MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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Columbus, Ohio 43215

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NOTICE OF A MEETING

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

October 30, 2023
5:30 p.m.

Microsoft Teams meeting
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AGENDA

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

5:32 p.m.   **Approval of August 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

5:33 p.m.   **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report** – Nick Gill, MORPC, Dave Dixon, MORPC
- Transit Agency Reports
  - Delaware County Transit – Nick Gill, MORPC
  - COTA Update – Kelsey Ellingsen, COTA

5:50 a.m.   **2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan**
- 2024 - 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update – Maria Schaper, MORPC

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Interim Chair

Michelle Crandall
Interim Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

6:00 p.m.   **Informational Items**
- John Glenn Columbus International Airport Terminal Update – Tom McCarthy, Columbus Regional Airport Authority
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding Opportunities Update – Preston Frick, MORPC
- Central Ohio Greenways Updates - Strategic Plan & Trail Communities – Melinda Vonstein, MORPC

6:30 p.m.   **Other Business**
- Membership Updates
- Roundtable Discussion

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

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

The next CAC meeting is
December 4, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: **August 28, 2023**
Time: **5:30 p.m.**
Location: **MORPC**

Members Present

Acheampong, LaGrieta	Rist, John	Synk, Erin
Girves, Catherine	Roehm, Bob	Weiss, Ira
Needleman, William	Rollins, Helen	

Guests
Ellingsen, Kelsey

MORPC Staff

DiCuccio, Clare	Jurist, Niel	Petrov, Jordan
Frick, Preston	Lewis, Elliott	Rapp, Melissa (online)
Gill, Nick	Miller, Jonathan	Ratliff, Chuck
Graham, Thomas	Noll, Jennifer	Schaper, Maria

I. Welcome & Introductions
- Chair Acheampong called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. There was a quorum present.

II. Approval of July 31, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- Mr. Rist stated that on page 8 of the July 31, 2023 meeting minutes, they are recorded as having expressed thanks for the Violet Township work being done in addition to the follow-up question asked during Mr. Petrov's presentation on the Technical Assistance Program SFY 24 Draft Program Guide. However, it was determined that this was in fact Mr. Weiss.
- Chair Acheampong asked for a motion to approve the July 31, 2023 meeting minutes, under the condition that the minutes will be corrected. The minutes were corrected and uploaded to the MORPC website.
- Mr. Weiss moved; Ms. Girves seconded; and the motion passed.

III. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Nick Gill, MORPC
- Mr. Gill began the report, informing the committee of the following:
  - MORPC will be hosting the annual Central Ohio Transportation Safety Forum on Thursday, September 21 from 10 a.m. to noon. The event will be in person this year. We'll be joined by Councilor John Barth from the City of Indianapolis to talk about some of their recent initiatives focused on improving safety for people walking and bicycling. There will also be a panel discussion with experts focused on the psychology behind driver behavior, the basics of vehicle safety, and why the Safe System approach is so critical to reducing fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways. Registration for the event is available on the MORPC website.
  - Mr. Gill concluded his report stating that MORPC will be opening applications for FY 2023 5310 funding with $1.7 million available this year.

Eligible subrecipients must attend the virtual workshop at noon on September 27, 2023.

- Ms. Noll continued the report, stating the following:
  - At the August Commission meeting, MORPC introduced the Community Based Planning Assistance Program, designed to make it easier for member communities to let know how MORPC how they can help. The suite of services includes the already established Technical Assistance Program, as well as the new consultant services and planner pool programs, giving members a one-stop shop to request assistance from MORPC staff. Visit MORPC's website to learn more about the Community Based Planning Assistance Program and the various services. MORPC members interested in requesting assistance through the Community Based Planning Assistance program are welcome to submit a Request for Assistance using the form found on the Program website.
  - Registration is now open for the Summit on Sustainability, taking place on October 26, 2023 at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. Individual and group registrations are available. If your community or organization is interested in sponsoring, a variety of sponsorship options remain available. Contact Brandi Whetstone or Amanda McEldowney for more information.
  - MORPC and their partners would like to hear from interested parties in a 10-county planning area (Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Hocking, Licking, Madison, Morrow, Perry, Pickaway, & Union) on how they would like to be engaged in this planning process throughout the Columbus Climate Action Plan project. This planning process will help identify regional goals and strategies and will position local governments to be eligible for $4.6 billion in Phase II Implementation grant opportunities to put these plans into action. This could translate into funding for energy-saving improvements, electric vehicle charging, and more. Contact Brian Filiatraut at bfiliatraut@morpc.org if you have any questions or would like to learn more.
  - MORPC recently adopted an updated Regional Data Agenda for 2023 through 2025. The new agenda is action-oriented, targeting areas where the RDAC, its working groups, and user groups are well positioned to impact the use of data on a regional scale. New or expanded areas of focus include cybersecurity, digital inclusion, as well as exploring how to leverage artificial intelligence (AI), while mitigating bias and unintended consequences. Questions or suggestions related to AI specifically, should be directed to aiteam@morpc.org.
  - MORPC, in partnership with Measurement Resources Company and The Columbus Dispatch, is preparing to launch the second survey in our Leaders Listen public opinion survey series. The survey will focus on area residents' perceptions and priorities around environmental and sustainability concerns. We encourage everyone to participate and share the survey within your communities.
  - Lastly, Ms. Noll expressed thanks for everyone who has been active in reviewing and providing feedback on MORPC's Draft 2023 Population Estimates. The Data Team is working to review all the local input they have received and incorporate updates where appropriate. The 2023 estimates will be presented at the September Commission meeting and introduced for formal adoption in October. All inquiries pertaining to this population estimated should be directed to dataandmaps@morpc.org.

