



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**  
**August 15, 2023**  
**1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm.

The Chair recognized Mr. Murdock, who gave an update on various summer activities (including MORPC's Regional Tech Hubs' application submission on August 14) and thanked the roundtable for their (continued) advocacy efforts.

**Welcome and Introductions** – Mayor David Scheffler, Regional Policy Roundtable Chair

Each member present (including remotely) provided an introduction.

**Special Investment Update** – Ann Aquillo, on behalf of The Columbus Partnership

Ms. Aquillo explained the War Room concept/approach to garnering federal funding (including awareness and collaboration) with our partners. Moreover, Ms. Aquillo discussed how our War Room is comprised of a Control Tower which includes a consultant, MORPC's Senior Director of Government Affairs (Joe Garrity) and Community Relations and MORPC's Regional Investment Officer (Dr. Todd Bradley), as well as the Columbus Region Coalition (CRC). One of the major priorities of the War Room is around economic development.

*Regional Tech. Hubs* (Mr. Garrity), discussed the designation phase of our Regional Tech Hubs' application was submitted on Aug. 14, and if awarded, it could be for up to \$75M. Justice40 Initiative mapping/tracts/CAPs were discussed, including how the Initiative could play a crucial role in the equity piece of our Regional Tech Hubs' application (including our transportation projects in Southeast Ohio).

**Special guest from Sen. Vance's Office** – Peter Marbach

Updated us on legislation, that Senator Vance is working on (including):

- Payroll Acct. Insurance Act
- Financial Regulatory Acct. Act
- Railroad Safety Act
- Tele-Health Services
- Leveling the Playing Field Act
- China Unfair Trade Act
- Foreign Trade Zones

**Legislative Updates:** Joe Garrity, MORPC Senior Dir. of Government Affairs & Community Relations and Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter

Mr. Garrity began the discussion with the disappointment that none of our six R.A.I.S.E. applications were funded in this round, but two of the six were given “Projects of Merit” status (Williams Rd., Columbus; and Thornwood Dr., Heath). Mr. Garrity provided an INFRA Grant update. Mr. Garrity provided an update on the state operating budget. The budget was signed on July 3 (including \$100M for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit). Moreover, Mr. Garrity highlighted Money Mondays (including a special session on Sept. 18, per the operating budget).

Mr. Tugend discussed the Community Investment Fund, All Ohio Fund, Connect Ohio Fund (which has a rural focus on the Transportation Review Advisory Council), and the Local Government Fund.

### **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, because of legislation passed at the end of the last Congress, Rickenbacker ANGB will be conducting retrofits of the KC-135 Stratotanker refueling aircraft on-base.

### **Other Business**

Lauren Rummel (Franklin County) discussed combatting maternal mortality (partnering with Coast Side & screening of the film to bring more awareness).

Mayor Scheffler (Lancaster) discussed the mayoral transition and new investments in Lancaster (including EV battery recycling).

Dez Bryant (Cols. Chamber of Commerce) discussed an upcoming C.E.O. forum (C.E.O. Insights) and the upcoming 99th Annual Clam Bake and Lobster Fest at the Columbus Zoo.

Zach Woodruff (City of Whitehall) discussed the upcoming mayoral transition.

Robert (Bob) Bitzenhofer (CMA) discussed affordable housing initiative.

Kristen Easterday (Cols. Airport Authority) discussed the \$2B investment in a new airport terminal.

City of Gahanna representative discussed Gahanna’s 1st Capital Improvement Plan and the Crescent Development parcels have all been accounted for).

Dr. Bradley thanked everyone for their ongoing support of Money Mondays and solicited topics that members want to highlight in 2024.

Mr. Garrity mentioned MORPC’s upcoming Summitt on Sustainability.

Ms. Leuby invited members to the upcoming MORPC trail tourism event at Hocking Hills.

**Good of the Order/Adjournment** – Mayor David Scheffler, Regional Policy Roundtable Chair



Minutes from the previous meeting were approved without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

The next meeting will be November 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30p.m.

