



MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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NOTICE OF A MEETING

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

January 31, 2024
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 December 2023 Meeting Minutes**
- 9:03 a.m. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Nick Gill, MORPC**
Dave Dixon, MORPC
- 9:10 a.m. Funding Programs**
- Attributable Funds Project Status Update – Thomas Graham, MORPC
 - Transportation Review Advisory Council Project List Update – Elliott Lewis, MORPC
- 9:20 a.m. Resolutions**
- Resolution T-1-24: Support the Ohio Department of Transportation Safety Performance Measure Targets – Lauren Cardoni, MORPC

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Interim Chair

Michelle Crandall
Interim Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Interim Secretary

9:25 a.m. 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

- 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update – Maria Schaper, MORPC

9:35 a.m. Informational Items

- Complete Streets / Attributable Funding Policies Update – Lauren Cardoni, MORPC, Thomas Graham, MORPC
- Passenger Rail Update – Parag Agrawal, MORPC
- LinkUS Update – Maria Schaper, MORPC
- Clean Ohio Update – Edwina Teye, MORPC

9:50 a.m. Other Business

10:00 a.m. Adjourn

PLEASE NOTIFY APRIL BUMGARDNER AT 614.233.4167 OR EMAIL abumgardner@morpc.org TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE FOR THIS MEETING OR IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.

**The next TAC meeting is
March 6, 2024 at 9 a.m.**

**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

Date: **December 6, 2023**
Time: **9:00 a.m.**
Location: **MORPC**

Members Present

Andrako, Mike
Boucher, Christine
Cox Barbara
Jenkins, Tiffany
Komlanc, Tom
Moran, Alan
Moss, Kimberly (online)

Nittle, Tim
Owen, Jonathan
Pajk, Jim (online)
Owen, Jonathan
Sanders, Scott
Schamp, Letty
Toth, Kelly

Volenik, Andy
Weaver, Kevin
Wilfong, Gary (online)
Young, James
Vandia, Kelsey

Guests

Avellano, Mike (online)
Dar, Naureen (online)
Elsea, Amy (online)

Madineni, Veena (online)
Mills, Jerry (online)

MORPC Staff

Bumgardner, April
Cardoni, Lauren
DiCuccio, Clare
Filiatraut, Brian
Franco, Taylor (online)

Gill, Nick
Graham, Thomas
Heider, Jon
Lewis, Elliott
Oldroyd, Shelby

Ratliff, Chuck
Schaper, Maria
Peggau, Karina

I. Welcome & Introductions

- Chair Young called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. There was a quorum present.

II. Approval of November 2023 Meeting Minutes

- Chair Young asked for a motion to approve the November 1, 2023 meeting minutes. Vice Chair Weaver moved; Mr. Komlanc seconded; and the motion passed.

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

- Mr. Gill announced that the Federal Railroad Administration has approved two applications that connect Central Ohio with passenger rail through the Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) Program. The two applications will provide \$500,000 for each project to expand passenger rail service which will include the Cleveland-Columbus-Cincinnati-Dayton Corridor (3C+D) and the Midwest Connect (Chicago-Fort Wayne-Columbus-Pittsburgh), a critical first step to bring passenger rail back to the region.

- It was previously mentioned that the technical assistance program had two applicants. Franklin Township and Jefferson Township in Franklin County were both awarded technical assistance for related planning for those unincorporated areas of those Townships.
- The next Active Transportation Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 from 10 a.m. to noon, at MORPC or virtually via Teams. Contact Lauren Cardoni at lcardoni@morpc.org if interested in attending.
- April Bumgardner, the Executive Assistant for the Programming department, was introduced. Ms. Bumgardner will be the point of contact for the TAC meetings moving forward.
- It was also announced that the new Chief Mobility & Infrastructure Officer & Senior Director of Programming Parag Agrawal, will be starting with MORPC on January 9, 2024. He is coming from the Polk County MPO in Florida. He had also previously worked in Prince William County in Virginia as the Planning Director, and in Community Development in Georgia.
- Mr. Gill presented the upcoming Money Mondays weekly discussions for MORPC Members. These are hosted by Dr. Todd Bradley, MORPC's Regional Investment Officer. On December 11, 2023, the discussion will focus on Safety, Efficiency, and Sustainability in Data Presentation. On December 18, 2023, the discussion will focus on the Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies. No session is scheduled for December 25, 2023. The first of 2024 will be on January 8, 2024, with the discussion focused on Municipal Finance Resources.
- The next APBP professional development webinar will be on December 20, 2023 on the topic of Beyond Quick Fields toward resilient treatments for high quality active transportation infrastructure. These webinars are eligible for one hour of AIC certification maintenance credit. Contact Jordan Petrov at jpetrov@morpc.org if you are interested in attending.
- Registration is open for Data Day 2024 and proposals are being accepted through December 11, 2023. Opportunities are also available for sponsorship. Data Day is designed to reach out to local governments, nonprofits, and those in private industry to discuss all things data. It is not just for Data Analysts and Data Scientists; it is intended for anyone who uses data or wants to learn more. Last year's event was successful with around 200 participants. Ohio University hosted at their Dublin Campus and will host again in 2024. To register, you can scan the QR Code listed on Data Day flyer and the presentation slide. Anyone interested in sharing something that you are doing with data, may contact Jonathan Miller at MORPC at jmillier@morpc.org. For sponsor opportunities, please contact Amanda McEldowney at amceldowney@morpc.org.
- There are two new team members on the Planning team. Karina Peggau is the new Senior Sustainability Planner helping with the Planner Pool. Mauro Diaz-Hernandez is the new Air Quality & Sustainability Program Coordinator.

IV. Funding Programs

- **Attributable Funds Project Status Update**
 - Mr. Graham supplied an update on the status of the Attributable Funds Project. The MORPC Attributable Funds for fiscal year 2024 was provided as a handout and was available on the presentation. There were not significant changes from November 2023. The State Route 161 at Linworth

project was projected to have right of way funds encumbered in state fiscal year 2024 but was moved to state fiscal year 2025.

- Resolution T-16-23 Amending the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program
 - Mr. Graham introduced the resolution. This is one of the regular quarterly TIP Amendments. This amendment will add or modify thirteen projects to the TIP. One of those includes MORPC's 5310 Program.
 - The first project is for the City of Columbus at Trabue Rd. and Walcutt Rd. This is an intersection improvement project, adding to the construction phase of that project. It will be funded both through Jobs & Commerce funding and ODASA 629 funding. This project is tied to the Economic Development Funding initiatives.
 - COTA has two projects in the TIP amendment, both of which are representative of Ohio Transit Preservation Partnership funding awards. The first project is for COTA's LinkUs planning. This is for additional funding for preliminary analysis of LinkUs Corridors 4 & 5. The second is for COTA Operating expansion service which is specifically looking at their county connections programs with Licking and Madison counties to see how transit can support in bringing people out toward the different economic development activities.
 - There are three projects from the Delaware County TID. The first is at South County Line Road at Fancher Road, which is an intersection modification. This is adding the award of state general revenue funds to the TIP. There was an announcement around five months ago from the Governor for projects in the Intel area. The next of these projects is at State Route 37 at County Line Road for intersection modifications. The final project for the Delaware County TID is the Sunbury Parkway phases B & C. This is a new roadway that would be constructed to connect to the new interchange that is proposed there. The PE Environmental Study Phase is being added to the TIP. This final project includes a commitment from MORPC Attributable Funding, though no changes to that funding are being suggested currently.
 - The next project included in this amendment is a request from the Franklin County Engineer's Office. It is an out of cycle MORPC Attributable Funding request. Mr. Graham explained that given the small size of the request, MORPC's policy for managing attributable funds only requires out of cycle requests more than \$2,000,000 to go to the AFC. Staff are allowed to bring smaller amounts directly to the CAC, TAC, and the Transportation Policy Committee. Therefore, it will not go before the AFC. The Franklin County Engineer's Office is requesting \$320,000 for preliminary engineering for transit supportive projects within the COTA service area. The request is being matched by \$80,000 provided by the City of Columbus. As the Transit Supportive Infrastructure process has continued, priority projects have been identified, with many conceptual in nature. To expedite projects when COTA funds become available in November if the ballot issue is passed, the engineer's office and other partners will do preliminary engineering to develop solid cost estimates & identify the validity of the projects. It should also be noted that these will be expended in the Spring of 2024. This entire project would therefore be completed prior to the next round of applications opening.