- Transit Agency Reports
  - Mr. Gill provided an update on Delaware County Transit (DCT), stating that they are continuing with onboarding their new dispatch software, which goes live on September 5, 2023. In addition, DCT has completed the first public engagement phase for the Strategic Plan.
  - Ms. Ellingsen provided a COTA update, informing the committee of the West Broad BRT project with the following:
    - West Broad St. is the most advanced corridor in the LinkUS plan, our region's transformational mobility initiative.
    - COTA recently submitted their rating request to FTA. This is a critical milestone in getting the project to launch. Many community letters of support were included. COTA will do an environmental assessment and then secure the local match that goes into the financial plan that they have provided.
    - This corridor is 9.3 miles that starts at Washington Ave. through to Prairie Township. The stops will not be every couple of miles like COTA's local service so that along with other amenities in the service will have travelers get to where they're going quickly.
    - Ms. Ellingsen reviewed the planning and design principles stating a focus on usability, operability, simplicity, community, identity, and resiliency.
    - Chair Acheampong asked if restrooms would be available at the stations. Ms. Ellingsen replied that restrooms would be at the end of the line, which in this case, would be Prairie Township.
    - Mr. Roehm asked if this is like CMAX. Ms. Ellingsen replied the CMAX does capture some BRT components but this initiative will more fully be considered BRT.
    - Mr. Weiss asked if this would have features like level boarding. Ms. Ellingsen replied, yes. From a user experience, accessibility is critical.
    - Mr. Weiss asked how a user will pay to board. Ms. Ellingsen responded that they are still determining the logistics. There will be off-board payment. It's still being determined how they will design the validation component.
    - Mr. Rist asked if the stations will adequately protect against the elements. Ms. Ellingsen replied that this is part of the user experience and will be one of the primary focuses.
    - Mr. Rist asked if these buses would be electric. Ms. Ellingsen responded that COTA is phasing out the last of the diesel buses in 2025 and is looking at piloting hydrogen fueled buses. They have ordered several electric buses, but the supply chain has been challenging. Infrastructure changes will be required due to their range.
    - Ms. Ellingsen continued by reviewing station location and sizing criteria and community design engagement. Many amenities are planned, with a focus on accessibility, sustainability, micro-mobility, and technology and infrastructure.
    - Mr. Rist asked if COTA has collaborated with the airport authorities on preserving and planning for a transit corridor from the airport to downtown. Ms. Ellingsen replied that COTA and the Columbus Regional Airport Authority are close partners in helping Central Ohio residents

and visitors get around and have connected to develop COTA's Short Range Transit Plan recommendations around airport area earlier this year. Additionally, as COTA and LinkUS Partners conduct further planning to determine the locations of the remaining 4th and 5th corridors within the LinkUS plan, they are staying in close contact with the CRAA to stay abreast of how their own designs for the new terminal are progressing and preserve future opportunities to integrate mobility options via COTA's services into the development.

IV.   Resolutions

- Resolution T-11-23: Amending the State Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program
  - Mr. Graham informed the committee that this amendment seeks to add or modify seven projects. Additionally, it would remove four projects. This also amends Appendix A of the TIP which is removing the draft COTA short-range transit plan and adding the final and adopted version.
  - The Ferris Road from Karl Road to Westerville Road project previously did not have the preliminary engineering, environmental study, or detailed design phase in the TIP. It recently has been federally earmarked for those phases, so they are being added to the TIP. The project has a commitment of MORPC Attributable funds for both right away and construction. However, there are no changes to the commitment proposed in this amendment.
  - Similarly, for the City of Hilliard, the amendment adds the environmental study and detail design phases to the TIP for the Cemetery Road over I-270 shared use path. This project has a commitment of MORPC Attributable funds, but there is no change to this commitment. Rather than being federally earmarked, which is funding the earlier phases, it is a recent award of ODOT safety funds.
  - For the Pike St. from State Route 310 to Aetna, United Methodist Church project, this is being modified to more accurately reflect that they have a partial funding award through MORPC's process and therefore are doing ½ of what the original application applied for. There are no changes to the funding commitments.
  - The Paving the Way program has been cancelled so the 4 PIDs in the TIP related to that program are being removed.
  - The Sawmill Parkway extension is being added.
  - U.S 33 from Allen Rd. to Pickerington Rd. project which adds a new interchange at Pickerington Rd. is adding the right of way and construction phases. At the time of adoption, there were some uncommitted funds in those phases, but at this time, all funds have been committed.
  - There was a reduction in the estimate for the detailed design funding for the I-71 at I-270 on the North outer belt. This amendment is showing that reduction.
  - For the U.S. 23 at State Route 229 in Delaware County project adds a new interchange and is being added to the TIP through the environmental study phase.
  - Mr. Weiss expressed concern to see that in the Pickerington Rd project, pedestrian and bicycling facilities may be determined. Mr. Weiss stated that without an interchange that accommodates bicyclists and pedestrians,

Pickerington and Viola Township residents will be unable to safely access the Walnut Creek Greenways Trail or any other destination South of U.S. 33. Currently, the interchanges with U.S. 33 at Diley Road and Winchester Road are not friendly to bicycles and pedestrians and there are no overpasses on U.S. 33 between Ebright Rd. Mr. Weiss asked what can be done to convince ODOT to make pedestrians and bicyclists a priority when designing these projects. Mr. Gill responded that it is imperative that any time there's a public comment period that this subject is brought up directly to ODOT. MORPC does carry the message back and communicates with ODOT District 5. Mr. Gill referred to the Fairfield County Active Transportation Plan being new since the design process was started and we want to make sure ODOT is aware of that document as they continue with the design process. Ms. Girves added that this is not a concern of only one CAC member.

- Chair Acheampong asked for a motion to approve; Mr. Weiss moved; Mr. Rist seconded; Ms. Girves and Ms. Synk opposed; and the motion passed.

