



MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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Columbus, Ohio 43215
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NOTICE OF A MEETING

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

November 1, 2023
9 a.m.

Microsoft Teams meeting

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AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductions** – James Young, Chair
- 9:02 a.m. Approval of October 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes**
- 9:03 a.m. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report** – Nick Gill, MORPC,
Dave Dixon, MORPC
- 9:15 a.m. Funding Programs**
- Attributable Funds Project Status Update – Thomas Graham, MORPC
- 9:25 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
Interim Secretary

9:40 a.m. Informational Items

- Central Ohio Greenways Updates - Strategic Plan & Trail Communities – Melinda Vonstein, MORPC

9:50 a.m. Other Business

- Officer Nominating Committee

10:00 a.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 Attributable Funds Committee meeting will follow this meeting at 10:00 a.m.

The next TAC meeting is
December 6, 2023, at 9 a.m.



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: **October 4, 2023**
Time: **9:00 a.m.**
Location: **MORPC**

Members Present

Andrako, Mike
Cox, Barbara (online)
Ferrigno, William
Francis, Corey
Jenkins, Tiffany
Kauffman, Morgan (online)
Komlanc, Tom

McKee, Rozland (online)
Moran, Alan
Moss, Kimberly
Nittle, Tim
Pajk, Jim
Peoples, Matthew
Sanders, Scott

Schamp, Letty
Toth, Kelly
Volenik, Andy (online)
Weaver, Kevin
Wilfong, Gary
Young, James

Guests

Avellano, Mike (online)
Ciotola, Michael (online)
Elsea, Amy

Johnson, David (online)
Madineni, Veena (online)
Trimble, Abbey (online)

Vandia, Kelsey

MORPC Staff

Cardoni, Lauren
Dixon, Dave
Gill, Nick

Graham, Thomas
Noll, Jennifer
Oldroyd, Shelby

Ratliff, Chuck
Schaper, Maria
Strange, Emma

I. Welcome & Introductions

- Chair Young called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. There was a quorum present.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Chair Young asked for a motion to approve the August 30, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Ferrigno moved; Mr. Komlanc seconded; and the motion passed.

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

- Mr. Gill began, reporting the following:
 - Money Mondays, a weekly virtual discussion on Mondays from 1:00p – 1:30p is held with MORPC members to identify upcoming funding opportunities. Upcoming sessions were given, noting that no session is scheduled for October 9th in observation of Indigenous Peoples Day.
 - The Trails & Tourism Economy event is Tuesday, October 17th – 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and is free to MORPC and Central Ohio Greenways members, but advance registration is required. This forum will feature modern trail opportunities, advocacy, and regional investment initiatives to foster a

connected Central Ohio trail network. The event is being held at the Hocking Hills Lodge and Conference Center in Logan, Ohio.

- Bring your ideas on transportation, housing, climate, and economic development to the Columbus Foundation's annual The Big Table event with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission on Wednesday, October 11 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Registration is open until Friday, October 6th.
- The application window for the 2024 Technical Assistance Program opened on Friday, September 15, 2023. The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, October 13, 2023. All 2024 Program information and the link to apply is available on MORPC's website.
- The committee congratulated Matt Peoples, the new City Administrator for the City of Canal Winchester.
- ODOT now has information for their Active Transportation and School Travel plans applications. Go to ODOT's website or contact Cait Harley at ODOT for more information.
- Ms. Noll continued, stating:
 - The new Community Based Planning Assistance Program is here to serve Central Ohio communities. The program provides specialized expertise on projects such as active transportation plans, access to a consultant for bigger projects like comprehensive planning, or short-term assistance to augment your planning team.
 - The Consultant Services Program streamlines the RFP/RFQ process and assists member communities to secure prequalified consultants for larger planning projects such as comprehensive plans and zoning code updates. The program is currently accepting applications from consultants to be prequalified to complete this work.
 - The Planner Pool Program is staffing and preparing for a late fall launch. This program will provide temporary, short-term MORPC staff assistance directly to our member communities.
 - The Summit on Sustainability will take place Thursday, October 26, 2023 at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. Individual and group registration remain open. This year's theme is Collaborate-Innovate-Inspire. The lunchtime keynote will be Mitchell Silver, Principal and Vice President at McAdams.
 - The second Leaders Listen survey is now live. This survey is being conducted in partnership with Measurement Resources Company and The Columbus Dispatch. This survey focuses on issues of environment and sustainability in the Central Ohio region. The insights from the survey will be shared at the Summit on Sustainability.
- Mr. Dixon concluded the report, informing the committee of the following:
 - MORPC has recently released the draft 2023 population estimates for stakeholder review. As we look at population growth over the past few years, our latest estimate suggests that our region's population continued to grow modestly. We appear to be adding population both regionally and within our MORPC member communities at a similar rate as when we estimated one year ago. Since the 2020 Census, this shows a regional growth of about 25K as of January 1, 2023, with MORPC members accounting for over 24K of that growth. It is too soon to adjust the long-term outlook based on these estimates, and it is reasonable to expect that recent statewide and regional initiatives to attract and retain businesses and

residents, as well as to address housing needs may spur a period of somewhat quicker growth in the coming years. The latest estimate fits into potential longer-term trends. Last February, MORPC released regional and county-level forecasts of population for the 15-county region. Despite the recent modest growth, the forecast anticipates somewhat faster growth in the long-term and shows the regional population reaching 3.15 million people by 2050. The 2023 estimate of 2,444,504 people is within the forecast's confidence interval or expected range of outcomes. MORPC will continue to monitor population changes and produce updated population forecasts with each 4-year MTP cycle.

