



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 111
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.morpc.org

NOTICE OF A MEETING

COMMISSION MEETING
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
111 LIBERTY STREET, SUITE 100
COLUMBUS, OH 43215
TOWN HALL

Thursday, February 8, 2024
1:30 p.m.

Remote Option

To join by video and see any screen sharing, click on “Join Microsoft Teams Meeting” below. You do not need to have Microsoft Teams for the link to work.

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 294 289 878 906

Passcode: PrT3BF

To participate by phone, use the conference call information below.

[+1 614-362-3056](#) United States, Columbus

[\(888\) 596-2819](#) United States (Toll-free)

Phone Conference ID: 702 877 984#

AGENDA

1:30 p.m.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin, MORPC Interim Chair)
 - **Nominating Committee Report** – Ben Kessler (City of Bexley), MORPC Interim Secretary
 - **Election of Officers and Executive Committee** – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Interim Chair

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Grooms
Interim Chair

Michelle Crandall
Interim Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Interim Secretary

- **Recognition of Guests and New Members** – Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer
- 3. **Executive Director's Report** – William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director
- **Quarterly Membership Update** – Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer

Committees

4. **Regional Data Advisory Committee** – Christina Drummond (City of Powell), Regional Data Advisory Committee Chair
5. **Regional Policy Roundtable** – Lourdes Barroso de Padilla (City of Columbus), Regional Policy Roundtable Chair
 - **Legislative Update** – Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter and Joseph Garrity, MORPC Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations
6. **Sustainability Advisory Committee** – Ben Kessler (City of Bexley), Sustainability Advisory Committee Chair
7. **Transportation Policy Committee (MPO)** – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair
 - a. **Call to Order** – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin, MORPC Chair
 - b. **Metropolitan Planning Organization Report** – Parag Agrawal, MORPC Chief Mobility & Infrastructure Officer & Senior Director of Programming
 - c. **2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update** – Nick Gill, MORPC Transportation Study Director
 - d. **Attributable Funds/Complete Streets Policies** – Nick Gill, MORPC Transportation Study Director
 - e. **Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda**
 - 1) Approval of **December 14, 2023 Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**

2) **Proposed Resolution T-1-24: “Supporting the Ohio Department of Transportation’s Safety Performance Measure Targets”**

- f. **Adjourn Transportation Policy Committee (MPO)** – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin), MORPC Interim Chair

8. Commission Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of **December 14, 2023 Commission Meeting Minutes**
- b. **Proposed Resolution 01-24: “Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regarding recently awarded Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator funding via the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program and enter into related subcontracts and additionally authorizes the executive director to create a competitive application process to distribute funds to MORPC members”**
- c. **Proposed Resolution 02-24: “To authorize the executive director to enter into agreements with the Franklin County Board of Commissioners for up to \$1.874 million through 2026 to perform lead remediation as part of the Lead Safe Ohio Program”**
- d. Approval of Actions of the Transportation Policy Committee

9. Other Business

2:45 p.m. **10. Adjourn** – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin), MORPC Chair

PLEASE NOTIFY SHARI SAUNDERS AT 614-233-4169 OR ssaunders@morpc.org IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.

The next Commission Meeting is
Thursday, March 14, 2024, 1:30 p.m.
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215

PARKING AND TRANSIT: When parking in MORPC's parking lot, please be sure to park in a MORPC visitor space or in a space marked with a yellow “M”. Handicapped parking is available at the side of MORPC’s building. On Commission meeting days only, additional parking is available in numbered spaces toward the west end of the parking lot. Electric vehicle charging stations are available for MORPC guests.

Indoor bike parking is available for MORPC guests.

MORPC is accessible by COTA BUS. The closest bus stop to MORPC southbound is High Street & W. Blenkner Street. Buses that accommodate this stop are the 5 - West 5th Ave./Refugee, and the 8 - Karl/S. High/Parsons. The closest stop to MORPC northbound is High Street & E. Hoster Street. Buses that accommodate this stop are the 5 - West 5th Avenue/Refugee and the 8 - Karl/S. High/Parsons. Accessible from the Courthouse stop by a quick walk are COTA lines 1, 2, 4, and CMAX.



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Memorandum

TO: Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Executive Committee, Officers, and Board Members

FROM: Ben Kessler, Nominating Committee Chair

DATE: January 29, 2024

SUBJECT: Nomination of Executive Committee Members

Background:

In accordance with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Articles of Agreement, the Commission will be notified at least five (5) days prior to the Annual Meeting as to the nominees for MORPC's Officers and Executive Committee members.

The Nominating Committee excerpt from the Articles is as follows:

"At least twenty (20) days prior to the annual meeting, the chair shall appoint the Nominating Committee. Said Nominating Committee having been duly appointed and confirmed shall, at least ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting of the COMMISSION, report the names of the candidates so nominated to the secretary. The secretary shall advise each member of the COMMISSION, in writing, at least five (5) days prior to the annual meeting as to the nominees so selected. At the annual meeting, the chair of the Nominating Committee shall report the names so nominated. After this report is presented, nominations from the floor shall be invited. Such nominations must be seconded. The secretary then shall prepare ballots properly identifying the nominees, said ballots shall be distributed and tallied during the annual meeting by a temporary committee appointed for that purpose."

The Nominating Committee Members:

As announced at the October 12, 2023, Commission meeting, Commission Chair Chris Amorose Groomes appointed the following five members of the Nominating Committee.