- Resolution T-12-23: Establishing Priorities for Central Ohio Candidate Projects Submitted in 2023 for TRAC Funding
  - Mr. Lewis presented the staff recommendations for the TRAC priority list, with 10 applications from within our region submitted for funding this round. Six of these are for construction and four for project development totaling $350 million in requests. This reflects the amount requested, not the total cost.
  - When these applications are evaluated, they are put through a performance measures analysis that includes many metrics that are aligned with the six goals of the MTP of creating stable neighborhoods, economic opportunity, regional collaboration, protecting natural resources, reducing per capita energy consumption, and the health, safety, and welfare of all people.
  - Referring to the public comment summary slide, Mr. Lewis noted that 22 comments were received, 12 in support, and 10 in opposition. However, the Taylor Rd/SR 256 Interchanges opposed comment was noted as incorrect and was a general comment not directed towards that application.
  - In general, commenters expressed their support for including room for transit and multimodal connections where at all possible for any of these projects but were opposed to highway widenings or interchange expansions or modifications that did not include potential options for multimodal, transit, or non-motorized bike connections.
  - Mr. Lewis presented the staff recommendation of projects, which shows the I-70/I-71 Downtown Ramp Up Phases 2D & 3 scoring very highly on economic opportunity on sustainable neighborhoods as well as regional collaboration. There's a lot of employment and residential density, and origin destinations, as well as a project history of collaboration.
  - The LinkUS West Broad BRT project also scored very highly on economic opportunity, regional collaboration, health, safety and welfare and sustainable neighborhoods, connecting a lot of residents, jobs, and services along the West Broad corridor.
  - The hard shoulder running smart lane on I-71 was third and ranked highly on Economic Opportunity Natural resources, which includes emissions

reduction from congestion mitigation as well as health, safety and welfare, and sustainable neighborhoods.

- Mr. Lewis closed, stating that after consideration and eventual approval of this priority list, it will be presented to TRAC on October 25, 2023 at the regional public hearing. It is expected that in January and February of 2024, TRAC will vote on the final project list.
- Mr. Roehm asked if the reference to hard shoulder running and smart lane using a paved berm that is normally not open to travel, but allowing travel when the traffic is heavy. Mr. Lewis confirmed, adding that it would be widening and reinforcing the shoulder to allow for normal traffic at designated times similar to I-670 out toward the airport.
- Chair Acheampong asked for a motion to approve; Mr. Weiss moved; Ms. Rollins seconded; and the motion passed.

- Resolution T-13-23: Adopting the 2024 Technical Assistance Program Guide
  - Mr. Petrov pointed out changes that have been made to the program guide such as focusing more on active transportation network connectivity and putting an emphasis on pedestrian safety.
  - A new service type, Trail Town Planning was added. Any community that's within two miles of the Central Ohio Greenway will be eligible for this activity. This activity will execute an immersive and dynamic place making exercise to uncover the valuable assets and cultural elements and embrace individuals seeking to connect through trail-based experiences.
  - Mr. Petrov closed by stating that application will be accepted starting on September 15, 2023 until October 13, 2023. The next round of services will kick off before the end of the year.
  - Chair Acheampong asked for a motion to approve; Ms. Girves moved; Ms. Synk seconded; and the motion passed.
  - Mr. Petrov mentioned that we are in the process of forming the evaluation committee. Ms. Synk has represented CAC in the past and agreed to continue.

- Resolution T-14-23: Accepting the Planning Work Program Completion Report for State Fiscal Year 2023
  - Mr. Gill explained that the Planning Work Program is MORPC's annual scope of work that is funded with the federal transportation planning dollars we receive to fulfill the primary planning products of the MTP, the TIP, and other special activities we do for the transportation planning in the region. The completion report states what we have accomplished in the previous state fiscal year.
  - Mr. Gill closed by stating that this resolution accepts the PWP completion report, which will be delivered to ODOT at the end of September.
  - Chair Acheampong asked for a motion to approve; Ms. Synk moved; Mr. Weiss seconded; and the motion passed.

V.   2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

- Ms. Schaper summarized what the Metropolitan Transportation Plan is and its importance due to changing demographics and demand on our transportation system.
- Ms. Schaper mentioned the web map which includes projects that have been identified in local, regional, or state plans. The web map will be available through September 8, 2023. Ms. Schaper asked the committee to share the link with their networks.
- As of August 22nd, we've had 107 suggested projects drawn on the map. Of these, 95% of projects that were suggested were new bike & pedestrian facilities or high-capacity transit lines. Projects with the most comments were those suggested by the public that were not already part of a local plan.
- Ms. Schaper continued by reviewing the statics for participation by zip code, provided by 66% of those that commented and showing the top zip codes represented.
- In closing, Ms. Schaper mentioned that all the projects identified through the web map and local plans will be evaluated against the performance metrics and objectives. In addition, a fiscal analysis will be done, looking at resources that are expected to be available through 2050, the costs, and what makes the most sense from a fiscal perspective as well as public involvement. Finally, a draft list of projects will be presented to communities in November 2023 through January 2024. The final plan will be adopted in May of 2024.
- Ms. Girves asked how the number of comments compares to previous rounds. Ms. Schaper replied it is already beyond what we've had in the past.
- Ms. Girves asked if there is a sense of a broader geographic representation this time. Ms. Schaper replied that it's hard to determine because location-based information was not captured in the past.
- Mr. Needleman asked how we promote this public comment period and how the comments impact the projects. Ms. Schaper replied that we advertise through our website and social media outlets. We also rely on word of mouth. The comments are not used as a voting system for projects but instead is a tool to help understand the public opinion on the projects and what type of projects they are interested in.

- Resolution T-15-23: Adopting the 2050 Forecast Household and Employment Variables
  - Ms. Schaper explained how the household and employment variable forecasts are derived, showing the order of magnitude. This assists with understanding where people are going to be living, working, and travelling between now and 2025. This is a key dataset that will be used in the MTP development process going forward.
  - Referring to the maps, Mr. Rist commented that there seems to be massive household growth in the north, which does not seem to correlate with the anticipated job growth. Mr. Rist asked if they are interpreting this incorrectly. Ms. Schaper replied that the maps are based on land use plans. These policies and plans have a lot of residential versus non-residential uses. Mr. Gill added that the jobs are concentrated along the major transportation corridors whereas the household will tend to be further away.

> There's still job growth throughout the region that is more mixed-use type than that from previous years.

- Chair Acheampong asked for a motion to approve; Ms. Girves moved; Mr. Weiss seconded; and the motion passed.

