



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

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

Regional Policy Roundtable
February 14, 2023
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 pm.

The Chair recognized Mr. Murdock, who gave an update on Amtrak, noting the State applied for 3C&D funding, thanking the roundtable for their advocacy efforts.

Welcome and Introductions

Each member present provided an introduction.

Special Update from Greater Ohio Policy Center

Mr. Warner provided a special update on Greater Ohio Policy Center's Public Policy Agenda, noting it seeks to build on accomplishments of the past few years, such as brownfield and demolition remediation funds, while also providing vision for the future to strengthen community resiliency. Priorities include brownfield remediation, connecting people to places, unleashing opportunity, and reducing barriers to development and homeownership.

Mr. Warner also noted GOPC would be supporting an increase to the Safe Routes to Schools Program and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit language in the operating budget and introducing a proposal to support smaller legacy cities – a \$10 million pilot program to assist smaller communities with zoning reform (planners, counsel, etc). Any plans resulting from the program must be shared with the state, and then shared with other local governments. Mr. Tugend noted this may already exist in the executive proposal.

Legislative Update

Mr. Garrity began the legislative update by highlighting the newly finished Public Policy Agenda and MORPC's advocacy efforts in Congress during the National Conference of Regions in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Bradley introduced himself, and discussed the War Room strategy MORPC is spearheading with the Columbus Partnership and other local leaders.

Mr. Basalla noted a discussion involving Amtrak at the Columbus Partnership, relaying that local business leaders are enthusiastic about passenger rail expansion.

Mr. Garrity continued his legislative update by overviewing the earmarks secured in the federal omnibus budget package for Fiscal Year 2024. 11 out of 18 earmarks were successfully passed, resulting in millions of federal dollars for local projects.

Mr. Garrity also shared that Mike Borger has a new role at MORPC as a Regional Engagement Manager, and that MORPC's new additions to the team align the organization to be advocacy-driven.

Special Update from State Representative Jeff LaRe

Mr. LaRe provided a special update on the state operating budget. He noted the House's top priorities include legislation to reverse brain drain, to lessen or flatten the state income tax, and to incentivize affordable housing development. He also highlighted his work on the new distracted driving law, but noted he was disappointed by the handset and stoplight exemptions.

Defense Update

Mr. Tugend provided a defense update, discussing the work MORPC is doing to create an intergovernmental support agreement (IGSA) between MORPC and the Department of Defense. Further, as a result of legislation passed at the end of the last Congress, Rickenbacker ANGB will be conducting retrofits of the KC-135 on-base.

Other Business

Mr. Bailey thanked MORPC and the Roundtable for their work to improve housing access in the region.

Ms. Easterday highlighted the airport funding in the state transportation budget and encouraged members to attend the Columbus Air Show this summer.

Mr. Strickland announced the Kirwan Institute at The Ohio State University has a new executive director, Ange-Marie Hancock, who began her tenure at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Weaver highlighted new development in the Creekside district.

Mr. Rogers announced his retirement.

Ms. Leuby invited members to two MORPC events – the Central Ohio Supply Chain Outlook on Tuesday, February 21st, and the Drive Investment Luncheon on Thursday, March 2nd.

Good of the Order/Adjournment

Mr. Bailey moved to approve the minutes from the prior meeting. Mr. Bitzenhofer seconded the motion.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved without objection.

The Chair noted that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 16th from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at MORPC.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