- Ben Kessler, Committee Chair, City of Bexley
- Jeff Benton, Delaware County
- Mike Schadek, City of Columbus
- Franklin Christman, Village of Ashville
- Nancy White, Mifflin Township

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Interim Chair

Michelle Crandall
Interim Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Interim Secretary

Review of Current Members of Executive Committee:

Several Executive Committee positions do not have expiring terms this year and therefore require no action by the Nominating Committee. For information, these are listed below:

1) Immediate Past Chair: Vacant

2) In second year of current two-year Executive Committee Term (expires 2025)

- a) Jeff Benton (2019), Commissioner, Delaware County
 - b) Ben Kessler (2023), Mayor, City of Bexley
 - c) Kristen Atha (2023), Director of Public Utilities, City of Columbus
-

Nominating Committee Recommendations:

The Nominating Committee convened on November 2, November 15, 2023, and December 7, 2023, and made the following recommendations for Officer positions and Executive Committee positions, which was reported at the December 14, 2023, Commission meeting is to be considered at the February 8, 2024 Commission meeting. Two additional openings have occurred and the Nominating Committee reconvened on February 1, 2024 to make the following recommendations:

The nominees for Officers for renewed one-year Officer Terms (expires 2025)

- **Chair:** Chris Amorose Groomes, Mayor, City of Dublin
- **Vice-Chair:** Michelle Crandall, City Manager, City of Hilliard
- **Secretary:** Ben Kessler, Mayor, City of Bexley

The nominees for Executive Committee are:

1) For renewal of one-year Executive Committee Terms (expires 2025)

- a) Joe Stefanov (2008), Chair of Benefits & Compensation, City Manager, City of New Albany
- b) Nancy White (2017), Chair of Investment & Reserve, Fiscal Officer Mifflin Township
- c) Chris Amorose Groomes (2018), Mayor, City of Dublin

2) For renewal of two-year Executive Committee Term (expires 2026):


- a) Michelle Crandall (2020), City Manager, City of Hilliard

3) For new two-year Executive Committee Terms (expires 2026):

- a) Kris Long (2024), Deputy Director, Franklin County
 - b) LaGrieta Acheampong, (2024), Franklin County
 - c) Laurie Jadwin, (2024), Mayor, City of Gahanna
 - d) Matthew Starr, (2024), Mayor, City of Mount Vernon
 - e) Hayley Lupton, (2024), Administrator, Village of Plain City
 - f) VACANT, (2024) forthcoming for consideration later in 2024
-

Notes:

- 1) The year after each name refers to the first year of the member's current service on the Executive Committee. For example, Pat Smith (2017) means that Pat Smith's first term began in 2017 and they have served continuously since then.

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- 2) Per the bylaws, Executive Committee members may serve up to three consecutive two-year terms. One-year extensions are available if serving as an officer or committee chair.



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
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MORPC Monthly Agency Report *December 2023/January 2024*

Senior Directors

Parag Agrawal pagrawal@morpc.org
Kerstin Carr kcarr@morpc.org
Joe Garrity jgarrity@morpc.org

Shawn Hufstedler shufstedler@morpc.org
Niel M. Jurist njurist@morpc.org
Robert Williams rwilliams@morpc.org

CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT FOR PROSPERITY

Gohio Commute

Team Members launched a rideshare program at Scotts Miracle-Gro in Marysville. Staff began working with the Logan County Chamber of Commerce, Logan County, and Jobs & Family Services to launch a vanpool pilot program to help with workforce transportation. Team Members are working with Chase Corporation on a rideshare program. The rideshare program at the Defense Supply Center Columbus (DSCC) relaunched with six new vanpools and more in the works.

Staff is forming a planning committee for the 2024 Ohio Statewide Commuter Challenge.

MORPC and regional partners City of Columbus, AAA Automobile, Cogo Bikeshare, and Midwest Fabricating ran a social media campaign, "New Year, New Commute," highlighting four important New Year resolutions and how they can be accomplished with sustainable commuting.

Active Transportation Planning

The working group reviewing the MORPC Complete Streets Policy met January 18 to finalize a revised draft of the policy. MORPC released the revised draft for public comment on January 22. Comments are accepted through February 23 in combination with a public comment period on the Policies for Managing MORPC-Attributable Funding.

MORPC is hosting virtual group viewings of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) monthly Professional Development webinars again in 2024. The 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 Wednesday, February 21 on the topic of: "Floating Bus Stop Accessibility: What Have We Learned?"

The Active Transportation Committee (ATC) met December 12. All 2023 meeting materials are available on the [ATC web page](#). 2024 ATC meeting dates and times are also listed on the web page. The next ATC meeting is Wednesday, February 28, 10 a.m.-Noon.

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 wrapping up an active transportation plan.
- The City of Gahanna is kicking off an active transportation plan.
- The City of Grove City is 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 allows 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:

- Three Franklin County Traffic Fatality Review Meetings
- Ohio Traffic Safety Council Safety Belt Task Force
- Ohio Traffic Safety Council Pedestrian Safety Working Group

Technical Assistance Program

Kick-off meetings were held in December with the 2024 Technical Assistance Program awardees: Franklin Township Active Transportation Planning and Jefferson Township Active Transportation Planning.

Central Ohio Greenways (COG)

The COG Board met January 24 to welcome new Board Members, review and approve updates to the Regional Trail Vision, and hear updates on the MORPC program and COG Working Groups.

- Central Ohio Greenways Trail Town Working Group: The purpose of the working group is to implement the COG Trail Town Framework. Co-Chairs are Kari Kauffman, Experience Columbus, and Laura Ball, City of Westerville. The group meets every other month and next meets March 11. 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.
- Trail Development Working Group: Chaired by Kelly Scocco, City of Columbus, the working group meets every other month and will primarily focus on advancing the Regional Trail Vision. Goals for the year include expanding the vision to MORPC's 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 launched in 2020 and is 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 submitted trail itineraries that include stops at trail side businesses, restaurants, and cultural amenities. The new curated experiences will be highlighted in the 2024 Outdoor Trails Pass launching on Celebrate Trails Day, April 27.