VI. Informational Items

- Community Based Planning Assistance
    - Mr. Miller informed the committee of the following:
        - This system was developed to assist with the difficulties communities are faced with managing the increased workloads due to regional growth. The resources needed to prepare for the growth generally come after growth, but we need to plan proactively for the best future for Central Ohio.
        - The service is intended to act as a single resource for communities looking for some extra help preparing for the future.
        - Because assistance may be needed in a variety of different ways, the Community-Based Planning Assistance Service is designed to be as simple for the communities as possible.
        - The Technical Assistance program is designed to help realize some of the goals and strategies that have been identified in the MTP. Some community needs are not eligible activities through this program, so the consultant services and planner pool programs were created.
        - The Consultant Services Program is designed to make the Request for Proposal (RFP) process easier for both communities and consultants, specifically focused on assisting communities with comprehensive planning and zoning code development and updates. There will be a central RFP repository created so that pre-qualified consultants can bid on them.
        - The Planner Pool Program will be an on-going assistance program, where some gaps will be filled on a rolling basis. This program is meant for more short-term projects that generally aren't large enough to gain interest from consultants. If the Planner Pool Program is determined to be the best form as assistance, we'll need to get some more detailed information to get accurate time projections both for how many hours per week assistance may be needed and how long the duration of assistance might be as well. We are currently hiring two additional planners to support this work and add capacity to our own team.
        - Through the associated programs within the Community-Based Planning Assistance program, we will be able to help address projects both large and small, projects that might last a couple weeks to a year or more and find ways of connecting communities so the expertise they need to their projects aren't just done but done well.
        - Ms. Girves asked if MORPC is acting as a clearinghouse for communities who will contract directly with the consultants. Mr. Miller confirmed this is true.
        - Ms. Girves asked what the fee would be. Mr. Miller replied, $1000.00 which includes hosting the RFP, reviewing the initial proposals, and proposing a finalist list. Ms. Grives asked if that would be paid annually. Mr. Miller clarified that this would be charged each time the service is used.
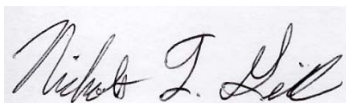
- Ms. Girves asked if this idea originated from the communities. Mr. Miller said that it comes from both communities and consultants.

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding Opportunities Update
  - Due to time constraints, this will be presented at a future meeting.

VII. Other Business
- Roundtable Discussion
  - Mr. Rist expressed interest in a briefing on the Columbus Regional Airport Authority plans to replace the 65-year-old terminal at John Glenn Columbus International Airport with a new $2 billion terminal. Mr. Weiss stated that it might be useful to have an airport representative attend a meeting to give an update.
  - Mr. Rist also expressed a desire to learn more about the Intel project, sharing with the committee that 98 semis were needed to transport the world's third largest crane to the project.
  - Vice-chair Rollins felt that it would benefit the committee to understand the rubrics and evaluation process that is used to determine how projects are selected. The committee is regularly informed of the results, but not the objective measures that are used to determine the rankings. Mr. Gill replied that the evaluation process depends on the program, providing a few examples. Mr. Weiss added that with regards to Attributable Funds, the process evolves every year with MORPC and member input into the selection criteria. Mr. Gill suggested that a separate session be held in October since a regular meeting is not scheduled. Several others on the committee agreed that this would be a valuable session.

VIII. Adjourn
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Nick Gill, Secretary
Community Advisory Committee

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION REPORT

October 2023

PROGRAMMING

Nick Gill, Interim Chief Regional Development Officer & Sr. Director of Programming – ngill@morpc.org

Transportation

Nick Gill, Interim Chief Regional Development Officer & Sr. Director of Programming – ngill@morpc.org

Metropolitan Transportation Plan:

- All candidate projects are mapped in GIS and the Data & Mapping team began the analyses to develop the data.

- A database was developed to compile the project evaluation data. The database will be used to review quantitative evaluation data for each project, input qualitative evaluation information, and for staff to review and update overall project evaluations.

- Project evaluation criteria were shared with members of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and other interested parties through the convening of a special session of the CAC on October 26th.

- Cost estimates were prepared for candidate projects.

- A funding forecast was developed to understand the availability of transportation funds in our region through the year 2050.

Transit, Mobility & Human Services:

Mobility Management

- The first annual Regional Mobility Plan Steering Committee (RMPSC) meeting was held. The RMPSC will vote on changes and updates to the Regional Goals and Strategies relevant to the plan.

- Participated in Regional Workforce and Healthcare Transportation Workgroup with rural counties including but not limited to Pickaway and Ross Counties.

- Held the Franklin County Mobility Advisory Committee meeting to present survey results for Franklin County and review progress made on local goals and strategies.

FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient

- The Mobility team supported applicants with their 5310 grant requests and started to review submissions for accuracy.

- Transferred a 5310 vehicle from the City of Grove City to Central Community House for utilization for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

- Worked with vehicle vendors to secure more accurate information on delivery timelines.

Gohio Commute

- Launched the first carpool program at a business in Union County and held tabling events at each of their buildings to educate them about the program.

- Participated in City of Delaware's Employer Workforce Resource Expo. Information was provided to employers about workforce transportation programs.

Transportation Planning Activities:

LinkUS Mobility Initiative

- Participated in the Central Ohio Workforce Transit Plan Steering Committee Workshop #3.

- Attended COTA's groundbreaking for the Rickenbacker Area Mobility Center (RAMC).

- Spoke at the Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference (OTEC) about transit supportive infrastructure (TSI).

- Participated in the MORPC Summit on Sustainability with a panel titled LinkUS: Smart Planning for a Sustainable Future.

- Held Technical Working Group Quadrant meetings and the Technical Coordinating Committee of the TSI Program.

Rt 23 Connect Study

- Provided support to ODOT and the consultant team in resuming the Community Partners meetings and developing meeting materials.

Intel Area Planning

- The consultant selection committee, made up of MORPC, LCATS, and ODOT staff reviewed proposals and responses to the RFP. The team selected a consultant team and notified all applicants.

Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO):

- The public comment period for the draft 2023-2050 CORPO Transportation Plan (CTP) continued through October 27, 2023. A virtual public open house was held on October 19, 2023.

- A steering committee was identified for the development of the CORPO Safety Action Plan. Invitations were sent to the steering committee for a kick-off meeting scheduled for November 6, 2023.

- Preparations began for the CORPO Committee meeting, also scheduled for November 6, 2023.

Active Transportation Planning:

- The next MORPC Active Transportation Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. This will be a hybrid meeting that can be attended in person at MORPC, or virtually via Microsoft Teams.