- Mr. Graham continued with the other projects in the amendment. The Franklin County TID has one project for State Route 605 at Walnut Street intersection modification, is again an Intel area project that received an award.
- The next three projects are for ODOT. The first is I-71 at Sunbury Parkway Phase A. This would be for a new interchange and this amendment is adding the right of way phase of that project. The second is for State Route 3/Cleveland Ave at Hudson Street. This is an intersection modification. This is adding the PE Environmental Study Phase to the TIP. It is likely that this project will be going to the construction phase this state fiscal year. The final project for ODOT is US 23 at State Route 229. This is a conversion of the intersection likely to an interchange. This project was added in the earlier TIP amendment, but the PE Environmental Study has increased threefold since that amendment.
- The final project is for the City of Whitehall. This is for East Broad Street at Hamilton Road, an intersection modification. This is also adding the PE Environmental Study Phase to the TIP and will also likely go to construction phase by the end of the State Fiscal Year. This project does have a commitment of MORPC Attributable funds, though no changes to this commitment are proposed at this time.
- Ms. DiCuccio presented the 5310 portion of the resolution saying that this is funding to expand the transportation for people with disabilities, seniors, and low-income individuals. This can be provided by public service agencies, contracted/private agencies, and human service agencies. This is capital and operating funding for transportation that is used to seek alternatives to public transportation, access to existing public transportation and improving access for those who are transit dependent. These applicants are in the Columbus urbanized area, including parts of Delaware and Fairfield Counties. The goal is to ensure that the funding is around the region. Funds in the past have been used for equipment, communication equipment & software, capitalized maintenance, paid transportation from private contractors, mobility management & coordination among agencies, travel training, ADA accessible vehicles, passenger amenities, and ADA enhancements. This year, there were 18 applications received, for a total over \$4 million. There was not \$4 million available, so the projects had to be narrowed down. A number of the requests received were for vehicles, as this part of the application was re-opened this year. Other requests were for maintenance and contracted transportation. There was approximately \$1.7 million available. With local matching, this round advances around \$2 million in projects. Ms. DiCuccio showed the list of the Program of Projects that were granted with the amounts.
- Chair Young asked for a motion to approve; Mr. Peoples moved; Mr. Nettles seconded the motion; the motion passed.

V. 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

- 2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update
 - Ms. Schaper stated that MTP is important as Central Ohio is a growing region and transportation projects must be on the MTP to be eligible for federal funding. In turn, this guides the work of MORPC, as well as other regional and local planning partners. This is a fiscally constrained plan that

is looking out to 2050. This process is done every four years and is based on six goals which are broad vision statements addressing the six areas of economic prosperity: creating sustainable neighborhoods, increasing regional collaboration, providing transportation and mobility options for all people, and reducing per capita energy consumption. The process names the priority projects that point back to these six goals. The core elements of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan are to first identify goals. MORPC identified the objectives needed to achieve the goals. Strategies are the methods and capabilities needed to achieve the objectives. The strategies are really meant to be what MORPC works on, as well as projects the entire region works on together. They could be conducted by local, state, and regional planning partners as well as the programs here at MORPC.

- The projects are the specific activities to implement the strategies, which are broader than infrastructure projects. These strategies include two main categories, System Management & System Development. System Management are strategies that address existing transportation systems. The other set of strategies are development strategies. As a growing region, there will be a need to eventually expand the transportation system. This leads to the System Development strategies which are the specific infrastructure projects that are identified such as bicycle/pedestrian, transit freight, roadways, and multimodal connections & hubs. Individual projects are currently being evaluated using the process reviewed at TAC in October. At that time, it was discussed how projects are being technically evaluated and scored. MORPC hopes to be able to share the results of that evaluation and how it informed the draft list of projects by the end of December. In the meantime, the draft list of strategies is being shared with the committee, though it is not yet open for public comment.
- The first set are physical preservation strategies. These prioritize repairing and replacing distinct types of infrastructure. This also looks at how technology is being used to manage the systems. The next category is Operations. On the slides, highlighted areas show how language was adjusted based on feedback from the committees. In this section, intelligent transportation system technologies are identified. Operations also looks at access management solutions; coordination among transit system operators; signal priority for transit, and with new language for emergency vehicles. This is where you will see technological management strategies.
- There are also safety strategies that, generally, stay the same as the last MTP. These focus on implementing countermeasures that address priority safety locations & transit safety issues, advancing educational initiatives & legislative initiatives.
- Security is the next component. Language was added to address cybersecurity specifically, as this is becoming more of a prevalent issue. This section also looks to promote and strengthen emergency preparedness efforts; and facilitating multi-jurisdictional dialogue to improve opportunities for collaboration around safety and security.
- Finally, we look at Demand Management. These are the initiatives where we are sharing information & collaborating to reduce single occupancy vehicle use, and to reduce the need for vehicles to travel through development regulations. This is being done through educational & service programs.
- Ms. Schaper continued by discussing Developmental Strategies to address system expansion. These are organized by mode. These will look similar

across the different modes. The focus is on increasing data to help measure use and safety; as well expanding the infrastructure. In Bike & Pedestrian the document seeks to expand high comfort bicycle and pedestrian networks through the implementation of complete streets. Here is where the Central Ohio Greenways vision is discussed. All of these will also include information about increasing collaboration and dialogue among jurisdictions.

- Moving on to Transit Infrastructure, the term rapid was added. As shown previously, we want to focus on high capacity and rapid transit. Increasing frequency on fixed routes; collaborating to build transit infrastructure through development regulations; expanding coverage of fixed routes.
- Next are the Freight Rail Infrastructure Systems where we examine at-grade rail crossings and looking at safety of those; reducing bottlenecks of the rail system; finding and looking at data strategies; and maximizing the efficiency and providing needed capacity of rail terminals.
- Multimodal infrastructure Connections are the mobility hubs that are being developed to go along with transit activities. These can bring together public-private partners with bike transit trails that converge at key locations.
- Finally, we look at Roadway Infrastructure as the largest part of our current infrastructure system. We are looking at improvements to roadway infrastructure that are needed in locations to ensure safety; and looking at conversion of roadway types for appropriate size.
- System-Related Strategies do not fall into the categories of System Management or System Development. For these we look at collaborations to ensure localized and regional transportation systems needs are addressed in development decisions. We develop transportation systems to serve all demographic population groups. We create plans and partnerships to attract investment in alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure. Finally, we look to implement the best management practices for storm water runoff and implementation of green infrastructure.
- Ms. Schaper continued by discussing the schedule for activities that occurred in 2022 to adopt the goals, objectives, and performance measures, as well as the adoption of 2050 population & employment growth projections. In 2023, candidate strategies & projects were compiled, project evaluation criteria were decided, the projects were shared via the web map, and the public was invited to suggest additional projects for evaluation. Now, we are evaluating those projects. Information on the fiscal analysis was also shared. Then by the end of the year, a draft list of the strategies and projects will be available.
- In 2024 MORPC will look at the impact analysis, the full draft document, and have multiple public comment periods. One comment period will be based on the draft strategies & projects that will be published, and a second public comment period once the draft document is available. We expect to bring the final plan for adoption in May of 2024.
- If members of the Committee have specific groups that they would like MORPC to come and speak to, please let us know.