IV. Funding Programs

- Attributable Funds Project Status Update
 - Mr. Graham informed the committee of the following:
 - Last month, Cassidy Ave and East Broad St. Phase 1 were included in the miscellaneous adjustments to past encumbrances line items but were moved out as they were large commitments that were delayed into state fiscal year 2024.
 - State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) loan payments for three different projects were encumbered.
 - An encumbrance for the commitment to Fairfield County's Refugee Rd. intersection improvements project has been included.
 - State Route 161 at Linworth Road and the Olentangy Trail projects are currently scheduled to encumber funds in the state fiscal year 2025. However, these may move back into their original time frame in 2024, so are remaining on the report.
 - All new and updated commitments have been programmed with ODOT. Formal partnering agreements to further highlight those commitments will be sent soon.

V. 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

- Ms. Schaper presented the following to the committee:
 - The MTP is a long-range plan that identifies regional transportation strategies and projects. It is fiscally constrained and is a formal document submitted to ODOT and USDOT every 4 years.
 - Projects must be included on this plan to be eligible for federal funding.
 - By guiding investment in transportation and mobility infrastructure and services in Central Ohio, the MTP identifies strategies to advance following established goals.
 - The public comment period for suggesting new projects ended September 8, 2023. However, the commenting capability on the web map is still active.
 - A total of 174 project suggestions were received. Of those, 71% were for either new bike and pedestrian facilities or high-capacity transit lines.
 - A total of 1,052 comments were received, with 53% providing a zip code. Asking for the zip code was added to better understand where the comments were coming from and what audience is being reached. The west side of the MPO area was reached the best.
 - Activities left for 2023 include the strategy and project evaluation, fiscal analysis, and draft strategies and projects. An impact analysis, full draft

document, another public comment period with an open house at MORPC, and finally, the MTP adoption in May is scheduled for 2024.

- The Community Advisory Committee is holding a special session on October 26, 2023 to learn more on the MTP project evaluation criteria.

VI. Informational Items

- TAC Member Update - Gahanna
 - Mr. Komlanc informed the committee of the following:
 - In the industrial zone in the south-east quadrant of the city, a partially funded OPWC project which is converting a signalized intersection to a modern-day roundabout at the intersection of Taylor Station and Clay Craft Road is wrapping up right of way acquisition and the utility relocation phase is beginning. It is anticipated that construction will begin in the spring or early summer of 2024, pending City Council approval.
 - Gahanna has gone through its thoroughfare plan update. The intent is to issue an RFQ and have the work occur over 2024, with adoption of the thoroughfare plan in 2025 to keep consistent with their statutory requirements that this plan is updated every 10 years. Areas of focus include looking at the volume to capacity ratio, the traditional safety related aspects of the transportation network, and looking for opportunities for transit and understanding the roadway cross sections to potentially enable future transit corridors.
 - There are initiatives in the Gahanna Creekside area that are looking at circulation parking, the competing interest for sidewalks, pedestrian accommodations, loading parking, and overall circulation with the district.
 - As part of their annual street related projects, they are going to start benchmarking their carbon footprint and looking for opportunities to be sustainable in their infrastructure.
 - Finally, there are several utility, water, and sewer related projects happening that coordinate with transportation.
 - Mr. Gill thanked Mr. Komlanc for presenting.
- Complete Streets Policy Highlights
 - Ms. Cardoni presented the following:
 - The MTP is the guiding document for regional transportation investments with six primary goals that set the stage for everything involving transportation investment. This includes creating sustainable neighborhoods, attracting economic opportunity, protecting our natural resources, increasing regional collaboration, providing mobility for everyone, and reducing per capita energy consumption.
 - There is a regional active transportation plan (ATP) that compliments the MTP. This plan establishes a vision for an active transportation network that equitably serves and supports mobility for everyone in the region by providing infrastructure that is safe, comfortable, connected, and accessible.
 - The way to realize these goals is by building more Complete Streets. At its core, Complete Streets is the concept that streets should serve

everyone. The design of an individual street responds to its context and function within the overall roadway network.

