



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

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TTY. 1.800.750.0750  
info@morpc.org

**NOTICE OF A MEETING**

**COMMISSION MEETING**  
**MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**111 LIBERTY STREET, SUITE 100**  
**COLUMBUS, OH 43215**  
*TOWN HALL*

**Thursday, September 14, 2023**  
**1:30 p.m.**

***Remote Option***

To join by video and see any screen sharing, click on “Join Microsoft Teams Meeting” below. You do not need to have Microsoft Teams for the link to work.

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 292 053 378 807

Passcode: QuzquE

To participate by phone, use the conference call information below.

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

[\(888\) 596-2819](#) United States (Toll-free)

Phone Conference ID: 996 597 070#

**AGENDA**

- 1:30 p.m.
- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
  - 2. Welcome and Introductions** – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Acting Chair
    - **Election of Interim Officers** – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Acting Chair
    - **Recognition of Guests and New Members** – Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer
  - 3. Executive Director’s Report** – William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director

**William Murdock, AICP**  
Executive Director

**Erik J. Janas**  
Chair

**Chris Amorose Grooms**  
Vice Chair

**Michelle Crandall**  
Secretary

### **Committees**

4. **Transportation Policy Committee (MPO)** – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair
  - a. **Call to Order** – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Interim Chair
  - b. **Metropolitan Planning Organization Report**
    - Programming – Maria Schaper, MORPC Associate Director of Transportation & Interim Economic Development Officer
  - c. **Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda**
    - 1) Approval of **August 10, 2023 Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**
    - 2) **Proposed Resolution T-11-23: “Amending the State Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program”**
    - 3) **Proposed Resolution T-13-23: “Adopting the 2024 Technical Assistance Program Guide”**
    - 4) **Proposed Resolution T-14-23: “Accepting the Planning Work Program Completion Report for State Fiscal Year 2023”**
  - d. **Proposed Resolution T-12-23: “Establishing priorities for Central Ohio Candidate Projects submitted in 2023 for TRAC funding”** – Maria Schaper, MORPC Associate Director of Transportation & Interim Economic Development Officer
  - e. **2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update** – Maria Schaper, MORPC Associate Director of Transportation & Interim Economic Development Officer
    - **Proposed Resolution T-15-23: “Adopting the 2050 Forecast Household and Employment Variables”**
  - f. **Adjourn Transportation Policy Committee (MPO)** – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Interim Chair
5. **Sustainability Advisory Committee** – Ben Kessler (City of Bexley), Sustainability Advisory Committee Chair
6. **Regional Policy Roundtable** – David Scheffler (City of Lancaster), Regional Policy Roundtable Chair
  - **Legislative Update** – Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter and Joseph Garrity, MORPC Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations
7. **Regional Data Advisory Committee** – Christina Drummond (City of Powell), Regional Data Advisory Committee Chair

- **2023 Population Estimates** – Dave Dixon, MORPC Director of Data Analytics & Strategy

**8. Commission Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of **August 10, 2023 Commission Meeting Minutes**
- b. **Proposed Resolution 12-23: “Adopting a revised agency Operating Reserve Policy”**
- c. Approval of Actions of the Transportation Policy Committee

**9. Other Business**

2:45 p.m. **10. Adjourn** – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin), MORPC Interim Chair

**PLEASE NOTIFY SHARI SAUNDERS AT 614-233-4169 OR [ssaunders@morpc.org](mailto:ssaunders@morpc.org) IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.**

**The next Commission Meeting is**  
**Thursday, October 12, 2023, 1:30 p.m.**  
*111 Liberty Street, Suite 100*  
*Columbus, Ohio 43215*

**PARKING AND TRANSIT:** When parking in MORPC's parking lot, please be sure to park in a MORPC visitor space or in a space marked with a yellow “M”. Handicapped parking is available at the side of MORPC's building. On Commission meeting days only, additional parking is available in numbered spaces toward the west end of the parking lot. Electric vehicle charging stations are available for MORPC guests.

Indoor bike parking is available for MORPC guests.

MORPC is accessible by COTA BUS. The closest bus stop to MORPC southbound is High Street & W. Blenkner Street. Buses that accommodate this stop are the 5 - West 5th Ave./Refugee, and the 8 - Karl/S. High/Parsons. The closest stop to MORPC northbound is High Street & E. Hoster Street. Buses that accommodate this stop are the 5 - West 5th Avenue/Refugee and the 8 - Karl/S. High/Parsons. Accessible from the Courthouse stop by a quick walk are COTA lines 1, 2, 4, and CMAX.



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

## MORPC Monthly Agency Report

August 2023

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### Senior Directors

Kerstin Carr [kcarr@morpc.org](mailto:kcarr@morpc.org)  
Joe Garrity [jgarrity@morpc.org](mailto:jgarrity@morpc.org)  
Nick Gill [ngill@morpc.org](mailto:ngill@morpc.org)

Shawn Hufstедler [shufstедler@morpc.org](mailto:shufstедler@morpc.org)  
Niel M. Jurist [njurist@morpc.org](mailto:njurist@morpc.org)  
Robert Williams [rwilliams@morpc.org](mailto:rwilliams@morpc.org)

### CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT FOR PROSPERITY

#### Advocacy

MORPC is collaborating to host the October 10-October 12 Columbus Region Coalition Washington DC Staff Visit.

#### Gohio Commute

Gohio ran a marketing campaign to increase awareness of the vanpool and carpool programs.

MORPC welcomed two new vanpools through Midwest Kimball. Over 400 trips were logged in the Make Your Miles Matter Commute Challenge which ended August 31.

#### Active Transportation Planning

The next MORPC Active Transportation Committee (ATC) meeting is September 12. Email Lauren Cardoni at [lcardon@morpc.org](mailto:lcardon@morpc.org) if interested in attending.

MORPC hosted a virtual group viewing of the August APBP monthly webinar. The next webinar is September 20, 3 p.m. The topic is "Community-led Temporary Demonstrations & Partnerships." The webinars are eligible for 1.0 hour of AICP Certification Maintenance credit. Contact Jordan Petrov at [jpetrov@morpc.org](mailto:jpetrov@morpc.org) if interested in attending.

Team Members continue to work with Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) on Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) grant tasks to provide active transportation planning assistance to Franklin Township and help the City of Reynoldsburg develop a Complete Streets Policy. Staff submitted a draft Complete Streets Policy to the City of Reynoldsburg for review. The goal is to present the policy to the City Council in September for adoption. MORPC and Franklin Township hosted a final stakeholder meeting August 17 to review a summary of findings from the stakeholder walk audit in June and recommendations for next steps. 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 on September 21, 10 a.m. Registration for the event is available [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 is 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 participated in the following safety committee meetings and safety-related events:

- Franklin County Safe Communities Coalition meeting, August 2
- Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review, August 3

### Technical Assistance Program

Team Members uploaded the draft 2024 Technical Assistance Program guide the website and shared it with MORPC committees for review. The application window for the 2024 program opens September 15 and closes October 13. All 2024 Program information is available [here](#).

Staff continues to work with the five communities awarded technical assistance for 2023 will be wrapping up in the coming weeks. Team Members are actively working on final deliverables for each community, which includes recommendations for next steps that should lead to implementation of identified items.

### Central Ohio Greenways (COG)

The COG Board adopted the Strategic Plan Action Item Update on July 19. Board members are asked to take a survey to share their level interest, availability, and expertise related to each of the updated Action Items. The next COG Board meeting is September 20. The October 13 COG Forum features 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 Marketing Working Group is advising on website upgrades, social media calendar development, the Wayfinding Project, and the Trail Town Framework Development. This Working Group is restructuring to support each project with project-based steering committees.

MORPC extended its contract with Cycle Forward to begin the second phase of the Trail Town Framework and entered a contract with Designing Local to begin a Wayfinding Strategy project.

MORPC's 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.

### Central Ohio Blueways

The Central Ohio Blueways Advisory Panel met August 9 to continue discussions around appropriate considerations and measures for State Water Trail Designation through ODNR. Other items discussed include the importance of large woody debris for water ecology and as potential dangers for paddler safety, various elements of access point design, the potential to compile documentation and guidance of sustainable considerations and best practices for communities, and an updated version of the Partnership Agreement draft.

### Regional Housing Strategy

Team Members discussed regional housing and growth trends with various media outlets and in meetings and events hosted by several MORPC member communities and partner organizations.

For those 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 ([JNoll@morpc.org](mailto:JNoll@morpc.org)).

### Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC)

The next Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting is September 20. Agenda items include regional updates regarding policy and funding, the Summit on Sustainability, and progress on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant.

### Sustainable2050

Following the July 18 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. Sustainable2050 members will be highlighted through a Sustainable September social media campaign. The next Sustainable2050 meeting is September 28.

Team Members are 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.

#### Sustaining Scioto Board

The Sustaining Scioto Board met August 23.

- The Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team's next meeting is September 21.

#### Ohio EPA Water Resources Planning Work

Team Members continue 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 to create interactive GIS data layers highlighting treatment prescriptions of sewer service areas.

#### Energy & Air Quality

The Energy & Air Quality Working Group met July 25. Items presented were updates on new programming developments, efforts by the Human Service Chamber to reduce energy use, and reminders of pending changes in Working Group leadership (Chair Matt Stephens-Rich and Vice Chair Dale Arnold are stepping down the end of 2023). To recommend a leadership candidate, please contact Brian Filiatraut, MORPC's Energy & Sustainability Program Manager at [bfiliatraut@morpc.org](mailto:bfiliatraut@morpc.org). The next Energy and Air Quality Working Group meeting is September 27.

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 next month.

Residents for a Sustainable Central Ohio (RSCO) will meet 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](mailto:BFiliatraut@morpc.org).

MORPC 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 is coordinating collection of hospital admissions data on certain respiratory/cardiovascular diagnoses and overlapping this data with dates of AQI levels at Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG) and higher.

#### Neighborhood Air Monitoring Project

The current monitoring project is winding down after one year of data collection from PurpleAir sensors. Team Members are working on the final report which we expect to complete in early September. The US EPA project has begun. Staff is making progress on the required Quality Assurance Project Plan and will be coordinating with partners from OSU to share data management best practices. Next steps are reviewing quotes for air sensor equipment, forming a Community Advisory Board, and drafting an RFP for consultant services.

#### Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC)

The Commission adopted the 2023-2025 Regional Data Agenda on August 10. RDAC leadership is evaluating new proposed projects and initiatives for evaluation and prioritization during the September 12 RDAC meeting.

- The Capacity Building & Partnerships Working Group is planning for Data Day 2024 tentatively scheduled for early February. 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, "Regional Data Coaches." Team Members are developing a working version to send to the groups and RDAC for review before moving forward with a pilot. The next working group meeting is August 23.



- The Local Government Resources Working Group is considering alternative ways to share resources related to data policies that are more sustainable to manage and more accessible. The group meets the last Tuesday of each month.
- The next Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG) meeting is September 27.

#### The Central Ohio GIS User Group (COGUG)

COGUG met August 23.

#### Data & Research Activities

Team Members continue to explore ways to standardize data tools and workflows and to improve data and workflow version control and documentation. This month, Team Members 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. Staff is also exploring dimensional representation of population data to allow for more convenient filtering, summarization, etc.

Team Members produced 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 Summit on Sustainability. Team Members will produce an Actionable Insights report to share the results with Central Ohio stakeholders.

MORPC 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 teams. 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.

#### Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

MORPC hosted a Supplier Diversity and Procurement Fair to connect not only small and minority-owned businesses to procurement professionals, but any vendors with potential contracting opportunities. More than 50 people attended the fair that included 19 state agencies, local governments, community organizations, and private sector companies.

MORPC was a sponsor of this year’s National African American Male Wellness Agency 20<sup>th</sup> annual 5k walk and run. Staff engaged with the community to share opportunities for public comment on the Regional Mobility Program (RMP) and Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The event had more than 35,000 attendees, and MORPC staff was able to share information on the LinkUS Mobility Initiative, Gohio, and obtain sign-ups for Residential Services and Air Quality Alerts.

### **DRIVE INVESTMENT**

#### Metropolitan Transportation Plan

MORPC launched the 2024-2050 interactive web map on July 25. The map is available at <https://www.morpc.org/2024-2050-metropolitan-transportationplan/> and 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.

Team Members refined and finalized the Zonal-level 2050 Household and Employment forecasts and project evaluation criteria. Staff began developing the 2050 forecast of other variables such as population, workforce, and school enrollment that will inform the MTP and travel demand modeling. Team Members are developing and formatting data needed to complete evaluation of candidate projects.

#### Mobility Management

The Regional Mobility Plan survey collected 756 responses and closed August 31.

#### FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient

Applications for Fiscal Year 2023 funding opens September 27. MORPC is hosting an application workshop that day.

#### LinkUS Mobility Initiative

Invitations were sent to COTA service area jurisdictions to appoint representatives for the Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) committees. The first TSI Working Group meeting was August 25.

LinkUS partners kicked off the Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Grant study on August 21. Funding from the Build America Bureau will help LinkUS partners look at innovative financing, project delivery, and project capacity to implement the \$8 billion initiative.

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 August 11. Three applications were received from three different member jurisdictions.

Team Members developed, compiled, and shared data 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.

#### MORPC-Attributable Funding

Revisions to the Policies for Managing MORPC-Attributable funds will be considered by the Attributable Funds Committee (AFC) in October. AFC members may suggest revisions in advance by emailing Tom Graham at [tgraham@morpc.org](mailto:tgraham@morpc.org).

#### Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)

Applications for District 3 (Franklin County) SCIP and LTIP funding for SFY 2025 were due September 1. Applicants can present projects to the PWIC on October 20.

#### 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 in September or October.

#### Federal Competitive Programs

MORPC submitted the Silicon Heartland Appalachia Regional Engineer for Semiconductors (SHARE) Tech Hub Application on August 14. The applications requests designation to become a formally recognized EDA Technology and Innovation Hub.

MORPC created an internal database that tracks Federal grant applications throughout the region 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 attended four of these sessions with members to better understand how Central Ohio can obtain these funds.

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

MORPC is collaborating with COTA and the City of Columbus on an application for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Neighborhood Access and Equity Program (NAE). The deadline is September 28.



MORPC submitted an application to the federal Safe Streets and Roads for All program. The application includes a Safety Action Plan Update, a Vulnerable Roadway Users Supplemental Action plan (including a Trail Count Program action item), and Central Ohio Greenways Trail Access Demonstration Project(s).

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 focuses 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 include Ohio State University, Power a Clean Future Ohio, and IMPACT Community Action.

#### Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP)

Team Members completed one-page project descriptions and are in the process of updating the MORPC website.

#### Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

On September 1, MORPC received notice that Central Ohio was approved as an Economic Development District.

#### Brownfield Assessments

Team Members coordinated with US EPA on appropriate components of an assessment for a property in Powell. Staff initiated a task order for an assessment of a property in the Linden neighborhood and began identifying grant-close out activities ahead of the September close out date.

#### Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

District 3 has approximately \$3.2 million dollars for FY 2024. Final applications were due September 1. Site visits are set for September 14 and 18. For more information, contact Edwina Teye at [eteye@morpc.org](mailto:eteye@morpc.org) or visit: <https://www.morpc.org/program-service/clean-ohio-conservation-fund/>.

#### Money Mondays

MORPC hosted the following Money Monday sessions:

- 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
- August 28 – Regional Housing Strategy

Upcoming sessions:

- September 11 – Brownfield Remediation Funding
- September 18 – State Capital Budget & Regional Investment
- September 25 – Racial & Social Justice

### **PAY IT FORWARD**

#### Summer Intern Program

Fifty-one interns completed the program. MORPC hosted final celebrations on August 1, 9, 10 and 11.

#### Member Services

Team Members participated in seven regional engagements. Staff went on two member visits in August.

#### Events

MORPC hosted/held the following events:

- Rail Safety Progress Forum

Upcoming Events

- September 21 – Regional Transportation Safety Forum, MORPC
- October 26 – Summit on Sustainability, Hilton Columbus Downtown
- March 15, 2024 – State of the Region, Hilton Columbus Downtown

### Public Involvement & Engagement

MORPC promoted the following requests for public input through social media and our website:

- Franklin County Mitigation Plan
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) Public Comments
- Sustainable Columbus
- Columbus Climate Action Plan
- Driving Investment: Promoting Infrastructure Survey

## **BUILD VALUE FOR OUR MEMBERS**

### Community-Based Planning Assistance

MORPC announced the Community-Based Planning Assistance Program (CBPA) at the August 10 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. Team Members continue to meet with Regional Planning Commissions and local agencies in the Central Ohio area to formulate a database of available services.

Learn more about CBPA or request assistance at <https://www.morpc.org/community-based-planning-assistance/>.

### Auditor of State Award with Distinction

For the 9<sup>th</sup> year in a row, MORPC received the Auditor of State Award with Distinction for its 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. Only four percent of all audits annually received this award.

### Residential Services

WarmChoice applications are slow due to weather/time of year but increasing slightly due to advertising on COTA buses. Production is higher than usual for the start of the new HWAP program year. Team Members are processing applications from the new service areas. Staff continues to work through budgeting for new grants: HWAP, Emergency Provider HWAP, and BIL. MORPC is rolling out installation of ASHRAE fans in homes the first week of September.

MORPC is contracting with Renew Home to provide administrative support and inspections. Team Members are working on a PRO HUD grant.

### MORPC in the News

Links to press releases and news article for the month are available at [www.morpc.org/MORPCInTheNews](http://www.morpc.org/MORPCInTheNews)

### Personnel Updates

The following new Team Members recently started at MORPC:

- Programming Intern Taylor Franco began August 15
- Grants Intern Madison Earnest began August 22

MORPC is currently recruiting for open positions:

- Chief Mobility & Infrastructure Officer and Director of Programming
- Senior Planner – Sustainability
- Associate Engineer/Planner/Modeler
- GIS Intern
- Executive Assistant

The requirements for the posted positions are available for review on the website at <http://www.morpc.org/careers/>.

#### RFP/RFQ Postings

The following RFP's/RFQ's were posted:

- Intel Area Long Range Planning Support
- HVAC Contractor for Residential Energy Programs 2022
- Insulation Contractor for Residential Energy Programs 2022

The full RFP/RFQs are available at <http://www.morpc.org/rfps-rfqs/>.



## Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: August 10, 2023  
Time: 2:47 p.m.  
Location: MORPC Town Hall

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### **Transportation Policy Committee Members Present in Person**

|                              |                      |                 |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Chris Amorose Groomes        | Dave Gulden          | Jim Schimmer    |
| Karen Angelou                | Pamela Hykes O'Grady | Steve Schoeny   |
| Herb Asher                   | Monica Irelan        | Kimberly Sharp  |
| Kristen Atha                 | Laurie Jadwin        | Thom Slack      |
| Lee Bodnar                   | Erik Janas           | Ike Stage       |
| Ron Bullard                  | James Jewell         | Robyn Stewart   |
| Emily Cooner for Kevin Boyce | Bill LaFayette       | Christie Ward   |
| Michelle Crandall            | Eric Meyer           | Nancy White     |
| Brad Ebersole                | Rod Pritchard        | Andrew Williams |
| Cindi Fitzpatrick            | Cornell Robertson    | Tim Wilson      |
| Jennifer Gallagher           | Lauren Rummel        |                 |
|                              | Michael Schadek      |                 |

### **Transportation Policy Committee Members Attending Remotely**

|                     |                    |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| LaGrieta Acheampong | Tom Homan          | Ryan Rivers        |
| Greg Butcher        | Christine Houk     | Sloan Spalding     |
| Chasilyn Carter     | Emily Keeler       | Joe Stefanov       |
| Karl Craven         | Susan Lewis Kaylor | Andy Volenik       |
| Kristen Easterday   | Bonnie Michael     | Evelyn Warr-Omness |
| Chris Harkness      | Bernita Reese      |                    |
| Daryl Hennessy      | Eric Richter       |                    |

### **Commission Members Present in Person**

|                    |                 |         |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Joe Antram         | Terry Emery     | RC Wise |
| Jamie Brucker      | Jeff Hall       |         |
| Franklin Christman | David Scheffler |         |

### **Commission Members Attending Remotely**

|                 |               |                    |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Joy Evangelista | Mark Mauter   | Nick Shultz        |
| Jeff Gottke     | Eric Phillips | Evelyn Warr-Omness |

### **Associate Members Present in Person**

Jennifer Fish

### **Associate Members Attending Remotely**

Kristin Sutton

### **MORPC Staff Present in Person**

|                 |                  |                 |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Todd Bradley    | Shawn Hufstedler | Jen Noll        |
| Kerstin Carr    | Ethan Hug        | Melissa Rapp    |
| Dave Dixon      | Niel Jurist      | Jessie Sampson  |
| Preston Frick   | Eileen Leuby     | Shari Saunders  |
| Joe Garrity     | Kelsey Matson    | Maria Schaper   |
| Nick Gill       | Jonathan Miller  | Luka Srsic      |
| Ralonda Hampton | William Murdock  | Robert Williams |

**MORPC Staff Attending Remotely**

Yan Liu

Anthony Perry

Emma Strange

**Guests Present in Person**

Ethan Fischer, Licking County

Ethan Koch, Licking SWCD

Pete McGinty, Align2Market

Linda Nicodemus, Licking SWCD

Haley Stangebye, Hunter Marketing

Kevin Teafor, City of Grove City

Grace Walker, Morrow County

Sheila Willamowski Boehner, Kegler Brown Hill  
+ Ritter

**Guests Attending Remotely**

Aisha Dabo, City of Marysville

Morgan Fuller, Violet Township

Hayden Hostetler, City of Hilliard

Melinda Hupp, Perry County

Andrew Lineweaver, City of Hilliard

Peter Marbach

Madison Strauss, Village of Somerset

Jake Tufts

Kjersti Wendlandt, City of Grove City

**Meeting Called to Order – Erik Janas (Franklin County), MORPC Chair**

Chair Erik Janas called the Transportation Policy Committee Meeting to order at 2:47 p.m.

**Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report**

- **Programming – Nick Gill, MORPC Interim Senior Director of Programming & Transportation Study Director**

Nick Gill presented the [Metropolitan Planning Organization Report](#). Resolution T-8-23 on the consent agenda amends the Planning Work Program to include additional funds we received from ODOT for mobility management. The Commission passed a resolution in June for this from an agency perspective. This resolution is from the MPO perspective.

The Gohio Commuter Challenge is a statewide challenge through the Gohio platform happening mid-September. Commuters are encouraged to enter non-single occupancy vehicle commute trips to work to win prizes.

For the 2023 Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) cycle, our region submitted ten applications requesting \$349 million. There were 29 applications statewide requesting around \$750 million. The TRAC process includes the MPO's prioritizing the applications in their region. MORPC is going through the evaluation process and will submit the priorities next month to the Transportation Policy Committee for adoption to present to ODOT. The public comment period for the evaluation process closes August 11.

MORPC's Technical Assistance Program provides support to implement active transportation strategies. We are updating guidance for the 2024 program and will present the new program guidelines to you next month for adoption. Solicitation opens after adoption of the updated guidelines.

Mr. Gill gave an update on Intel area planning. In July, ODOT announced \$46 million for nine specific projects in the Intel area. The funding is mostly for studies to advance additional corridors and better connections. MORPC is issuing an RFP in the next few weeks to hire a consultant to help with long-range support planning for the smaller communities in the area. ODOT launched the Central Ohio Workforce Transit Study to develop transit service recommendations for Western Licking County.

**Proposed 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” – Nick Gill, MORPC Interim Senior Director of Programming & Transportation Study Director**

The next two resolutions formalize the process to allow MORPC to administer the Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program connected with LinkUS. COTA passed resolutions at their July meetings.

Cornell Robertson made a motion to approve Resolution T-9-23, second by Steve Schoeny; motion passed. Kim Sharp abstained.

**Proposed 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” – Nick Gill, MORPC Interim Senior Director of Programming & Transportation Study Director**

This resolution recognizes LinkUS partners’ dedicated portion of sales tax to go towards the LinkUS program.

Steve Schoeny made a motion to approve Resolution T-10-23, second by Herb Asher; motion passed.

**2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update – Nick Gill, MORPC Interim Senior Director of Programming & Transportation Study Director**

Nick Gill presented the [2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update](#). Mr. Gill reviewed what the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is and why it is important. In developing the MTP, MORPC looks at the forecasted regional growth and identifies specific transportation needs based on where the growth occurs. We rely on community feedback in making those decisions.

An interactive web map at [www.morpc.org/mtp2050](http://www.morpc.org/mtp2050) is available for members to review and comment directly on the map. The web map is open through September 8. Next steps include adopting forecasts in September, draft list of strategies and projects in November, community presentations November through January, and MTP adoption in May 2024.

Maria Schaper and Jonathan Heider are the MORPC leads for MTP activities.

**Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda**

Laurie Jadwin made a motion to accept the Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda, second by Kristen Atha; motion passed.

The Transportation Policy Committee Meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.





MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
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## Memorandum

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

**FROM:** Nick Gill, Transportation Director

**DATE:** September 11, 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 (SRTTP). 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 SRTTP 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.

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 Plan (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.

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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

|   |                     |                          |                    |                     |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Agency:</b> Franklin County  |                     | <b>PID:</b> 119514       | <b>TIP ID:</b> 342 | <b>MTP ID:</b> 1426 |
| <b>Co-Route-Sec:</b> FRA-CR172-0.28   |                     | <b>Length (mi.):</b> 1.7 |                    |                     |
| <b>Project Type(s):</b> Minor Widening  |                     | <b>Air Quality:</b>      |                    |                     |
| <b>Description:</b> <i>Ferris Road from Karl Rd to Westerville Rd, Minor Widening from 2 lanes to 2 lanes</i> |                     |                          |                    |                     |
| <b>Bike Components:</b> Bicycle lanes. 5' wide 1.7 mi. added to bike network.                                 |                     |                          |                    |                     |
| <b>Ped Components:</b> Sidewalk on 2 sides. 1.4 mi. added to ped network.                                     |                     |                          |                    |                     |
| <b>State Fiscal Year</b>  | <b>Phase</b>        | <b>Source</b>            | <b>Amount</b>      |                     |
| 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        |                     |
| <b>Total:</b>   |                     |                          | <b>\$6,539,318</b> |                     |

|  |                         |                            |                     |                    |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Agency:</b> Hilliard  |                         | <b>PID:</b> 120103         | <b>TIP ID:</b> 355  | <b>MTP ID:</b> 186 |
| <b>Co-Route-Sec:</b> FRA-Cemetery Rd-SUP   |                         | <b>Length (mi.):</b> 0.76  |                     |                    |
| <b>Project Type(s):</b> Multi-Use Path   |                         | <b>Air Quality:</b> Exempt |                     |                    |
| <b>Description:</b> <i>Cemetery Rd from Britton Pkwy to Trueman Blvd, Multi-Use Path</i> |                         |                            |                     |                    |
| <b>Bike Components:</b> Multi-use path. 0.76 mi. added to bike network.                  |                         |                            |                     |                    |
| <b>Ped Components:</b> Multi-use path. 0.76 mi. added to ped network.                    |                         |                            |                     |                    |
| <b>State Fiscal Year</b>   | <b>Phase</b>            | <b>Source</b>              | <b>Amount</b>       |                    |
| 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         |                    |
| <b>Total:</b>  |                         |                            | <b>\$11,357,940</b> |                    |

# Resolution T-11-23

## Attachment 1 - Amended Project Information

|   |              |                            |                    |                    |
|---|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Agency:</b> Licking County TID   |              | <b>PID:</b> 119487         | <b>TIP ID:</b> 349 | <b>MTP ID:</b> 205 |
| <b>Co-Route-Sec:</b> LIC-Pike St-SR 310   |              | <b>Length (mi.):</b> 0.38  |                    |                    |
| <b>Project Type(s):</b> Reconstruction  |              | <b>Air Quality:</b> Exempt |                    |                    |
| <b>Description:</b> <i>Pike St from SR 310 to Etna United Methodist Church, Reconstruction</i>  |              |                            |                    |                    |
| <b>Bike Components:</b> Multi-use path. 10 ft pathway north side, 7 ft pathway south side 0.85 mi. added to bike network.                             |              |                            |                    |                    |
| <b>Ped Components:</b> 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. |              |                            |                    |                    |
| <u>State Fiscal Year</u>  | <u>Phase</u> | <u>Source</u>              | <u>Amount</u>      |                    |
| 2026  | Construction | Local                      | \$671,219          |                    |
| 2026  | Construction | MPO STBG                   | \$2,684,877        |                    |
| 2026  | Construction | Labor-L                    | \$335,610          |                    |
| <b>Total:</b>   |              |                            | <b>\$3,691,706</b> |                    |
|   |              |                            |                    |                    |
| <b>Agency:</b> ODOT   |              | <b>PID:</b> 119464         | <b>TIP ID:</b> 439 | <b>MTP ID:</b> 96  |
| <b>Co-Route-Sec:</b> DEL-Sawmil Parkway-Extension   |              | <b>Length (mi.):</b> 0.64  |                    |                    |
| <b>Project Type(s):</b> New Roadway   |              | <b>Air Quality:</b> Exempt |                    |                    |
| <b>Description:</b> <i>Sawmill Parkway from current terminus to South Section Line Road, New Roadway, 2 lanes</i>                                     |              |                            |                    |                    |
| <b>Bike Components:</b> Maybe - To be determined.   |              |                            |                    |                    |
| <b>Ped Components:</b> Maybe - To be determined.  |              |                            |                    |                    |
| <u>State Fiscal Year</u>  | <u>Phase</u> | <u>Source</u>              | <u>Amount</u>      |                    |
| 2024  | Construction | Jobs/Commerce              | \$250,000          |                    |
| 2024  | Construction | Local                      | \$2,361,735        |                    |
| 2024  | Construction | Local                      | \$1,875,000        |                    |
| <b>Total:</b>   |              |                            | <b>\$4,486,735</b> |                    |



# 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.

| <u>State Fiscal Year</u> | <u>Phase</u>        | <u>Source</u>  | <u>Amount</u>       |
|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 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        |
| <b>Total:</b>            |                     |                | <b>\$63,511,549</b> |

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.

Thursday, August 24, 2023

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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.

| <u>State Fiscal Year</u> | <u>Phase</u>    | <u>Source</u>  | <u>Amount</u>       |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 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        |
| <b>Total:</b>            |                 |                | <b>\$30,985,326</b> |

**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.

| <u>State Fiscal Year</u> | <u>Phase</u>        | <u>Source</u> | <u>Amount</u>      |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 2024                     | Environmental Study | Major/New-F   | \$800,000          |
| 2024                     | Environmental Study | Major/New-S   | \$200,000          |
| <b>Total:</b>            |                     |               | <b>\$1,000,000</b> |

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.

Thursday, August 24, 2023

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# Resolution T-11-23

## Attachment 1 - Amended Project Information

### Summary of Funding Sources

| <u>Source</u>      | <u>Description</u>  | <u>Total Amount</u>  |
|--------------------|---|----------------------|
| 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            |
| <b>Grand Total</b> |   | <b>\$121,572,574</b> |

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.



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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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.morpc.org/program-service/technical-assistance-program).

Attachment: Resolution T-13-23

## 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.

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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](http://www.morpc.org).

# PROGRAM PURPOSE

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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

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## 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](mailto: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

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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

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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

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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         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                       | <b>100</b> |

**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

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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

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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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## 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.

Attachment: 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.

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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

# Summary

## FISCAL YEAR 2023 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM COMPLETION

### I. Formula Funded Planning Program Activities

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**Total Budget:** \$3,619,328

**Balance Remaining for SFY 2024 or later is:** \$73,928

#### Work Element Report Summary

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##### 60112-1000 - Active Transportation Planning

**Budget:** \$114,848

**Spent through 6/30:** \$114,848      Budget is Carry over from SFY 2022 only.

MORPC continued to assist local governments with executing the strategies of the Central Ohio Active Transportation Plan, including reviewing roadway project designs for compliance with the MORPC Complete Streets Policy, and educating communities on the importance of, and assisting them with, planning for safe, comfortable, and connected bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

The MORPC Active Transportation Committee (ATC) continued meeting quarterly to discuss active transportation and safety related initiatives and issues throughout Central Ohio. MORPC continued hosting virtual "watch parties" of the monthly Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) webinars for MORPC members and partners. MORPC also continued representing Central Ohio through participation in ODOT's statewide Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

##### 60123-3000 - Management & Operations Planning

**Budget:** \$170,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$158,905

Meetings of the Central Ohio ITS committee were held in July, October, and April. Project updates were provided at each meeting.

MORPC participated in events organized by the Columbus Region Logistics Council, the Mid-Ohio Development Exchange (MODE), and other Chamber of Commerce and OneColumbus events related to freight and logistics in Central Ohio. MORPC coordinated with OKI staff in planning for the upcoming Ohio Conference on Freight.

##### 60133-3000 - Safety Planning

**Budget:** \$105,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$94,182

MORPC provided support to local partners on numerous safety funding applications including Safe Routes to School (SRTS), Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A), and ODOT's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).

MORPC also submitted a regional application to the SS4A program for planning and demonstration activities that will involve many Central Ohio communities if awarded.

MORPC continues to be the OARC representative on statewide committees including the Transportation Records Coordinating Committee and Ohio Strategic Highway Safety Plan Steering Committee. MORPC also represents

Central Ohio on the ODOT Speed Zone Committee and the Ohio Traffic Safety Council's Safety Belt Task Force.

Staff continues to participate in local safety committees such as Safe Communities and Traffic Fatality Review, and continue to plan the annual Central Ohio Transportation Safety Forum in September.

### **60153-3000 - Transit and Human Services Planning**

**Budget:** \$100,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$84,222

MORPC carried out transit planning coordination, assistance, and oversight to improve transit services and workforce mobility meeting Metropolitan Transportation Plan strategies. Administration and oversight of the Regional Mobility Plan was completed by the Mobility Coordinator. The Mobility Coordinator held public advisory meetings for Franklin County as well as the Region 6 Mobility Managers Steering Committee.

Regional transit provider coordination continues on a quarterly basis with involvement of all transit agencies, mobility managers, and service providers in the ODOT Region 6 HSTC and the CORPO boundaries.

Staff are participating on several initiatives with regards to workforce mobility including an ODOT led project for West Licking County and East Franklin County.

### **60203-3000 - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Implementation**

**Budget:** \$375,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$315,112

Revisions to the SFY 2021-2024 TIP were coordinated with ODOT and local agencies by reviewing the monthly S/TIP Revision Report. Staff approved administrative modifications monthly and prepared three amendment resolutions, which were approved by the Transportation Policy Committee.

MORPC coordinated with ODOT and local agencies to prepare the SFY 2024-2027 TIP. The first draft of this TIP was submitted to ODOT on February 1, 2023. A second draft was provided to ODOT and posted for public comment on March 10, 2023. MORPC accepted comments on the SFY 2024-2027 TIP through April 10, 2023 and held a public open house on March 28, 2023. MORPC's SFY 2024-2027 TIP was adopted by the Transportation Policy Committee on May 11, 2023 through Resolution T-5-23.

Regarding MORPC-Attributable Funds, MORPC solicited commitment updates which were due on July 8, 2023 and new applications for funding due on September 28, 2023. During the fall of 2022 MORPC evaluated new applications for funding and provided application scores to the Attributable Funds Committee (AFC). MORPC facilitated discussions with the AFC to recommend new and updated MORPC-Attributable Funding Commitments, which were adopted by the Transportation Policy Committee via Resolution T-2-23 in March of 2023. For SFY 2022, approximately \$33 million of attributable funds were encumbered for use on transportation projects and programs in the region.

Federally funded projects were coordinated with local agencies, ODOT and the Ohio Public Works Commission. ODOT District staff held quarterly meetings with local sponsoring agencies, their consultants, and MORPC staff to monitor project development and address any issues. Monthly reports on the status of the MORPC-attributable projects were provided to the TAC. MORPC reviewed engineering plans for projects utilizing attributable funds to ensure compliance with the Complete Streets Policy. MORPC, COTA, DCT, and ODOT Transit met quarterly to stay current on transit-specific TIP issues.

In July and August 2022, MORPC staff evaluated and prioritized six applications to TRAC for Major New Capacity Program funding that were submitted in the 2022 cycle. Resolution T-11-22 established the regional priorities for candidate projects for TRAC funding and was adopted September 8, 2022 and transmitted to ODOT. MORPC staff presented the priority list to TRAC and ODOT staff at the Central Ohio regional hearing on October 12, 2022. Awards were announced March 29, 2023, with all six projects receiving at least a portion of their request.

ODOT accepted TRAC applications for the 2023 cycle in May. Ten projects were submitted in the MORPC area. Project fact sheets were prepared, and a public comment period began in July to solicit comments on the MPO prioritization of the projects.

### **60513-2000 - Manage, Map, Collect, and Share Data**

**Budget:** \$480,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$508,875

MORPC has expanded its role as a leader in convening and collaborating with data professionals, planners and other stakeholders throughout the Central Ohio Region. We have begun pursuit of new operational objectives aimed at improving the acquisition, maintenance and, ultimately, use of our internal and publicly hosted data sets and systems. We look to better utilize existing technology for collecting, maintaining, and sharing data that support transportation and community-based programs, and leverage partnerships in the region that bring intentional curated data and insights into additional decision-making contexts.

