff
  - MORPC staff will provide support for local agency, should they decide to host any additional workshops or meetings

Anticipated Deliverables:

- Draft *Complete Streets Policy* (formal policy to be passed through City Council, Township Board of Trustees, or County Commissioners as a resolution or ordinance)
- Strategy document identifying next steps for implementation

1. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

b. Transit Supportive Infrastructure Planning

Background: *The insight2050 Corridor Concepts study identified key strategies for building truly transit-supportive corridors and transit-oriented development. As new initiatives like LinkUS work to implement recommendations from the Corridor Concepts study, it will be important for all communities in the region to identify where infrastructure improvements are needed in order to better connect people along priority regional transit corridors to the transit services.*

Description: *This activity will allow a community to understand key characteristics for providing safe pedestrian and bicyclist access to transit and identify issues and opportunities for improving access to key transit services. Completion of this activity should lead to a feasibility study or application for funding to design and/or implement the identified facilities.*

Anticipated Services:

- Review existing plans and projects
  - Local agency will compile all local plans and proposed projects
  - MORPC will review plans and proposed projects to establish working base map
- Data development and analysis
  - MORPC staff will conduct data analysis as necessary for assessing issues and opportunities related to accessing transit
- Lead up to two (2) workshops for staff, stakeholders, or public
  - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
  - MORPC staff will lead workshops to review existing conditions and discuss potential improvements
- Finalize priority connections and transit access improvements
  - MORPC staff will conduct any final data analysis, as necessary
  - MORPC staff will consolidate input from all parties into final draft map of potential transit access improvements

Anticipated Deliverables:

- Technical documentation including:
  - Priority connections and any relevant opportunities/constraints
  - Relevant best practices and resources
- Strategy document identifying next steps for implementation

1. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

c. Active Transportation Project Prioritization

Background: *The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) identifies regionally significant projects to be eligible for federal transportation funding. A project must be included in the MTP in order for a community to use MORPC-Attributable federal funding. These projects include active transportation facilities such as multi-use paths, bike facilities, and sidewalks, as well as roadway projects that are required to comply with the regional Complete Streets Policy.*

Description: *This activity will allow a community to 1) review the active transportation projects currently in the MTP in detail within their jurisdiction to refine them and develop a strategy for prioritizing and implementing the proposed facilities, and/or 2) review the active transportation needs within the community and establish potential projects to include in the next MTP update. Completion of this activity should lead to 1) a feasibility study or application for funding to design and/or implement the identified facilities, and/or 2) a list of potential projects to be added to the next MTP update.*

Examples of past services:

- *Violet Township – Active Transportation Planning*
- *Berlin Township – Active Transportation Planning*

Anticipated Services:

- Review existing plans and projects
  - Local agency will compile all local plans and proposed projects
  - MORPC will review plans, proposed projects, the ATP, and the MTP to establish working base map for assessing potential active transportation projects
- Data development and analysis
  - MORPC staff will conduct data analysis as necessary to help refine existing MTP projects and/or identify potential new projects
- Lead up to two (2) workshops for staff, stakeholders, or public
  - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
  - MORPC staff will lead workshops to review existing plans and discuss potential changes and/or additions to local priorities and the MTP
- Finalize priority projects and develop potential alternatives
  - MORPC staff will conduct any final data analysis, as necessary
  - MORPC staff will consolidate input from all parties into final draft map of potential active transportation projects

Anticipated Deliverables:

- Technical documentation including:
  - Community active transportation network and proposed projects
  - Recommended design criteria and considerations
- Strategy document identifying next steps for implementation

2. CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS VISIONING

a. Central Ohio Greenways Vision Refinement

Background: *The Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Vision establishes a vision for the future network of regionally significant trail facilities in Central Ohio. Many of the proposed facilities were originally identified along river corridors or constrained roadways but may be more feasible along different routes. Additional trails may also be worth consideration for designation in the COG Vision as regionally significant.*

Description: *This activity will allow a community to review the currently proposed regional trails in the COG Vision in detail within their jurisdiction to refine the proposed alignments or addition of a regional trail to the proposed vision, and develop a strategy for prioritizing and implementing the proposed trail. The focus of this activity is the regional trail network – not access to the network (see the next activity: Trail Access & Connectivity Planning). Completion of this activity should lead to a feasibility study or application for funding to design and/or implement the regional trail alignment that is identified.*

Examples of past services:

- *Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks – Scioto Trail Southern Extension*
- *Brown Township – Regional Trail Visioning Study*

Anticipated Services:

- Review existing plans and projects
  - Local agency will compile all local plans and proposed projects
  - MORPC will review plans, proposed projects, and COG Vision to establish working base map for refinement
- Data development and analysis
  - MORPC staff will conduct data analysis as necessary to identify potential routes
- Lead up to two (2) workshops for staff, stakeholders, or public
  - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
  - MORPC staff will lead workshops to review existing plans, identify alternatives, and develop strategies for implementation
- Finalize potential route options and implementation strategies
  - MORPC staff will conduct any final data analysis, as necessary
  - MORPC staff will consolidate input from all parties into summary of potential COG routes and related recommendations

Anticipated Deliverables:

- Technical documentation including:
  - Potential routes and any relevant opportunities/constraints
  - Recommended network connections and access points
- Strategy document identifying next steps for implementation

2. CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS VISIONING

b. Trail Access & Connectivity Planning

Background: *The recently completed Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Trail Prioritization study identified critical gaps in access to the regional trail network within Franklin County. The COG Trail Prioritization study and Active Transportation Plan (ATP) can both be used to guide assessment of trail access, as well as the level of stress associated with existing trail access, and identification of new/improved connections to trails in any community.*