VI. Informational Items

- Adjusted Urban Boundary and Functional Class Update
 - Mr. Heider presented information on the Urban Area Boundary & Functional Classification Update. With the decennial census, the Census Bureau supplies

data which they use to draw a census urbanized area. A map was presented showing the urbanized area that the Census Bureau identified and an area that, in working with ODOT, local engineers, and other stakeholders, was smoothed out to include more of the county. This allows the boundaries to be more consistent with transportation planning responsibilities and requirements by establishing logical transitions & following jurisdictional continuity.

- Another activity that is performed after the census is the Functional Classification Update. These include the different classes of roadways from interstates, down to arterials, collectors, and local roads. It is important to think of these in tandem as in the urbanized area, any minor collector and above is eligible for federal funding. If it is outside the urbanized area, it is not. Classifications 1 through 6 are eligible for federal funds, but local roads are not.
- Mr. Heider then presented the ODOT schedule for when this update will occur. MORPC plans to do this at a slightly compressed time frame, looking to review and adjust the Urban Area Boundary early next year. Then, in the summer of 2024, MORPC will look at the Functional Classifications. Thus, the UAB will be submitted first to ODOT and then FHWA. After that, the functional class will be reviewed and updated as well. Since the census happens every ten years, the result of the final urbanized area and functional classification does not get approved until 2025. MORPC is currently working under the 2010 census. Once the UAB is approved, MORPC will be able to start working with all the 2020 census information.
- Mr. Heider reviewed the process for these classifications. MORPC will work with county & municipal engineers, specifically those on the periphery of the urbanized area. This will ensure that the adjustments that MORPC is proposing make sense and cover all the facilities that they wish to have covered in the urbanized area. MORPC will bring them what we feel makes sense based on the logical termini of the roadways and such, then get feedback from the agencies. Recommendations will be able to be made well before the June 30, 2024 deadline that ODOT has in place.
- Vice Chair Weaver asked that with changes to region, specifically in Harlem Township and the areas to the east, what considerations are being given for increases in population in those areas. Mr. Heider replied that MORPC will be able to take into consideration planned developments when smoothing the boundaries. The Census data is formula driven based on population density, but the smoothing can expand upon those areas. Agencies are not allowed to reduce but can make these necessary adjustments.
- Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Update
 - Mr. Filiatraut introduced the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Update (CPRG) to review what has been happening to date, and what the future would hold for Central Ohio. In August of 2022 the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) was passed. This act sets aside approximately \$370 billion for energy, security, and climate change programs over 10 years. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is receiving a substantial amount of funding for the programs.
 - Mr. Filiatraut explained that the CPRG comes out of that \$370 billion and the main goal is to develop and implement strong pollution reduction strategies. There are two main phases of the grant. The first phase is \$250 million

which has been doled out to states and Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA). Phase 2 is \$4.6 billion to put these plans into action.

- Mr. Filiatraut explained that Phase 1 was formula-based planning, with the top 67 most populous MSAs that were looking for funding. The purpose was to develop strong pollution GHG metrics and pollution reduction strategies. There is a strong emphasis on low-income disadvantaged communities or LIDAC. Deliverables from this phase include the Priority Climate Action Plan or PCAP which is due March 1, 2024. MORPC is actively working on this portion of the phase. Mr. Filiatraut presented a map that shows the MSA throughout the state of Ohio, with Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Dayton as three other MSAs that were able to get Phase 1 funding. Columbus has an MSA core project team with Sustainable Columbus as the lead applicant, and includes MORPC, OSU, Power A Clean Future Ohio, and Impact Community Action.
- Mr. Filiatraut explained that Sustainable Columbus, as the lead, is handling the day-to-day project management. The project team is leading on all the different deliverables, the most immediate is the PCAP due March 1, 2024. MORPC's portion of this is threefold: to help develop the metrics of the greenhouse gas inventory for the 10 county MSA, lead communication strategies for the 10 MSA counties outside of Columbus, and to continue developing the Phase 2 Regional application. MORPC will be leading with stakeholder engagement and public involvement.
- Phase 2 will dole out the \$4.6 billion in competitive grants, which was initially thought to be administered over 5 years. Instead, it is being done in one allotment and is due a month after the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Both are now being worked on at the same time. Any strategy to get some of this competitive funding needs to be included in the PCAP. For eligible entities, MORPC is still working on who will be the lead, but it would be MORPC, RPOs, and local governments working on a regional coalition application. The grant will range from \$2 million to \$500 million. The key component through the NOFO is the impact of greenhouse gas reduction measure, how it is impacting the LIDAC, and scalability.
- To develop this plan in a strategic fashion, MORPC has developed a subcommittee in which there is a representative from each of the 10 counties. All counties have more than 1 representative. The Co-chairs for the subcommittee are Alana Shockey at Sustainable Columbus and Jennie McAdams at Franklin County Public Health. The purpose of the CPRG Strategy Subcommittee (CSS) is threefold: to inform & assist in regional outreach among stakeholders; to provide input on the deliverables of the planning grant; and to collaborate & provide input on implementation of the funding grant. The first meeting was held in November, and the second is coming up on December 7, 2023. There will then be meetings in January, February, and potentially in March.
- Current work by MORPC is to conduct the PCAP Metrics & Analyses, develop the Regional Implementation Grant, and execute Communications & Engagement strategies. One of those engagement pieces is the survey for Potential Phase 2 projects, with responses being collected December 7 – 31 2023.
- Mr. Filiatraut explained some of the information that Power a Clean Future Ohio had compiled. As of 2022, this national data shows emissions across

all sectors of emissions and fuels. Franklin County has by far the most greenhouse gas emissions, followed by Licking and Delaware counties. Breaking this data down cumulatively, this shows the four major areas in relation to greenhouse emissions, with the largest being transportation. This information allows us to then take reduction measures that will be most impactful. It will also help make the region as competitive as possible for those Phase 2 grants. With all of this, it helps the region to align with the White House's goal of Net Zero by 2050. Three major pieces of this are reducing energy and carbon intensity; protecting, increasing, and developing carbon sinks; and decreasing sources of greenhouse gases. This can take on a variety of different measures such as energy efficiency, fuel switching, and energy reduction.

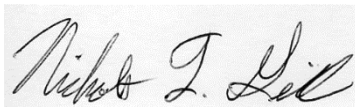
- Mr. Filiatraut then reiterated that the reduction measures will be the key part of the initial application. These components of reducing greenhouse gas near-term, the impact on LIDAC, and scalability will have the highest impact on the grants. Reductions measures will be sourced from the City of Columbus Action Plan, other initiatives in the region, and input received through community engagement.
- Mr. Filiatraut then opened the floor to questions, showing the next steps of the plan. There were no questions.

VII. Other Business

- Nominating Committee Report / Election of Officers
 - Mr. Nittle reported that both Chair Young and Vice Chair Weaver would be willing to remain in their roles as Chair and Vice Chair of the TAC. Mr. Gill will remain as Secretary.
 - Chair Young asked for a motion to approve the recommendations of the committee for the election of officers. Mr. Peoples moved; Mr. Komlanc seconded; and the motion passed.