- Benefits of complete streets include safety, health, environment, economy, and social interaction. Complete Streets policies simply establish the processes for how this is accomplished.
 - Many communities in Central Ohio have some form of Complete Streets Policy or Resolution. Two cities that have recently adopted Complete Streets policies include Powell, where a resolution was adopted in August of 2023, and Reynoldsburg, where a policy developed in collaboration with Franklin County Public Health and MORPC was adopted in September 2023.
 - Because best practices around complete streets have changed, Ms. Cardoni encouraged the committee to look at the latest resources to see how their policies compare.
 - As part of the Technical Assistance Program, MORPC offers a service related to Complete Streets policy development. The application window for this technical assistance is open until October 13, 2023.
 - There will also be a review of the MORPC Complete Streets policy in tandem with the Attributable Funding policies review to determine where updates might be needed to align these policies. A working group will be formed from members of the Active Transportation and Transportation Advisory committees.
 - Ms. Schamp commented that a lot of things have changed with respect to Complete Streets policies. Making sure we have a truly integrated transit system is critical.
 - Chair Young encouraged the committee as they are looking into complete streets policies to look at Vision Zero and how it interrelates.
- TAC Subcommittees
 - Intelligent Transportation Systems
 - Mr. Gill informed the committee of the following:
 - The ITS committee is charged with maintaining the regional ITS architecture that as an MPO region, we are required to maintain. This is a strategy to maintain and ensure the system operates as efficiently as possible.
 - The ITS committee meets on a quarterly basis, but the July meeting was canceled because no significant agenda items were noted.
 - When the committee meets again in October, the focus will be on the ITS components of the current MTP and understanding how those strategies should be reflected in the upcoming MTP.
 - Active Transportation Committee
 - Mr. Peoples began the presentation highlighting agenda items from past ATC meetings:
 - In the June (2nd quarter) ATC meeting, a guest speaker discussed Roadway Design Procedures and Considerations. Other agenda items for the June meeting included MTP

updates, the Technical Assistance Program, and a Member Roundtable.

- In the September (3rd quarter) meeting, the committee received a LinkUS TSI update, MTP updates, and Technical Assistance Program updates. Key highlights were also provided by ODOT on statewide active transportation efforts, as well as a new featured agenda item on local community highlights. Canal Winchester was the guinea pig for this item.
- Some Q2 meeting highlights include the impact of speed on pedestrians, where there are higher speeds, the survival rate for a pedestrian hit by a vehicle significantly decreases. Along with the presentation on active transportation in April, the committee discussed what challenges cities are experiencing with some of the speed limits and the higher speeds that are witnessed post-COVID. Current tools and procedures are not helping address these challenges.
- Ms. Cardoni continued stating:
 - Connor Semler from Kittelson & Associates joined virtually to talk about the NCHRP1036 Roadway Cross Section Reallocation guide. The guide was developed in collaboration with transportation engineers, planners, and researchers to develop a framework for making more informed decisions regarding street design, increase safety as a priority in those decisions, and connect those decisions to desired outcomes.
 - Within this framework, the authors introduce a concept of a 16-hour capacity assessment where instead of looking at just a standard level of service for the peak hour periods, there is more consideration for what those conditions look like throughout the rest of the day when people are using the roadways.
 - The authors of the report are available for questions and will attend OTEC, where Ms. Cardoni will moderate a session where they will be discussing this guide.
- Ms. Cardoni continued the update, informing the committee of the following:
 - As Mr. Gill mentioned, ODOT opened the application window for their planning assistance requests which includes Safe Routes to School Travel Plans and Active Transportation plans.
 - January 31, 2024 is the deadline for Pedestrian Systemic Safety applications. Coordination with your ODOT district office is required six weeks in advance.
 - March 1, 2023 is the deadline for the Safe Routes to School *funding* applications.
 - The Active Transportation Academy, which provides resources and training opportunities related to active transportation has added a new opportunity for experiential education bike rides through October after which it will be closed for the winter but will continue in the spring of 2024.

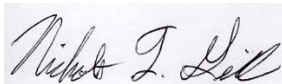
- MORPC is looking into providing a training opportunity for the ODOT Multimodal Design guide. The consultants that wrote the guide provide a six-hour, in-person training focused on the design of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. However, a minimum of 40 participants is required. Reach out to Ms. Cardoni if you are interested in attending this training.
- ODOT is currently developing a new, federally required Vulnerable Roadway User (VRU) Assessment, which was a requirement outlined in the BIL. There is a federal deadline of November 15, 2023. A four-step process was executed to develop this. Reach out to Jeremy Thompson or Cait Harley at ODOT for more information.
- Mr. Peoples closed the update, reviewing the projects and features that have been underway in Canal Winchester. In addition, during the 4th quarter December meeting, the tentative agenda includes a community highlight from Grove City, Columbus Bike Plan Overview and Highlights, a debrief on the ride leader training experience by Co-chair Abbey Trimble, and further discussions on the MORPC Complete Streets policy review.

VII. Other Business

- No other business was brought forward.

VIII. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nick Gill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nick Gill, Secretary
Transportation 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

Niel 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/RFPs, 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.