Good stewardship of existing data sets through regularized updates and organization is a critical function which we continue to improve upon. Through the Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC), RIDG, and COGUG user groups, partnerships with organizations such as NNIP, Ohio EPA, Franklin County Public Health, and CURA at OSU, and initiatives such as the Data Day conference and the Leaders Listen survey series, we advanced collaboration among regional data professionals and decision makers to reduce redundancies, better aligned efforts to complement one another, and inspired each other as we strive toward shared outcomes and visions for the future.

### **60523-2000 - Data Analytics and Research for Transportation Projects and Programs**

**Budget:** \$475,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$513,309

MORPC provided GIS and data analytics services to support the development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and a variety of internal and partner-based projects and programs. We also provided technical assistance in the ongoing refinement of core MTP processes and procedures and limited technical support for community stakeholders seeking guidance and feedback for a wide variety of purposes.

We made data publicly available through our Mid-Ohio Open Data and Population Resource Hub sites, as well as a variety of other dashboards and reports. Planning for the initial phase of a more consolidated, accessible, and partner-oriented method providing resources to regional stakeholders is underway.

MORPC serviced over 150 ad-hoc requests for data, insights, and GIS resources from member communities, partners, and frequently also non-affiliated organizations and individuals in government, nonprofit, and academic sectors through a variety of channels.

### **60553-3000 - Transportation Systems Analysis Techniques and Applications**

**Budget:** \$430,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$426,962

MORPC continued to work on improving the 3C regional travel demand model and used it for several planning studies. The model was used to fulfill many requests for growth rate and other activities throughout the year. An updated air quality conformity analysis was completed for the MTP amendment for Intel development Phase 1 and internal discussion and research continued on updating EJ analysis procedures for the 2024-2050 MTP. Furthermore, an air quality analysis was conducted for projects requesting CMAQ eligibility, and the draft land use forecasts were completed for the 2024-2050 MTP in June 2023.

### **61012-3000 - Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Planning (SFY 2022)**

**Budget:** \$125,726

**Spent through 6/30:** \$125,726

This work element was carryover budget from the SFY 2022 PWP. See the SFY 2023 Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Planning work element, 61013-3000, for SFY 2023 activities.

### **61013-3000 - Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Planning**

**Budget:** \$460,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$333,610      Activity continues beyond SFY 2023.

Maintenance of the 2020-2050 MTP included one amendment to the plan. This amendment modified the limits and adjusted the cost estimate and construction timeframe of one Freeway project and added nine projects to the plan in support of the regionally significant development activity of the New Albany Business Park. The amendment followed a formal process including interagency consultation, air quality conformity determination, a public comment period, and committee engagement. The amendment was adopted by resolution in September 2022.

MORPC continued to coordinate with ODOT in the establishment of performance measures targets as part of the federal performance management program. MORPC passed a resolution to support ODOT's established safety targets in September 2022.

Goals for the 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan were adopted by resolution in November 2022. The goals were carried forward, with small modifications, to be consistent with those of the currently adopted 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan as well as other regional plans and initiatives recently completed and underway by MORPC and regional partners. They are also consistent with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA or BIL). Corresponding objectives and performance measures were adopted by resolution in January 2023. Other 2024-2050 MTP development activities included the review of state, regional, and local plans and collection of candidate transportation projects for potential inclusion in the MTP and the development of 2050 County-level population and employment projections.

MORPC coordinated with and provided technical support to LCATS as they amended their 2020-2050 Long Range Plan. Support included leading and facilitating the update process of the air quality conformity determination necessitated by the amendment of their plan in February 2023.

MORPC initiated and led a process to request of FHWA revisions to the Federal Functional Classifications of several roadway segments serving the New Albany Business Park area and secured new classification designations that make these segments eligible for federal funding as part of the Federal-aid system. FHWA approved the requested revisions that resulted from the changing role and function of these facilities as they serve the expanding business park area. MORPC continues to coordinate with ODOT and FHWA on Functional class designations in the region.

MORPC also continues to engage with state, regional, and local partners in the study and planning for infrastructure improvements serving and connecting to the New Albany Business Park and its area of impact.

### **61023-0400 - Transportation Public Involvement**

**Budget:** \$113,754

**Spent through 6/30:** \$115,829

Eight meetings of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and 10 meetings of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) took place. All transportation-related topics included elsewhere in the PWP report were presented. The committees reviewed and passed 16 transportation-related resolutions over the fiscal year.

Press releases, printed materials, and digital content (social media, morpc.org website, and electronic newsletters) were used regularly to solicit public participation and involvement on transportation-related activities. Topics included were: 5310 Funding; Air Quality; Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO) & CORPO-Dedicated Funds; CHRR & MORPC Leaders Listen: Transportation Survey; Central Ohio Greenways (COG); Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) updates and Short Range Transit Plan (S RTP); City of Columbus zoning code updates; Clean Ohio Conservation Fund; Delaware County Public Transit public comment opportunities, updates; DriveOhio & ODOT Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Public Meeting; Driving Investment: Promoting Infrastructure Survey; Federal MPO Recertification Public Meeting; Gohio Commute; Gohio Mobility; LinkUS Mobility Initiative; Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP); Mid-Ohio Open Data (MOOD); MORPC-Attributable Funds; MORPC Messaging Survey; Passenger Rail Updates; ODOT public comment periods and updates; Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Local Infrastructure Funding; Outdoor Trails Pass; Population Estimates; Regional Investment Survey; Regional Mobility Plan (RMP Survey); Ride Your Bike To Work Day; Safer Streets for All (SS4A) program; Short Range Transit Plan (S RTP); Technical Assistance Program; Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) Process/Projects; and Vision Zero Columbus.

Promoted (via social media, print, and MORPC website) and attended the following community outreach events, where programs, services, and public input opportunities were promoted: Ohio Department of Transportation's MBE and Diverse Business Opportunity Expo; Community Senior Resource Fair; Franklin County Auditor's Affordable Housing Fair; National African American Male Wellness Agency Walk and Run; Franklin County Engineer's Touch-a-Truck; National County Government Month Open House; Somali International Council Open House and Community Fair; My Brother's Keeper & COBG College, Career, and Community Fair; Riverfest; and MLK Day Open House.

### **61033-1000 - Regional Strategic Initiatives**

**Budget:** \$360,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$430,082

For its ongoing insight2050 outreach, MORPC updated materials with current best practices in community development to inform local land use and transportation decision making. These materials were shared with local governments and community partners throughout the year in the form of updated messaging, presentations, and workshops. The materials augmented MORPC's planning assistance to local governments in addressing local housing needs, particularly as housing relates to mobility and access/connectivity via a multimodal transportation system.

To advance the Central Ohio Greenways vision, MORPC met with local agencies to discuss plans for multi-use paths and trails and to identify opportunities for regional coordination of trails which cross jurisdictional boundaries. The results are evident in the new attributable funding commitments made to bicycle/pedestrian and trail projects in this fiscal year. Together with the Central Ohio Greenways Board, MORPC produced a Trail Town Framework which details the planning process, existing conditions, and recommendations for designing a regional trail town program. An addendum to the framework is in progress and will include considerations for the unique opportunities and needs of urban and suburban communities. This project relates to the COG Wayfinding Strategy project, which is also currently in progress.

Working with local public agencies and community organizations, MORPC led planning for recreational access, stewardship, and conservation along the region's major river corridors. To date, the Central Ohio Blueways program has mapped the number of miles of waterways and public access points within involved jurisdictions. Blueways convenes monthly meetings of a stakeholder advisory group which is guiding the direction of the program and informing decision-making.

In support of Greenways and river corridor planning, MORPC and the RAPID 5 organization collaborated on a series of local government listening sessions held across the region aimed at understanding the priorities, opportunities and challenges local governments experience with balancing access to and stewardship of regional natural resources. MORPC joined or represented RAPID 5 in regular presentations throughout the year to various technical and non-technical audiences. MORPC team members also developed a resource library of data, resources, insights and information about topics including land use, multi-modal transportation systems,



sustainability, economic development, etc. to support the coordinated efforts between the organizations.

### **62513-1000 - Planning Coordination and Support**

**Budget:** \$190,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$209,574

MORPC strengthened local government and partner awareness and knowledge of active transportation and compact development concepts including Complete Streets and bicycle and pedestrian network connectivity through data storytelling presentations, interactive workshops, and media. MORPC also hosted informational meetings with local governments and other agencies, stakeholders, and community organizations on these and other topics related to community development and the transportation network.

To support connectivity of the regional active transportation and trail network, MORPC facilitated meetings among neighboring jurisdictions to encourage collaboration on existing projects and to discuss and plan for potential future infrastructure projects.

### **69713-3000 - Program Administration**

**Budget:** \$120,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$114,163

Meetings of the MPO transportation committees (CAC, TAC & Policy) were conducted throughout the year, with the CAC holding eight meetings and the TAC and Policy Committee each holding ten meetings. The 2022 PWP completion report was prepared as well as the 2024 PWP.

## II. Special Studies

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**Total Budget:**     \$3,005,123

**Balance Remaining for SFY 2024 or later is:** \$1,604,127

### Work Element Report Summary

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**66513-1000 - Central Ohio Greenways Wayfinding Strategy**

**Budget:** \$290,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$43,347                      Activity continues beyond SFY 2023.

After selecting a consultant and preparing a final project scope, the wayfinding strategy project kicked off in early 2023. To date, 80% of the field work is complete, including an asset and signage inventory on the Ohio to Erie Trail. In addition, stakeholder engagement is underway, focused on gaining consensus around the trail user experience and trailhead/access needs.

Finally, this work element supports the expansion of regional non-motorized volume data collection, with five permanent trail counters purchased for placement at locations within the study area. The project remains on schedule for completion in late 2023.

**66514-3000 - Growth and Major Economic Development Planning**

**Budget:** \$1,000,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$9,140                      Activity continues beyond SFY 2023.

Budget breakdown is approximately \$875,000 for consultant services and \$125,000 of staff services with a portion for LCATS staff. Work to be spread out over state fiscal years 2023, 2024 and 2025.

A draft request for proposals (RFP) for consultant services was prepared and started through internal review. It will be posted in summer of 2023.

**66522-3000 - LinkUS Regional Corridors Planning**

**Budget:** \$500,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$482,032                      Activity continues beyond SFY 2023.

100% MORPC STBG with Toll Credit

The LinkUS initiative work continued to progress towards an eventual Fall 2024 ballot levy from the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA). MORPC has continued its leadership as one of the four partners pushing the initiative forward. Major milestones include beginning work on Transit Supportive Infrastructure Committee and program, a locally preferred alternative for the Northwest Corridor, and developing and conducting a regional outreach strategy.

**66543-0400 - Paving The Way**

**Budget:** \$50,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$0                              100% MORPC STBG using toll credit

No expenses were incurred in SFY 23 however the Paving the Way web-based platform was maintained through June 2023. The decision was made during the fiscal year to sunset the program as of July 2023.

## **66563-3000 - Regional Supplemental Planning**

**Budget:** \$350,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$350,000      100% MORPC STBG using toll credit

- 1) see 60203-3000 for activities related to the TIP and project expedition.
- 2) Our traffic count consultant collected traffic counts at various locations throughout the region to support modeling and planning activities. These were loaded into the online system.
- 3) See 60523-2000 for activities related to regional data sets.
- 4) MORPC provided planning data and travel demand model forecasting support for several local and regional planning activities including: LinkUS West Broad and East Main Corridors, City of Columbus East Broad and Livingston Road diets, ODOT I-71/SR-36 interchange and Big Walnut interchange studies, and other smaller requests.
- 5) MORPC Led efforts in the region to advance intercity passenger rail service to Columbus.
- 6) MORPC continued to work with partners and the Sustaining Scioto board on identifying research and planning projects that would prepare the transportation system for a changing climate and reduce stormwater runoff and flooding.
- 7) Working with the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) and 37 Sustainable2050 members, MORPC facilitated regular meetings and best practices sharing around making progress towards the targets as outlined in the Sustainability Agenda and MTP. In addition, MORPC and partners worked towards and received the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant as well as applied for the USDOT Charging and Fueling infrastructure grant.

## **66573-1000 - Technical Assistance Program**

**Budget:** \$250,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$250,000      100% MORPC STBG using toll credit

MORPC launched the 2023 cycle of the Technical Assistance Program and received six applications. Five services were awarded to the following entities: Berlin Township, Brown Township (Franklin County), the City of Delaware, the City of Grove City, and Violet Township. Four of the five services focused on active transportation infrastructure planning and connections to the Central Ohio Greenways trail system. The fifth service included development of a Safety Action Plan.