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 six 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 met with stakeholders and drafted a recommended signage strategy. They also integrated Trail Towns, Public Art, and Placemaking concepts into the wayfinding strategy. The project is expected to conclude Spring 2024.

MORPC will convene the COG Mapping Natural Assets Steering Committee this Spring to 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 begins meeting in February. The Advisory Panel completed work on a draft Partnership Agreement. The Steering Committee will start working 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.

Team Members 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 for the website are in progress. 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

MORPC continues to promote housing to members through connections with MORPC's Community Assistance Programs and by giving presentations to councils and other organizations. 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.

Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC)

The next Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting is March 20. The agenda includes updates on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, the Regional Sustainability Agenda, and discussion for shaping sustainability-focused educational videos. MORPC Team Members continued wrapping up member appointments for the 2024 term.

Sustainable2050

The next Sustainable2050 meeting is February 15. Agenda items include MORPC program updates, discussion for shaping sustainability-focused educational videos, and ideas for ways to highlight work of Sustainable2050 members. Sustainable2050 membership and tier status certification is open to MORPC members. Please contact Brandi Whetstone for more information at bwhetstone@morpc.org.

Sustaining Scioto Board

The Sustaining Scioto Board met December 6 and heard from Peter McDonough, Watershed Program Administrator, Ohio Department of Agriculture; about the recently concluded watershed plans for the state. Board Chair Glenn Marzluf and MORPC Chief Regional Strategy Officer Kerstin Carr updated the board on the upcoming comprehensive regional water study led by Ohio EPA, and other state agencies starting in March. The study is expected to be concluded by the end of this year, with monthly webinars providing 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 wants to expand its membership to include stakeholders from other watersheds to position itself as implementors of the regional water study outcomes. The next meeting is February 28.

Water Resources Planning Work

MORPC continues to hold stakeholder meetings with officials in 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

MORPC's annual end of season report is under development and expected to be released in February.

On January 16, Team Members spoke with the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center's Green Team for a virtual session titled "Air Pollution and Human Health Effects." They also met with representatives from Ohio EPA and anticipate that U.S. EPA will announce a decision on the proposed federal PM2.5 standard in the next month or two.

Neighborhood Air Monitoring Project/U.S. EPA Project

Forty new low-cost PurpleAir sensors were purchased and are inbound as of January. Team Members will coordinate with Ohio EPA to test the project sensors alongside their regulatory monitors to validate sensor performance. In December, U.S. EPA approved the Quality Assurance Project Plan. We can now begin data collection. The next Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting is in March.

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)

MORPC continues 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 around narrowing potential implementation projects. MORPC launched a survey to collect input from the public and regional partners to help inform the development of these projects. Team Members hosted a pitch session with partners and stakeholders on January 24 to help vet and narrow down the projects for the regional funding application. MORPC hosted two community meetings in January to provide project updates and collect input.

Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC)

RDAC met January 23 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 preparations are in place for Data Day 2024 (February 7). RDAC's focus in 2024 is on the areas of Workforce & Job Quality; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; Cyber Security; and Regional Data Coaches projects and initiatives.

- Data Day Working Group: RDAC, MORPC and Ohio University are partnering to present data Day: Venturing Together into the Unknown, on Wednesday, February 7 at Ohio University's Dublin Integrated Education Center. 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.
- The Regional Data Coaches Working Group defined its impact statement, major activity, and S.M.A.R.T. goal, which they presented to RDAC at the January meeting. The Working Group is hosting an unconference session during Data Day to engage with the community, seek feedback, and begin recruiting data coaches.
- The Regional Information & Data Group (RIDG) tentatively set 2024 meeting dates. The Steering Committee meeting dates are January 30, April 8, July 9, and October 8. The general committee meeting dates are March 6, May 29, August 14, and November 13.
- Central Ohio GIS User Group (COGUG) next meets February 21.
- The Workforce and Job Quality Working Group defined its impact statement, major activity, and S.M.A.R.T. goal, which they presented to RDAC at the January meeting. The Working Group is hosting an unconference session during Data Day to engage with the community, seek feedback, and begin recruiting data coaches.

Data & Research Activities

Team Members completed project plans and technical documentation for several new and legacy projects.

MORPC produced the Leaders Listen: Housing survey. Working with Measurement Resources Company (MRC) and The Columbus Dispatch, Team Members 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. 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

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 January 1, 2024 (April)
- Net migration by county (domestic and international) (April)

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

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.

DRIVE INVESTMENT

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. MORPC is

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.

Drive Investment Portal

Team Members launched the Drive Investment Portal at the December Commission meeting. The portal helps MORPC members navigate and leverage available funding avenues and 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.

Advocacy

Team Members met with Senator Stehanie Kunze and House Minority Leader Allison Russo regarding the capital budget and OTSCIF opportunities. MORPC submitted proponent testimony for Ohio Senate Bill 166.

Justice40

In partnership with COTA, the Columbus Partnership, and Cityfi, MORPC conducted a training session involving private and public sector representatives focused on the Justice40 initiative. The training provided an overview of Justice40, equipping MORPC staff and community partners with necessary tools and resources to enhance their capacity in effectively securing federal funds for historically marginalized, underserved, and overburdened communities in the region.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

MORPC hosted U.S. Economic Development Administration's Ohio Program Representative, Ellen Heinz, on December 19 for a series of meetings with stakeholders and partners in the 11-county Columbus region focusing 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.

Next steps 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, Team Members are meeting with existing Economic Development Districts to develop best practices for Central Ohio. Outreach included Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Maumee Valley Planning Organization, Buckeye Hills Regional Council, and Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Based on project evaluation, fiscal analysis, and public and stakeholder engagement, Team Members published a draft list of strategies and projects for public review and comment. Presentations are scheduled through early April at municipalities, townships, counties, and neighborhood commissions in the MTP planning area. The Public Open House is March 19, 3:30-6:30 p.m. at MORPC. The MTP project web map was updated and refreshed with candidate projects in late January.