- A working group comprised of members of the Attributable Funds Committee and the Active Transportation Committee will be reviewing the MORPC Complete Streets Policy to determine if updates are needed. The first working group meeting is scheduled to be hosted virtually on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- MORPC will be hosting the Trails and Active Transportation quadrant meetings in November to bring together local agencies and other partners interested in collaborating on cross-jurisdictional trail and active transportation projects. The schedule of meetings is as follows:

  - Southwest Region: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 from 10 a.m. to noon at MORPC.

  - Northeast Region: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 from 10 a.m. to noon at MORPC.

  - Southeast Region: Thursday, November 16, 2023 from 10 a.m. to noon at MORPC.

  - Northwest Region: The City of Dublin hosted a meeting for the Northwest Region partners on October 24, 2023.

  This effort is supplemental to the work being completed through the LinkUS TSI committees and will include additional partners.

- MORPC hosted a virtual group viewing of the October APBP monthly professional development webinar. The next webinar is November 15, 2023 on the topic of How to Keep a Statewide Plan off the Shelf, Pedestrian Planning in Minnesota. These webinars are eligible for 1.0 hour of AICP Certification Maintenance credit. Contact Jordan Petrov at jpetrov@morpc.org if interested in attending.

Transportation Safety:

- Presentation materials from the 2023 Central Ohio Transportation Safety Forum are now available on MORPC's website at www.morpc.org/event/regional-transportation-safety-forum/.

- Team members participated in two walk audits led by the Delaware Public Health District in collaboration with Ohio Wesleyan University and the City of Delaware. The walk audits were conducted in and around downtown Delaware on October 4 and October 6, 2023.

- MORPC participated in the following safety committee meetings and events:

  - The second meeting of the Ohio Traffic Safety Council's Safety Belt Task Force has held on October 3, 2023.

  - Franklin County Safe Communities Coalition on October 4, 2023.

  - Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review on October 5, 2023.

  - Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO) Distracted Driving Media Event on October 5, 2023.

- Team members attended and presented at the Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference (OTEC) on October 17th and 18th, 2023 on active transportation and transportation safety topics.

Technical Assistance Program:

- The application window for the 2024 Technical Assistance Program closed on Friday, October 13, 2023. Two applications were received for active transportation planning services. Award details will be finalized and announced on November 3, 2023.

Infrastructure Funding:

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- The September TIP amendment was incorporated into ODOT's October STIP amendment, which was approved in October.

MORPC-Attributable Funding

- The AFC met in October to begin discussing potential revisions to the Policies for Managing MORPC-Attributable Funds. These conversations will continue at the November AFC meeting. Additionally, coordination has begun to consider revisions to MORPC's Complete Streets Policy.

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)

- The District 3 Public Works Integrating Committee (PWIC) met on October 20, 2023 to hear presentations from applicants for each of the projects requesting FY 25 SCIP/LTIP funding.

Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

- The priority list of applications from the MORPC area was presented to TRAC members at the Central Ohio regional public hearing on October 25, 2023.

Federal Competitive Programs

- The Drive Investment Portal is in the final stages of development. A creative brief was submitted to the Communications and Engagement team to create a social media strategy to promote this new tool. This will be released on our website before the end of the year.

- Working with COTA and Columbus, MORPC helped submit three federal applications that will assist the development of the West Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit Corridor.

- MORPC supported three U.S. DOT SMART Grant applications throughout our region. One was submitted by COTA, the other two submitted by the NW 33 Innovation Corridor Council of Governments.

- Ohio State University reached out to MORPC, requesting assistance with submitting a SMART Grant application. This proposal requests funding to mitigate traffic congestion throughout campus. MORPC provided grant application support for this project.

- MORPC has progressed with an application under the Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing) grant program. A public comments period was promoted on our website. This promotion was completed through social media posts and a legal ad in the Columbus Dispatch. To support this, an in-person open house to obtain these comments was held on October 18, 2023 in MORPC's Town Hall. This application can be found on MORPC's Regional Housing Strategy webpage and will remain there once submitted.

Money Mondays

- The following Money Mondays sessions were held:
  - October 2nd: Ohio Homeland Security
  - October 16th: Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

Economic Development

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS):

- MORPC welcomed Economic Development Director & Regional Innovation Officer, Padmini Roy-Dixon to the team.

- Met with representatives of the U.S. Economic Development Administration to identify key next steps to take after receiving the Central Ohio Economic Development District designation.

Brownfield Assessments:

- Worked with consultants to prepare the final quarterly report for the FY 2019 US EPA Brownfield grant close out.

- Began development of the application for the FY 2024 US EPA Brownfield grant.

PLANNING

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

Community Development

Central Ohio Greenways:

- The COG Board met on September 20, 2023 to review and approve a new working group structure that will support the advancement of the updated action items. The proposed new structure will include two ongoing program-based working groups, time constrained project based working groups, and annual collaboration meetings.

- The Outdoor Trails Pass partnership with Experience Columbus was relaunched in April 2023. Since the relaunch, we have seen a significant increase in the number of people interacting with and using the pass. Over 1,000 people have checked into destinations along the COG trails since April. We continue to see 150 - 200 new check-ins monthly.

- A Trail Alerts page has been added to the COG website to communicate trail closures and detours. Partners are encouraged to share their trail closures with MORPC.

- The Designing Local consultant team is under contract to complete the COG Wayfinding Strategy. The team has met with stakeholders and has drafted a recommended signage strategy. They have also integrated Trail Towns concepts into the wayfinding strategy. Over the next month, Designing Local will be accepting comments from the project Steering Committee on the Signage and Pavement Marking chapter of their report.

- Cycle Forward is under contract to complete the COG Trail Town Framework Urban Expansion project. The team met with select communities in Franklin County along the Ohio to Erie Trail to learn more about their interests, needs, and concerns with a Trail Town Program. The final project report is out for project Steering Committee comments and was finalized at the end of October.

- COG hosted a Trail Forum in Westerville on October 12, 2023. The results of the Trail Towns Project, updates to the Wayfinding work, community trail spotlights, and other tourism-related topics were shared.

- On October 17, 2023, Trail Tourism ideas and best practices were shared in Hocking Hills at the MORPC Rural Forum – Trails and Tourism Economy.

- The Trail Development Working Group will be supporting Regional Partnership Meetings during the second half of 2023. The partnership meetings are scheduled for November 2023.