Staff also began working toward the launch of an application window for the 2024 Technical Assistance Program cycle in the Fall, with an anticipated timeline to award the next round of services before the end of the 2023 calendar year.

## **67412-3000 - 5310 Designated Recipient-2022**

**Budget:** \$116,044

**Spent through 6/30:** \$109,466      Activity continues beyond SFY 2023.

100% FTA 5310 Administration 10% of Apportionment

In the fall of 2022, the annual solicitation and selection of projects to receive FTA 5310 funding was completed. Project subrecipients continued to drawdown dollars according to the MORPC process. Staff continued to monitor federal compliance with TrAMs and complete the FFRs and MPRs in a timely manner. Subrecipients file semi-annual reports to stay in compliance with their vehicles utilized for 5310 services.

**67413-3000 - 5310 Designated Recipient-2023**

**Budget:** \$169,079

**Spent through 6/30:** \$0

Activity continues beyond SFY 2023.

100% FTA 5310 Administration 10% of Apportionment

No expenses for the work element were incurred in SFY 2023. See work element 67412-3000 for all SFY 2023 5310 activities.

**67422-3000 - Mobility Management 2022**

**Budget:** \$130,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$107,010

Activity continues beyond SFY 2023.

100% FTA 5310, 0% local per COVID-19 Relief

Development of the Franklin County Mobility Advisory Committee (FCMAC) was completed, and meetings have been held monthly with hybrid options. The Mobility Manager also convenes the regional mobility team of the nine surrounding counties quarterly for strategic planning of the regional goals/strategies. Working with ODOT and mobility managers around the state, the statewide Gohio mobility website was launched on June 1st.

**67423-3000 - Mobility Management 2023**

**Budget:** \$150,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$0

Activity continues beyond SFY 2023.

80% FTA 5310, 20% local

No expenses for the work element were incurred in SFY 2023. See work element 67422-3000 for all SFY 2023 mobility management activities.

### III. Ridesharing and Air Quality

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**Total Budget:** \$1,250,000

**Balance Remaining for SFY 2024 or later is:** \$0

#### Work Element Report Summary

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##### **66713-3000 - Transportation Services (Ridesharing)**

**Budget:** \$700,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$555,157      100% MORPC CMAQ

Promoted Travel Demand Reduction (TDM) in Central Ohio and marketed programs and services in our 15-county area. Programs included carpool, vanpool, bike, and transit matching. Formed new vanpools and provided pedestrian support. Consulted with employers on TDM reduction strategies to enhance workforce transportation options. Administered an emergency ride home program, a vanpool program, and a statewide rideshare matching vendor contract in coordination with OARC rideshare agencies.

##### **66733-1000 - Air Quality Awareness**

**Budget:** \$550,000

**Spent through 6/30:** \$550,000      100% MORPC CMAQ

MORPC maintained the daily air quality forecasting program and coordinated digitally focused marketing and air quality alerts to educate the public about air quality, and convened Energy and Air Quality working group meetings bi-monthly to share best practices.

In partnership with Franklin County Public Health (FCPH), MORPC continued to operate 20 PurpleAir PM2.5 air sensors across Franklin County to better understand variability in air pollution levels across zip codes. Data collection concluded in early spring of 2023, with a final report under development.

MORPC submitted public comment on EPA's Reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter, with feedback from our Sustainability Advisory Committee and others, and worked with Smart Columbus to inform the development of an EV siting study in the 15-county region. Staff also led the grant application for the USDOT Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant which was submitted in June 2023.

MORPC convened and assisted a resident-based Environmental Sustainability Forum, a group comprised of residents who serve on local government advisory boards, committees, and commissions focused on sustainability issues.

## IV. Planning Activities Undertaken By Other Entities

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**Total Budget: \$0**

### Work Element Report Summary

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#### **66505-3000 - Ongoing Local Planning**

*This activity is provided solely for informational purposes and does not have a final product or any budget within the work program. However, staff members may be involved through related activities in planning activities undertaken by others.*

MORPC regularly monitors local planning activities and participates in planning efforts of local communities as requested. Notable ones include planning activities in Dublin, Fairfield County and New Albany and surrounding areas.

Columbus continued project development activities for the Northwest Corridor BRT project. Columbus also initiated a study of the downtown area focused on the convergence of the BRT routes in the downtown. They also started a study on SR 315 in the campus area to look at improving mobility in the OSU medical campus area and Carmenton area.

MORPC continues to assist with the administration of the Franklin County Transportation Improvement District. Working with individual counties throughout central Ohio the Competitive Advantage Project list were updated for each county.

#### **67401-3000 - Ongoing COTA Activities**

*This activity is provided solely for informational purposes and does not have a final product or any budget within the work program. However, staff members may be involved through related activities in planning activities undertaken by others.*

COTA updated their transit asset management plan and completed their Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP). The SRTP includes recommendations to improve services within a 5-year timeframe for fixed route, COTA mainstream, and COTA/Plus. Alongside the SRTP update, COTA provided their four (4) year TIP update and participated in the MORPC TIP Open House. COTA continued project development on the West Broad Street and East Main Street BRT corridors. COTA also held public meetings for their quarterly service changes. These meetings are held twice during each quarter to both receive and deliver information.

#### **67402-3000 - Ongoing DCT Activities**

*This activity is provided solely for informational purposes and does not have a final product or any budget within the work program. However, staff members may be involved through related activities in planning activities undertaken by others.*

DCT updated their four (4) year lookout of projects for the STIP update and participated in the MORPC TIP Open House. DCT also held public service change meeting to discuss their discontinuation of a pilot program for fixed route service between downtown Delaware and the COTA fixed route service (Route 102) in Polaris. The first strategic plan was launched in 2023 to look at the short and long term investments and changes needed to be completed to move DCT into the next wave of growth in Delaware County.



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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

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              |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>12</b>  | <b>10</b> | <b>22</b>      |

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.

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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

**Priorities for the 2023 TRAC Major New Capacity Program Candidate Projects**

| <b>Rank</b> | <b>Project</b>   | <b>Tier Request</b> | <b>2023 TRAC Funding Request</b> | <b>Total Project Cost</b>      |
|-------------|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 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 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

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



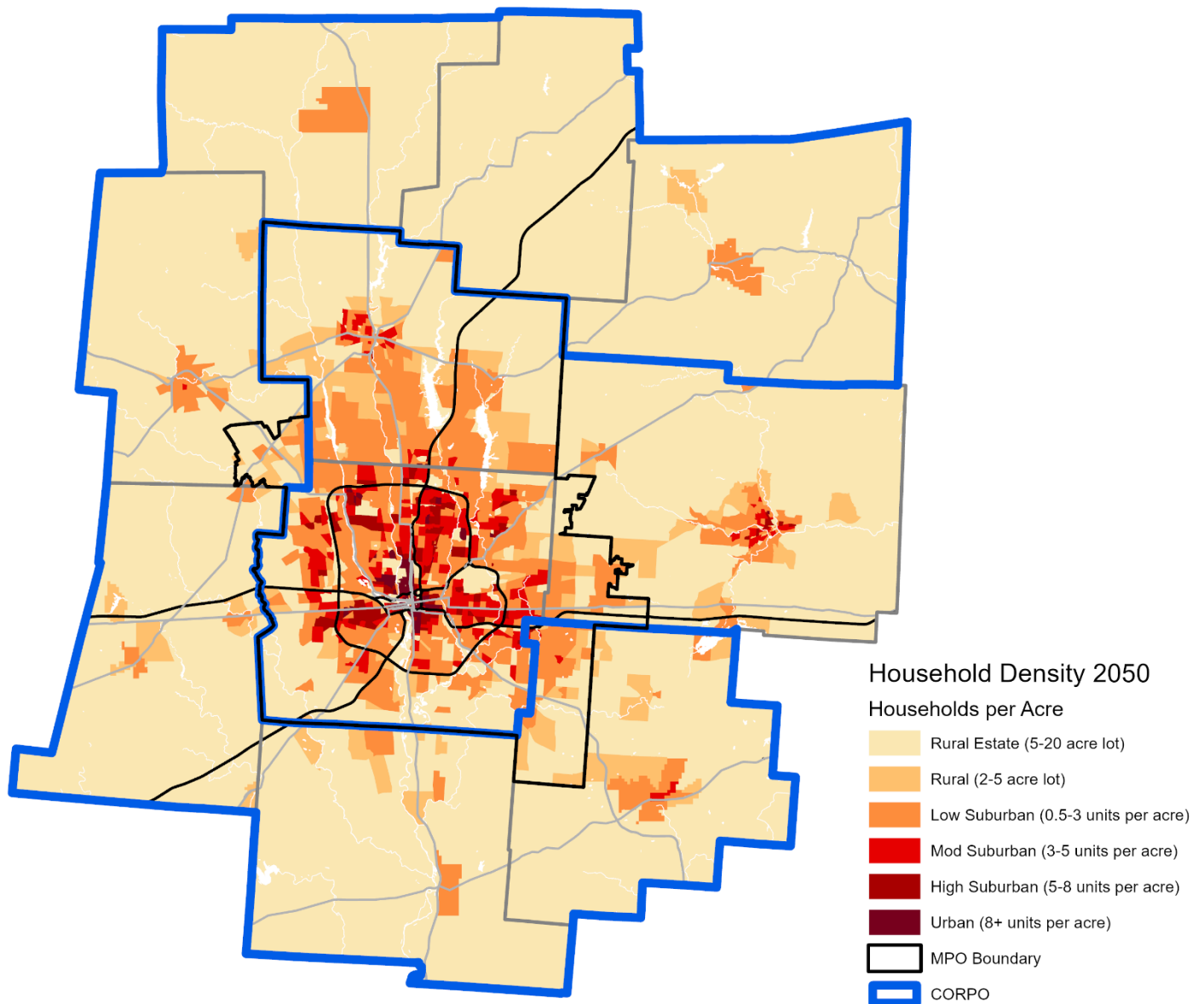
Attachment 3: 2050 Employment Density

Attachment 4: 2021-2050 Employment Growth Density

RESOLUTION T-15-23

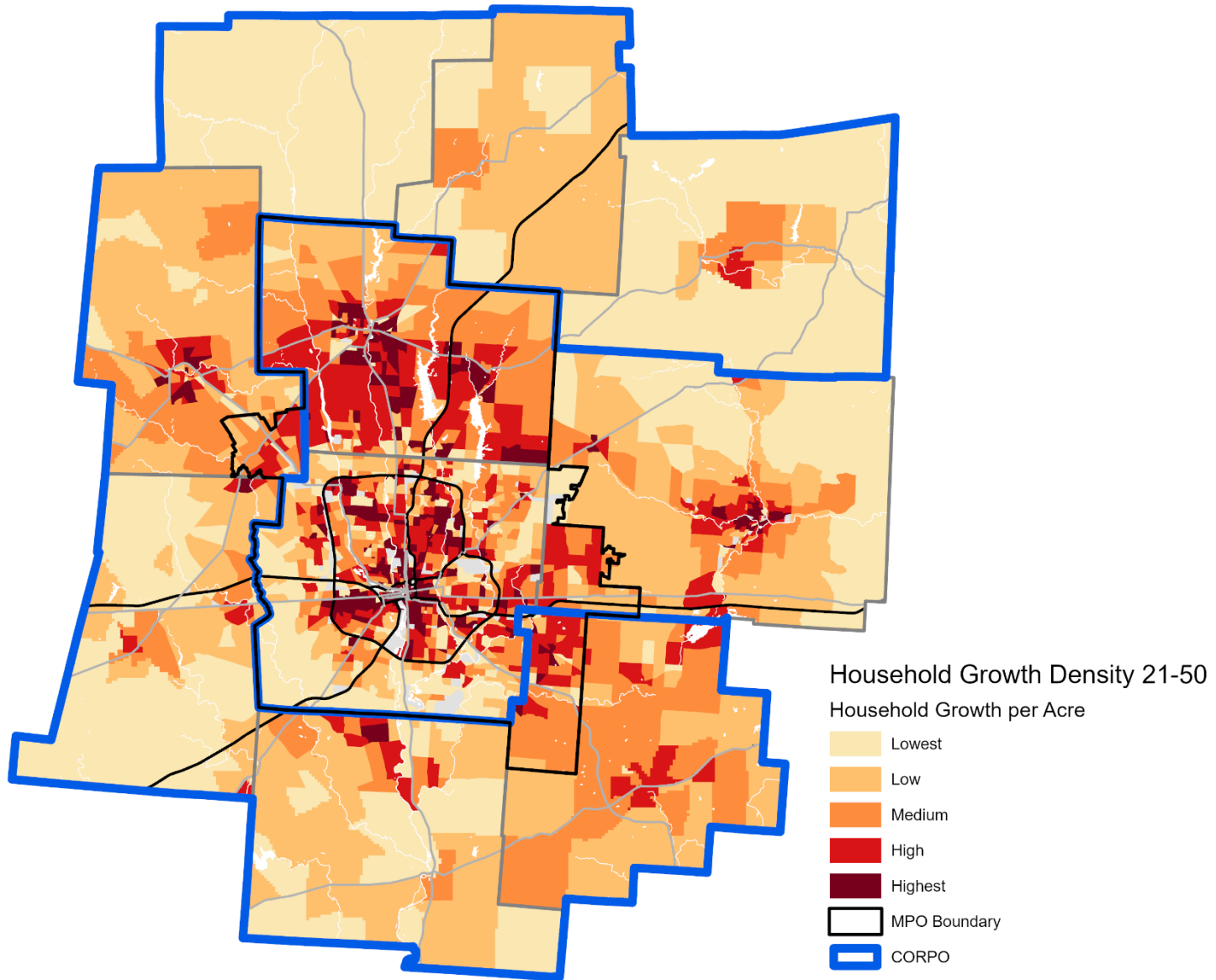
Attachment 1: 2050 Household Density

Also viewable via [interactive web map](#)