VIII. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.



Nick Gill, Secretary
Transportation Advisory Committee



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION REPORT

December 2023 & January 2024

PROGRAMMING

Parag Agrawal, Chief Mobility and Infrastructure Officer and Senior Director of Programming – pagrawal@morpc.org

Transportation

Nick Gill, Transportation Study Director – ngill@morpc.org

Metropolitan Transportation Plan:

- Each candidate project was evaluated quantitatively and qualitatively on how it would advance the adopted regional transportation goals.
- A fiscal analysis was conducted to determine which projects can be included in the MTP.
- Based on project evaluation, fiscal analysis, and public & stakeholder engagement occurring throughout the development process, a draft list of strategies and projects was published for public review and comment.
- Presentations are scheduled to take place over the months of February, March, and early April at individual municipalities, townships, counties, and neighborhood commissions in the MTP planning area. These presentations will share the draft list of strategies and projects with each community.
- The MTP Public Open House is scheduled for March 19, 2024 from 3:30-6:30 p.m. at MORPC.

Transit, Mobility & Human Services:

Mobility Management

- The Franklin County Mobility Advisory Committee (FCMAC) met in December and January to identify priorities for 2024 and make plans for Ohio Loves Transit Week in February.
- The Central Ohio Mobility Manager Working Group had their first meeting of 2024 to discuss regional updates and the timeline for the 2024 yearly update to the Regional Mobility Plan.
- The Franklin County Mobility Manager presented to three senior oriented groups on mobility services and the importance of planning for long term mobility.

FTA Section 5310 Designated Recipient

- Continued to monitor sub-recipient activities and pending vehicle orders.

Gohio Commute

- Launched a rideshare program at Scotts Miracle Grow in Marysville, Ohio

- Continued on-site marketing of the new carpool program a Midwest Express in West Liberty, OH
- Work was begun with Logan County Chamber of Commerce, Logan County, and Jobs & Family Services to launch a vanpool pilot program to help with workforce transportation.
- Re-launched rideshare program at Defense Supply Center Columbus (DSCC). Started six new vanpools and working on several more.
- Started work on a rideshare program with Chase Corporation, Columbus, Ohio. Currently surveying employees to gauge interest.
- Forming a planning committee for the 2024 Ohio State-wide Commuter Challenge
- “New Year, New Commute” social Media Campaign with regional partners, City of Columbus, AAA Automobile, Cogo Bikeshare, and Midwest Fabricating. This campaign highlighted four important New Year resolutions and how they can be accomplished with sustainable commuting.

Transportation Planning Activities:

LinkUS Mobility Initiative

- The Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) Committees continued to meet to identify priority projects and work towards a regional TSI capital improvement program.
- An out-of-cycle MORPC-attributable funding request was granted to the Franklin County Engineer’s Office to conduct feasibility studies to advance regional TSI project proposals from concept to grant-ready status. This will be supported by a local funding match from the City of Columbus and the Franklin County Engineer’s office will be managing a general engineering contract.
- The LinkUS partner agencies continue to meet with local and regional stakeholders to share status updates on LinkUS activities.

Passenger Rail

- In December, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announced awards for its Corridor Identification and Development Program (Corridor ID), meant to provide federal resources to systematically plan for enhanced, extended, or new passenger rail service.
- Two corridors through Central Ohio were accepted into the program. MORPC will be working with project partners on both to plan the services and ready the corridors for engineering and construction:
 - Cincinnati-Dayton-Columbus-Cleveland (3C&D): Led by the Ohio Rail Development Commission and supported by MORPC.
 - Chicago-Fort Wayne-Columbus-Pittsburgh (Midwest Connect): Led by the City of Fort Wayne and co-sponsored by MORPC.

Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO):

- A second application round is currently open for State Fiscal Years 2024-2025 CORPO Dedicated Funds. CORPO is seeking funding applications for transportation projects and programs from eligible local public agencies located within CORPO’s member counties for the remaining \$1 million available in the two-year program.
- CORPO has been seeking stakeholder input on the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan regarding local road safety issues to help identify key priorities for the plan. The planning process will include review of crash data and conditions for all roadway users. The draft plan is targeted for completion at the end of February, with a public comment period in March. The CORPO Committee will adopt the plan during their May meeting.
- The CORPO Committee adopted the CORPO 2023-2050 Transportation Plan at their November Committee meeting. This is the long-range transportation plan for the CORPO RTPO area. Chapters of

the plan are viewable on the CORPO webpage. [Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization \(CORPO\) – MORPC.org](https://www.morpc.org)

Active Transportation Planning:

- The working group reviewing the MORPC Complete Streets Policy met on January 18, 2024, to finalize a revised draft of the policy. A public comment period for review of the draft policy was released for public comment on January 22, 2024. Comments are being accepted through February 23, 2024 in combination with a public comment period on the Policies for Managing MORPC-Attributable Funding.
- MORPC will be hosting virtual group viewings of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) monthly Professional Development webinars again in 2024. These webinars are eligible for 1.0 hour of American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Certification Maintenance credit. Contact Jordan Petrov, jpetrov@morpc.org if you are interested in attending any of the MORPC group viewings. The next webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2024, on the topic of: “*Floating Bus Stop Accessibility: What Have We Learned?*”
- The fourth quarter MORPC Active Transportation Committee (ATC) meeting was held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023. All 2023 meeting materials are now available on the [ATC web page](#). ATC meeting dates and times for 2024 are also listed on the web page.
- The first quarter ATC meeting for 2024 will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. This will be a hybrid meeting, with attendees able to join in-person at MORPC in the Board Room, or via Microsoft Teams.
- A few MORPC member communities recently received awards from ODOT for consultant assistance to develop local active transportation plans. Recommendations from these plans will be incorporated into regional plans and related initiatives.
 - Orange Township is currently wrapping up an active transportation plan.
 - The City of Gahanna is kicking off an active transportation plan.
 - The City of Grove City was recently awarded assistance and will be kicking off an active transportation plan later this year.

Transportation Safety:

- MORPC was awarded \$ 1,032,000 in funding through the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) federal program in December. This funding is for the Metropolitan Planning Area and will allow MORPC to conduct the following activities over the next few years:
 - Update the Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan to analyze the most recent crash trends and incorporate the latest best practices and federal guidance.
 - Advance MORPC’s regional non-motorized volume data program.
 - Develop a regional program for conducting Complete Streets Safety Audits in collaboration with public health partners.
 - Implement pilot pedestrian safety countermeasures at 20 priority locations in collaboration with local agency partners.
- The [2018-2022 State of Safety report](#) for the MPO area was posted to the MORPC website. More information about these reports, past reports, and other safety related resources are available at www.morpc.org/safety.
- MORPC participated in the following safety committee meetings and events:
 - Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review meeting on December 7, 2023
 - Ohio Traffic Safety Council Safety Belt Task Force meeting on December 19, 2023

- Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review meeting on January 4, 2024
- Ohio Traffic Safety Council Pedestrian Safety Working Group meeting on January 11, 2024
- Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review meeting on January 17, 2024

Technical Assistance Program:

- Kick-off meetings were held in December with the awardees for the 2024 Technical Assistance Program. The following two services officially began in late January:
 - Franklin Township Active Transportation Planning
 - Jefferson Township Active Transportation Planning

Infrastructure Funding:

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- The December TIP amendment was transmitted to ODOT for inclusion in their January State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) amendment.