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 met to discuss regional updates and the timeline for the 2024 yearly update to the Regional Mobility Plan.

LinkUS Mobility Initiative

The Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) Committees continue 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. The Franklin County Engineer's office will manage a general engineering contract.

The LinkUS partner agencies continue to meet with local and regional stakeholders to share status updates on LinkUS activities.

Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO)

A second application round is 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 is 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 includes 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.

MORPC-Attributable Funding

On January 22, MORPC released the draft Policies for Managing MORPC-Attributable Funds for public comment. Comments are accepted through February 23 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.

Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)

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

Federal Competitive Programs

MORPC received a \$2 million award from the United States Department of Transportation's Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator grant program enabling MORPC to repair and replace damaged electric vehicle charging stations throughout Central Ohio.

MORPC Team Members are providing support to the City of Heath and the City of Columbus in their applications to the 2024 Federal RAISE program.

Brownfield Assessments

MORPC 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.

Competitive Advantage Projects (CAP)

Team Members plan 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. Staff is preparing CAP packets for MORPC leadership for use when discussing Central Ohio priorities with congressional representatives.

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

The Clean Ohio Conservation Fund has about \$5 million available for FY 2025. Preliminary screeners are encouraged and due June 3. Final applications are due August 30. 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/>.

Money Mondays

Team Members created a video archive of Money Mondays via YouTube. MORPC hosted the following Money Monday sessions:

- December 4 – One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund and State & Federal Budgeting Compliance
- December 11 – Safety, Efficiency and Sustainability
- December 18 – Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies (ARISE)
- January 8 – Municipal Financing Resources
- January 22 – Railroad Crossings' Impacts on Communities/Funding

- January 29 – AARP Challenge Grants

Upcoming sessions:

- February 12 – Assistant Minority Leader Rep. Dontavius Jarrells
- February 26 – Historic Preservation Funding
- March 4 – State Rep. Latyna M. Humphrey
- March 11 – Transportation: Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) portion of LinkUS
- February 5 – All Ohio Future Fund

PAY IT FORWARD

Membership Services

MORPC accepted the 87th member, Brown Township, effective January 1, 2024. MORPC anticipates at least twenty new board members to be appointed by their respective governments to replace outgoing members in 2024. Team Members completed eleven member visits and met with three prospective members.

Local Government Summer Intern Program

MORPC opened the Local Government Summer Intern Program for members to submit their requests through January 31. Positions are posted on the MORPC Website, [Summer Internship Program – MORPC.org](https://www.morpc.org/summer-internship-program), 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.

Events

MORPC hosted/held the following events:

- December 14 – Holiday Luncheon recognizing outgoing leaders/MORPC Open House
- January 31 – Regional Area Planning Luncheon for the Northeast Area of Central Ohio

Upcoming Events

- February 7 – Data Day
- February 8 – Pre-Commission Luncheon with Columbus Regional Airport Authority's CEO, Joseph Nardone
- February 27 – Planning Together – Local Governments and Schools Luncheon
- March 15 – State of the Region, Hilton Columbus Downtown

Public Involvement & Engagement

MORPC promoted the following requests for public input through social media and on our website:

- State of the Region Awards
- Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)
- Community Advisory Committee
- Request for Proposals
- CORPO Dedicated Funds
- Attributable Funds

BUILD VALUE FOR OUR MEMBERS

Community-Based Planning Assistance

The Community-Based Planning Assistance Program (CBPA) is 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/>. Contact Jonathan Miller at jmiller@morpc.org with any questions or to discuss potential ways that MORPC may provide assistance.

Consultant Services Program

MORPC is 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. MORPC added a new Team Member in early January 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 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.

HBCU Connect

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.

Residential Services

MORPC is transitioning to a new system for the WarmChoice program implemented by Columbia Gas. Staff additions are helping field calls and inquiries, allowing intake staff to focus on clients, increasing the quantity of applications received. Two new employees beginning in February will increase capacity to meet production goals. Team Members continue to work on HWAP BIL expansion.

MORPC recently submitted two grant applications to the Affordable Housing Trust. Team Members are working on grant applications through EPA for housing and weatherization and for Franklin County lead dollars. Staff is crafting a contract to administer a home repair program in Westerville.

MORPC in the News

Links to press releases and news article for the month are available at www.morpc.org/MORPCInTheNews

Personnel Updates

The following new Team Members recently started at MORPC:

- Associate Modeler Lei Sun began December 12
- Residential Services Temporary Employee Stephanie Turner began December 19
- Chief Mobility & Infrastructure Officer & Sr. Director of Programming Parag Agrawal began January 9
- Community Development Senior Planner Tunazzina Alam began January 9
- Economic Development Planner Aubrey Hauter began January 16

MORPC is currently recruiting for open positions:

- Data Management Intern
- Finance Director
- Strategic Director of Technology

The requirements for the posted positions are available for review on the website at <http://www.morpc.org/careers/>.

RFP/RFQ Postings

The following RFP's/RFQ's were posted:

- Air Quality Forecasting Services (closes February 14)
- HVAC Contractor for Residential Energy Programs 2022
- Insulation Contractor for Residential Energy Programs 2022

The full RFP/RFQs are available at <http://www.morpc.org/rfps-rfq/>.



