

# DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH IN CENTRAL OHIO

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MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

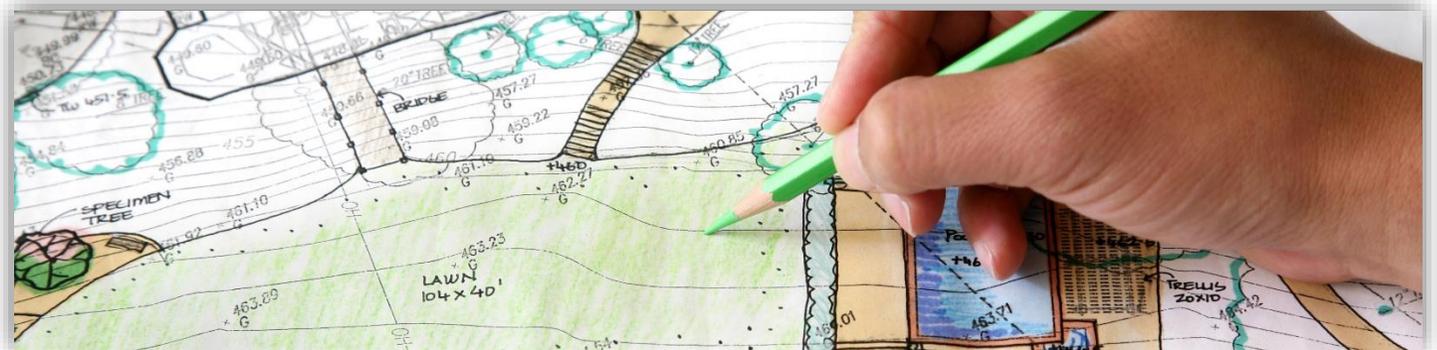


## Data

- 65+ one-on-one meetings
- Counties, Cities, Villages, Port Authorities, Universities and more
- Peer benchmarking
- Two US EDA events

## MEMBER & COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

- **Housing** emerged as a critical issue for all 11 counties.
- **Infrastructure Development** – site readiness – is a major regional priority.
- With significant ongoing projects and proposed growth, **Workforce Development** is a vital input for economic success.
- Smaller, rural communities **lack economic development and community-based planning** resources.

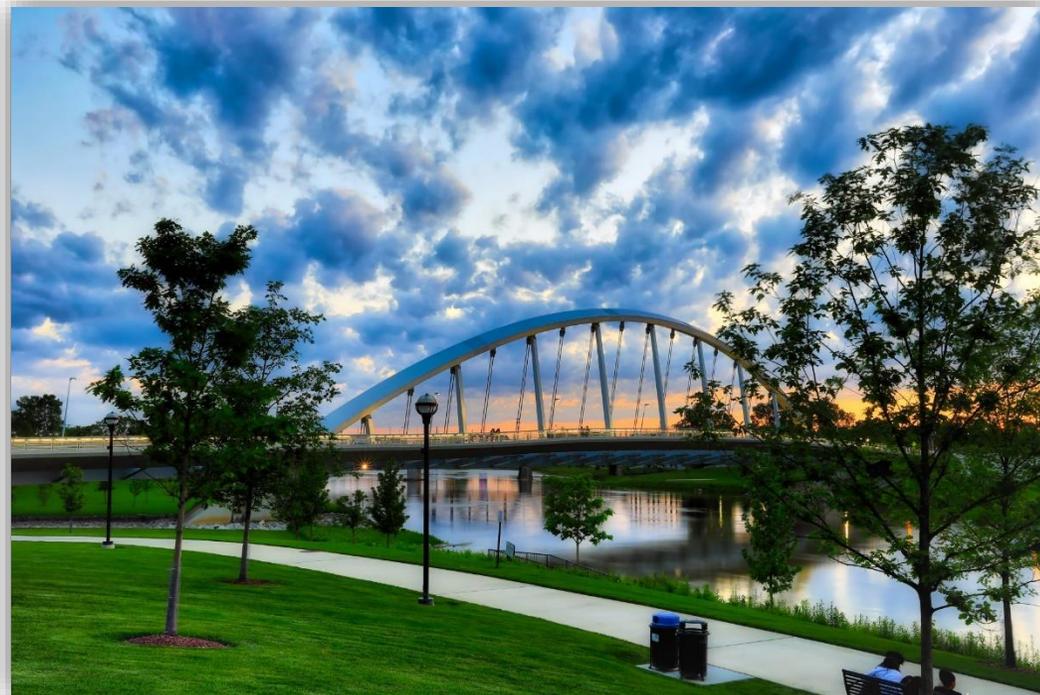


# PURPOSE

Enabling and empowering communities of Central Ohio acquire resources to drive investments and achieve economic prosperity.