MORPC-Attributable Funding

- The draft Policies for Managing MORPC-Attributable Funds were released for public comment on January 22, 2024. Comments are being accepted through February 23, 2024 in combination with a public comment period on the MORPC Complete Streets Policy.

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)

- District 3 (Franklin County) State Capital Improvements Program (SCIP) and Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP) funding awards for SFY 2025 were transmitted to OPWC in December 2023.

Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

- In December, TRAC held a working session to deliberate a first draft of projects to be included in the 2024-2027 Major New Construction Program. The final draft program is scheduled to be approved for public comment at TRAC's meeting on January 31, 2024. Final program approval is expected at TRAC's February 28, 2024 meeting.

Federal Competitive Programs

- MORPC received a \$2 million grant award from the United States Department of Transportation's Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator grant program. This award will enable MORPC to repair and replace damaged electric vehicle charging stations throughout Central Ohio.
- The City of Heath will be applying to the 2024 Federal RAISE program. MORPC's grant team has been providing application support to Heath and will supply a Letter of Support. This application will request funds to plan the development of this corridor.
- The City of Columbus will be applying to the 2024 Federal RAISE program. MORPC will be providing some data to complete a benefit-cost analysis for this application, as well as helping design an application cover page and hosting application materials on our website. This application will request development funds to enhance trail access through the Linden community.

Money Mondays

The following Money Mondays sessions were held:

- November 27, 2023: Central Ohio Greenways
- December 4, 2023: One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund
- December 11, 2023: Safety, Efficiency and Sustainability Data

- December 18, 2023: Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies
- January 8, 2024: Municipal Financing Resources
- January 22, 2024: Railroad Crossings' Impacts on Communities/Funding opportunities
- January 29, 2024: AARP Challenge Grants

Economic Development

Padmini Roy-Dixon, Economic Development Director & Regional Innovation Officer - proydixon@morpc.org

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)/ Economic Development District:

- MORPC hosted U.S. Economic Development Administration's Ohio Program Representative, Ellen Heinz, on December 19, 2023 for a series of meetings with stakeholders and partners in the 11-county Columbus region. The meeting focused on partner projects – both ongoing and future initiatives – along with EDA's presentation on its priorities, available funding opportunities and contents of a successful grant application to an EDA Notice of Funding Opportunity.
- With a designated district, the next step will include establishing an Economic Development District Governing Board that represents the principal economic interests in the region. The Board will focus on advancing the implementation of the CEDS through regional alignment, short and long-term planning, and seeking grant funding.
- As Ohio's newest Economic Development District, MORPC's economic development team has been meeting with existing Economic Development Districts to develop best practices for Central Ohio. This outreach has included Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Maumee Valley Planning Organization, Buckeye Hills Regional Council, and Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization.

Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP)

- The CAP program was promoted at the December Commission to ensure members are aware of this resource.
- The Economic Development team plans to work closely with stakeholders to expand the scope of the CAP program to account for needs in other programmatic areas. Broadening this scope will help enhance the interrelatedness between infrastructure and economic development in Central Ohio.
- CAP packets are being prepared for MORPC leadership. They will use these packets when discussing Central Ohio priorities with congressional representatives.

Brownfield Assessments:

- MORPC's Economic Development team continued working with the Brownfield consultant to complete the reporting requirements that were part of the FY 2019 U.S. EPA Brownfield grant closeout.
- Updates from the Environmental Protection Agency on MORPC's 2024 Brownfield Assessment application are expected later this year.

Drive Investment Portal:

- The portal was launched at the December Commission meeting to help MORPC members navigate and leverage available funding avenues. The portal includes information on active and projected grant and loan programs from federal, state, and local organizations, tailored to accommodate diverse projects and funding requirements. For the month of December, the Drive Investment Portal saw 646 unique visits. Please use the following link to access the portal: morpc.org/DIP.

PLANNING

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

Community Development

Central Ohio Greenways:

- The COG Board met on January 24, 2024 to welcome new Board Members and review and approve updates to the Regional Trail Vision. Also on the agenda were MORPC program updates, and COG Working Group Updates.
- The Central Ohio Greenways Trail Town Working Group held its first meeting in January. The purpose of the working group is to implement the COG Trail Town Framework. MORPC extends gratitude to Kari Kauffman with Experience Columbus and Laura Ball with Westerville for leading the working group as Co-Chairs. The next working group meeting is scheduled for March 11 at 10:00 and will continue meeting every other month after. Any experts, advocates, or professionals looking to promote trail use for tourism, economic development, or quality of life are encouraged to join the working group. Reach out to Melinda Vonstein to be added to the roster.
- The Trail Development Working Group is Chaired by Kelly Scocco, City of Columbus, and will also meet every other month. The group will primarily focus on advancing the Regional Trail Vision. Goals for the year include expanding the vision to MORPC's full fifteen county area, expanding trail plans to accommodate anticipated growth in the Intel area, and encouraging collaborative funding applications.
- The Outdoor Trails Pass partnership with Experience Columbus was originally launched in 2020 and has been upgraded annually with new features every spring. In 2023, we saw a significant increase in the number of people interacting with and using the pass. Much of the increase can be contributed to the inclusion of curated trail experience itineraries. This Spring the curated experiences will be further enhanced through a partnership with local tourism groups. Local tourism groups have submitted trail itineraries that include stops at trail side businesses, restaurants, and cultural amenities. These new curated experiences will be highlighted in the 2024 Outdoor Trails Pass, launching on Celebrate Trails Day, April 27, 2024.
- MORPC will convene the COG Trail Closure and Detours Steering Committee in the Spring to develop guidelines for managing and communicating trail closures and detours. The committee will meet monthly for 6 months. Participation interest should be submitted to Melinda Vonstein by the end of March 2024.
- 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, Public Art, and Placemaking concepts into the wayfinding strategy. The project is expected to conclude in the Spring of 2024.
- MORPC will convene the COG Mapping Natural Assets Steering Committee this Spring. The group will advise the Mapping Natural Assets project funded by The Columbus Foundation to provide data to support holistic decision-making around how development impacts the sustainability of our region's watersheds.

Central Ohio Blueways:

- The Central Ohio Blueways Steering Committee will begin meeting in February. The Advisory Panel completed their work on a draft Partnership Agreement. The Steering Committee will begin work

towards State Water Trail Designation and investigate other opportunities that may exist to advance the promotion of Blueways and Water Trails in Central Ohio.

- An OSU Capstone Class in the Environment, Economy, Development, and Sustainability program completed a Sustainable Access Point Design Guideline. The completed guideline includes sustainable considerations for the design of access point elements, such as parking areas, trails to the waterways, launch points, and new access point site recommendations.
- The Community Development Team updated the Central Ohio Blueways website to include more information on paddling safety and boat registration, as well as information and recommendations for how people can be better stewards of our water resources. Interactive mapping updates are currently in progress and will be updated on the Central Ohio Blueways website in the coming months. Updates will include more informative mapping and PDF downloads of the main waterways (Scioto River, Olentangy River, Alum Creek, and Big Walnut Creek).

Regional Housing Strategy (RHS):

Outreach

- Conversations around housing issues continue with MORPC member communities. The Community Development Team is continuing to promote housing to members through connections with MORPC's Community Assistance Programs and by giving presentations to councils and other organizations.