Description: *This activity will review existing access and connections to the regional COG network within a community to identify potential opportunities for adding new connections – either on- or off-street. The goal of this activity is to increase access to the trail network via safe and comfortable connections for people of all incomes, ages, and abilities. Completion of this activity should lead to a temporary demonstration or pilot project along an identified connection, and/or an application for funding to design and/or implement the identified access improvements.*

Examples of past services:

- *City of Columbus – Downtown and Near-East Side Trail Access and Connectivity Study*
- *City of Dublin – Regional Trail Network Connectivity Study*
- *City of Sunbury – Ohio to Erie Trail Access and Connectivity Study*
- *City of Grove City – Scioto Trail Access and Connectivity Study*

Anticipated Services:

- Review existing plans and projects
  - Local agency will compile all local plans and proposed projects
  - MORPC will review plans, proposed projects, and COG Vision to establish working base map for assessing trail access conditions
- Data development and analysis
  - MORPC staff will conduct data analysis as necessary to identify locations and options for improvements
- Lead up to two (2) workshops for staff, stakeholders, or public
  - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
  - MORPC staff will lead workshops to review existing conditions and discuss potential improvements
- Finalize priority on-street connections and trail access improvements
  - MORPC staff will conduct any final data analysis, as necessary
  - MORPC staff will consolidate input from all parties into final draft map of potential trail access improvements

Anticipated Deliverables:

- Technical documentation including:
  - Priority connections and any relevant opportunities/constraints
  - Recommended design criteria and considerations
- Strategy document identifying next steps for implementation

2. CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS VISIONING

c. Trail Town Visioning and Community Placemaking

Background: *The recently completed Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Trail Town Framework identified strategies to encourage communities to invest in their regional trails and improve their trail-to-town connections. Any community located within two (2) miles of a regional trail identified on the COG Vision is considered a potential Trail Town. While MORPC is exploring opportunities to fund and resource a regional trail town designation program, local communities are encouraged to identify and develop their physical and cultural connections, and proactively engage in this anticipated regional program.*

Description: *This activity will engage a community in a dynamic and immersive placemaking exercise to uncover and highlight the valuable local assets and cultural elements to more fully embrace individuals seeking to connect through trail-based experiences. Completion of this activity will result in the development of a Community Readiness Assessment and a Community Trail Profile, which will be used to promote the community's connection to the regional trail system as part of the future Regional Trail Town program.*

Anticipated Services:

- Review current conditions
    - Local agency will inventory existing trail-related infrastructure in the identified study area
    - MORPC and the local agency will conduct a points of interest inventory and available services matrix
    - MORPC will develop a local business or resident survey to be administered by the local agency to assess business owners or resident perception of trails
- Lead up to two (2) workshops for staff and stakeholders
    - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
    - MORPC staff will lead workshops identify the local community's sense of place, identity, and vision for enhanced placemaking
- Finalize strategies
    - MORPC will consolidate all research and input into a summary of the community's trail identity and craft recommendations for placemaking strategies

Anticipated Deliverables:

- Community Readiness Assessment
    - A comprehensive overview of available trail related services, placemaking elements, and trail infrastructure
    - Recommendations to enhance the trail user experience through improved infrastructure, art, programming, or events
- Community Profile
    - Public-facing marketing and educational material celebrating cultural elements, trail connections, walkable and bikeable destinations, natural features, and other unique local elements.

3. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

a. Safety Action Plan Development

Background: *The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) established the new Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary program with $5 billion in appropriated funds over the next 5 years. The focus of this grant is addressing roadway safety through the reduction and/or elimination of roadway fatalities and serious injuries. In fiscal year 2022 (FY22), more than $800 million was awarded for two different types of grants: Action Plan grants and Implementation grants. In order to be eligible for the Implementation grants, the applicant must have a qualifying Action Plan already in place.*

Description: *This activity will allow a community to conduct a planning process to develop an Action Plan that meets the SS4A grant requirements. Completion of this activity should lead to adoption of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, as well as an application for an SS4A Implementation Grant.*

Examples of past services:

- *City of Delaware – Safety Action Plan*

Anticipated Services:

- Establish a local task force, steering committee, or implementation group
  - Local agency will identify priority stakeholders to include
- Existing conditions analysis
  - MORPC staff will conduct analysis of crash data to identify key crash types and factors as well as priority safety locations within the community
- Lead up to two (2) workshop for staff, stakeholders, or public
  - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
  - MORPC staff will lead workshop to discuss existing conditions and action plan development
- Identify comprehensive set of strategies and action items to address safety problems
  - MORPC staff will consolidate input from all parties into final draft of action plan

Anticipated Deliverables:

- Comprehensive Safety Action Plan that meets SS4A grant requirements

3. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

b. Complete Streets Safety Audit

Background: *The Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan released in 2019 identified pedestrians and bicyclists as the most vulnerable users on our regional transportation system. The update to the regional Active Transportation Plan further analyzed crashes involving people walking and bicycling and identified key factors in many of those crashes.*

Description: *This activity will allow a community to review crashes involving people walking and bicycling to identify priority location(s) to conduct a detailed audit to determine appropriate improvements for that location. Completion of this activity should lead to implementation of a temporary demonstration project or low-cost safety improvements, and/or an application for funding to design and implement permanent safety improvements.*

Anticipated Services:

- Review crashes involving people walking and bicycling within the jurisdiction
    - MORPC staff will conduct analysis of crash data to identify priority location(s) within the community
- Conduct a walk audit of priority location(s)
    - Local agency will identify key stakeholders and coordinate invitations
    - MORPC staff will lead formal walk audit with key stakeholders
- Lead a workshop for staff, stakeholders, or public
    - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
    - MORPC staff will lead workshop to discuss identified safety challenges and potential safety improvements
- Identify priority safety improvements
    - MORPC staff will consolidate input from all parties into final draft map of potential safety improvements