## Roles

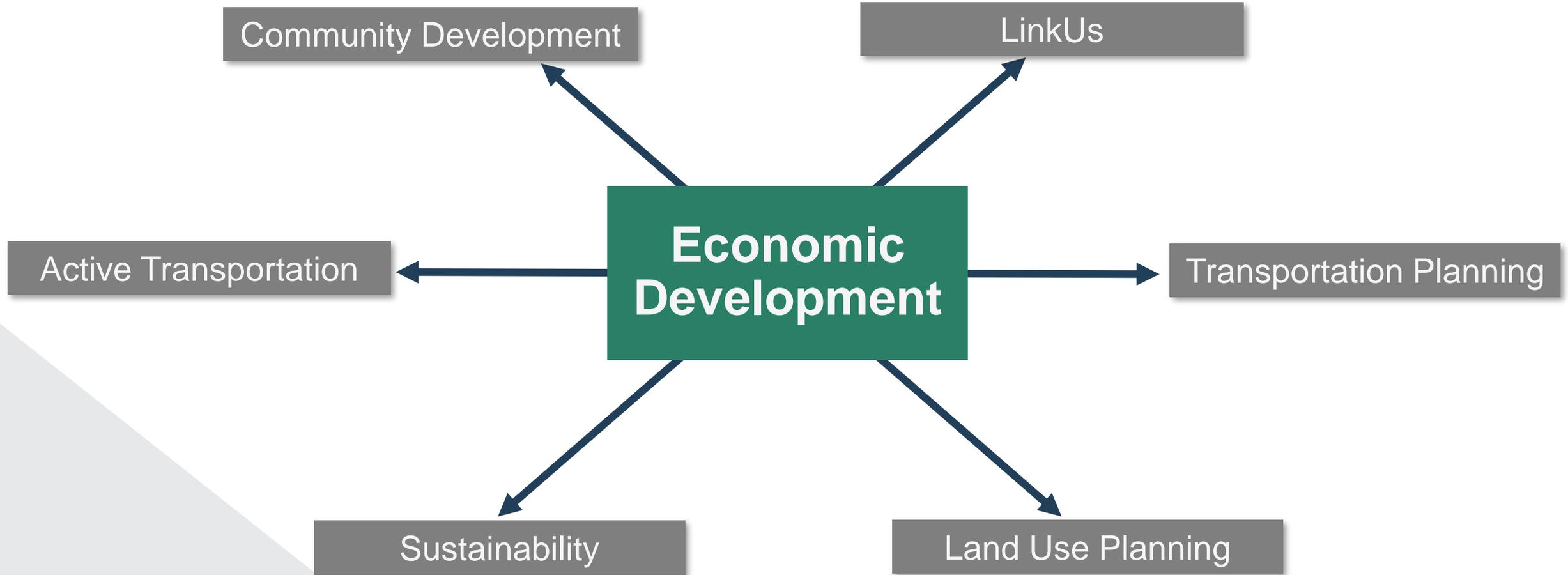
- Convenor and Capacity Builder
- Implementor
- Partner
- Advocate



## Strategic Areas of Focus

- Economic Development District and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Infrastructure
- Housing
- Workforce
- Tech-based Economic Development

# COLLABORATION AND SYNERGY



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# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT



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# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT TIMELINE



EDA  
approves  
CEDs

Feb. 2022

EDD  
designation

Sept. 2023

Dec. 2022

EDD  
application

2024 & beyond

Implementation



# EDD IN ACTION



**ADVANCE REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS.



**ALIGN PUBLIC, GOVT AND PRIVATE INVESTMENTS** TO ADVANCE THE CEDS AND ACHIEVE BETTER OUTCOMES.



**IDENTIFY NEW FUNDING RESOURCES AND TOOLS** TO CLOSE GAPS AND FUND NEW GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES.