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: December 14, 2023
Time: 2:26 p.m.
Location: MORPC Town Hall

Transportation Policy Committee Members Present in Person

LaGrieta Acheampong	Cindi Fitzpatrick	Bonnie Michael
Chris Amorose Groomes	Dave Gulden	Rod Pritchard
Karen Angelou	Tom Homan	Erin Prosser
Richard Angelou for Nancy White	Christine Houk	Cornell Robertson
Herb Asher	Laurie Jadwin	Steve Schoeny
Kristen Atha	Carol Kauffman	Thom Slack
Lee Bodnar	Ben Kessler	Brandon Standley
Ben Collins	Bill LaFayette	Robyn Stewart
Michelle Crandall	Kris Long	Andy Volenik
Karl Craven	Jill Love	Christie Ward
Christina Drummond	Kim Maggard	Andrew Williams
Kristen Easterday	Rory McGuinness	Tim Wilson
Shane Farnsworth	Rozland McKee	Kenneth Wright
	Eric Meyer	

Transportation Policy Committee Members Attending Remotely

Jennifer Fening	Glenn Marzluf	Eric Richter
Jeremiah Gracia	Dave Medley	Kimberly Sharp
James Jewell	Megan O'Callaghan	Alana Shockey
Tom Johnson	Bernita Reese	Joe Stefanov

Commission Members Present in Person

Joe Antram	Bill Habig	Eric Phillips
Jamie Brucker	Jeff Hall	Ben Stahler
Franklin Christman	Mark Johns	RC Wise
Alexis Fitzsimmons	James Layton	

Commission Members Attending Remotely

Ben Carpenter	Haley Lupton	Matt Starr
Chris Harkness	Bill Narducci	

Associate Members Attending Remotely

Jennifer Fish

MORPC Staff Present in Person

Todd Bradley	Ralonda Hampton	William Murdock
Mauro Diza-Hernandez	Shawn Hufstедler	Alisa Obukhova
Dave Dixon	Niel Jurist	Kyle Probert
Preston Frick	Eileen Leuby	Padmini Roy-Dixon
Joe Garrity	Kelsey Matson	Shari Saunders
Nick Gill	Jonathan Miller	Maria Schaper

MORPC Staff Attending Remotely

April Bumgardner	Brian Filiatraut	Betsy Hunkar
Lauren Cardoni	Taylor Franco	

Guests Present in Person

Grace Byler, Morrow County
Tyler Groomes

Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter

Guests Attending Remotely

Mendra Hupp, Perry County
Tiffani Kavalec, Ohio EPA
Melissa Leckrone, Perry County

Andy Shifflett, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter
Brent Welch, FCEO

Meeting Called to Order – Chris Amorose Grooms (City of Dublin), MORPC Interim Chair

Interim Chair Chris Amorose Grooms called the Transportation Policy Committee Meeting to order at 2:26 p.m.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Report – Nick Gill, MORPC Interim Senior Director of Programming & Transportation Study Director

Nick Gill presented the [Metropolitan Planning Organization Report](#). Mr. Gill announced MORPC was awarded \$1,032,000 in funding through the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) federal program. The funding is specific to our MPO area and is in addition to the \$200,000 we were awarded in 2022 for the CORPO planning area. Mr. Gill recognized Lauren Cardoni, who collaborated with our partners to put the application together.

The Attributable Funds Committee and the Complete Streets Committee are finalizing draft policies to put out for public comment the first of next year. Both policies will be presented for adoption in May.

Proposed Resolution 17-23 on the Commission Consent Agenda authorizes the executive director to contract with EAN Holdings to provide vehicles and fleet services for the vanpool program. Proposed Resolution T-16-23 on the Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda is our quarterly amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). It includes \$1.5 million FTA 5310 funds to fourteen communities and an out-of-cycle request from the Attributable Funds Committee of MORPC funding to support the LinkUS Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) process.

TSI is one aspect of the LinkUS initiative and will be funded from a portion of the sales tax increase that will hopefully occur next November. MORPC is standing up committees to identify priority bicycle/pedestrian projects to help provide connection to transit service. In terms of rapid transit corridors, LinkUS already identified three corridors that are now in the design stage and is currently deciding the next two corridors to advance.

ODOT is conducting a strategic transportation and development analysis activity. They are gathering information and holding listening sessions about providing connections between regions in the state and how that helps support and drive economic development. They are holding a Central Ohio Listening Session at MORPC, January 19, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Several vacancies are coming up on MORPC's Community Advisory Committee (CAC). CAC meets eight times a year. Anyone who lives and/or works in the Metropolitan Planning Organization area can apply. For more information contact cac@morpc.org.

2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update – Nick Gill, MORPC Interim Senior Director of Programming & Transportation Study Director

Nick Gill presented the [2024-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update](#) and reminded members of what the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is and why it is important. MORPC Team Members are developing specific draft strategies for system management, system development, and system-related items.

Activities in 2024 include release of draft strategies and projects, community presentations, impact analyses, public comment period on the draft MTP, and adoption in May.

Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda

Cornell Robertson made a motion to accept the Transportation Policy Committee Consent Agenda, second by Kim Maggard; motion passed.