Implementation Assistance

- Are you interested in a housing/growth workshop for your community's elected officials, staff, or community leaders? MORPC accepts requests for presentations and workshops. The team will work to design the agenda, including recommended speakers and learning objectives. Contact Jonathan Miller, jmiller@morpc.org for more information

Community Based Planning Assistance:

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

Consultant Services Program

- MORPC is currently working with several communities on the potential for the Consultant Services Program to assist with the RFP process for both Comprehensive Plan Updates and Zoning Codes. The Program is anticipated to re-open prequalification for additional consultants and include services related to strategic planning, economic development activities, and specializations in public engagement in 2024.

Planner Pool Program

- Members are invited to submit applications for assistance from the Planner Pool Program. The Community Development Team added a new staff member in early January 2024 to assist with projects and the program's development. The Program most recently assisted the City of Grandview Heights with a neighborhood parking assessment.
- If you're interested in additional assistance with extracurricular planning activities, filling staff vacancies during vacation, assistance with gaps in staffing, or other guidance with best practices, contact Jonathan Miller, jmiller@morpc.org to schedule a time to discuss your communities potential needs and ways that MORPC may be able to assist.

Sustainability

Sustainability Advisory Committee:

- The next SAC meeting will take place on March 20, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. at MORPC. The agenda will include updates on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, the Regional Sustainability Agenda, and discussion for shaping sustainability-focused educational videos. The MORPC team continued to work toward wrapping up member appointments for the 2024 term.

Sustainable2050:

Member Engagement

- The next Sustainable2050 meeting will take place on February 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at MORPC. The agenda will include MORPC program updates, discussion for shaping sustainability-focused educational videos, and ideas for ways to highlight the great work of our Sustainable2050 members. Sustainable2050 membership and tier status certification is open to MORPC members. Please contact Brandi Whetstone for more information at bwhetstone@morpc.org.

Water Resources Program:

Sustaining Scioto Board

- The Sustaining Scioto Board met on December 6 and heard a presentation from Peter McDonough, Watershed Program Administrator, Ohio Department of Agriculture. Mr. McDonough spoke about the recently concluded watershed plans for the state. The watershed plans provide regional watershed characterization, water quality data and goals, funding opportunities, and analysis of applicable management measures. A detailed report on the Scioto River Basin can be found [here](#).
- Glenn Marzluf, Board Chair, and MORPC's Chief Regional Strategy Officer, Dr. Kerstin Carr, updated the board on the upcoming comprehensive regional water study led by Ohio EPA, and other state agencies scheduled to begin in March 2024. In response to our strong population and economic growth, Ohio EPA, together with other state agencies and MORPC, will be kicking off a comprehensive water study for the 15-county Central Ohio area in early March. This study will examine existing and future water supply and demand to better understand gaps and priority areas for both water and sewer infrastructure investments in the future. In addition, the study will identify creative strategies on how to capture, conserve, and reuse water while ensuring the environmental integrity of our natural resources. The study is expected to be concluded by the end of this year, with monthly webinars that provide opportunities to update key stakeholders and get feedback. Ohio EPA is currently reviewing consultant proposals and will have a better understanding of its final scope, timeline, and cost in February.
- The Board is also looking to expand its membership to include stakeholders from other watersheds to position itself as implementors of the regional water study outcomes. The Board will meet on February 28, 2024.

208 Water Resources Planning

- MORPC staff continues to hold stakeholder meetings with officials in both Licking and Delaware counties as part of the water resource planning work on behalf of Ohio EPA. The goal is for communities and sewer service providers to agree on current and future wastewater planning areas as part of updating the state's Water Quality Management Plan or 208 plan. MORPC will soon be submitting GIS data to Ohio EPA for other counties in the region.

Energy & Air Quality:

Energy & Air Quality Working Group

- The Energy and Air Quality Working Group (EAQWG) held its final meeting of 2023 on November 29, 2023. The Working Group heard updates on the activity of both funding opportunities and MORPC programming. The Working Group also began discussions on topics to focus on for 2024. The EAQWG commenced recruitment for candidates interested in serving as either Chair or Vice-Chair. Please email recommendations to Brian Filiatraut, bfiliatraut@morpc.org MORPC's Energy and Sustainability Program Manager. The next meeting will take place on February 29, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

Air quality specific activities

- No Air Quality Alerts have been issued for the Columbus region since July. MORPC's annual end of season report is currently under development, and the release is expected to go out in February 2024.
- The team continues to move forward with the US EPA air monitoring project: forty new low-cost PurpleAir sensors were purchased and are inbound as of January, and we will be coordinating with Ohio EPA in the upcoming weeks to test the project sensors alongside their regulatory monitors to validate sensor performance. In December, U.S. EPA approved the Quality Assurance Project Plan, and we can now begin data collection. The team hosted the first project advisory committee (PAC) meeting on December 15, 2023 and will be hosting a second meeting in March 2024.
- On January 16, the MORPC Air Quality team spoke with the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center's Green Team for a virtual session titled "Air Pollution and Human Health Effects." The MORPC team also met with representatives from Ohio EPA, and they anticipate that U.S. EPA will announce a decision on the proposed federal PM2.5 standard in the next month or two.

Energy specific activities

- Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG): The MORPC team is continuing its collaborative work with the City of Columbus and the rest of the core project team to lead regional planning and pollution mitigation actions. The regional efforts are being led by the CPRG Strategy Subcommittee (CSS), which met in December and January. Discussions centered on narrowing potential implementation projects. MORPC launched a survey which concluded in early January to collect input from the public and regional partners to help inform the development of these projects.
- The project team hosted a pitch session with partners and stakeholders on January 24, 2024 to help vet and narrow down the projects for the regional funding application. The team will be hosting two hybrid community meetings in January to provide project updates and collect input.

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund:

Application Process

- The Clean Ohio Conservation Fund has about \$5 million available for FY 2025. Preliminary screeners are encouraged and due on June 3, 2024. Final applications are due on August 30, 2024. For more information, please contact Edwina Teye, eteye@morpc.org or visit our website at <https://www.morpc.org/program-service/clean-ohio-conservation-fund/>.

DATA, MAPPING & MODELING

Dave Dixon, Director of Data Analytics & Strategy Planning – ddixon@morpc.org

Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC):

Working Groups

- RDAC met January 23, 2024 to review and advise on the activities and S.M.A.R.T. goals of the four new working groups intended to focus on various aspects of the 2023-2025 Regional Data Agenda, and ensure all necessary preparations are in place for Data Day 2024 to be held on February 7, 2024. RDAC's focus in 2024 will be on the areas of Workforce & Job Quality, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Cyber Security, and Regional Data Coaches projects and initiatives.

Data Day Working Group

- As part of the Regional Data Agenda with RDAC, MORPC and Ohio University are partnering to present Data Day: Venturing Together into the Unknown on Wednesday, February 7, 2024. Data Day will be a one-day event held at Ohio University Dublin Integrated Education Center in Dublin, Ohio.
- Data Day is an opportunity to learn more about what our region is doing to promote data-driven decision-making and how various communities are using data, securing, and governing data, and visualizing data. Attendees will be able to come away from data day with new connections in the Central Ohio data community and have actionable items that they can take back to their communities to improve the ways they're currently using data.

Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG)

- Preparations are underway for the first quarter 2024 RIDG meeting. The dates tentatively set for the RIDG Steering Committee (SC) meetings and General RIDG meetings are:
 - SC – January 30, April 8, July 9, October 8
 - General – March 6, May 29, August 14, November 13.
 - The RIDG Chair and staff lead will meet prior to each SC meeting to discuss planning for the next meeting.

Central Ohio GIS User Group (COGUG)

- The next meeting is Feb 21, 2024.