**PROMOTE REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION.**



**RECOMMEND STRATEGIES FOR RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PLANNING.**



**OFFER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, RESEARCH AND DATA ANALYSES.**

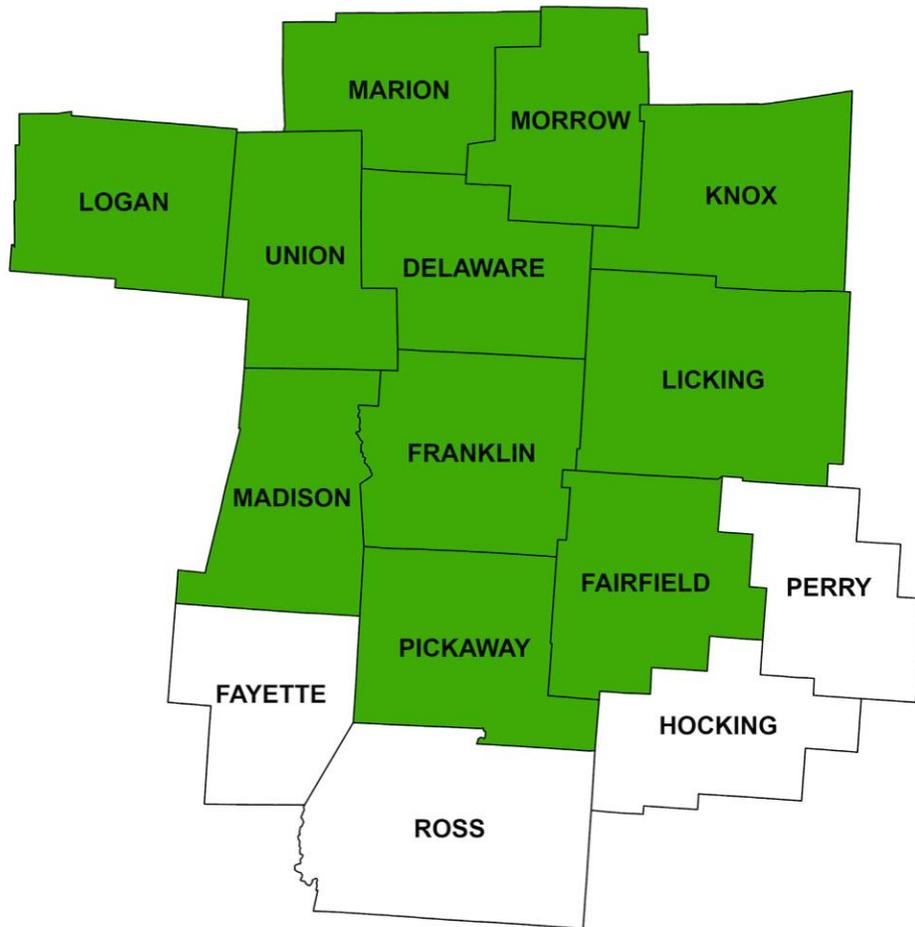


# COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



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## Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy



- CEDS Region
- MORPC Counties

## CEDS IN DETAIL

- A regional roadmap for economic development and conduit to valuable resources.
- 11-county collaboration to ensure consensus as the blueprint for the Economic Development District (EDD) was established.
- The CEDS Committee is comprised of public and private sector representatives who broadly represent the main economic interests of the region. The Committee is responsible for the development, implementation or revision of the CEDS and advises the Economic Development District Board.

Link: [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – MORPC.org](https://www.morpc.org/ceds)



# CEDS PRIORITY AREAS

## **Build on Economic Development success**

- Business retention and expansion
- Prepare communities for the future
- Regional alignment

## **Increase labor force participation**

- Housing affordability and access
- Broadband access
- Mobility, Transit-Oriented Development
- Workforce re-entry programs

## **Increased & aligned infrastructure development**

- Coordination on infrastructure projects
- Increase regional infrastructure investment



*Courtesy of Intel*



# FREIGHT INDUSTRY COORDINATION



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# FREIGHT INDUSTRY COORDINATION

## Freight Coordination:

- Bridges transportation and economic development planning
- Improves and advocates for infrastructure assets that supports freight movement (airports, intermodal facilities, ports, railways, etc.)
- Maintains and strengthens central Ohio's competitive advantage in logistics and distribution
- Integrates freight considerations into other long-range planning initiatives

## Notable Initiatives:

- 2018 Rickenbacker Area Study
- **EDA Planning Grant** to develop a Regional Freight Plan





# COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE PROJECTS



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# COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE PROJECTS (CAP)

## History

- Established 2017 as a partnership between MORPC and One Columbus to determine county priority projects
- Original focus on shovel-ready transportation and utility projects
  - Now, working with counties to **broaden the program scope: Transportation, Utility, Mobility, Housing, Strategic Planning, Workforce Development, Economic Development**