Anticipated Deliverables:

- Technical documentation including:
    - Priority safety locations
    - Recommended safety improvements
- Strategy document identifying next steps for implementation

3. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

c. Systemic Pedestrian Safety Analysis

Background: *In January 2022, ODOT's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) began accepting funding applications for projects that focus on preventing pedestrian crashes through systemic infrastructure improvements. Systemic improvements are meant to be proactive and widely implemented based on roadway features that have been associated with specific crash types. FHWA has identified a range of proven countermeasures that prevent pedestrian crashes, and ODOT wants to encourage project applications that focus on the implementation of these improvements.*

Description: *This activity will allow a community to review pedestrian crashes within their jurisdiction and prioritize potential locations for implementation of specific countermeasures. Completion of this activity should lead to either installation of, or an application for funding to implement, the recommended countermeasures.*

Anticipated Services:

- Review crashes involving pedestrians within the jurisdiction
    - MORPC staff will conduct analysis of crash data to understand key contributing factors and roadway characteristics
- Conduct a walk audit of key locations
    - Local agency will identify key stakeholders and coordinate invitations
    - MORPC staff will lead formal walk audit with key stakeholders
- Lead a workshop for staff, stakeholders, or public
    - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
    - MORPC staff will lead workshop to discuss identified safety challenges and potential safety improvements
- Identify priority safety improvements
    - MORPC staff will consolidate input from all parties into a final list of prioritized locations and preferred countermeasures

Anticipated Deliverables:

- Technical documentation for submittal as part of funding application, or inclusion in a local capital budget, including:
    - Map of prioritized locations
    - List of preferred countermeasures with cost estimates
    - Relevant safety metrics for each location

4. LAND USE PLANNING

a. Conceptual Development Framework

Background: *As we prepare for the growth projected for the Central Ohio region, many communities are exploring the potential to implement more compact development, increase housing options, and accommodate more modes of transportation. Establishing a clear vision for strategic locations within individual communities can help to address this.*

Description: *This activity will allow a community to identify the most relevant best practices and development principles for a particular site or strategic location that will help to set the stage for a future development plan. Completion of this activity should result in establishing a vision and the planning and design principles that future development at an identified site will follow.*

Examples of past services:

- *City of Hilliard Cemetery Road Conceptual Development Framework*
- *Jefferson Township Blacklick Station Conceptual Development Framework*
- *City of Westerville Brooksedge Office Park Redevelopment Framework*
- *Violet Township Community Center Development Framework*

Anticipated Services:

- Review existing plans and policies relevant to the selected site
  - Local agency will compile all local plans and relevant materials
  - MORPC will review materials and provide summary of relevant highlights
- Existing conditions analysis
  - MORPC staff will review available data for the selected site to develop working base map and identify challenges/opportunities
- Lead up to two (2) workshops for staff, stakeholders, or public
  - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
  - MORPC staff will lead workshops to provide overview of study, existing conditions and plans, and relevant best practices
- Identify potential opportunities for implementation in the community
  - MORPC staff will consolidate input from all parties into final draft of potential options

Anticipated Deliverables:

- Conceptual Development Framework including:
  - Identified opportunities
  - Relevant best practices
  - Key development principles
  - Potential next steps for implementation

4. LAND USE PLANNING

b. Transit Oriented Development Planning

Background: *The insight2050 Corridor Concepts study identified key strategies for building truly transit-supportive corridors and transit-oriented development. As new initiatives like LinkUS work to implement recommendations from the Corridor Concepts study, it will be important for all communities in the region to identify opportunities to further the goals of insight2050.*

Description: *This activity will allow a community to assess local policies and codes and identify where improvements can be made to provide more opportunity for transit-supportive development. Completion of this activity could result in potential policy or code updates, or a site-specific strategy for transit-oriented development.*

Anticipated Services:

- Review existing plans and policies, and/or site conditions
    - Local agency will compile all local plans and relevant materials
    - MORPC will review materials and outline where improvements can be made regarding design & implementation of transit oriented development
- Lead up to two (2) workshops for staff, stakeholders, or public
    - Local agency will identify priority groups to meet with and coordinate invitations
    - MORPC staff will lead workshops to discuss priorities and challenges related to transit oriented development
- Identify potential best practices for implementation in the community
    - MORPC staff will consolidate input from all parties into final draft of potential options

Anticipated Deliverables:

- Technical documentation including:
    - Potential best practices for implementation
- Strategy document identifying next steps for implementation

5. OTHER

Parameters for "Other" Activity Type

Description: *If a community is interested in applying for a project that differs from the project types outlined above, the application must include a detailed scope that aligns with the parameters specified below.*

- Technical assistance should focus on moving from plan/concept to implementation.
- Activity should align with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Active Transportation Plan (ATP), or Central Ohio Greenways Vision.
- Applicant must provide a detailed scope of work.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

The following criteria must be met in order to be considered eligible for the MORPC TA Program:

- The applicant is a local government or MORPC member within the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundary.
- Services requested are within the scope of services offered or within the scope of the TA Program and/or MORPC staff expertise.
- Application must be complete (including signed letter of commitment).
- Application must be received prior to the application deadline.

If a service selected for technical assistance cannot be initiated for any reason, at no fault of MORPC, the applicant must withdraw the application from the application pool and forfeit its award of technical assistance. Applications may be resubmitted for consideration in the next application cycle.