- COG received partial funding for a Natural Asset Mapping effort from the Columbus Foundation. When fully funded, the project will provide data to support holistic decision-making around how development impacts the sustainability of our region's watersheds.

Central Ohio Blueways:

- The Summit on Sustainability session featured three Blueways Advisory Panel members focusing on issues related the overlaps between the promotion of outdoor recreation on Central Ohio's waterways with considerations for sustainability and water quality. The Advisory Panel will meet again later this year to continue discussions and considerations regarding a more permanent Steering Committee structure.

- MORPC is continuing to work with an OSU Capstone Class in the Environment, Economy, Development, and Sustainability program towards the development of Sustainable Access Point Design Guidelines. The students met with Laura Fay, Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed, to visit

access point sites along the Olentangy and to discuss the benefits and drawbacks of those existing designs. That work will continue through December 2023.

LinkUS Mobility Initiative:

- Together with the Programming department, the Planning department is engaged in ongoing committee and working group meetings for the LinkUS initiative.

RAPID 5:

- At their September board meeting, the RAPID 5 board unanimously voted to establish RAPID 5 as a land trust for Central Ohio. The board has also hired Broadview Talent to assist with the search for a new Executive Director. MORPC is working with RAPID 5 to develop a strategy on how to best support local governments and agencies interested in advancing RAPID 5. Team members continue to provide transitional support to RAPID 5, which includes assisting with processing speaker requests and presentation needs. Stay up to date with RAPID 5 news and events at rapid5.org. MORPC's main contact for the RAPID 5 initiative is Chief Regional Strategy Officer, Kerstin Carr at KCarr@morpc.org.

Regional Housing Strategy (RHS):

HUD PRO Housing Grant Application

- MORPC is seeking comments on its draft proposal to the HUD Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Through competitive grants, PRO Housing will provide $85,000,000 in funding for communities across the country to identify and remove barriers to affordable housing production and preservation. Applicants may request up to $10,000,000 in funds for activities that further develop, evaluate, and implement housing policy plans, improve housing strategies, and facilitate affordable housing production and preservation.

- MORPC will accept comments on the proposal until Saturday, October 28, 2023. You may view the draft proposal and submit comments at https://www.morpc.org/programs-services/regional-housing-strategy/. Proposals are due Monday, October 30, 2023.

Outreach

- Team members were invited to discuss regional housing and growth trends with various media outlets and in meetings and events hosted by several MORPC member communities and partner organizations.

- Regional Housing Coalition Task Force recommendations were shared with the Coalition's convening partners this past Spring. MORPC and other Task Force leaders expect to receive guidance on next steps soon and will provide updates as they become available.

Implementation Assistance

- Are you interested in a housing/growth workshop for your community's elected officials, staff, or community leaders? MORPC is accepting requests for presentations and workshops. Our team will work with you to design the agenda, including recommended speakers and learning objectives. Contact Jennifer Noll for more information at JNoll@morpc.org.

Community-Based Planning Assistance:

- The Community-Based Planning Assistance Program (CBPA) continues to be open and available for community assistance requests. Members may learn more about or request assistance from the CBPA by visiting https://www.morpc.org/community-based-planning-assistance. Please contact Jonathan Miller at jmiller@morpc.org with any questions or to discuss potential ways that MORPC may provide assistance.

Consultant Services Program

- The Consultant Services Program opened in August, with widespread notification of the program via a press release, a social media campaign, and direct announcements sent through MORPC's contact lists and ODOT's Consultant Services team. The Community Development team has held several meetings with consultants in the planning and zoning fields in Central Ohio. The Prequalification and Assistance Request window has been extended to November 10, 2023.

Planner Pool Program

- Members are invited to submit applications for assistance from the Planner Pool Program. MORPC will begin reviewing and fulfilling requests for assistance this fall, following the onboarding of new staff who will join current team members in providing direct planner assistance to member communities.

Sustainability

Sustainability Advisory Committee:

- The Committee met on September 20, 2023. The agenda included regional updates regarding policy and funding, the Summit on Sustainability, and progress on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). The MORPC team encouraged early engagement and input on the CPRG and discussed next steps. The committee also voted on the proposed City of Columbus Sustainable2050 Platinum recertification. The next SAC meeting will take place on December 13, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. at the Jeffrey Mansion in Bexley.

Sustainable2050:

- Congratulations to the City of Mount Vernon for joining as a Sustainable2050 member. MORPC hosted the quarterly Sustainable2050 meeting on September 28, 2023, which included program updates and a presentation on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). The group also discussed priority actions and projects that may be considered for a regional funding application, with the announcement of the CPRG competitive implementation grants.

Water Resources Program

Sustaining Scioto Board:

- The Sustaining Scioto Board meeting held on October 25, 2023, with a presentation on the status of the Sustainable Columbus One Water Plan, and a presentation on current water projects and planning efforts in the region. The Farming for Clean Water project continues to move forward with some additional outreach efforts to secure engagement for a focus group and survey.

- With the Commission's approval, the MORPC team will be preparing for the next steps to advance a regional water study with funding from the state. This will include early planning for a regional water council that will expand the scope of our water work beyond the Upper Scioto watershed.

Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team:

- The Outreach Team will meet on November 16, 2023.

Ohio EPA Water Resources Planning Work:

- MORPC continues to verify and update facility planning area (FPA) boundaries for wastewater treatment and water quality management plans. The Data & Mapping Team is providing support which includes digitizing FPA maps that are currently only available in pdf format. Staff, in collaboration with

the Ohio EPA, will be scheduling more focused meetings with interested parties in Licking and Delaware counties around the topics of water quality, wastewater service areas, and wastewater service provision. Finally, the team is compiling findings and recommendations to inform a dispute resolution process, in the event that MORPC takes on the role of an areawide planning agency in the future.

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund:

- Clean Ohio applications were due in September, and the MORPC team is working with the District 3 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) to complete the scoring process. NRAC will meet on November 6, 2023 to vote and recommend projects for funding to OPWC.

- For more information, please contact Edwina Teye at eteye@morpc.org or visit our website at https://www.morpc.org/program-service/clean-ohio-conservation-fund/.