The Transportation Policy Committee Meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Ben Kessler, Secretary
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
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111 Liberty St., Suite 111
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.morpc.org

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, Chair
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Date

Prepared by: Programming Department Staff



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: December 14, 2023
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: MORPC Town Hall

Commission Members Present in Person

Chris Amorose Groomes	Dave Gulden	Bonnie Michael
Karen Angelou	Bill Habig	Eric Phillips
Richard Angelou for Nancy White	Jeff Hall	Rod Pritchard
Joe Antram	Tom Homan	Erin Prosser
Herb Asher	Christine Houk	Cornell Robertson
Kristen Atha	Laurie Jadwin	Steve Schoeny
Lee Bodnar	Mark Johns	Ben Stahler
Jamie Brucker	Carol Kauffman	Brandon Standley
Franklin Christman	Ben Kessler	Robyn Stewart
Ben Collins	Bill LaFayette	Andy Volenik
Michelle Crandall	James Layton	Christie Ward
Karl Craven	Kris Long	Andrew Williams
Christina Drummond	Jill Love	Tim Wilson
Shane Farnsworth	Kim Maggard	RC Wise
Cindi Fitzpatrick	Rory McGuinness	Kenneth Wright
Alexis Fitzsimmons	Rozland McKee	
	Eric Meyer	

Commission Members Attending Remotely

Ben Carpenter	Haley Lupton	Eric Richter
Jennifer Fening	Glenn Marzluf	Alana Shockey
Jeremiah Gracia	Dave Medley	Matt Starr
Chris Harkness	Bill Narducci	Joe Stefanov
James Jewell	Megan O'Callaghan	
Tom Johnson	Bernita Reese	

Transportation Policy Committee Members Present in Person

LaGrieta Acheampong	Kristen Easterday	Thom Slack
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Transportation Policy Committee Members Attending Remotely

Kimberly Sharp

Associate Members Attending Remotely

Jennifer Fish

MORPC Staff Present in Person

Todd Bradley	Ralonda Hampton	William Murdock
Mauro Diza-Hernandez	Shawn Hufstедler	Alisa Obukhova
Dave Dixon	Niel Jurist	Kyle Probert
Preston Frick	Eileen Leuby	Padmini Roy-Dixon
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MORPC Staff Attending Remotely

April Bumgardner	Brian Filiatraut	Betsy Hunkar
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Guests Present in Person

Grace Byler, Morrow County
Tyler Groomes

Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter

Guests Attending Remotely

Mendra Hupp, Perry County
Tiffani Kavalec, Ohio EPA
Melissa Leckrone, Perry County

Andy Shifflett, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter
Brent Welch, FCEO

Meeting Called to Order – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin), MORPC Interim Chair

Interim Chair Chris Amorose Groomes called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and recognition of outgoing MORPC leaders and members:

- Karen Angelou, City Council Member, City of Gahanna
- Franklin Christman, Administrator, Village of Ashville
- Karl Craven, Planning & Development Director, City of Westerville
- Mayor Michael Ebert, City of Canal Winchester
- Mayor James Layton, Village of Hebron
- Mayor Jill Love, Village of Galena
- Mayor Kim Maggard, City of Whitehall
- Mayor Eric McGilvray, Village of Riverlea
- Mayor Don McIlroy, City of Circleville
- Bonnie Michael, City Council Member, City of Worthington
- Mayor David Scheffler, City of Lancaster
- Mayor Ben Stahler, City of Bellefontaine

Nominating Committee Report – Ben Kessler (City of Bexley), MORPC Interim Secretary

Interim Secretary Ben Kessler shared the Nominating Committee met multiple times to put together the slate presented today. The Commission will vote on the recommendations in February. The Nominating Committee makes the following recommendations:

- Nominees for Officers for renewed one-year term (expires 2025)
 - Chair – Chris Amorose Groomes, City Council Member, City of Dublin
 - Vice-Chair – Michelle Crandall, City Manager, City of Hilliard
 - Secretary – Ben Kessler, Mayor, City of Bexley
- Nominees for Executive Committee – renewal of one-year term (expires 2025)
 - Joe Stefanov, Chair of Benefits & Compensation Committee, City Manager, City of New Albany
 - Nancy White, Chair of Reserve & Investment Advisory Committee, Fiscal Officer, Mifflin Township
 - Jennifer Gallagher, Chair of Bylaws Committee, Director of Public Service, City of Columbus
 - Chirs Amorose Groomes, City Council Member, City of Dublin
- Nominee for Executive Committee – renewal of two-year term (expires 2026)
 - Michelle Crandall, City Manager, City of Hilliard
- Nominees for Executive Committee – new two-year term (expires 2026)
 - Kris Long, Deputy Director, Franklin County
 - Laurie Jadwin, Mayor, City of Gahanna
 - Matthew Starr, Mayor, City of Mount Vernon
 - Hayley Lupton, Administrator, Village of Plain City
 - TBD, Franklin County

Recognition of Guests and New Members – Eileen Leuby, MORPC Membership Services Officer

Eileen Leuby welcomed guest Tyler Groomes.

Executive Director's Report – William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director

William Murdock complimented those at the pre-Commission luncheon honoring the outgoing leaders. They touched every corner of the region. Mr. Murdock thanked them for letting MORPC recognize them.

Mr. Murdock shared the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announced both applications from the region for the corridor ID program for passenger rail are approved to move forward. He thanked members for persevering and providing support. The State of Ohio submitted the application for the 3C+D corridor. The City of Fort Wayne and MORPC were joint applicants for the Midwest Connect corridor. Two other lines in Ohio were greenlighted: Chicago to Washington, DC through Cincinnati and the Detroit, Toledo, Cleveland line. Next steps over the next 18-36 months include a three-phase process. Stage 1 – develop the scope for phase two; Stage 2 – create a service development plan; Stage 3 – pre-project planning. At the end we will have the necessary documents to make the ask for capital.

Mr. Murdock reported MORPC completed member visits for the year as well as the last of the five regional breakfasts and all the rural forums. We convened the first Leadership Committee for TSI.

Chief Mobility & Infrastructure Officer & Senior Director of Programming Parag Agrawal starts in early January. Job postings for the Strategic Director of Technology and Finance Director are posted.

Mr. Murdock thanked the City of Grandview for being the first community to initiate a project with MORPC's Planner Pool.

MORPC launched the [Drive Investment Portal](#), an online resource of active and forecasted grant and loan programs.

Each year MORPC's home repair and weatherization services help stabilize many families in their homes and keep them safer. Mr. Murdock complimented Robert Williams and the Residential Services Team for reducing the home repair waiting list from around 300 to below 200. It is expected to be in real time next year.