If an applicant selected for technical assistance fails to complete the selected activity within the expected six-to-nine-month timeframe, the recipient may be asked to provide one or more of the following:

- Documentation explaining why the activity failed to be completed within the given timeframe
- Agreement extension executed by recipient and MORPC

APPLICATION PROCESS

All eligible MORPC members and local government agencies are invited to submit an application for the 2024 TA Program cycle. The application will be available to all eligible applicants beginning on September 15, 2023. **Program applications must be submitted to MORPC by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on Friday, October 13, 2023**.

The application consists of application criteria and required documentation. An evaluation committee will assess completed applications based on the criteria outlined below and further described on *pages 21-22* of this document.

Application criteria – Applications will be scored based on the application criteria listed in the table below. The highest-scoring application will be the first selected to receive technical assistance; the next highest-scoring eligible application will be the second selected to receive technical assistance; and so on until budget is exhausted or until all eligible applications have been awarded. It is possible that not all applicants will be awarded technical assistance.

Application Criteria	Points
Community Objectives	25
MTP Strategies	20
Implementing Regional Priorities	20
Equity Considerations	15
Local Commitment and Collaboration	10
Leveraging Investment	10
TOTAL	**100**

Required documentation – Applicant communities must submit a signed letter of commitment from the local governments' elected officials or department director as part of their application.

The required documentation must be submitted to MORPC no later than the application deadline of 5:00 PM Eastern Time on Friday, October 13, 2023.

APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES

As part of the applicant commitment to receiving technical assistance services from MORPC, the following requirements will apply:

- Designation of staff time commitment and staff member as Project Manager
- Provision of any relevant data or materials that MORPC does not already have
- Regularly scheduled (bi-weekly preferred) check-ins with MORPC staff
- Identification of and regular communications with appropriate community stakeholders
- Participation from all departments within the local agency relevant to the project
- Consistent and timely review of all project materials submitted

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The application for the 2023 TA Program cycle will be made available on **Friday, September 15, 2023**. Anyone interested in applying for technical assistance through the TA Program must submit an application by **5:00 PM Eastern Time on Friday, October 13, 2023**.

The application will consist of the following:

1) **Applicant Information**
   a) Applicant Community/Organization
   b) Project Manager Name and Title
   c) Phone Number
   d) Email Address
   e) Mailing Address

2) **Activity Type**
   Please select a Technical Assistance activity from the drop-down list.

3) **Preferred Scope of Work**
   Please submit your preferred scope of work, including an estimated schedule, for the selected activity type.

4) **Staff Commitment**
   Based on the identified scope of work and estimated activity schedule, how many person hours (per week, per month, or total) does the applicant intend to commit to the activity?

5) **Community Objectives** (25 points) (500 word maximum)
   Please describe the significance of the proposed activity. What are the objectives and what is the perceived benefit to the community? How will an award of technical assistance through the TA Program improve the activity?

6) **MTP Strategies** (20 points) (500 word maximum)
   Please indicate how the selected activity will advance specific strategies from the MTP focused on improving active transportation and transit infrastructure. Your response should address at least two (2) and up to five (5) of the most applicable strategies. Refer to the Program Purpose on page 3 for the specific strategies.

7) **Implementing Regional Priorities** (20 points) (500 word maximum)
   Please describe how the selected activity will help to implement project(s) in alignment with the MTP, ATP, or COG Vision.

8) **Equity Considerations** (15 points) (500 word maximum)
Please describe how the selected activity will address transportation needs of transportation disadvantaged and/or underserved populations within your community.

Transportation disadvantaged or underserved populations may include:

- Low-income
- Minorities
- Senior Citizens
- Veterans
- Children / Minors
- Persons with mental / physical disabilities
- College Students
- Or other groups that are often (unintentionally) excluded from planning processes

9) **Local Commitment and Collaboration** (10 points) (500 word maximum)
To be awarded assistance through the TA Program, communities must commit to designating a community staff person as Project Manager.

Above and beyond this minimum requirement, please indicate how the selected activity will engage relevant community stakeholders – for example: interdepartmental staff, elected officials, school district representatives, civic associations, chambers of commerce, or advocacy groups – to participate in the technical assistance process? Identify potential stakeholders below and describe how their involvement would increase the success of the activity. Examples may include in-kind commitments of stakeholder staff time and resources, demonstrated public-private collaboration, committee participation, etc.

10) **Leveraging Investment** (10 points) (500 word maximum)
How will MORPC technical assistance services be leveraged to implement active transportation and transit infrastructure?

11) **Required Documentation**
To ensure elected community leaders and/or department directors recognize that staff are requesting technical assistance through the MORPC TA Program, a letter of commitment signed by a local leader or department director must accompany the application. No points are awarded for required documentation, however, failure to submit will result in the application being ineligible. Required documentation must be submitted to MORPC no later than the application deadline of **5:00 PM Eastern Time on Friday, October 13, 2023**.

Application Checklist & Timeline

- ☐ ***Optional for all applicants*** **–** Participate in a MORPC TA Program informational webinar on **Monday, September 18, 2023** for more details about the program and application process

- ☐ ***Required for all applicants*** **–** Submit an application and required documentation by **5:00 PM Eastern Time on Friday, October 13, 2023.**

MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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info@morpc.org

Memorandum

TO: Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Officers and Board Members
Transportation Policy Committee
Transportation Advisory Committee
Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Nick Gill, Transportation Study Director

DATE: August 23, 2023

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution T-14-23: **"ACCEPTING THE PLANNING WORK PROGRAM COMPLETION REPORT FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2023"**

Annually, MORPC is required to submit a report to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) describing the work completed with federal planning funds provided to continue the metropolitan transportation planning process, as defined by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

For State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023, the use of these funds was outlined in the SFY 2023 Planning Work Program (PWP) adopted by Resolution T-6-22. The PWP serves as the scope of work, the schedule, and the budget for the federally funded planning activities.