## Purpose

- Prioritize and advance regional transformational projects **to obtain funding**
- **Create awareness** and promote key projects
  - CAPs are promoted on MORPC's Website
  - CAPs are presented to Central Ohio Elected Officials

[Competitive Advantage Projects – MORPC.org](https://www.morpc.org/competitive-advantage-projects)





# BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT



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# BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT

## WHY?

- Improves public health and environment
- Makes the site more attractive to investment
- Increases property values
- Catalyst for broader community revitalization
- Puts underutilized or vacant land back into productive use

**Currently, Ohio EPA has identified 34 brownfield sites in the central Ohio EDD.**

## MORPC's role:

- Previously, US EPA Targeted Brownfield Assessment grant
- Inventory of brownfield sites
- Tools and resources to remediate sites



# GRANTS COORDINATION



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# MEMBER-DRIVEN GRANTS ASSISTANCE



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IDENTIFY  
GRANT



DEVELOP  
FACT SHEET



CREATE  
WORKSPACE



ORGANIZE  
TEMPLATE



OBTAIN  
LETTERS OF  
SUPPORT



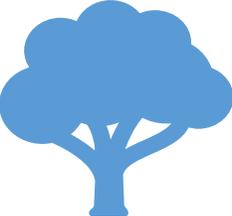
REVIEW AND  
SUBMIT



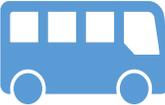
# GRANTS IN ACTION: A FEW EXAMPLES



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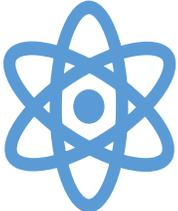
Climate  
Pollution  
Reduction  
Grant



Reconnecting  
Communities and  
Neighborhoods:  
Neighborhood  
Access and Equity



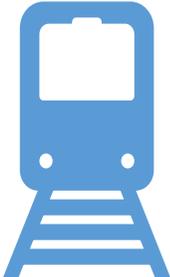
Planning and  
Technical  
Assistance  
Grant Program



Electric Vehicle  
Charging  
Reliability and  
Accessibility  
Accelerator



Rebuilding  
American  
Infrastructure  
with  
Sustainability  
and Equity



Corridor  
Identification  
and  
Development  
Program



Safe Streets and  
Roads for All





# DRIVE INVESTMENT PORTAL



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# DRIVE INVESTMENT PORTAL

- Grant and loan programs from Federal, State, Local, and Private Foundations
- A MORPC member-oriented resource
- Designed to help local governments and communities save time while researching funding opportunities
- Users can contact MORPC team to request assistance & ask questions
  - Opportunity Requests
  - Partnership Requests
- Over 250 funding opportunities listed; updated weekly
- **The Drive Investment Portal has been visited over 1,300 times over the past 6 months.**

Scan QR Code  
to view



MORPC

# PRODUCTS & SERVICES

## Strategic Planning

Lead the implementation, revision and updating of the CEDS

## Grant Writing & Administration\*

Assist communities with their grants before progressing to administration of state and federal grants

## Technical Assistance

Planning and implementation assistance, identifying funding resources, providing interagency expertise, and facilitating project conversations with state and federal agencies.

## Economic Development Academy\*

Engage consultants and practitioners to offer in-person training workshops on a variety of economic development planning topics such as cost benefit analysis, cost and revenue projections, strategy development, land-use planning and more.

## Regionwide Freight plan

Develop a regionwide freight plan to support economic development, strengthen regional cohesion around freight movement, and build a sustainable multimodal transportation infrastructure.

## Brownfield Revitalization

Leverage tools and other funding opportunities to transform contaminated and underutilized properties back into productive community assets

## Drive Investment Newsletter

Publish a bi-monthly newsletter to inform communities on key funding resources and economic development efforts.



# LOOKING AHEAD...

- ❑ Convene CEDS Committee & EDD Board
- ❑ Develop a regionwide freight plan
- ❑ CAP “refresh”
- ❑ “Reimagine” Brownfields work
- ❑ Access state & federal funding resources
- ❑ Stakeholder outreach and Building Awareness
- ❑ Nurture relationships with strategic partners
- ✓ Launch webpage - <https://www.morpc.org/programs-services/economic-development/>
- ✓ Launch Drive Investment newsletter – **visit the webpage to sign-up**



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*Economic Development Intern*



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