Energy & Air Quality

Energy & Air Quality Working Group:

- The Energy and Air Quality Working Group will hold its next and final meeting of the year on November 29, 2023. This meeting will be virtual. The working group is recruiting candidates who are interested in serving as either the Chair or Vice-Chair. Please email recommendations to Brian Filiatraut, MORPC's Energy & Sustainability Program Manager at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

Energy Planning:

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)

- The MORPC team is working with the City of Columbus and the project team to lead regional elements for this planning process. We are forming a regional working group, the CPRG Strategy Subcommittee, to support regional outreach efforts and provide input into the planning process. Jennie McAdams, Franklin County Public Health, and Alana Shockey, City of Columbus, will co-chair the Subcommittee which is scheduled to meet November 1, 2023 and December 7, 2023. Additionally, the MORPC team will conduct a Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory (R-GHGI) for the ten-county planning area and work with our partners to expand our outreach. The October 16, 2023 Money Mondays presentation featured the CPRG implementation funding.

City of Columbus Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGI)

- The MORPC team is in the process of developing the report of major findings for the City of Columbus 2022 GHGI. The C&E team will be developing a branded document in coordination with the city.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

- The MORPC team submitted letters of support for the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority's (OAQDA) statewide application for the Federal Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), which includes a Solar for All program. This program would focus on solar installations for low-income and disadvantaged households and multifamily properties.

Cash in on Clean Energy Event

- The MORPC team played a key role planning the Cash in on Clean Energy event in collaboration with RMI and Sustainable Columbus. The event on October 10, 2023 at COSI featured an opening panel moderated by former U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, Columbus City Council Member Emmanuel Remy, the OSU Sustainability Institute Associate Director Mike Shelton, and MORPC Executive Director William Murdock.

Air Quality Planning:

Air Quality Alerts

- No Air Quality Alerts have been issued for the Columbus region since July 2023.

Neighborhood Air Monitoring Project/US EPA project

- The team continues to work with Franklin County Public Health to produce a final report from the pilot air monitoring study, with the goal of reviewing and finalizing this 40+ page report in early November. The team is also moving forward with the U.S. EPA air monitoring project. The team submitted the quarterly grant report and draft Quality Assurance Project Plan to US EPA for review and is also in process of confirming members for the project advisory committee (PAC). The goal is to host the first advisory committee meeting in November and continue meetings on a quarterly basis.

Education and Outreach

- WOSU interviewed MORPC's Sustainability Officer about air pollution caused by unnecessary vehicle idling and featured the City of Bexley's no-idling ordinance which was recently introduced.

Data, Mapping & Modeling

Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC):

- RDAC met September 26, 2023 to begin planning the aims and activities of five new working groups intended to focus on different aspects of the newly adopted Regional Data Agenda. RDAC will next convene January 23, 2024, to review working group proposals for their S.M.A.R.T. goals. These groups will be working on Workforce & Job Quality, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Cyber Security, Data Day, and Regional Data Coaches projects and initiatives.

Working Groups & User Groups

Capacity Building & Partnerships Working Group:

- Due to a reorganization of the working group classifications, the two projects that the Capacity Building & Partnerships Working Group had been focusing on, Data Day 2024 and Data Coaches Resource, have been split into two groups.

- Planning for Data Day 2024, which is scheduled to be held at Ohio University's Dublin Integrated Education Center on February 7, 2024, continues. In response to the Call for Proposals, which was sent out last month, staff have met with several interested individuals regarding potential sessions and sponsorships for the event. The Regional Data Coaches Working Group will host its first meeting to review and finalize its Impact Statement. Guided by this statement, the working group will then discuss and finalize the Regional Data Coaching Tool's key features, audience, and contributors.

Local Government Resources Working Group:

- In alignment with the new Regional Data Agenda, members of this working group have decided to wind down this working group. Prior to its dissolution, the group is documenting and archiving its work products so that they may be used by others in the future. Group members expect that work products related to the Data Policy Resource Library will serve as a resource for the Data Coaches envisioned by Capacity Building & Partnerships Working Group. No further meetings of the Local Government Resources Working Group are planned.

Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG):

- At the September 27, 2023 RIDG meeting, members discussed aspects of Data Management, specifically a brief presentation on Data Engineering presented by Adam Porr, followed by a discussion

of application and techniques that have or have not been successful. The next RIDG Steering Committee meeting will be held on November 14, 2023. The next full RIDG meeting will be on December 6, 2023.

Central Ohio GIS User Group (COGUG):
- The Group's next meeting will be November 15, 2023, which is National GIS Day.

Data Management:

- Continued to streamline and document existing processes for computing zonal socioeconomic variables for the MTP. Additionally, staff added standardized implementations of several key functions such as "bucket" rounding and control totals to their common Python library and began exploring a new method for sub-county population estimates that would allow for year-over-year comparisons and would not require jurisdiction-submitted permit data as an input.

Data Analytics, Mapping, and Research:

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

Data & Research Activities

- Sustainability, Data, and Communications & Engagement team members collaborated to produce the Leaders Listen: Sustainability survey. Working with Measurement Resources Company (MRC) and The Columbus Dispatch, we have collected responses from over 2,000 area residents across 140 ZIP Codes. Data and Mapping staff are analyzing the survey results in preparation for the October 26, 2023 Summit on Sustainability. The Actionable Insights report, like the recent transportation report, will be produced to share the results with Central Ohio stakeholders in the coming months.

- The 2023 sub-county population estimates, and 2024 member dues were approved by the Commission at the October 12, 2023 meeting. The team is grateful for the feedback provided by member communities, which often included additional housing permit data. The population estimates will be published on the Population Resource Hub website by the end of October.

- Team members continue to manage the organization's air quality sensors and develop quality assurance processes and documentation to support the EPA air quality monitoring grant.

- Continued to develop county-level forecasts of households and housing by type to better predict future housing needs. This would be an extension to existing county forecasts for households and housing in general. Household types may include people living alone, two or more working-age adults with children, families with children, and adults of retirement age. Housing types may include attached housing, single-family small lot, and single-family large lot.

Mapping Activities

- The MTP project web map has been turned off for public input, so candidate project mapping and project evaluation can begin. MTP benchmark data is being reviewed and calculated.