Regional Data Coaches Working Group

- The working group defined its impact statement, major activity, and S.M.A.R.T. goal, which was presented to RDAC at the January meeting. The working group will also be hosting an unconference session during Data Day to engage with the community, seek feedback, and begin recruiting data coaches.

Workforce and Job Quality Working Group

- The working group has been meeting to define its impact statement, major activity, and S.M.A.R.T. goal, which was presented to RDAC at the January meeting. The working group will also be hosting an unconference session during Data Day to engage with the community, seek feedback, and begin recruiting working group members.

Data Management:

- Project plans and technical documentation were completed for several new and legacy projects. Work also began with MORPC IT to create virtual machines to facilitate standardized analysis environments and allow for uninterrupted execution of long-running scripts. A SharePoint-based system was developed to capture and document data requests and tools for programmatically generating charts in Excel.

Data Analytics, Mapping, and Research:

Data & Research Activities

- Sustainability, Data, and Communications & Engagement team members collaborated to produce the Leaders Listen: Housing survey – the third in the series. Working with Measurement Resources Company (MRC) and The Columbus Dispatch, with an aim to collect responses from over 2,000 area residents across 140 ZIP Codes in late Winter/early Spring 2024. The preliminary survey results will be presented at the 2024 State of the Region event on March 15, 2024. An “Actionable Insights” report similar to recent Transportation and Sustainability reports will be produced to share the results with Central Ohio stakeholders in the coming months.
- Team members continue to manage the organization’s air quality sensors in support of the EPA air quality monitoring grant. PurpleAir, the organization which provides a central repository for air quality data, recently began charging for retrieval of the data, therefore the team is revising the data processing scripts to minimize the incurred costs.
- Development of county-level forecasts of households / housing continued by type to better predict future housing needs. This will 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.
- Upcoming updates to standard data products:
 - Key ACS 2022 5-year estimate data for MORPC counties will be published on the Population Hub with new and improved user interface improvement (early February)
 - County-level population estimates as of Jan 1, 2024 (April)
 - Net migration by county (domestic and international) (April)

Mapping Activities

- MTP forecasts web map was created and published to share 2050 data - [MOOD MTP 2024-2050 Forecasts](#). The MTP project web map is being updated and will be refreshed in late January with candidate projects.
- GIS work was provided to a variety of projects, including the Capital Bills map to Columbus Partnership for Democratic legislative meetings; updating 208 county maps; and active transportation network data updates and testing.

Modeling Activities

- The Modeling Team completed coding and evaluating all MTP projects.
- Team members supported member projects including conducting core modeling work related to the Ganton Parkway Project, the North Knot project, and provided updated model information for the Pataskala thoroughfare plan.
- The traffic count program was maintained, response was provided for traffic growth rate requests, and a methodology was developed for the travel demand model expansion project.

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

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

News Releases:

- [West Jefferson joins Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission](#) (11/21/2023)
- [Passenger rail one step closer to returning to Central Ohio after 40 years](#) (12/5/2023)
- [Brown Township joins the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission as its 87th member](#) (12/18/2023)
- [Gohio Vanpool pilot project launches with Mid-West Fabricating](#) (12/19/2023)
- [CORPO accepting applications for second round of funding for transportation projects](#) (1/5/2024)
- [Parag Agrawal joins MORPC as Chief Mobility and Infrastructure Officer & Senior Director of Programming](#) (1/12/2024)

MORPC in the News:

- [New Albany's search for water for Intel goes beyond Granville](#) (11/19/2023)
- [New \\$100-million fund to aid affordable housing in seven counties near Franklin County](#) (11/20/2023)
- [Columbus continues to battle affordable housing crisis amid surging population growth](#) (11/20/2023)
- [MORPC announces Padmini Roy-Dixon as economic development director & regional innovation officer](#) (11/21/2023)
- [West Jefferson joins Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission](#) (11/22/2023)
- [Confluence Cast: LinkUs Columbus](#) (11/29/2023)
- [North Carolina, Ohio corridors lead list of those receiving FRA grants for possible new Amtrak routes](#) (12/5/2023)
- [Plans announced to expand Amtrak in Ohio | 10tv.com](#) (12/5/2023)
- [Columbus included in \\$1 million Amtrak expansion funding - CBUS today \(6amcity.com\)](#) (12/5/2023)
- [Amtrak expansion could include more routes connecting Ohio cities | WSYX \(abc6onyourside.com\)](#) (12/5/2023)
- [Fort Wayne passenger train project receives \\$500,000 in federal funding](#) (12/5/2023)
- [Proposed Amtrak route linking Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati wins key federal funding for future planning](#) (12/5/2023)
- [Amtrak expansion in Ohio may become reality after state receives federal funds for four corridors, including Cleveland-Columbus-Cincinnati](#) (12/5/2023)
- [Lima passenger rail route wins planning funds](#) (12/5/2023)
- [Amtrak service in Ohio lands federal funding - Columbus Business First \(bizjournals.com\)](#) (12/6/2023)
- [Ohio Chosen for Amtrak Expansion - Columbus Underground](#) (12/6/2023)
- [Crestline included in newly released list of Amtrak expansion priorities](#) (12/6/2023)
- [Passenger Rail One Step Closer to Returning to Central Ohio after 40 Years - Scioto Post](#) (12/6/2023)
- [One step closer to passenger rail returning to Columbus - QFM96](#) (12/6/2023)
- [Impact of rail line connecting Ohio's largest cities \(spectrumnews1.com\)](#) (12/8/2023)
- [Ohio Amtrak expansion expected to bring jobs, revenue - WOUB](#) (12/8/2023)
- [Passenger rail step closer to returning to central Ohio - Delaware Gazette \(delgazette.com\)](#) (12/8/2023)
- [Amtrak and partners receive federal grants to improve and expand passenger access across America](#) (12/8/2023)
- [Very excited: Local leaders support expansion of Amtrak passenger service in eastern Ohio](#) (12/9/2023)
- [All aboard! Passenger rail expansion took big step forward last week](#) (12/10/2023)
- [Amtrak expansion will include Marysville – Marysville Journal-Tribune \(marysvillejt.com\)](#) (12/11/2023)
- [Amtrak, passenger-rail advocates laud FRA grants to improve, expand service](#) (12/11/2023)
- [INDOT to study expansion of Indy to Chicago train service](#) (12/11/2023)
- [Here's what is next for Ohio passenger rail plans - Axios Columbus](#) (12/11/2023)

- [PITTSBURGH POST GAZETTE Editorial: Amtrak's federal boost is a turning point for Pa. transportation](#) (12/11/2023)
- [EDITORIAL: Expanded rail service would help our region](#) (12/12/2023)
- [New era in transportation: Amtrak's proposal connects Ohio Valley with major cities](#) (12/12/2023)
- [The Deeper Dive: How likely is passenger rail service in Fort Wayne?](#) (12/12/2023)
- [Study shows demand for more bike trails in Ohio as more funding opportunities become available](#) (12/14/2023)
- [Ohio selected as priority for Amtrak expansion plans](#) (12/14/2023)
- [Crestline officially listed as potential stop on Amtrak expansion](#) (12/14/2023)
- [Passenger rail step closer to returning to Central Ohio](#) (12/14/2023)
- [How big events can disrupt public transit over an entire city](#) (12/19/2023)
- [Brown Township joins Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission as its 87th member](#) (12/19/2023)
- [Athens left out of passenger rail expansion, for now](#) (12/21/2023)
- [Looking to ride a train out of Columbus? Earliest bet if all goes right might be 2030.](#) (12/26/2023)
- [Amtrak in Crestline could boost economic and social development in Crawford County](#) (12/28/2023)
- [Amtrak expansion in Ohio: What comes next, and how soon might we be taking the train to Columbus?](#) (1/4/2024)
- [The Plain Dealer's front page for January 5, 2024 - cleveland.com](#) (1/4/2024)
- [Amtrak in Ohio: Backer hope where there's a will, there's a railway](#) (1/15/2024)
- [MORPC names Parag Agrawal chief mobility and infrastructure officer and senior director of programming](#) ([also found here](#)) (1/17/2024)