The PWP included such activities as follow up of the SFY 21-24 TIP and completion of the SFY 24-27 TIP, continued delivery of projects using MORPC-attributable funds with selection of new funding commitments in SFY23, follow up of the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), work on developing the 2024-2050 MTP with focus on the foundational data for it, collaboration on major regional initiatives related to greenways and housing, assistance on freeway and arterial studies, support for safety and operations and management of the transportation system, and support for transit, bike, and pedestrian planning. The SFY 2023 PWP also included the continuation of ridesharing/demand reduction and air quality awareness activities. As part of this scope of work, MORPC also completed the selection process for FTA Section 5310 funding, continued the Regional Data Advisory Committee, continued outreach and developed resources related to insight2050, including the technical assistance program, collaborated to advance intercity passenger rail, continued the LinkUs initiative with other regional partners most significantly with the transit supportive infrastructure (TSI) component, and other projects and activities that have been presented over the state fiscal year.

A summary of the PWP activities is included as an attachment to the resolution. A full report is available upon request. Resolution T-14-23 approves the completion report and requires that it be forwarded to ODOT.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Erik J. Janas
Chair

Chris Amorose Groomes
Vice Chair

Michelle Crandall
Secretary

Attachment: Resolution T-14-23

RESOLUTION T-14-23

"ACCEPTING THE PLANNING WORK PROGRAM COMPLETION REPORT FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2023"

WHEREAS, it is the role of the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) to help encourage, facilitate, and provide a forum for regional, cooperative transportation planning and decision-making; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Work Program (PWP) is the document that outlines the work of the MPO, the use of regional transportation planning funds and the regional planning activities that will be conducted each state fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Policy Committee adopted the SFY 2023 Planning Work Program (PWP) by Resolution T-6-22; and

WHEREAS, the activities described in the PWP have been completed or carried over into SFY 2024 and reported in the PWP Completion Report, a summary of which is attached; and

WHEREAS, major products of the PWP have been presented previously; and

WHEREAS, these products include the core work with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the continued delivery of projects using MORPC-attributable funds, as well as regional initiatives such as greenways and housing, supporting freeway and arterial studies, local traffic forecasting and continuing updates to the travel demand model, maintaining data to support modeling and planning needs, support for transit planning and ODOT planning studies, ITS, ridesharing/demand reduction, bike and pedestrian planning, safety planning and air quality awareness; and

WHEREAS, ODOT requires approval of this PWP Completion Report by the Transportation Policy Committee as the Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its August 28, 2023 meeting, and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its August 30, 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 the Transportation Policy Committee approves the PWP Completion Report for SFY 2023.

Section 2. That this resolution and the PWP Completion Report be forwarded to the Ohio Department of Transportation for appropriate action.

Section 3. 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.

_____
Chris Amorose Groomes, Interim Chair
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

_____
Date

Prepared by: Programming Staff
Attachment: Summary of Completion Report for the SFY 2023 Planning Work Program

MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Transportation Policy Committee
Transportation Advisory Committee
Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Nick Gill, Transportation Director

DATE: August 23, 2023

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution T-15-23: **"Adoption of 2050 Forecast Household and Employment Variables for Inclusion in the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan"**

Proposed Resolution T-15-23 adopts zonal-level 2050 household and employment forecasts to be incorporated into the development of the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, currently underway. MORPC prepares these data sets as part of the regional transportation planning process. The data are a primary input into the regional travel demand model, which provides guidance for determining future transportation projects. The household and employment data are prepared at the geography of Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs), which is the geography recognized in the travel demand model. The TAZ boundaries do not necessarily correlate to political boundaries. The data are developed for the MPO and CORPO planning areas, which includes Franklin, Delaware, Fairfield, Pickaway, Madison, Union, Marion, Morrow, and Knox counties. MORPC also works with LCATS to prepare the data sets for Licking County.

The data sets were developed by first reviewing existing land use, new population and housing units calculated from census data released at the census block level, building permits collected from local permitting agencies, and points of interest data maintained by MORPC. Employment data were updated from unemployment files that MORPC receives through ODOT from the State Department of Jobs and Family Services.

The 2050 forecasts were then built from base year estimates by incorporating a range of additional data inputs. Using a statistical model that considered birth and death rates, in-migration, and the unique characteristics of growth occurring in Central Ohio, county-level population and employment projections were generated.

Land use forecasts were developed based on local land use plans. MORPC meets with member governments on an annual basis to gather information regarding transportation and development projects and trends. In addition, MORPC maintains an extensive data library of local plans. These plans were combined into a regional land use file with a standardized land use taxonomy of land use

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Erik J. Janas
Chair

Chris Amorose Groomes
Vice Chair

Michelle Crandall
Secretary

classes. An online webmap with the existing and future land uses for the region was provided to local governments for review and comment.

To distribute the 2050 county-level population and employment forecasts to TAZs, MORPC combined the existing and future regional land use mapping with other GIS layers including environmental constraints, economic development areas, and major infrastructure improvements and service areas, which act as attractors and deterrents to future development. Using a land use model that weights these development factors, growth was projected across the region to generate a 2050 household and employment data set.

The household and employment data were made available to local governments and the public via web maps for review and comment. Comments and revisions were incorporated as appropriate into the land use forecasts prior to finalization. The final datasets are attached to the resolution and viewable via an interactive web map.

Additional data variables such as population, employment by category, labor force, and student enrollment will be developed consistent with the household and employment variables and utilized in the travel demand model and MTP development.