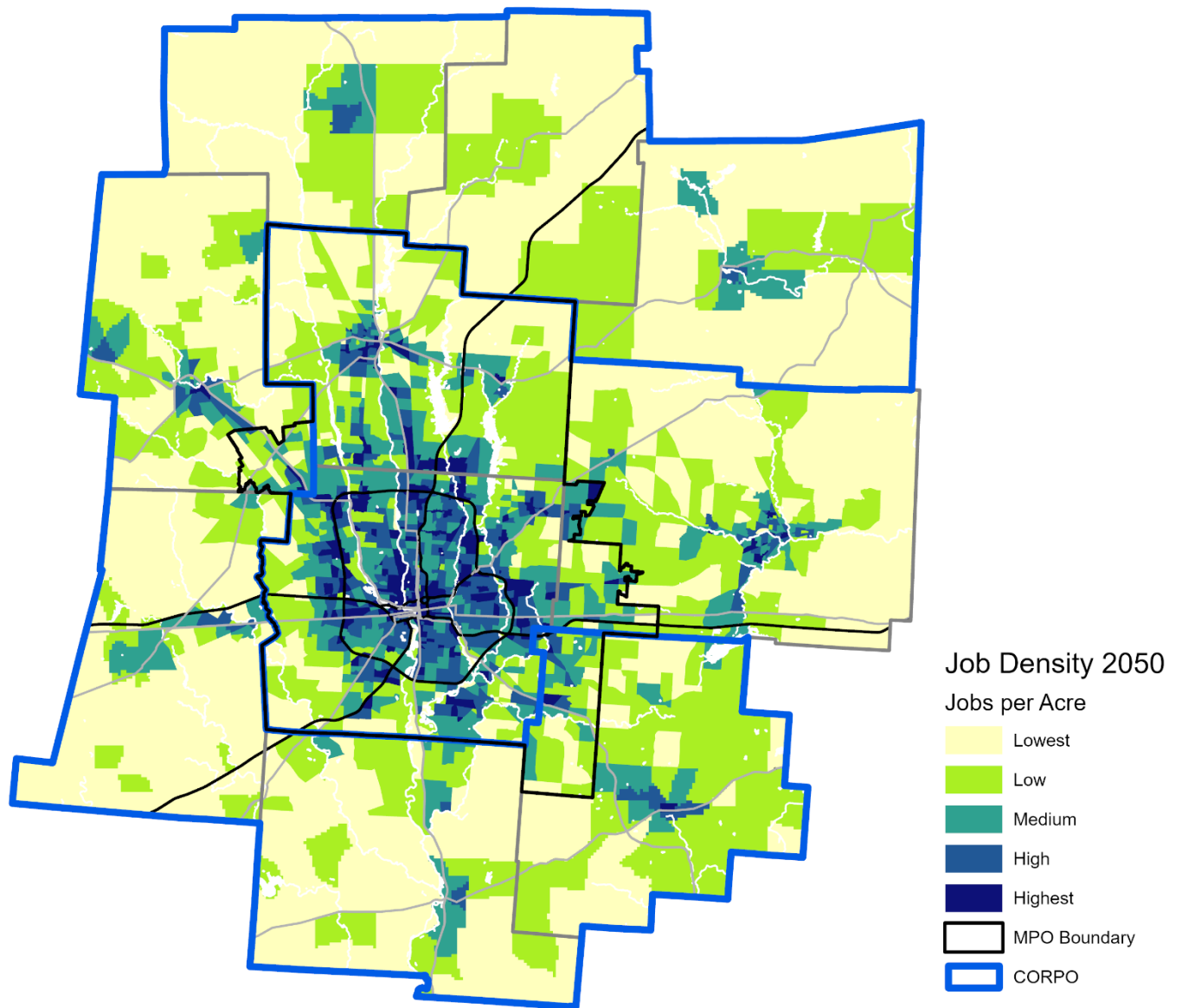
Attachment 2: 2021-2050 Household Growth Density

Also viewable via [interactive web map](#)



Attachment 3: 2050 Employment Density

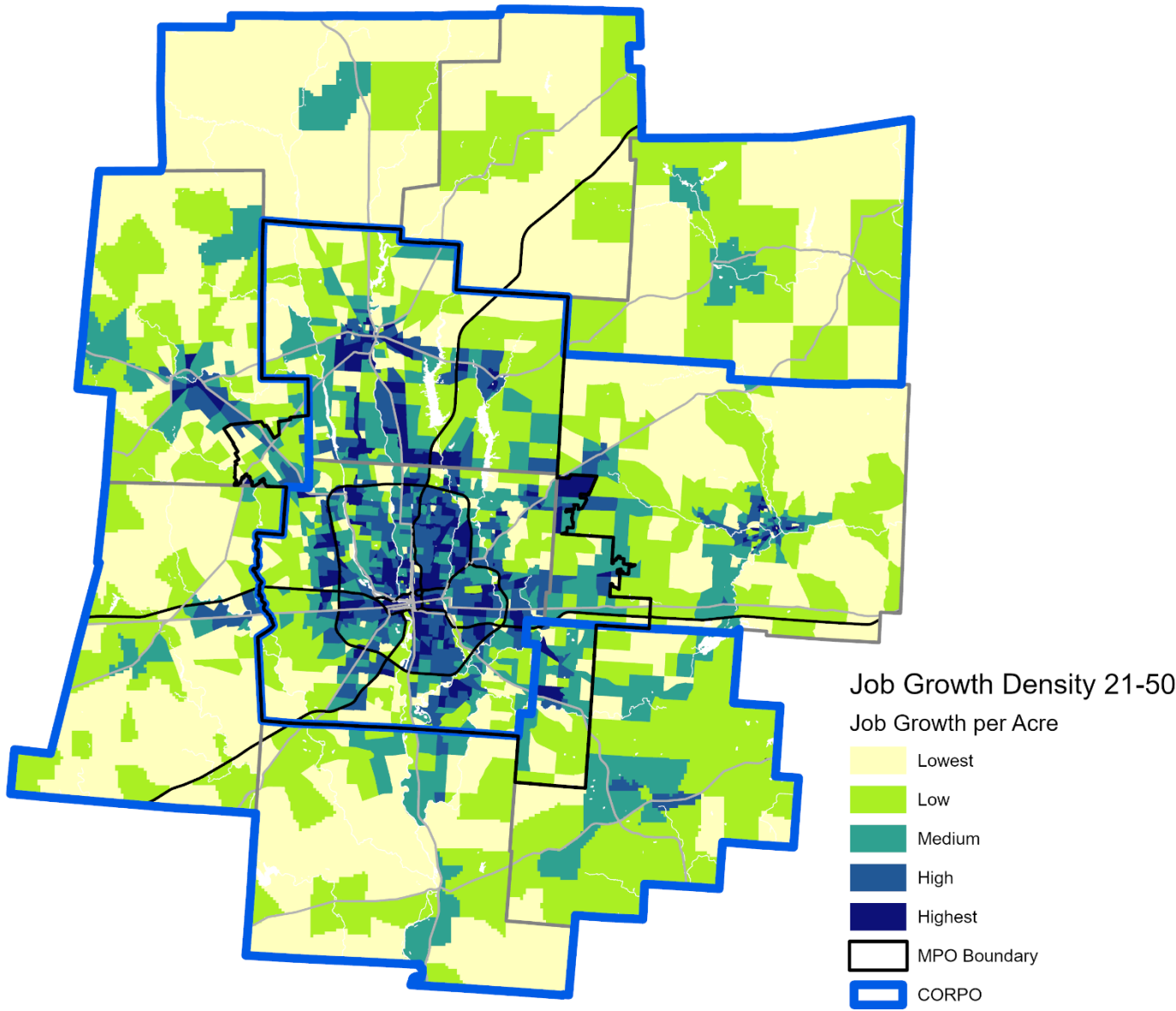
Also viewable via [interactive web map](#)





Attachment 4: 2021-2050 Employment Growth Density

Also viewable via [interactive web map](#)





MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

## Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: August 10, 2023  
Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Location: MORPC Town Hall

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### **Commission Members Present in Person**

|                              |                      |                   |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Chris Amorose Groomes        | Terry Emery          | Cornell Robertson |
| Karen Angelou                | Cindi Fitzpatrick    | Lauren Rummel     |
| Joe Antram                   | Jennifer Gallagher   | Michael Schadek   |
| Herb Asher                   | Dave Gulden          | David Scheffler   |
| Kristen Atha                 | Jeff Hall            | Jim Schimmer      |
| Lee Bodnar                   | Pamela Hykes O'Grady | Steve Schoeny     |
| Jamie Brucker                | Monica Irelan        | Ike Stage         |
| Ron Bullard                  | Laurie Jadwin        | Robyn Stewart     |
| Franklin Christman           | Erik Janas           | Christie Ward     |
| Emily Cooner for Kevin Boyce | James Jewell         | Nancy White       |
| Michelle Crandall            | Bill LaFayette       | Andrew Williams   |
| Brad Ebersole                | Eric Meyer           | Tim Wilson        |
|                              | Rod Pritchard        | RC Wise           |

### **Commission Members Attending Remotely**

|                 |                    |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Greg Butcher    | Christine Houk     | Eric Richter       |
| Karl Craven     | Emily Keeler       | Ryan Rivers        |
| Joy Evangelista | Susan Lewis Kaylor | Nick Shultz        |
| Jeff Gottke     | Mark Mauter        | Sloan Spalding     |
| Chris Harkness  | Bonnie Michael     | Joe Stefanov       |
| Daryl Hennessy  | Eric Phillips      | Evelyn Warr-Omness |
| Tom Homan       | Bernita Reese      |                    |

### **Transportation Policy Committee Members Present in Person**

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| Kimberly Sharp | Thom Slack |
|----------------|------------|

### **Transportation Policy Committee Members Attending Remotely**

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| LaGrieta Acheampong | Kristen Easterday |
| Chasilyn Carter     | Andy Volenik      |

### **Associate Members Present in Person**

Jennifer Fish

### **Associate Members Attending Remotely**

Kristin Sutton

### **MORPC Staff Present in Person**

|                 |                  |                 |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Todd Bradley    | Shawn Hufstedler | Jen Noll        |
| Kerstin Carr    | Ethan Hug        | Melissa Rapp    |
| Dave Dixon      | Niel Jurist      | Jessie Sampson  |
| Preston Frick   | Eileen Leuby     | Shari Saunders  |
| Joe Garrity     | Kelsey Matson    | Maria Schaper   |
| Nick Gill       | Jonathan Miller  | Luka Srsic      |
| Ralonda Hampton | William Murdock  | Robert Williams |

### **MORPC Staff Attending Remotely**

|         |               |              |
|---------|---------------|--------------|
| Yan Liu | Anthony Perry | Emma Strange |
|---------|---------------|--------------|

### **Guests Present in Person**

Ethan Fischer, Licking County  
Ethan Koch, Licking SWCD  
Pete McGinty, Align2Market  
Linda Nicodemus, Licking SWCD  
Haley Stangebye, Hunter Marketing

Kevin Teaford, City of Grove City  
Grace Walker, Morrow County  
Sheila Willamowski Boehner, Kegler Brown Hill  
+ Ritter

### **Guests Attending Remotely**

Aisha Dabo, City of Marysville  
Morgan Fuller, Violet Township  
Hayden Hostetler, City of Hilliard  
Melinda Hupp, Perry County  
Andrew Lineweaver, City of Hilliard

Peter Marbach  
Madison Strauss, Village of Somerset  
Jake Tufts  
Kjersti Wendlandt, City of Grove City

### **Meeting Called to Order – Erik Janas (Franklin County), MORPC Chair**

Chair Erik Janas called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Janas announced the appointment of the Reserve & Investment Advisory Committee members:

- Nancy White, Chair
- Terry Emery, City of Marysville
- Ike Stage, City of Grove City
- Joe Stefanov, City of New Albany
- Paul Rakosky, City of Columbus – Reserve only
- Michael Schnetzer, City of Gahanna – Reserve only
- Zak Talarek, Franklin County – Reserve only
- Shawn Hufstedler, MORPC
- William Murdock, MORPC
- Alisa Obukhova, MORPC – Staff support
- Anthony Perry, MORPC – Staff support

Chair Janas thanked the appointees for their willingness to serve.