It is time to start requesting summer interns for 2024. We had over 50 students participate last summer.

MORPC is a partner in the Ohio University Governing Essentials for Local Elected Officials course. Registration begins January 2024. The program starts March 1.

Upcoming Events:

- Regional Planning Northeast Area Luncheon – January 31, 12 p.m., New Albany
- Data Day 2024 – February 7, 9 a.m., Dublin – registration is open
- Pre-Commission VIP Luncheon with Joseph Nardone – February 8, 12 p.m., MORPC
- 2024 State of the Region – March 15, 11:30 a.m., Hilton Columbus Downtown

Mr. Murdock congratulated the following WTS Award Winners:

- Ray LaHood Award: Cornell Robertson
- Innovative Transportation Solutions Award: Columbus Regional Airport Authority
- Employer of the Year: City of Columbus Department of Public Service

Proposed Resolution 19-23: “Accepting Brown Township as a member of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)” – William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director
Joe Antram made a motion to approve Resolution 19-23, second by Eric Phillips; motion passed.

Proposed Resolution 16-23: “Acceptance of the fiscal budget and fund account appropriations for the operation of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission for 2024” – William Murdock and Shawn Hufstedler

William Murdock and Shawn Hufstedler presented the [2024 Budget](#). The proposed budget is goal-focused and allows us to be good stewards of member resources. It is fiscally conservative while attracting and retaining professionals. Mr. Murdock thanked Shawn Hufstedler and Alisa Obukhova for their work on the budget. Based around MORPC’s Strategic Framework, the budget provides opportunities for MORPC to help local governments be assertive in uncertain times, enhance the team, and strengthen the agency’s operations.

Mr. Hufstedler recognized the Finance Team; Allisa Obukhova, Interim Finance Director; Anthony Perry, former Finance Director who stayed long enough to get the budget done; and Betsy Hunkar. He also thanked Mr. Murdock for his leadership and guidance on the budget.

Federal funding is the largest revenue source. The first three years on the 5-year Revenue Comparison are actual amounts, while the two columns on the right are budget figures for 2023 and 2024. The actual figures are noticeably less than the budget columns. That is expected and consistent with our budget approach. We budget for our projected work on the high end of the range of what we might accomplish in the calendar year and include relevant items that are not under contract. Items that come through and are not in the budget are brought to the Commission through resolution.

Salaries and benefits make up approximately 46% of the agency budget. The budget for staff wages and fringe benefits is up this year due to an increase in FTE’s, merit increases, promotions, etc. The net fringe and indirect combined rates are the same as last year.

Services to members is the largest use of member dues and includes member services and advocacy work.

The appropriations closely mirror the agency operating uses and capital expenditures. Transfers are similar to the transfers authorized last year and consistent with the operating reserve policy.

Tom Homan made a motion to approve Resolution 16-23, second by Ben Kessler; motion passed.

Committees

Regional Policy Roundtable – Joseph Garrity, MORPC Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations

Joe Garrity presented the [Regional Policy Roundtable Update](#). Joe Garrity shared the final roundtable meeting of 2023 included a special update from Kaitlin Bliss, Assistant Director of Policy for Governor DeWine. Ms. Bliss leads the federal funding efforts on behalf of Governor DeWine’s administration. Mr. Garrity thanked Mayor David Scheffler for his leadership and support on the roundtable and for his advocacy efforts.

Two resolutions on the consent agenda are about our government relations services. Resolution 18-23 is about advocating on behalf of MORPC members at the statehouse. Resolution 20-23 provides defense and community partnership services for Central Ohio.

City of Columbus Council Member Lourdes Barroso de Padilla is the new roundtable chair. The next meeting is February 29, 2024.

- **Legislative Update – Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter and Joseph Garrity, MORPC Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations**

Steve Tugend and Joe Garrity gave the legislative update highlighting the following:

- Passenger Rail
- State Capital Budget and One Time Strategic Community Investment Fund
- HB 257 – Virtual Meetings for Certain Public Bodies
- HB 315 – Township Law Cleanup
- Legislative schedule
- Recreational marijuana

Sustainability Advisory Committee – Ben Kessler (City of Bexley), Sustainability Advisory Committee Chair

Ben Kessler presented the [Sustainability Advisory Committee Report](#). Mayor Kessler announced the City of Bexley recently received Gold SolSmart designation which recognizes cities, towns, counties, and regional organizations as national solar energy leaders. Bexley joins the Cities of Columbus, Upper Arlington, and Lancaster in achieving the Gold level in the 15-county Central Ohio region.

The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant has \$4.6 billion in federal funding available to implement pollution-reduction projects. MORPC and our partners are putting together a regional application due April 1, 2024. Contact Brian Filiatraut with questions or visit our [website](#).

The Ohio Water Development Authority, working in partnership with MORPC, Ohio EPA, ODOD, and ODNR, is funding a Regional Water Study of the 15-county region. MORPC, along with our Sustaining Scioto Board, is a key partner in the process to provide input, data, and engagement with our local governments and partners in the region. The study will look at water supply and demand now and into the future to help identify gaps. It will also address water quality, groundwater, surface water and stormwater.

The Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) met December 13 at the Jeffrey Mansion in Bexley. The member appointment process is underway and will be announcing new members after the new year. The first task for the SAC in 2024 is to review the Regional Sustainability Agenda in line with the four-year process for reviewing and updating.

Transportation Policy Committee – Chris Amorose Groomes (City of Dublin), MORPC Interim Chair

Interim Chair Amorose Groomes called the Transportation Policy Committee Session to order at 2:26 p.m. The session adjourned at 2:38 p.m. Separate minutes are attached.