Attachment: Resolution T-15-23

RESOLUTION T-15-23

"ADOPTION OF 2050 FORECAST HOUSEHOLD AND EMPLOYMENT VARIABLES FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2024-2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN"

WHEREAS, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO), is required to prepare a Regional Transportation Plan for transportation planning, programming and project development activities associated with federal planning regulations and other federal laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, MORPC has completed preparing planning horizon year 2050 household and employment variables for use in the MORPC Travel Demand Model for the MORPC modeling area, for benchmarking plan performance measures, and generally informing the plan development process; and

WHEREAS, in this assessment MORPC staff has solicited input from member jurisdictions in assessing the assumptions and projections; and

WHEREAS, the comments received from local jurisdiction planning agencies were addressed in the final data sets; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its August 28, 2023, meeting and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its August 30, 2023, meeting recommended adoption by the Transportation Policy Committee of the land use data for use in the MORPC 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan; now therefore

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

Section 1. That it adopts the planning year 2050 household and employment variables and authorizes their use in the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Section 2. That this resolution will be transmitted to ODOT for appropriate action.

Section 3. That this committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

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Chris Amorose Groomes, Interim Chair

MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

_____

Date

Prepared by: Programming Staff

Attachment 1: 2050 Household Density

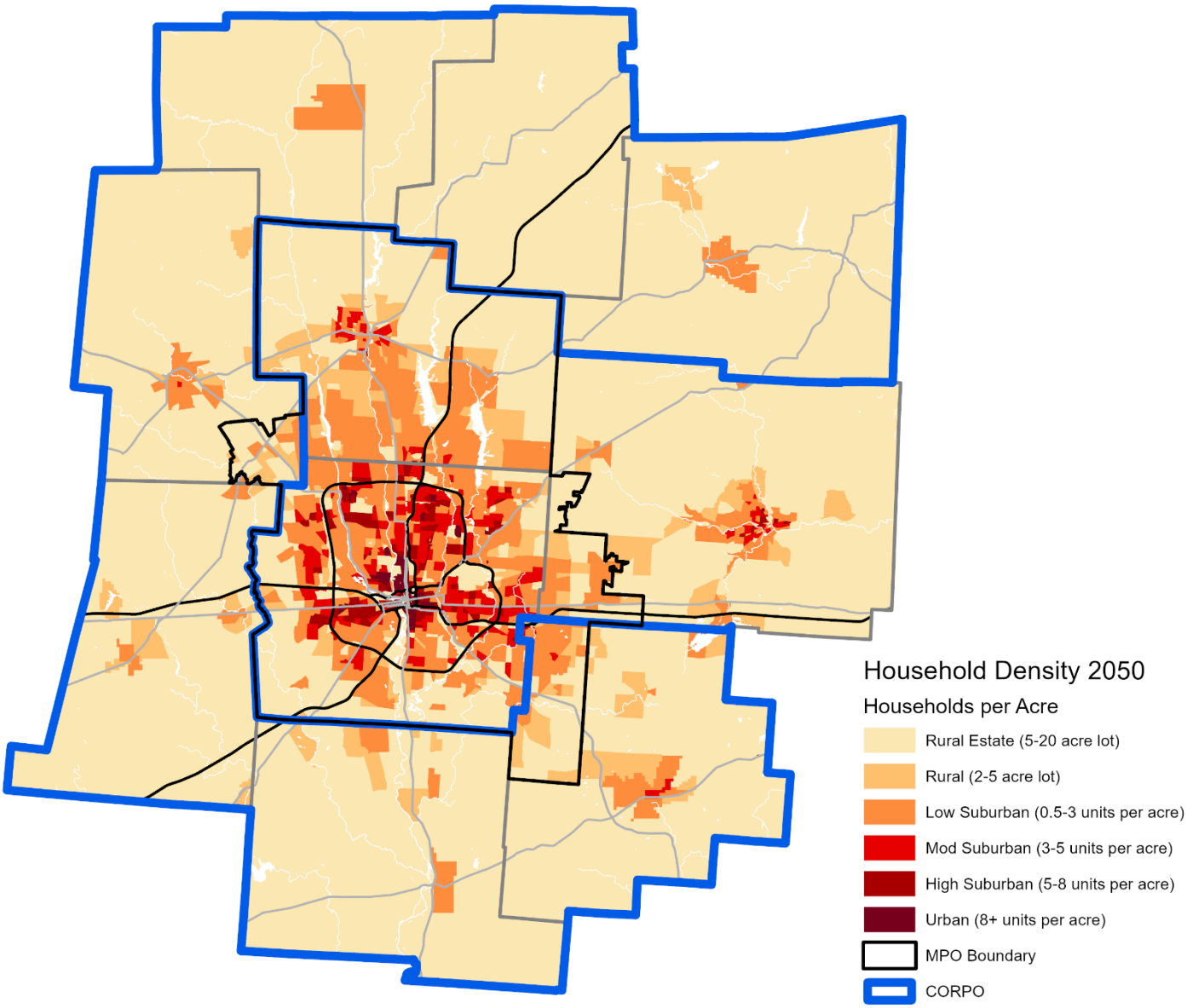
Attachment 2: 2021-2050 Household Growth Density

Attachment 3: 2050 Employment Density
Attachment 4: 2021-2050 Employment Growth Density