Chair Janas announced this is his last Commission meeting. He accepted a wonderful job opportunity in Cleveland to be the Chief of Staff to the County Executive in Cuyahoga County. Chair Janas thanked members for their support, friendship, and professional friendships over the last 15 years. This was not an easy decision. While he is incredibly excited to start this new journey, he will miss this region and organization. Vice Chair Chris Amorose Groomes thanked Chair Janas for his service on behalf of the Commission.

William Murdock explained the process for filling the vacancy after Chair Janas steps away later in August. At the September Commission meeting, the Commission will vote to fill interim officers. Vice Chair Amorose Groomes and Secretary Michelle Crandall will step up and fill the Chair and Vice Chair positions. We will solicit an interim Secretary from the Executive Committee. The interim officers will serve five months. The 2024 annual meeting will be moved to February in order to hold the annual election for permanent positions.

### **Recognition of Guests and New Members – Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer**

Eileen Leuby recognized summer interns who are finishing their terms today:

- Ethan Fischer, Licking County
- Morgan Fuller, Violet Township
- Madi Strauss, Village of Somerset
- Aisha Dabo, City of Marysville
- Andrew Lineweaver, City of Hilliard
- Hayden Hostetler, City of Hilliard

- Ethan Koch, Licking County SWCD
- Kjersti Wendlant, City of Grove City
- Jessie Sampson, MORPC

Ms. Leuby welcomed guests Emily Cooner from Commissioner Kevn Boyce's office, Grace Walker from Morrow County, and new City of Columbus representative Andrew Williams.

**Executive Director's Report – William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director**

William Murdock noted that Chair Janas has been a supportive member on MORPC's Board and that Mr. Murdock will miss Chair Janas. On behalf of MORPC Team Members, Mr. Murdock thanked Chair Janas for all he's done for the agency.

The Rail Safety Forum preceding the Commission meeting featured Bryan Gray, State Director for Senator Vance; Homer Carlisle, the lead person from Senator Brown's office in Washington DC; Ohio Senator Bill Reineke; and Jeff Young, Director of Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security. They spoke on rail safety, federal and state legislation, and what local governments can do. They asked for examples from local governments about things they may want to include in federal legislation and how the state can continue to work on this.

Mr. Murdock reported it's been a busy summer with member events, forums and visits that will be shared later in the meeting. The common themes we are hearing are things you will hear about today. Since we last met the low-income housing tax credit passed. We are beginning to work with partners to put together a pro housing grant. Today's agenda also includes the rollout of MORPC's branding platform and strategic framework, work on regional tech hubs, and a major milestone with LinkUS.

MORPC has two big positions open. The Chief Mobility Officer and the Economic Development Director. We are close to filling the Economic Development Director position.

Mr. Murdock reminded members that MORPC's [Strategic Framework](#) is what we organize our agency and budget around. The framework is now available as a document and includes the four pillars and key initiatives in focus areas.

On Monday, U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm visited the region. She was in Lancaster for a groundbreaking ceremony at Cirba Solutions, a lithium-ion battery recycling facility. Secretary Granholm was in Columbus to visit one of the homes MORPC weatherized.

Central Ohio is close to being designated as an Economic Development District. The U.S. EDA sent us three simple questions in July. We are waiting and hoping the designation comes and opens more tools for members. Later in the meeting, Joe Garrity will share about the regional tech hubs grant.

Residential Services moved forward with enlarging our HWAP service area, which doubles the amount of work we can do in the communities we serve. Resolution 11-23 on the consent agenda addresses the additional funds.

The topic of water and how the region is preparing for growth is coming up more and more. MORPC is working on this key regional issue with Ohio EPA and several communities. State leaders asked MORPC to see if we can help. We already provide technical assistance to Ohio EPA. MORPC's goal



is to be helpful with the process while making sure our water quality remains at a high level, unlocking growth, and making sure everybody has the water they need going forward.

The August 1 Social Media Summit focused on artificial intelligence. Videos of the event are available on MORPC's [YouTube channel](#). Mr. Murdock thanked MORPC's Team for their efforts.

MORPC is hosting a Supplier Diversity Procurement Fair on August 17. The fair is an opportunity for suppliers/vendors to connect with local governments.

The Summit on Sustainability is October 26.

Mr. Murdock congratulated City of Bellefontaine Mayor Ben Stahler for being named president of the Mayor's Association of Ohio. Mr. Murdock congratulated Franklin County Administrator Ken Wilson for being named president of the National Association of County Administrators. Congratulations to the City of Hilliard for being named a Top Seven Intelligent Community internationally.

**MORPC Messaging Overview – Niel Jurist, MORPC Communications & Engagement Senior Director; Haley Stangebye, Hunter Marketing; and Pete McGinty, Align2Market**

Niel Jurist introduced Haley Stangebye and Pete McGinty who gave an overview of the [MORPC Messaging Platform](#). MORPC partnered with Hunter Marketing and Align2Market to enhance MORPC's brand message and narrative. We took the information collected and developed a message to explain what MORPC does, how we do it, and why. Elevator speeches for different audiences were developed.

**Drive Investment Update – Joseph Garrity, MORPC Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations**

Joe Garrity presented the [Drive Investment Update](#). MORPC is the lead applicant in partnership with The Columbus Partnership and Ernst & Young on a Regional Tech Hub designation application which is due August 15. A consortium of interest, called the Silicon Heartland Appalachia Regional Engine (SHARE), will be housed at MORPC. We are partnering with Southeast Ohio on the application. If we receive designation, we can compete for funds to be used for workforce development, infrastructure, business and entrepreneur development, etc.

None of the six regional projects that applied for a RAISE grant received funds. We learned that no regional or local government organization has received a RAISE grant since 2012. MORPC Team Members are working with partners and U.S. DOT to learn how we can be more competitive in the next fiscal year.

Mr. Garrity shared federal funding opportunities that are related to housing or have allowed dollars to be more flexible than are traditionally transportation grants. Applications for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Programs grant are due September 28. Over \$3 billion is available for community planning grants, capital construction grants, and regional partnership challenge grants. Earlier this week the FTA released the Transit Oriented Development Planning Program which has more of an emphasis on affordable housing.

Mr. Garrity encouraged members to use the weekly Money Mondays as a resource for learning about funding opportunities. The September 18 Money Monday is extended to one hour and focuses on the State Capital Budget and Community Investment.

**Community Based Planning Assistance – Kerstin Carr, MORPC Chief Regional Strategy Officer & Senior Director of Planning**

Kerstin Carr presented the [Community Based Planning Assistance Program](#). MORPC developed the program over the last half year and is launching it officially today. Central Ohio's growth provides opportunities for economic and community development. With growth comes pressures (new housing, amenities, labor market, etc.). Communities are struggling to keep up with the workload or do not have the capacity to support their planning work. MORPC is adding a consultancy services program and a planner pool program to our already existing technical assistance program and calling it the Community Based Planning Assistance (CBPA) Service.

The CBPA is intended to act as a one-stop shop for communities looking for extra help preparing for the future and is designed to be as simple as possible. It acts as a singular point for communities to communicate their needs. MORPC will look at the requests, follow-up with communities as needed, and provide guidance on which programs are best suited for their needs.

The CBPA is based on the success of the Technical Assistance (TA) Program and designed to cover areas where projects may not be TA eligible. The purpose of the TA Program is to help realize goals and strategies identified in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Eligible services reflect that purpose and relate specifically to the outlined strategies. The Consultant Services Program and the Planner Pool Program covers community needs that are not eligible through the TA Program. The Consultant Services Program is designed to make the Request for Proposal (RFP) process easier for communities and consultants, specifically focused on assisting communities with comprehensive planning and zoning code development and updates. Each year, consultants apply for prequalification to submit proposals and perform work in the eligible service categories. MORPC will work with communities by formatting project information and details into a standardized RFP outline and help with scope writing. MORPC will post the RFP to a central repository on our website. Prequalified consultants can bid on projects. MORPC will facilitate the reviews, project scoring and project scoping meetings. A small fee will be assessed to offset the cost of staff time.

The Planner Pool Program is meant for more short-term projects (projects that generally aren't large enough to gain interest from consultants). MORPC will assign staff members to support short-term projects on an hourly rate based on their experience and expertise.

This is a pilot year and we will adjust and evaluate the programs on a regular basis. We want to be as flexible as possible and make it as easy as possible to use. We appreciate any feedback you have. Dr. Carr thanked Jonathan Miller, MORPC staff lead for the new CBPA Service.

**Quarterly Membership Update – Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer**

Eileen Leuby presented the [Membership Services Report](#) highlighting:

- Completed Member Forums
- Regional Update Breakfast Southwest Area
- Trails & Tourism Economy
- Annual Salary & Fringe Benefit Survey
- Membership Visits/Forums
- New Board Member Orientations
- Sumer Intern Program

## **Committees**

### **Regional Data Advisory Committee – Brad Ebersole (Delaware County) Regional Data Advisory Committee Vice Chair**

Brad Ebersole, filling in for new Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC) Chair Christina Drummond, presented the [Regional Data Advisory Committee Update](#). MORPC is soliciting local feedback on permit data used to generate updated population estimates. Updated estimates will be presented to the Commission in September for review and in October for approval.

MORPC Team Members incorporated local feedback on the small geography 2050 households and job forecasts. Updated projections will be available soon. MORPC created an internal AI Team to explore and leverage artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning while attempting to mitigate misuse and unintended consequences. The AI Team will serve MORPC internal departments, RDAC and MORPC members. Contact the team with questions or recommendations at [aiteam@morpc.org](mailto:aiteam@morpc.org).

RDAC Working Groups continue to move forward on several approved and proposed initiatives: planning for Data Day 2024, planning to create a new Cybersecurity Working Group, and formulating a proposal for a “Regional Data Coaches” pilot. The Data Coaches proposal aims to convene a broad-based group of data professionals to provide ad hoc assistance to local government and non-profit stakeholders with limited data analysis and/or governance capacity. The July RIDG meeting featured a presentation on considerations for AI in data analysis.

The proposed Regional Data Agenda will serve as the framework for MORPC staff, RDAC, and working groups to guide future data-related projects and initiatives.

- **Proposed Resolution 09-23: “Adoption of MORPC’s 2023-2025 Regional Data Agenda”**  
Joe Antram made a motion to approve Resolution 09-23, second by Nancy White; motion passed.

### **Regional Policy Roundtable – David Scheffler (City of Lancaster), Regional Policy Roundtable Chair**

David Scheffler presented the [Regional Policy Roundtable Update](#). The next Regional Policy Roundtable meeting is August 15 featuring Ann Aquilo speaking on the War Room effort. The state budget passed which included key priorities such as the low-income housing tax credit and increasing the competitive bidding threshold which is effective October 3.

- **Legislative Update – Sheila Willamowski Boehner, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter and Joseph Garrity, MORPC Senior Director of Government Affairs and Community Relations**  
Joe Garrity and Sheila Willamowski Boehner gave the legislative update highlighting the following:
  - State Operating Budget
  - Affordable housing
  - Central Ohio Defense Community Partnership Conference
  - New name for Ohio Department of Education - Department of Education and Workforce
  - New tax brackets
  - Local government fund
  - New cabinet level - Department of Children and Youth
  - Issue 1

**Sustainability Advisory Committee – Laurie Jadwin (City of Gahanna), Sustainability Advisory Committee Vice Chair**

Laurie Jadwin, filing in for Ben Kessler, presented the [Sustainability Advisory Committee Report](#). The Columbus Foundation Green Funds Committee awarded a grant to MORPC to support a new project which will inventory and map the natural assets within Franklin County's watersheds. Contact MORPC's Central Ohio Greenways Program Manager Melinda Vonstein to learn more.