- The Active Transportation Network Tool was delivered by Cultivate Geospatial. Staff are now working to refine the data inputs to create a network to show access for bicyclists and pedestrians. This allows for various drop-down travel scenarios and will provide useful information to the casual GIS user, once the network is best available.

- Attended the Ohio GIS Conference and the URISA GIS Pro Conference to network with other government agencies and learn about projects in the region and presented on the Active Transportation Network Project at the Pro Conference.

Modeling Activities

- The Modeling Team is working on various small area studies. Other projects are preparing the travel demand model for MTP project evaluation, test running the model with draft Zonal Socioeconomic Data (ZSED), maintaining the traffic count program, and responding to traffic growth rate and various modeling requests.

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

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

News Releases:

- Public Invited to Provide Comments on MORPC's Draft HUD PRO Housing Proposal Grant Application

MORPC in the News:

- Aggressive projections still low for area growth (9/29/2023)
- MV council votes to support Sustainable 2050 plan (9/28/2023)
- Plan to Demolish homes, widen intersection has advocates concerned (9/22/2023)
- Dublin preparing for possible passenger rail station (9/21/2023)
- Efforts continue to bring back passenger rail to Lima (9/25/2023)
- 1 big thing: The waiting game for passenger rail (9/28/2023)
- What are Central Ohio's 2023 trick or treat times? Franklin, Delaware, Fairfield counties? (10/3/2023)
- NAR Hosts Affordable Workforce Housing Symposium (10/11/2023)
- Central Ohio needs more homes, so why aren't we seeing them? (10/15/2023)
- MORPC wants to hear from public on sustainability and the environment (10/1/2023)
- Bringing new resilient infrastructure to all communities: Cross-university collaboration seeks solutions to neighborhood inequities (10/13/2023)
- OPINION: Government must pick up pace, so Ohioans can do the same. (10/2/2023)
- Fairfield County Commissioners Meeting Highlights
- OPINION: Government must pick up pace so Ohioans can do the same (10/17/2023)
- County to see state highway projects into 2025 (10/12/2023)
- Mount Vernon mayor responds to local newspaper article (10/16/2023)

Digital Content:

- Social Media: Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn:
  - Air Quality Alerts, Careers/Jobs, Central Ohio Greenways, Trails Pass, eSource, Gohio Commute, RFPs/RFQs, News, Summit on Sustainability, Voter Education, Water Quality, Leaders Listen Survey, Seat Check Saturday, Pedestrian Safety Month, Yom Kippur, 5310 Funding, Gohio Mobility, Sustainable September Community Highlight, Hispanic Heritage Month, Global Diversity Month, Digital Inclusion Week, Technical Assistance Program, Storm Water Awareness Week, Indigenous Peoples' Day, Clean Energy Tour, Mental Health Day, Big Table, Firewood Awareness Month, PRO Housing Grant Application, Imagine a Day Without Water

- Reach:
    - [Facebook & Instagram](#)
- Engagement:
    - [Facebook & Instagram](#)
- Top Posts:
    - [Instagram](#)
    - [Facebook](#)
    - [Twitter](#)
    - [LinkedIn](#)

Diversity & Inclusion:

- National Hispanic Heritage Month is observed annually from September 15th through October 15th. This year, MORPC's DE&I Committee presented a Coffee and Chat with guest speaker Lillian Morales to introduce MORPC staff to a new local organization, Empowering Latinas Leadership Academy.

- MORPC participated in The Ohio State University's Office of Diversity and Inclusion Career Day on October 17, 2023. We were able to promote the MORPC Summer Local Government Internship Program and current job openings. The fair was well attended, and we connected with a number of outstanding leads.

- MORPC is a member of the Columbus Partnership's DE&I Leaders Forum, and the quarterly meeting was held at Smart Columbus on October 17, 2023. The diversity working group discussed new ways to retain and recruit diverse talent.

Public Involvement & Engagement:

- MORPC promoted the following requests for public input through social media and on our website:
    - Leaders Listen: Sustainability: [9/22](#), [9/27](#), [9/29](#), [10/3,](#) [10/6](#)
    - 5310 Program Funding: [9/25,](#)
    - Central Ohio Rural Transportation Planning Organization draft Transportation Plan: [9/28](#)
    - Technical Assistance Program: [10/3](#)
    - PRO Housing Grant Application Draft Proposal: [10/12,](#) [10/13,](#) [10/16](#)

- MORPC participated the Franklin County Auditor's Fall Affordable Housing Fair on September 30, 2023. Staff volunteered at the MORPC table to inform residents about not only our Warm Choice program, but other services that the agency provides within the community.

- MORPC served as a community partner in the Franklin County Engineer's Touch-A-Truck event on October 19, 2023. Staff engaged with attendees to promote MORPC's programs and services, including Gohio, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and Home Weatherization & Repair programs.

- MORPC sponsored the YWCA's Activist and Agitators on 10/19. This annual event is dedicated to uniting the community and inspiring attendees to pursue greater social change together.

Marketing Campaigns:

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

Events:

- Upcoming Events:
  - October 26, 2023: [Summit on Sustainability, Hilton Columbus Downtown](#)
  - February 7, 2024: [Data Day](#)
  - March 15, 2024: [State of the Region, Hilton Columbus Downtown](#)

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Eileen Leuby, Member Services Officer – eleuby@morpc.org

Events:

- October 17, 2023: Fourth Rural Forum: Trails & Tourism Economy at City of Logan.

- November 9, 2023: Pre-commission luncheon with Tracey Hadden Loh of the Brookings Institution and a Fellow with the Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Center for Transformative Placemaking at Brookings Metro.

- November 28, 2023: Regional Planning Southeast at City of Circleville.

Local Government Summer Intern Program:

- Plans are underway to launch the 2024 intern recruiting season. Enhancements that are under consideration include the addition of an Intern Coordinator to strengthen the program and provide year-round coordination.

Educational Partnerships:

- Promotion of the educational partnerships provided by several local colleges and universities takes place throughout the year. These are updated on the MORPC website and are listed under the Member Benefits section.

- With Ohio University, MORPC will host the kick-off class for the *Essentials in Governing Course* in March of 2024. MORPC continues to promote special forums and master's degree open houses.