Commission Consent Agenda

Bonnie Michael made a motion to approve the Commission Consent Agenda, second by Ben Stahler; motion passed.

Other Business

Bill LaFayette announced the 25th Annual Central Ohio Economic Forecast is January 3, 2024, at the CMC Forum.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Ben Kessler, Secretary
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
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PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 111
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.morpc.org

Memorandum

TO: Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Executive Committee
Officers and Board Members

FROM: Joseph Garrity
Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations

DATE: January 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution 01-24: **“Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regarding recently awarded Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator funding via the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program and enter into related subcontracts and additionally authorizes the executive director to create a competitive application process to distribute funds to MORPC members”**

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) recently applied for and was awarded \$2,000,000 in funding via the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program. The goal of the NEVI program is to make grants to states and localities that require additional assistance to strategically deploy electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

These funds may be used to repair existing, but non-operational, electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in Central Ohio. MORPC Staff will develop a competitive application process for eligible local public agencies located within MORPC’s member counties. The funding will be available for State Fiscal Years 2025–2026.

MORPC is currently developing a virtual workshop on this grant, application and selection process and will announce the date of said workshop in the coming months. Information on participating in the workshop will be available on the MORPC website soon.

Attachment: Resolution 01-24

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Interim Chair

Michelle Crandall
Interim Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Interim Secretary

RESOLUTION 01-24

“Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regarding recently awarded funding via the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program and enter into related subcontracts and additionally authorizes the executive director to create a competitive application process to distribute funds to MORPC members”

WHEREAS, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) seeks to contract with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) to implement a competitive grant application for MORPC members to repair and maintain EV infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) grant agreements total \$2,000,000 and will be utilized to hire subcontractors to complete the repairs and maintenance of existing EV infrastructure within 12 months from the date of the grant agreement; and

WHEREAS, the services performed pursuant to this contract will be under the oversight of MORPC and be implemented through a combination of MORPC staff and local businesses that are subcontracted in MORPC's service area; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

- Section 1. That the executive director is authorized to enter into an agreement with FHWA for 12 months to utilize Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator grant funds totaling \$2,000,000 and enter into related subcontracts.
- Section 2. That the executive director is authorized to approve one or more extensions for performance of services under the foregoing agreements and change orders for amounts up to the financial authorization levels in the MORPC bylaws without further authorization from this Commission.
- Section 3. That the executive director is authorized to take such other action and execute and deliver such other documents as, acting with the advice of legal counsel, he shall deem necessary and appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.
- Section 4. That this Commission finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this Commission concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this Commission.

Chris Amorose Groomes, Chair
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Effective date: February 8, 2024
Submitted by: Joseph Garrity, Senior Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations
Prepared by: Mike Borger, Regional Engagement Manager
Authority: Ohio Revised Code Section 713.21
For action date: February 8, 2024



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 111
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.morpc.org

Memorandum

TO: Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Executive Committee
Officers and Board Members

FROM: Robert Williams
Senior Director of Residential Services

DATE: January 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution 02-24: **“To authorize the executive director to enter into agreements with the Franklin County Board of Commissioners for up to \$1.874 million through 2026 to perform lead remediation as part of the Lead Safe Ohio Program”**

MORPC has been providing free residential home repairs and energy efficiency services in Franklin County to eligible residents for over 30 years through public-private partnerships utilizing public and private funds. The Franklin County Board of Commissioners will receive a Lead Safe Ohio Grant from the Ohio Department of Development. MORPC will identify and serve homeowners and when practical also complete an inspection for other health and safety issues and structural issues that can be addressed.

Attachment: Resolution 02-24

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Interim Chair

Michelle Crandall
Interim Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Interim Secretary

RESOLUTION 02-24

“To authorize the executive director to enter into agreements with the Franklin County Board of Commissioners for up to \$1.874 million through 2026 to perform lead remediation as part of the Lead Safe Ohio Program”

WHEREAS, the 134th General Assembly provided funding to the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) to support lead prevention and mitigation activities through appropriations from state fiscal recovery funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act; and

WHEREAS, ODOD created the Lead Safe Ohio Grant program to allocate funding to all 88 counties to address lead prevention and mitigation to single family units, childcare facilities, and congregate shelters; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Commissioners authorized the County Administrator to approve and execute any subaward agreements with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC); and

WHEREAS, MORPC will administer production elements of the Lead Safe Ohio Grant for ODOD; and

WHEREAS, MORPC has been providing free residential home repairs and energy efficiency services in Franklin County to eligible residents for over 30 years through public-private partnerships; and

WHEREAS, MORPC will identify and serve homeowners and when practical also complete an inspection for other health and safety issues and structural issues that can be addressed; and

WHEREAS, the services performed pursuant to properties identified as part of the ODOD grant will be under the oversight of MORPC and be implemented through a combination of MORPC staff and local businesses that are contracted in MORPC's service area; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

- Section 1. That the executive director is hereby authorized to enter into agreement with the Franklin County Commissioners for work described in the forthcoming contracts to be awarded for the Lead Safe Ohio Program in the amount up to \$1.874 million through 2026 and enter into related subcontracts.
- Section 2. That the executive director is authorized to approve one or more extensions for performance of services under the foregoing agreements and change orders for amounts up to the financial authorization levels in the MORPC bylaws without further authorization from this Commission.
- Section 3. That the executive director is authorized to take such other action and execute and deliver such other documents as, acting with the advice of legal counsel, he shall deem necessary and appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.
- Section 4. That this Commission finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this Commission concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this Commission.

Chris Amorose Groomes, Chair

MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Effective date:	February 8, 2024
Submitted by:	Robert Williams, Senior Director of Residential Services
Prepared by:	Robert Williams, Senior Director of Residential Services
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