Digital Content:

Social Media: Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn:

- `Air Quality Alerts, Careers/Jobs, Central Ohio Greenways, Trails Pass, eSource, Gohio Commute, Gohio Mobility, RFPs/RFQs, Residential Services, Summit on Sustainability, Public Comment, LinkUS, Water Quality, Data Day, State of the Region, Thanksgiving, Small Business Saturday, Hometown Grants, Older Driver Safety Awareness Week, Passenger Rail, Hanukkah, Internships, CPRG program, CAC applications, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Distracted Driving, eSource, New Years, MLK Day, Radon Month, and MORPC News

Reach:

- [Facebook & Instagram](#)

Top Posts:

- [Instagram](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [X](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Reels](#)

Diversity & Inclusion:

- MORPC's internal DEI Committee added two new members, Karina Peggau and Mauro Diaz-Hernandez, to serve on the Committee. The Committee is responsible for working alongside the Diversity Officer to create an inclusive environment within the workplace, to promote cultural observances and more.
- MORPC renewed its membership with HBCU Connect for the 2024 fiscal year. HBCU Connect is the largest on-line community of HBCU graduates and students. Due to this service, MORPC and Members can share unlimited job openings on their career portal web page to enhance diversity recruiting strategies.

- MORPC participated in COSI's "The Color of Science," which highlighted diversity in STEM careers and highlights the accomplishments of persons of color to modern science and engineering.

Public Involvement & Engagement:

- MORPC promoted the following requests for public input through social media and on our website:
 - State of the Region Awards - [11/28](#), [12/13](#), [12/28](#)
 - Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) - [12/7](#), [12/7](#), [12/12](#), [12/14](#), [1/18](#)
 - Community Advisory Committee - [12/13](#), [12/26](#)
 - Request for Proposals - [12/19](#), [1/12](#)
 - CORPO Dedicated Funds - [1/5](#)

Marketing Campaigns:

- The Gohio Commute program ran a marketing campaign on social media; "New Year, New Commute" with the goal to increase awareness and participation of the program.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

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

Events:

- On December 14, 2023, a Holiday luncheon was held as a Recognition of Outgoing Leaders and A MORPC Open House. Approximately sixty guests attended.
- MORPC accepted their 87th member, Brown Township, on January 1, 2024.
- MORPC is anticipating at least twenty new board members to be appointed by their respective governments to replace outgoing members in 2024. There will be multiple orientation sessions offered in January and February.
- The Regional Area Planning Luncheon for the Northeast Area of Central Ohio will be held on January 31, 2024 at noon. This meeting is for local governments, as well as community & transportation stakeholders, serving Delaware County East, Franklin County Northeast, Knox County, Licking County, Morrow County, ODOT, and COTA. The meeting will be held in the Community Room at Church of the Resurrection in the City of New Albany.
- The Local Government Summer Intern Program was opened for members to submit their requests through January 31, 2024. Positions are posted on the MORPC Website, [Summer Internship Program – MORPC.org](#), and will remain open until filled. MORPC is in the process of hiring an Intern Program Coordinator to run this program. The position will report to the Membership Services Officer and will be housed in the Government Affairs Department. This is a part-time position.
- On February 8, 2024, there will be a Pre-Commission Luncheon with Columbus Regional Airport Authority's CEO, Joseph Nardone. He will be speaking on the New Terminal plans for the Airport.
- A "Planning Together – Local Governments and Schools" luncheon will be held on February 27, 2024 at 1 p.m. There will be a virtual option available or School Board members, local government officials, and community planners can attend the luncheon in person at MORPC.



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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Columbus, Ohio 43215
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Memorandum

TO: Transportation Policy Committee
Transportation Advisory Committee
Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Nick Gill, Transportation Director

DATE: January 22, 2024

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution T-1-24: **“Support the Ohio Department of Transportation Safety Performance Measure Targets”**

The 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the 2024-2050 MTP currently under development includes strategies specifically related to the enhancing the safety of the transportation system with almost all strategies and projects included in the MTP furthering this objective in some way. Furthermore, the MTP includes specific performance measures as required by the federal Transportation Performance Management Program. The program is defined by a series of rulemakings that delineate a process in which MPO's and State Departments of Transportation coordinate on target-setting and reporting for a series of federal transportation performance measures.

Safety is one area in which states and MPOs are required to set targets. The rule requires state DOTs to set targets for five safety performance measures by August 31 each year. The five measures are:

- number of fatalities
- number of serious injuries
- number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries
- fatality rate
- serious injury rate

In August 2023 ODOT reestablished their annual safety statewide targets as a 2% annual reduction for each of the five measures. This was based on many factors, including a review of recent trends in safety statistics and an increased emphasis on providing resources for safety activities.


Each MPO is then required to annually establish targets by February 27 each year. Resolution T-11-24 is to explicitly meet the federal planning regulations to establish safety performance measures for the MPO area.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Interim Chair

Michelle Crandall
Interim Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Interim Secretary



MORPC was a leader in the country when performance measures were incorporated into the 2012-2035 MTP in 2012. As part of the 2020-2050 MTP that was adopted in May 2020, performance measures were reestablished via resolution T-14-18, and the August 2023 ODOT targets are consistent with our targets. Furthermore, as the 2024-2050 MTP currently underway is completed, the updated safety performance measure targets will be consistent with the ODOT targets.

“SUPPORTING THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION’S SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURE TARGETS”

WHEREAS, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is designated as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) by the governor acting through the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and in cooperation with locally elected officials; and

WHEREAS, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is the federal transportation legislation with which MORPC's transportation planning must comply including performance measures; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation has established transportation performance management rules and processes to be incorporated into metropolitan transportation planning, which includes state and MPO adoption of certain performance measures; and

WHEREAS, MORPC adopted the 2020-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) which includes strategies with regard to enhancing the safety of the transportation system along with safety performance measures; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. DOT rules require the states to set targets for five safety performance measures (number of fatalities, number of serious injuries, fatality rate, serious injury rate and number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries) annually by August 31 each year, and that MPOs set targets for the five measures annually by February 27 each year; and

WHEREAS, in August 2023 ODOT established a 2% annual reduction as the statewide target for each of the five safety performance measures; and

WHEREAS, targets established by ODOT are consistent with the targets established via Resolution T-14-18 included in the 2020-2050 MTP for the five safety performance measures; and

WHEREAS, the Community Advisory Committee at its meeting on January 29, 2024, and the Transportation Advisory Committee at its meeting on January 31, 2024, recommended approval of this resolution to the Transportation Policy Committee; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

- Section 1. That it supports ODOT’s safety targets established in August 2023 as shown in the Attachment.
- Section 2. That it will plan and program projects that contribute toward the achievement of the ODOT targets.
- Section 3: That it directs staff to establish safety targets in the 2024-2050 Columbus Area Metropolitan Transportation Plan that are consistent with the ODOT targets.
- Section 4: That the Transportation Policy Committee finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this committee concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this committee.

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

Date

Prepared by: Programming Department Staff