RESOLUTION T-15-23

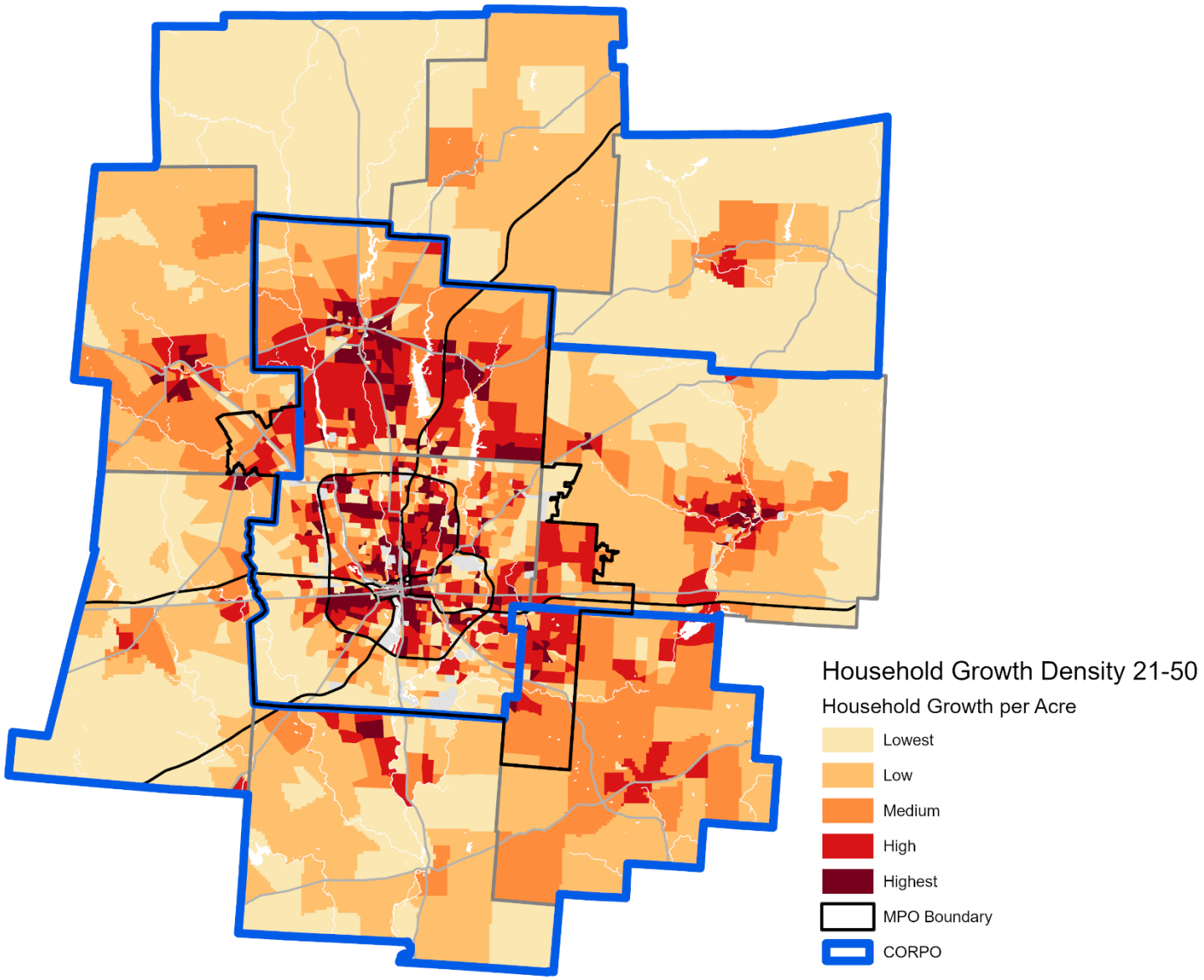
Attachment 1: 2050 Household Density

Also viewable via [interactive web map]



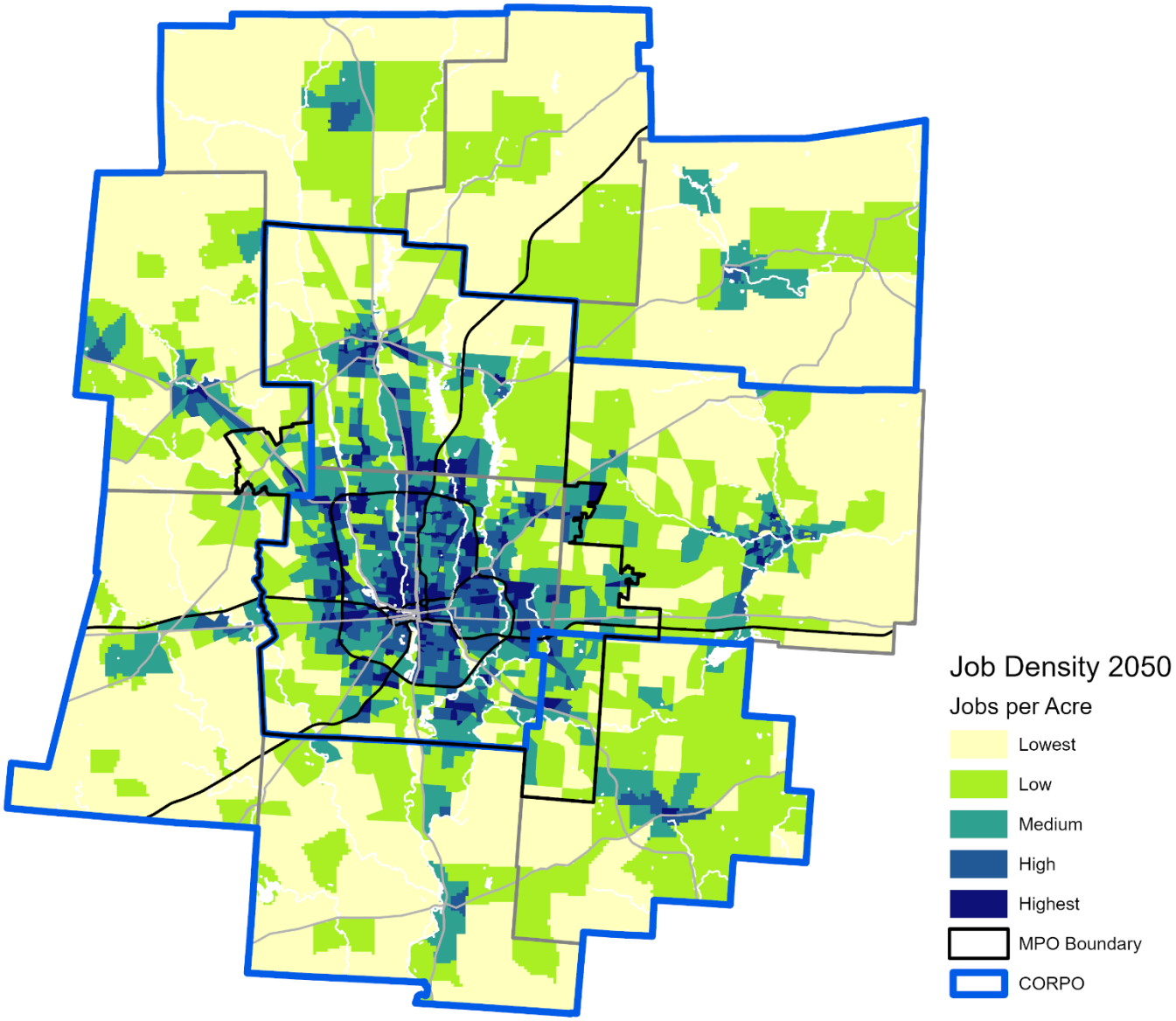
Attachment 2: 2021-2050 Household Growth Density