The Columbus MSA was awarded \$1 million for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Phase 1 planning. Key organizations are coming together to advance planning efforts at a regional scale. Participation in the planning process creates opportunities for implementation grants which will be awarded through a competitive process. MORPC will lead a regional subcommittee so that the planning phase reflects priorities of our communities across the region. MORPC members are invited to provide input. Contact Brandi Whetstone for more information.

Registration is open for the October 26 Summit on Sustainability which features two keynotes: VP of Global Affairs and Chief Sustainability Officer with Intel Todd Brady and former New York City Parks & Recreation Commissioner Mitchell Silver. Mr. Silver is now with McAdams as a Principal in Urban Planning. NOPEC is this year's Presenting Sponsor. Thank you to everyone who has sponsored the Summit. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. To learn more and/or register, visit [www.morpc.org/summit](http://www.morpc.org/summit).

**Transportation Policy Committee – Erik Janas (Franklin County), MORPC Chair**

Chair Janas called the Transportation Policy Committee Session to order at 2:47 p.m. The session adjourned at 3:01 p.m. Separate minutes are attached.

**Commission Consent Agenda**

Steve Schoeny made a motion to approve the Commission Consent Agenda, second by Jennifer Gallagher; motion passed. Kim Sharp abstained.

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

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Michelle Crandall, Secretary  
**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**



# MID-OHIO REGIONAL **MORPC** PLANNING COMMISSION

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## Memorandum

**TO:** Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
Executive Committee  
Officers and Board Members

**FROM:** Shawn Hufstедler  
Chief Operating Officer

**DATE:** September 1, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Resolution 12-23: **“Adopting a revised agency operating reserve policy”**

MORPC’s operating reserve policy was initially adopted in 2016. The Reserve and Investment Advisory Committee was at that time tasked with determining an operating reserve policy and identifying mechanisms to fund the reserve in order to improve financial stability. For an entity like MORPC, mitigation of risks like delayed payments, program losses, and emergencies was desired and imperative to long-term fiscal strength similar to other local governments. The Committee determined a strategy to increase financial stability and provide a policy encouraging a consistent and fiscally conservative reserve approach. The Committee determined a short-term goal of reaching a 60-day operating reserve, with a longer-term goal of a 90-180 day operating reserve.

In August 2023, the Reserve and Investment Advisory Committee reviewed the policy to consider any needed updates as well as consideration of approach to fund the operating reserve. The Committee discussed methods to build reserves, recommended no changes to the 60-day or more goals, and did recommend an update to amounts for short-term cash flow transfers.

To build the reserves, the language in the policy was strengthened to indicate that MORPC will seek to allocate additional funds to the reserve every year from various sources, including members’ dues if other sources are not available. This will be an annual decision incorporated into the budget each year requiring Commission approval.

Policy language adjustment to the authorization for use of operating reserves is also proposed. The authority to transfer funds given to the Executive Director, in consultation with the Chair of the Reserve and Investment Advisory Committee and the Chair of the Executive Committee is proposed to raise from \$500,000 to \$750,000. This increase is approximately proportional to the increase in the agency budget from 2016 to 2023. Additionally, the proposed policy is amended to provide the Executive Director the authority to authorize transfer of up to \$250,000 per year between the cash and investment accounts for cash management purposes.

No substantive changes are recommended to emergency use or the reporting and monitoring sections of the Operating Reserve Policy. The Policy distinguishes between uses of operating cash flow and emergencies, including the conditions for use, authorization and replenishment, and reporting and monitoring. Any use of the operating reserve must be authorized by the Commission via the budgeting and appropriating process prior to the use of any funds for either operating or emergency use in any given circumstance. Consistent with other financial duties of the Commission, the Operating Reserve Policy indicates that investment oversight resides with the Executive Committee, which will receive regular reports on the use of operating reserve funds, if any, as well as plans and progress toward replenishing any used operating reserve funds.

Attachment: Resolution 12-23



## RESOLUTION 12-23

### **“Adopting a revised agency operating reserve policy”**

WHEREAS, MORPC’s Operating Reserve Policy was initially created in 2016; and

WHEREAS, periodic review of the policy is desired; and

WHEREAS, the Reserve and Investment Advisory Committee reviewed the policy and recommended updates; and

WHEREAS, the Reserve and Investment Advisory Committee maintained a short term operating reserve goal of 60 days’ worth of funding and a long term goal of 90-180 days; and

WHEREAS, the updates include strengthening of language to build reserves and increasing the amount authorized for transfer between accounts for operating purposes; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:**

- Section 1. That the Commission adopts the attached revised Operating Reserve Policy.
- Section 2. That the executive director is authorized to take such other action and execute and deliver such other documents as, acting with the advice of legal counsel, he shall deem necessary and appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.
- Section 3. That this Commission finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this Commission concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this Commission.

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

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Effective date:  | September 14, 2023   |
| Submitted by:    | Shawn Hufstedler, Chief Operating Officer  |
| Prepared by:     | Shawn Hufstedler, Chief Operating Officer  |
| Authority:       | Ohio Revised Code Section 713.21   |
| For action date: | September 14, 2023   |
| Attachments:     | Revised Operating Reserve Policy<br>Original Operating Reserve Policy – with tracked changes |



# MORPC OPERATING RESERVE POLICY

## Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

### 1. **Background**

For Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) to deliver on its mission, it is imperative to maintain financial stability. Establishing an operating reserve is a mechanism that governments can implement to ensure adequate levels of cash balances are available to mitigate current and future risks.

### 2. **Policy Statement**

The primary objective of this policy is to establish an operating reserve for MORPC that will permit the organization to continue to operate during difficult financial times. The following are two types of operating reserves addressed within this policy:

I. Operating Cash Flow: Maintain adequate level of cash for day-to-day operations.

II. Emergencies: Accommodate unusual and/or unforeseen emergency cash needs.

### 3. **Level of Funding**

The target reserve level is 60 days' worth of funding up to 90 days or more based on the annual budget approved by the Commission. While the initial target reserve amount is 60 days, the intent is to increase the reserve level to 90 days or more over time. Generally, 30 days or more worth of budgeted expenses will be maintained in the operating cash account. The remainder of the operating reserve will be determined by the Investment Advisory Committee in accordance with the Investment Policy.

Funding for the reserve may come from diverse areas. To attain the long-term goal, MORPC will seek to allocate additional funds to the reserve every year from various sources, including members' dues if no other funds are available, as established by the Commission.

Annually an amount should be built into the budget and appropriations to build the operating reserve.



#### **4. Conditions for Use**

##### **I. Operating Cash Flow:**

The operating cash flow reserve is intended to provide an internal source of funds for situations that would interrupt the normal day-to-day operations as determined by management to the extent authorized by the Commission.

##### **II. Emergencies:**

The emergency reserve is intended to provide an internal source of funds for situations such as a sudden increase in expenses, one-time unbudgeted expenses, unanticipated loss in funding, uninsured losses and other emergency needs as determined by the Commission. The Commission may delegate authority to the Executive Committee to authorize emergency use to the extent that the funds have been budgeted and appropriated.

#### **5. Authorization and Replenishment**

The use of operating reserves must be adequately appropriated and budgeted. Earnings from the operating reserve investments will be retained within the operating reserve, unless otherwise budgeted and appropriated by the Commission. The use of the reserve must be accompanied by a description of the analysis and determination of the use along with plans for replenishing the reserve. The analysis must include identification of whether the use is anticipated to be a one-time issue or expense or likely to be multiple occurrences.

##### **I. Operating Cash Flow:**

Authority is given to the executive director for the chief financial officer or finance director as otherwise authorized to transfer up to \$750,000 per occurrence into the main operating account from the remainder of the operating reserve in consultation with the Chair of the Reserve and Investment Advisory Committee and the Chair of the Executive Committee. Authority is given to the executive director for the chief financial officer or finance director as otherwise authorized to transfer up to \$250,000 per year between the cash and investment account for cash management purposes without consultation of the Chair of the Reserve and Investment Advisory Committee and the Chair of the Executive Committee. The maximum cumulative amount of transfer into the main operating account at any given time is \$1,000,000 without additional approval from the Commission.

##### **II. Emergencies:**

The executive director must receive prior approval from the Commission, or the Executive Committee if so delegated by the Commission, for use of funds in an emergency.

#### **6. Reporting and Monitoring**

The chief financial officer (CFO) is responsible for ensuring that the Operating Reserve is maintained and used only as described in this Policy. Upon approval for the use of the Operating Reserve, the CFO will ensure adequate maintenance of records of the use of

funds and plan for replenishment. They will ensure adequate and regular reporting to the Executive Committee of progress to restore the fund.

The ultimate responsibility for investment oversight resides with the Executive Committee. The Chair of the Reserve and Investment Advisory Committee shall monitor the investment portfolio for compliance with this policy.

Quarterly the CFO will ensure adequate reporting to the Executive Committee any activities of the operating reserve to demonstrate compliance with the operating reserve policy.



# MORPC OPERATING RESERVE POLICY

■ ~~July 14, 2016~~ September 2023

## OPERATING RESERVE POLICY

### BACKGROUND

For Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) to deliver on its mission, it is imperative to maintain financial stability. Establishing an operating reserve is a mechanism that governments can implement to ensure adequate levels of cash balances are available to mitigate current and future risks.

### POLICY STATEMENT

The primary objective of this policy is to establish an operating reserve for MORPC that will permit the organization to continue to operate during difficult financial times. The following are two types of operating reserves addressed within this policy:

- Operating Cash Flow: Maintain adequate level of cash for day-to-day operations.
- Emergencies: Accommodate unusual and/or unforeseen emergency cash needs.

### LEVEL OF FUNDING

The target reserve level is 60 days' worth of funding up to 90 days or more based on the annual budget approved by the Commission. While the initial target reserve amount is 60 days, the intent is to increase the reserve level to 90 days or more over time. ~~Generally~~ 30 days or more worth of budgeted expenses will be maintained in the operating cash account. The remainder of the operating reserve will be determined by the Investment Advisory Committee in accordance with the Investment Policy.

Funding for the reserve ~~will may~~ come from diverse areas. ~~Initially the short term reserve comes from the combination of current funds available from the operating cash account at the time and a transfer of funds from the building sale proceeds account.~~ To ~~obtain~~ attain the ~~long term~~ long-term goal, MORPC will seek to allocate additional funds ~~will be allocated~~ to the reserve every year from various sources, including members' dues if no other funds are available. as established by the Commission.

Annually an amount should be built into the budget and appropriations to build the operating reserve.

The operating reserve will be invested in accordance with the Investment Policy.

### CONDITIONS FOR USE

*Operating Cash Flow:*

**1**

The operating cash flow reserve is intended to provide an internal source of funds for situations that would interrupt the normal day-to-day operations as determined by management to the extent authorized by the Commission.

*Emergencies:*

The emergency reserve is intended to provide an internal source of funds for situations such as a sudden increase in expenses, one-time unbudgeted expenses, unanticipated loss in funding, uninsured losses and other emergency needs as determined by the Commission. The Commission may delegate authority to the Executive Committee to authorize emergency use to the extent that the funds have been budgeted and appropriated.

## AUTHORIZATION AND REPLENISHMENT

The use of operating reserves must be adequately appropriated and budgeted. Earnings from the operating reserve investments will be retained within the operating reserve, unless otherwise budgeted and appropriated by the Commission. The use of the reserve must be accompanied by a description of the analysis and determination of the use along with plans for replenishing the reserve. The analysis must include identification of whether the use is anticipated to be a one-time issue or expense or likely to be multiple occurrences.

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Authority is given to the executive director for the chief financial officer or finance director as otherwise authorized to transfer up to \$~~500~~750,000 per occurrence into the main operating account from the remainder of the operating reserve in consultation with the Chair of the Reserve and Investment Advisory Committee and the Chair of the Executive Committee. Authority is given to the executive director for the chief financial officer or finance director as otherwise authorized to transfer up to \$250,000 per year between the cash and investment account for cash management purposes without consultation of the Chair of the Reserve and Investment Advisory Committee and the Chair of the Executive Committee. The maximum cumulative amount of transfer into the main operating account at any given time is \$~~500~~1,000,000 without additional approval from the Commission.

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The executive director must receive prior approval from the Commission, or the Executive Committee if so delegated by the Commission, for use of funds in an emergency.

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The ultimate responsibility for investment oversight resides with the Executive Committee. The Chair of the Reserve and Investment Advisory Committee shall monitor the investment portfolio for compliance with this policy.

Quarterly the CFO will ensure adequate reporting to the Executive Committee any activities of the operating reserve to demonstrate compliance with the operating reserve policy.



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