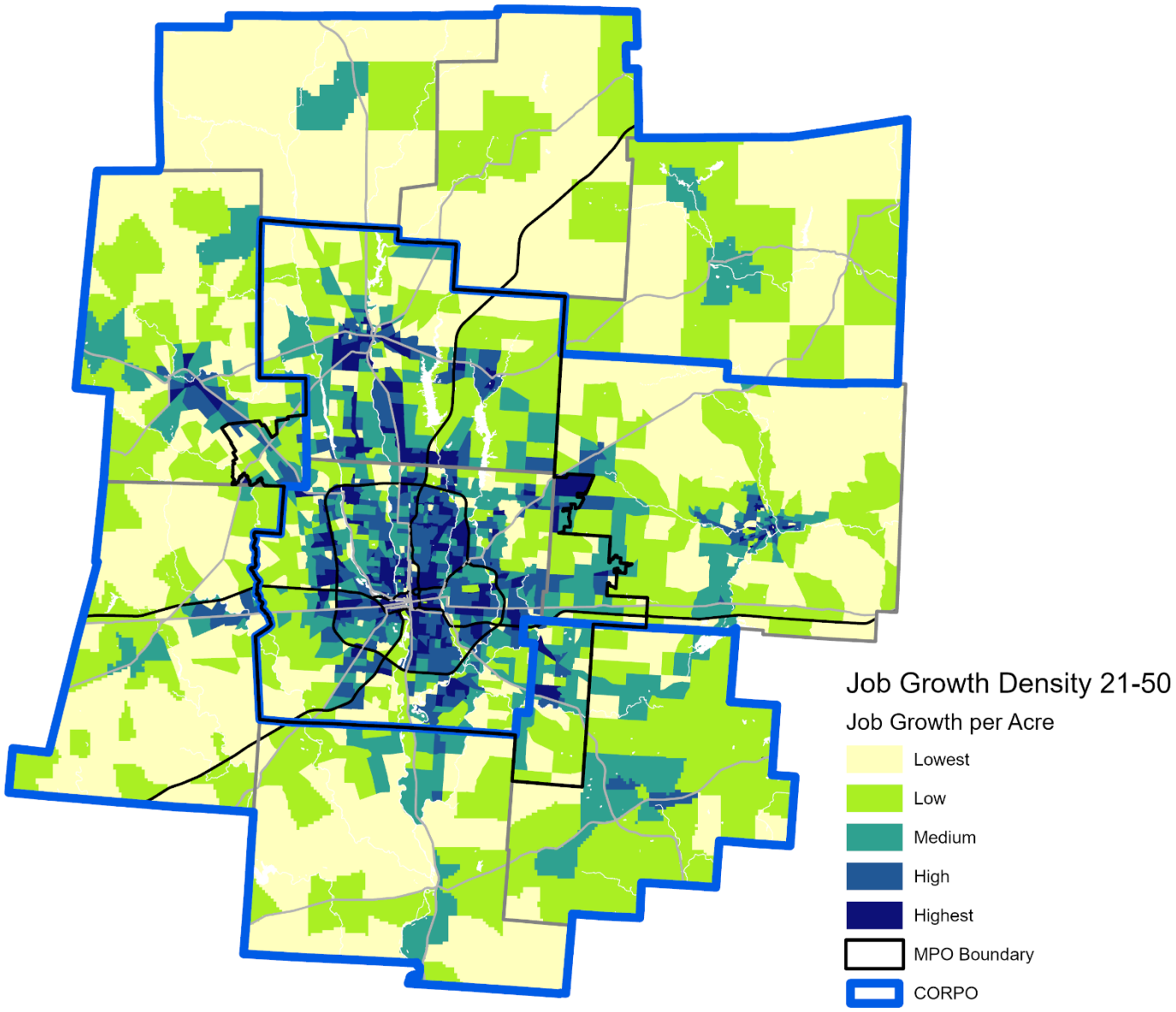
Also viewable via [interactive web map]



Attachment 3: 2050 Employment Density

Also viewable via interactive web map



Attachment 4: 2021-2050 Employment Growth Density

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